

MARGARET C. PALMIERO

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EDUCATION

University of Illinois Urbana-Champaign <i>M.S. Psychological Science</i>	2022 -Present
University of Vermont <i>B.A. Psychological Science</i>	2017 - 2021
Stanford University <i>Non-degree Summer Session</i>	2014

RESEARCH

Attachment and Close Relationships Lab (August 2022 – Present)

University of Illinois Urbana-Champaign

PI: R. Chris Fraley

Role: researcher

Bias in Retrospective Reports of Attachment in Former Romantic Relationships

A package of studies exploring bias in reflective reports of attachment to former romantic partners. Trajectory estimation with linear mixed models to explore differences in retrospective vs. concurrent reports of attachment in relationships that ultimately do, or do not, end in breakup.

- Originated research questions and proposed study package to the PI
- Wrote preregistrations for studies 1, 2, and 3 and created project on the Open Science Framework (OSF) website
- Completed IRB documents
- Wrote scripts and conducted analyses in R
- Created poster to present findings
- Drafted manuscript

Personality, Attachment, and Thematic Component Breakdown of Mortality-related Distress

Following the failure of findings central to Terror Management Theory to replicate in the Many Labs 4 project (Klein et. al, 2022), Attachment Theory may be the best framework in which to explore human awareness of our own mortality. This study will serve as a jumping-off point for future planned research fortifying evidence that the attachment system is fundamentally involved in the management of existential threats, such as mortality salience.

- Conducted initial literature review and designed pilot study to compile a dataset that can be used to assess correlations between attachment security, personality (as measured by the Big Five Inventory), and thematic components of fear of personal death and death anxiety
- Proposed pilot study to PI and recruited fellow lab members to form research team.
- Completed and submitted forms and materials to IRB
- Performed power analysis to determine sample size
- Wrote preregistration for pilot study in preparation to create OSF project following IRB approval

AttachmentBot

The surge in advancement of artificial intelligence capabilities in early 2023 inspired Attachment and Close Relationships lab members to consider utility of AI for creating an interactive, enjoyable, and unique research participation experience for people who visit the lab website, yourPersonality.net.

- Noticed various lab members (and other individuals in the psychology department at UIUC) simultaneously expressing interest in using AI in research. Put these various individuals into contact with one another, as their various skills and resources were all necessary for a successful project to get off the ground
- Facilitated conversations between collaborators with different areas of specialization

Undergraduate Research Assistantship (January 2021 – May 2021)

University of Vermont

PI: Eric Thraillkill

Role: research assistant

Resurgence in Humans

I received course credit for assisting with a study that was part of an ongoing line of research seeking to translate findings from rodent models of habit formation to human subjects. Following the onset of the Covid-19 pandemic the PI had designed an online version of an operant conditioning task that used images of snack foods (rather than physical snack foods) as reward for certain behavior (correct key press).

- Administered verbal instruction to in-person participants and oversaw their completion of study
- Debriefed participants and conducted brief post-study interviews to gather information that would be useful in improving the study design

- Wrote early drafts of the literature review and methods sections of the manuscript

PREREGISTRATIONS

Palmiero, M. C. & Fraley, R. C. (preregistration) Bias in reflective ratings of attachment to former romantic partners: Study 1. *Under embargo until May 2024*

Palmiero, M. C. & Fraley, R. C. (preregistration) Bias in reflective ratings of attachment to former romantic partners: Study 2. *Under embargo until May 2024*

Palmiero, M. C. & Fraley, R. C. (preregistration) Bias in reflective ratings of attachment to former romantic partners: Study 3. *Under embargo until May 2024*

Palmiero, M.C.; Howell, K. L. & Fraley, R. C. (preregistration) Personality and Response to Mortality Related Events. *Under embargo until May 2024*

PUBLICATIONS

Palmiero, M. C. & Fraley, R. C. (*manuscript in preparation*) Inaccuracy in retrospective reports of attachment to former romantic partners

PRESENTATIONS

Palmiero, M. C., (2023, April 20) *Bias in Retrospective Reports of Attachment to Former Romantic Partners* [Poster presentation]. Master of Science in Psychological Science Research Fair, Department of Psychology, University of Illinois, Champaign-Urbana, IL.

Palmiero, M. C., (2024, February 8-10) *Bias in Retrospective Reports of Attachment to Former Romantic Partners* [Poster accepted for presentation]. Society for Personality and Social Psychology Annual Convention. San Diego, CA, United States.

TEACHING & COMMUNITY BUILDING

One-on-one Undergraduate Mentorship

Facilitating research and education opportunities for individual undergraduates interested in pursuing psychology at the graduate level following graduation. I work with undergraduates who, like myself, discovered their love for psychology and research relatively late in their undergraduate careers. I attempt to provide holistic guidance, including:

- Instruction in basic statistical methods
- Using R for data analysis
- Providing introductions to faculty and other students with similar research interests
- Refining and presenting research interests
- Finding opportunities for research experience
- Choosing appropriate courses
- Where possible, providing resources relevant to well-being

Peer Office Hours (under development)

I am leading a team of masters students with the intention of developing an Office Hours resource in the psychology department, which will serve students in all degree programs in psychology, with the core philosophy that “two heads are better than one”. This will entail:

- Holding physical office hours in a room in the psychology building, where students can receive peer support for any issue they may be dealing with
- Creating a website which describes the strengths of each peer mentor, and provides the option to schedule time with a specific peer mentor to address a specific problem
- Scheduling activities, group meetings, and workshops at key times in the semester where many students may be dealing with the common problems

AFFILIATIONS

Society for Personality and Social Psychology

Member, poster presentation reviewer for SPSP conference 2024

American Psychological Association

Member

Society for the Improvement of Psychological Science

Member

