

CURRICULUM VITAE

Zachary E. Witkower

Contact

Zachary Witkower
University of British Columbia
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Education

Ph.D (2017- 2021)
Social/Personality Psychology
Quantitative Methods Minor

University of British Columbia
Advisor: Dr. Jessica Tracy

M.A (2017)
Social/Personality Psychology

University of British Columbia
Advisor: Dr. Jessica Tracy

B.A. (2015)
Psychology – Major
Management – Major
Music - Minor

Gettysburg College
Advisor: Dr. Christopher Barlett
Psychology Department Honors Recipient
Management Department Honors Recipient

Fellowships, Awards, and Research Funding

Fellowships

- University of British Columbia Four-Year Doctoral Fellowship (2017-2021)
- Elwyn Gregg Memorial Fellowship, University of British Columbia (2016)

Awards and Honors

- President's academic excellence initiative PhD award, \$326
- Society for Personality and Social Psychology (SPSP) Graduate Student Travel Award, 2018 SPSP Annual Convention, \$500.
- UBC MA Thesis Presentation Competition – 2nd place, 2018
- Vancouver Big Data Competition, *DataSense & Big Data University*, 2015, Finalist
- International Student Tuition Award, University of British Columbia, 2015-2020
- Gettysburg College Psychology Departmental Honors Recipient, 2015
- Gettysburg College Organizational Management Studies Department Honors Recipient, 2015
- Psi Chi Honor Society Research Competition, Gettysburg College. *Race, Obesity, and Aggression*, 2015, 2nd Place: \$50.00.

- Psi Chi Honor Society Research Competition, Gettysburg College. *The Effect of Head Tilt on Physical Aggressive Intent* (2014), 1st Place: \$75.00.
- Pi Lambda Sigma Business/Economics Honor Society (2014-present)
- Omicron Delta Kappa National Leadership Honor Society (2014-present)
- Psi Chi National Honor Society in Psychology, *Secretary/Executive Board* (2013-2015)

Undergraduate Research Awards

- Gettysburg College Provost Funding, *Head Tilt: The Influence of Body Language on Aggressive Behavior*. \$500.
- Gettysburg College Department of Psychology Research Fund, *Head Tilt: The Influence of Body Language on Aggressive Behavior*. \$250.00.
- Mellon Undergraduate Research and Creative Activity Fund, Gettysburg College. *Three Nonverbal Behaviors Associated with Intimidation During a Handshake*. \$500.00.
- Mellon Undergraduate Research and Creative Activity Fund, Gettysburg College. *Perceptions of Time as a Function of Context*. \$500.00.
- Mellon Undergraduate Research and Creative Activity Fund, Gettysburg College. *Perceptions of Negligence as a Function of Type of Testimony and Priming*. \$500.00.
- Psychology Department, Gettysburg College. *Perceptions of Negligence as a Function of Type of Testimony and Priming*. \$132.46.

Publications

Witkower, Z., & Tracy, J. L. (in press). How and why head position changes the perception of facial expressions of emotion. *Emotion*

Witkower, Z., & Tracy, J. L. (in press). We don't make WEIRD faces: A brief history of emotion expression research in small-scale societies. *Evolution and Human Behavior* [commentary].

Witkower, Z., Tracy, J. L., Cheng, J. T., & Henrich, J. (2020). Two signals of social rank: Prestige and dominance are associated with distinct nonverbal displays. *Journal of Personality and Social Psychology*, 118(1), 89-120.

Tracy, J. L., **Witkower, Z.**, & Mercadante, E., Cheng, J. T. (2020). The evolution of pride and social hierarchy. *Advances in Experimental Social Psychology*.

Witkower, Z., Mercadante, E., & Tracy, J. L. (2020). How affect shapes status: Distinct emotional experiences and expressions facilitate social hierarchy navigation. *Current Opinion in Psychology*, 33, 18-22.

- Witkower, Z.** & Tracy, J. L. (2019). A facial action imposter: How head tilt influences perceptions of dominance from a neutral face. *Psychological Science*, 30(6), 893-906
- Witkower, Z.** & Tracy, J. L. (2018). Bodily communication of emotion: Evidence for extra-facial behavioral expressions and available coding systems. *Emotion Review*, 11(2), 184–193.
- Barlett, C. P., **Witkower, Z.**, Mancini, C., Saleem, M. (2016). Breaking the link between provocation and aggression: The role of mitigating information. *Aggressive Behavior*, 42(6), 555-562.
- Barlett, C. P., Chamberlin, K., **Witkower, Z.** (2016). Predicting cyberbullying frequency in emerging adults: A longitudinal analysis. *Aggressive Behavior*, 43(2), 147-154.

Manuscripts Under Review and in Preparation

- Witkower, Z.**, Hill, A., Koster, J., Pun, A., & Baron, A., & Tracy, J. L. (invited revision). Nonverbal displays of dominance and prestige: Evidence for cross-cultural and early-emerging recognition. *Proceedings of the National Academy of Sciences*.
- Martin, J. D., Wood, A., Cox, W. T. L., Sievert, S., Nowak, R., Gilboa-Schechtman, E. G., Zhao, F., **Witkower, Z.**, Langbehn, A. T., & Niedenthal, P. M. (invited revision). Examining the validity of a social-functional smile typology. *Social Psychological and Personality Science*.
- Witkower, Z.**, Tracy, J. L., Hill, A., & Koster, J. (under review). Beyond face value: Evidence for the universality of bodily expressions of emotion. *Psychological Science*.
- Witkower, Z.**, Tracy, J. L., Pun, A., & Baron, A. (in prep). Bodily expressions of negative emotion are accurately recognized by young children. *University of British Columbia*.
- Lange, J., Cheng, J. C., **Witkower, Z.** & Tracy, J. L. (in prep). Narcissism and rank attainment: The mediating role of pride. *University of British Columbia*.
- Tracy, J. L., **Witkower, Z.**, & Mercadante, E. (in prep). Pride. *The Oxford Handbook of Evolution and the Emotions*. *University of British Columbia*.
- Witkower, Z.**, Mercadante, E., & Tracy, J. L. (in prep). Pride and social rank: Which comes first? *University of British Columbia*.
- Witkower, Z.**, Tracy, J. L., & Lange, J. (in prep). Illuminating the schade: Attempting to uncover a distinct expression of schadenfreude. *University of British Columbia*.

Witkower, Z., Tracy, J. L., Hill, A., & Koster, J. (in prep). Is the Action Unit Imposter a universal visual mechanism? *University of British Columbia*.

Laurin, K., Tracy, J. L., Shariff, A. & **Witkower, Z.** (in prep). Hot shit/Piece of shit: The divergent effects of displaying pride on others' status granting. *University of British Columbia*.

Batchelder, A., **Witkower, Z.**, & Tracy, J.L. (in prep). Predicting healthcare outcomes in a clinical sample. *University of British Columbia*.

Witkower, Z., Bucci, P., Cang, L., Tracy, J. L., & MacLean, K. (in prep). Nonverbal breathing patterns impact interpersonal emotion regulation via touch. *University of British Columbia*.

Witkower, Z., Laurin, K., Tracy, J. L., & Mercadante, E. (in prep). Attention Check Questions (ACQs) measure misbehavior and cheating, not attention and data quality. *University of British Columbia*.

Witkower, Z., Benjamin, R., & Heine, S. (in prep). Tylenol and aggressive behavior. *University of British Columbia*.

Talks and Chaired Symposia

Witkower, Z., & Tracy, J. L. (2020, April). *Two signals of rank: Distinct displays of dominance and prestige*. Invited talk, Social Psychology Department Colloquium Series. Duke University, Durham, NC. [Talk rescheduled to September due to COVID-19]

Witkower, Z., & Tracy, J. L. (2020, August). Two signals of social rank: Prestige and dominance are associated with distinct nonverbal displays. Paper to be presented in the symposium, "*Dominance and prestige: When are they used, how are they communicated, and when are they preferred?*" (Z. Witkower, Chair), at the Academy of Management Annual meeting. Vancouver, BC.

Witkower, Z. (2020, August). Symposium Chair, *Dominance and prestige: When are they used, how are they communicated, and when are they preferred?* Academy of Management Annual Meeting. Vancouver, BC.

Witkower, Z., & Tracy, J. L. (2020, June). *Two Signals of Rank: Distinct Displays of Dominance and Prestige*. Paper accepted for presentation at the Society for Interpersonal Theory and Research Annual Meeting, Seattle, WA. [Conference canceled due to COVID-19]

- Witkower, Z.** (2019, April). *Distinct nonverbal displays of dominance and prestige across diverse populations and among young children*. Invited talk, Biological Anthropology Seminar Series (BASS). University of Washington, Seattle, WA.
- Witkower, Z., & Tracy, J. L.** (2019, February). *Two signals of rank: Distinct displays of dominance and prestige*. Paper presented in the symposium, “New insights into the nonverbal communication of social rank,” (Z. Witkower, Chair), at the Society for Personality and Social Psychology Annual Meeting. Portland, OR.
- Witkower, Z.** (2019, February). Symposium Chair, *New insights into the nonverbal communication of social rank*. Society for Personality and Social Psychology Annual Meeting. Portland, OR.
- Witkower, Z., & Tracy, J. L.** (2019, February). *It’s all in your head: Head position changes the perception of facial expressions of emotion*. Paper presented at the Nonverbal Behavior Preconference at the Society for Personality and Social Psychology Annual Meeting. Portland, OR.
- Tracy, J. L., Laurin, K., Shariff, A., & **Witkower, Z.** (2019, February). *Hot sh*t or piece of sh*t: The directly opposing impact of pride displays on social judgments and decision-making*. Paper presented in the symposium, “Nonverbal expressions of positive emotion: New advances and social functions,” (L. Shiota, Chair), at the Society for Personality and Social Psychology Annual Meeting. Portland, OR.
- Witkower, Z., & Tracy, J. L.** (2018, March). *The illusion of a facial action unit: How head pitch rotation influences perceptions of dominance from an inactive face*. Paper presented in the symposium, “Inferring psychological traits from faces: Accuracies, errors, and mechanisms,” (P. Khambatta, Chair), at the Society for Personality and Social Psychology Annual Convention, Atlanta, Georgia.
- Witkower, Z., Tracy, J. L., Cheng, J. T., & Henrich, J.** (2018, March). *Two signals of social rank: Prestige and dominance are associated with distinct nonverbal displays*. Paper presented at the Nonverbal Behavior Pre-Conference at the Society for Personality and Social Psychology Annual Convention, Atlanta, Georgia.
- Witkower, Z., & Tracy, J. L.** (2017, December). *The physiological foundation of facial expressions*. Paper presented at EmotionFest 2.0. Department of Psychology, University of British Columbia, Vancouver, B.C.
- Witkower, Z., & Tracy, J. L.** (2017, May). *Two signals of social rank: Prestige and dominance are associated with distinct nonverbal displays*. Paper presented at PsychFest Thesis Competition. Department of Psychology, University of British Columbia, Vancouver, BC

Poster Presentations

- Witkower, Z., Hill, A., Pun, A., Baron, A., Koster, J., Tracy, J. L., (2020, Feb).** *Bodily expressions of negative emotions are recognized in a diverse human population and by young children.* Poster presented at the Nonverbal Behavior Pre-Conference at the Society for Personality and Social Psychology Annual Convention, New Orleans, LA.
- Witkower, Z., Tracy, J. L., (2020, Feb).** *It's all in your head: Head tilt changes the perception of facial expressions of emotion.* Poster presented at the Society for Personality and Social Psychology Annual Convention, New Orleans, LA.
- Witkower, Z., Tracy, J. L., Lang, J. (2018, May).** *Illuminating the Shade: Uncovering a Schadenfreude Expression.* Poster presented at the annual meeting of the Association for Psychological Science. San Francisco, California.
- Witkower, Z. & Tracy, J. L., (2017, January).** Two signals of social rank: prestige and dominance associated with distinct nonverbal displays. Poster presented at the Nonverbal Behavior Pre-Conference at the Society for Personality and Social Psychology Annual Convention, San Antonio, TX.
- Witkower, Z., Tracy, J. L., Cheng, J. T., & Henrich, J. (2017, January).** *Distinct nonverbal displays of dominance and prestige.* Poster presented at the Society for Personality and Social Psychology Annual Convention, San Antonio, TX.
- Witkower, Z. & Barlett, C.P. (2016, January).** *Aggression and the prototypical pride expression.* Poster presented at the Society for Personality and Social Psychology Annual Convention, San Diego, CA.
- Witkower, Z., Tracy, J. L., & Cheng, J. T. (2016, January).** *Nonverbal expressions of prestige and dominance.* Poster presented at the Nonverbal Behavior Pre-Conference at the Society for Personality and Social Psychology Annual Convention, San Diego, CA.
- Witkower, Z., Tarner, N., Kelly, A., & Garnick, D. (2015).** *Having the upper hand: The role of nonverbal behavior on perceptions of power.* Poster presented at the Association for Psychological Science Annual Convention. New York, NY.
- Witkower, Z., Garafola, N., Mancini, C., Barlett, C.P., (2015).** *Excuses, excuses: The interaction between excuse and provocation strengths on subsequent aggressive behavior.* Poster presented at the Association for Psychological Science Annual Convention. New York, NY.
- Witkower, Z., Palladino, L., & Houston, K., (2015).** *Race, obesity, and aggression.* Poster presented at Celebration 2015. Department of Psychology, Gettysburg College. Gettysburg, PA.

- Witkower, Z., Trotter, M., Fox, M., & Grom, S., (2015).** *The influence of head tilt on aggressive behavior.* Poster presented at Celebration 2015. Department of Psychology, Gettysburg College. Gettysburg, PA.
- Witkower, Z. & Barlett, C. P. (March, 2015).** *A nonverbal investigation of aggressive intent.* Poster presented at the Eastern Psychological Association Annual Meeting. Philadelphia, PA.
- Turner, N., **Witkower, Z.,** Kelly, A., & Garnick, D. (March, 2015). *Three nonverbal behaviors associated with intimidation during a handshake.* Poster presented at the Eastern Psychological Association Annual Meeting. Philadelphia, PA.
- Witkower, Z. & Barlett, C. P. (2014).** *The effect of head tilt on physical aggressive intent.* Poster presented at the International Society for Research on Aggression Conference. Atlanta, GA.
- Witkower, Z., Kelly, A., & Turner, N. (2014, May).** *Perceptions of time as a function of context.* Poster presented at the Association for Psychological Science Annual Convention. San Francisco, CA.
- Witkower, Z. & Barlett, C. P. (2014).** *The effect of head tilt on physical aggressive intent.* Poster presented at Celebration 2014. Department of Psychology, Gettysburg College. Gettysburg, PA.
- Witkower, Z., Kelly, A., & Turner, N. (2014).** *Perceptions of time as a function of context.* Poster presented at Celebration 2014. Department of Psychology, Gettysburg College. Gettysburg, PA.
- Witkower, Z. & Barlett, C. P. (2014).** *“Heads up”: A correlational analysis between head tilt and aggression.* Poster presented at the Eastern Psychological Association Annual Meeting. Boston, MA.
- Purita, R., **Witkower, Z.,** Turner, N., & Platania, J. (2013). *Perceptions of negligence as a function of type of testimony and priming.* Poster presented at the Association for Psychological Science Annual Convention. Washington D.C.
- Purita, R., **Witkower, Z.,** Turner, N., & Platania, J. (2013). *Perceptions of negligence as a function of type of testimony and priming.* Poster presented at Celebration 2013. Department of Psychology, Gettysburg College. Gettysburg, PA.

Specialized Certifications

- Facial Action Coding System (FACS).
- Vancouver Institute for Visual Analytics (VIVA) Andrew Wade Visual Analytics Program

Academic Work and Service Positions

Ad-Hoc Reviewer

- Journal of Personality and Social Psychology
- Affective Science
- Emotion
- Journal of Nonverbal Behavior
- Evolutionary Psychology
- Journal of Experimental Child Psychology
- Journal of Experimental Social Psychology
- Journal of Research in Personality
- Perception
- Social and Personality Psychology Compass

Teaching Assistant Experience

Fall, 2016

Personality Psychology (UBC)

Dr. Jessica Tracy

Spring, 2016

Personality Psychology (UBC)

Dr. Jason Martens

- Guest Lecture on Evolutionary Psychology.

Fall, 2015

Personality Psychology (UBC)

Dr. Jessica Tracy

Forensic Psychology (UBC)

Dr. Don Dutton

Fall, 2014

Introduction to Psychology (Gettysburg)

Dr. Nina Tarner

Academic Work and Service Positions

Manager of the Human Subject Pool

University of British Columbia
(2017-present)

APS Convention Program Committee
(Poster reviewer)

Association for Psychological Science
(2017, 2018, 2019)

Social-Personality Area Representative

University of British Columbia
(2015, 2016)

Select Media Coverage and Appearances

Witkower, Z., Tracy, J. L., Cheng, J. T., & Henrich, J. (2020). Two signals of social rank: Prestige and dominance are associated with distinct nonverbal displays. *Journal of Personality and Social Psychology*, 118(1), 89-120.

- Covered by [Medium](#), [The British Psychological Society Research Digest](#)

Witkower, Z. & Tracy, J. L. (2019). A facial action imposter: How head tilt influences perceptions of dominance from a neutral face. *Psychological Science*, 30(6), 893-906

- Select media coverage: [Forbes](#), [Quartz](#), [The Telegraph](#), [CTV](#), [Business Standard](#), [Association for Psychological Science](#), [Yahoo! News](#), [Science Daily](#), [SPSP Character & Context](#)

Additional interviews and news converge:

- The Daily Beat podcast (2019). [Head tilt and Dominance with Zak Witkower](#)
- BrainBuzz Podcast (2018). [Dominance or Prestige: Nonverbal Communication](#)
- Global BC Morning News (2017). [Analyzing the body language from the leaders' debate.](#)
- Vancouver Magazine (2017). [Perfecting the candidate.](#)