

John Acker

University of Georgia
Psychology Department-
Clinical Program
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Professional Affiliations / Awards:

- Psi Chi International Honor Society in Psychology- Student Affiliate.
 - Ronald E. McNair Scholar
 - Undergraduate Research Award recipient, Fall 2007 & Spring 2008
 - American Psychological Association – Student Affiliate
 - Distinguished Independent Work in Psychology Citation, May 2008
 - RSA Student Merit Award, April 2010
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Education:

- **University of Georgia, Athens, G.A., 2009-present**
Graduate Student – Clinical Psychology Doctoral Program
 - **State University of New York at Binghamton, Vestal, N.Y., 2005-2008**
Major: Psychology (Honors Program)
Degree: B.A., May 2008
 - **Tompkins Cortland Community College, Dryden, N.Y., 2003-2005**
Major: Liberal Arts & Science- Social Science
Degree: A.S., May 2005
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Research Positions:

Graduate Research Assistant- Experimental and Clinical Psychopharmacology Laboratory, University of Georgia (July 2009- Present). Duties: Conducting experimental protocols for empirical investigations in the following areas:

- Understanding craving for alcohol via behavioral economics
- Understanding craving for cigarettes via behavioral economics

Supervisor: James MacKillop, Ph.D.

Research Assistant – Center for Integrated Healthcare, Syracuse Veterans Affairs Medical Center (May 2008 – June 2009). Duties: Conducted experimental protocols, data analysis and clinical interviews for empirical investigations in the following areas:

- The implementation of alcohol care management in a primary care setting
- The efficacy of the expressive writing paradigm on trauma symptoms in Operation Enduring Freedom/Operation Iraqi Freedom veterans.
- The incentives and barriers for veterans participating in research projects.
- A meta-analysis on the efficacy of online-based interventions.

Supervisor: Kyle Possemato, Ph.D.

Research Assistant – Laboratory of Consciousness and Cognition, State University of New York at Binghamton (August 2006 – May 2008). Duties: Extensive data entry, data analysis, and experimental protocol assistance for studies in the following areas: mindfulness and acceptance, body dysmorphic disorder, executive inhibition, bulimia, and hypnosis. Supervisor: Steven Lynn, Ph.D.

Honors Thesis - Selective attentional bias in state & trait anxiety in a subclinical population (August 2007-May 2008). Investigation of attentional bias in state anxiety and trait anxiety using two versions of the emotional Stroop task. Committee Chair: Steven Lynn, Ph.D.

Professional Presentations:

Acker, J. (2008). *Selective attentional bias in state and trait anxiety using a subclinical Population: Preliminary Findings.* Paper presented at the 9th Annual McNair Undergraduate Research Conference, University of Maryland.

Possemato, K., **Acker, J.**, Aiello, M., Lantinga, L., Oslin, D., & Maisto, S. (2009). *Primary care-based alcohol care management compared to VA usual care: Preliminary findings.* Poster presented at the Veterans Affairs Health Services Research and Development Annual Conference, Baltimore, Maryland.

MacKillop, J., Amlung, M., **Acker, J.**, & Stojek, M. (2010). *Further validation of an alcohol purchase task: Equivalence of versions for hypothetical and actual rewards.* Poster presented at the 10th Annual Samuel B. Guze Symposium on Alcoholism. St. Louis, MO.

Acker, J., & MacKillop, J. (2010). *A multidimensional assessment of impulsivity in relation to alcohol misuse: Initial findings.* Poster to be presented at the 33rd annual Research Society on Alcoholism meeting. San Antonio, TX

Publications:

Acker, J. & Lynn, S.J. (2010). Evidence of slow and fast interference effects in the subliminal emotional Stroop task. [under review]

Acker, J., & MacKillop, J. (2010). The interrelationship among selective attention, behavioral impulsivity, response dysinhibition, and alcohol misuse. [in-preparation]

Clinical Practica:

Adult therapist in-training. (Fall, 2009). Conducted unstructured clinical interviews and cognitive-behavioral therapy, in addition to the administration of self-report measures and ongoing clinical assessment for self-referred adults to the University of Georgia Psychology Clinic.

Residential Counselor (full-time employee), Cortland Community Re-entry Program, (August 2003 – September 2005). Duties: assisted with the implementation of case-by-case behavioral protocol through interaction and extensive behavioral observation duties with traumatic brain-injured clients. Supervisor: Sheila Austin, M.A.

Summer Program Coordinator (part-time/summer employment), Catholic Charities of Cortland County (June 2004 – August 2005). Duties: Conducted oversight in conjunction with local police, school officials, and site supervisors for a daily outdoor summer program throughout Cortland County, providing conflict dissolution and identification of the extensive local sex-offender population. Supervisor: Anne Marie Phelps, M.A.

Adolescent Day Treatment Program Volunteer (intern), Greater Binghamton Health Center, (Fall 2006). Duties: Assisted with therapeutic, as well as educational goals for emotionally-disturbed adolescents. Supervisor: Bruce Cameron, M.A.

Teaching Experience:

Undergraduate Teaching Assistant (Research Methods), State University of New York at Binghamton (Fall 2006). Duties: Assisted in lectures and discussion groups, along with the maintenance of weekly office hours, and data analysis procedures. Supervisor: Zachary Collins, Ph.D.

Invited Lectures:

Nicotine Dependence. Guest Lecture, Addictions undergraduate seminar, University of Georgia (Fall 2009).

Professional References:

James MacKillop, Ph.D., Assistant Professor, University of Georgia, Psychology Department, Athens, GA, 30602. Voice: 706-542-3033; E-mail: jmackill@uga.edu.

Kyle Possemato, Ph.D., Clinical Research Psychologist, Center for Integrated Healthcare, Syracuse Veterans Affairs Medical Center, Syracuse, NY, 13210. Voice: 315-425-4400, Ext. 53551; E-mail: Kyle.Possemato@va.gov

Steven Lynn, Ph.D., Professor, Distinguished Professor, Department of Psychology, State University of New York at Binghamton, Vestal, N.Y., 13902. Voice: 607-222-6891; E-mail: slynn@binghamton.edu