

Rachel Thompson

Department of Psychology
University of Texas at Austin

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Current Appointment

Research Assistant

Location: Department of Psychology at The University of Texas at Austin

Advisors: Drs. Kate Blackburn and James W. Pennebaker

Behavior Technician

Location: Cultivate Behavioral Health and Education, Bee Cave, Texas

Education

The University of Texas at Austin (2019)

Bachelor of Arts in Psychology, Minor in Educational Psychology

Advisors: Drs. Kate Blackburn and James W. Pennebaker

GPA: 3.95

Publications

Blackburn, K., Hontanosas, J., Nahas, K., Bajaj, K., **Thompson, R.**, Monaco, A., Campos, Y., Tran, T., Obregon, S. & Wetchler, E. (2020). Food foraging online: Exploring how we choose which recipes to search and share. *First Monday*, 25(12).
<https://doi.org/10.5210/fm.v25i12.10863>

Blackburn, K. G., Wang, W., Pedler, R., **Thompson, R.**, & Gonzalez, D. (2020). Linguistic Markers in Women's Discussions on Miscarriage and Abortion Illustrate Psychological Responses to Their Experiences. *Journal of Language and Social Psychology*. <https://doi.org/10.1177/0261927X20965643>

Submissions in Preparation

Blackburn, K., Pedler, R., **Thompson, R.**, & Nahas, K. (in preparation). TBI Timeline Project.
This project is collecting online natural language data to examine a timeline for traumatic brain injury (TBI) recovery and related language patterns.

Blackburn, K., Wang, W., **Thompson, R.**, Pedler, R. & Fucci, K. (in preparation). The Language of Trauma.
This project is analyzing online natural language data to compare to language of those with PTSD to those with complex-PTSD.

Thompson, R. & Blackburn, K. (in preparation). The Voice of Pregnancy project.

This project is examining natural language data online to understand the language patterns of women across the pregnancy journey, from conception and infertility struggles, to pregnancy and postpartum experiences.

Conference Presentations and Submissions

Thompson, R. (2021). *The interaction between grief and hope: Linguistic patterns of women trying to conceive after loss*. Poster presented at: 2021 Society for Personality and Social Psychology Virtual Convention, 2021 Feb 9-14.

Thompson, R., Blackburn, K., Pedler, R., & Nahas, K. (2021). *Constructing a Linguistic Timeline for Traumatic Brain Injury*. Data blitz presented at: 2021 Society for Personality and Social Psychology Virtual Convention Health Preconference, 2021 Feb 10.

Wang, W., **Thompson, R.,** Pedler, R., Bajaj, K., Fucci, K., & Blackburn, K. (2021). *Symptoms or community support? Distinction between language use of posters and commenters on PTSD and CPTSD online communities*. Poster presented at: 2021 Society for Personality and Social Psychology Virtual Convention, 2021 Feb 9-14.

Honors, Awards, and Scholarships

2016-2019 Terry Foundation Scholar (\$60,000)

2017-2018 University of Texas Dean's Honor List

2016-2017 University of Texas University Honors

Professional Appointments

Research Assistant

2018- Present The University of Texas at Austin, Department of Psychology

- Examined data from online communities relating to food and recipe sharing, trauma recovery, and women's health using text analysis software, and identified meaningful patterns
- Interpreted research findings and co-authored reports accepted into publication at two scholarly journals

Behavior Technician

2019- Present Cultivate Behavioral Health and Education, Bee Cave, TX

- Implemented skill acquisition and behavior change programs for children with special needs aged 2-13 to achieve greater independence and life satisfaction
- Provided direct therapy to children and families in school, home, and clinic settings; created resources for and led telehealth sessions and parent training during the COVID-19 pandemic

Research Assistant

2020-2021 Pennebaker Conglomerates, Inc

- Collaborated with colleagues to create, rate, and refine dictionaries for newest version of the Linguistic Inquiry and Word Count program

Behavior Technician

2018- 2019 The Wood Group, Austin, TX

- Assisted clients in daily living activities, notated their well-being, activities, and locations, and lead daily social groups to facilitate recovery
- Informed new clients of facility procedures and services, completed intake paperwork, and inventoried all client belongings

Data Entry Specialist

2017 QuadraMed Corporation, Plano, TX

- Analyzed and reviewed medical records for errors or duplications
- Verified colleagues' work once promoted to Quality Assurance

Research Assistant

2017 The University of Texas at Austin, Department of Psychology

- Greeted research participants for Loving-Kindness Meditation and Implicit Bias Reduction Study, led participants through experiment and debriefing process

Service

- 2018-2019 Officer of GlobeMed at the University of Texas: created weekly presentations and facilitated discussions about healthcare disparities, and planned community-wide events on campus to increase awareness of health inequities
- 2018 Volunteer at Austin Child Guidance Center: entertained children while family members received counseling
- 2016-2017 Event Operations Committee for the University of Texas THON Organization: organized fundraisers and social gatherings for families of children at Dell Children's Medical Center, coordinating volunteers, setting up venues, and boosting morale

Professional Membership

Society for Personality and Social Psychology (SPSP)
 Women in Psychology
 National Alliance for Mental Illness on Campus

Technical Skills and Certifications

Certified in Safety Care De-Escalation Training
 Certified in Basic Life Support (CPR and AED) by the American Heart Association
 Contextualizer
 EZPZTXT
 Meaning Extraction Helper (MEH)
 RStudio

Linguistic Inquiry and Word Count (LIWC)