Updated October 1st, 2026

# Thomas Granville McCauley C.V.

*Employment:* PhD candidate at the University of California, San Diego
Lecturer I at the University of San Diego
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## EDUCATION

University of California, San Diego, La Jolla, CA
PhD, Psychology, 2027 (expected)
Major areas: Reinforcement learning models of prosocial emotion
Advisor: Dr. Michael McCullough

University of Miami, Miami, FL
PhD, Psychology, 2017-2019 (transferred to UCSD)
Major areas: Evolutionary models of helping motivations
Advisor: Dr. Michael McCullough

College of William & Mary, Williamsburg, VA
MA, Psychology, 2017
Major Areas: Cross-cultural and Evolutionary Psychology
Advisor: Dr. Joanna Schug
Masters Thesis: Computational structure of evolved forgiveness systems

University of Delaware, Newark, DE
BS, Psychology, 2014
Major Areas: Social and Clinical Psychology
Advisors: Dr. D. Michael Kuhlman and Dr. Adele Hayes

## HONORS AND AWARDS

**2025** *Funding*, Anderson Travel and Research Fund ($800) – Department of Psychology, University of California, San Diego.

**2025** *Funding*, Anderson Travel and Research Fund ($940) – Department of Psychology, University of California, San Diego.

**2024** *Funding*, Anderson Travel and Research Fund ($1,180) – Department of Psychology, University of California, San Diego.

**2022** *Funding*, Anderson Travel and Research Fund ($1,017) – Department of Psychology, University of California, San Diego.

**2020** *Award*, Society for Improving Psychological Science (SIPS) commendation – recognition for SSVSforPsych's contribution to SIPS mission of improving psychological science.

**2020** *Funding*, Anderson Travel and Research Fund ($625) – Department of Psychology, University of California, San Diego.

**2019** *Award*, Outstanding Teaching Assistant Award ($200) – Department of Psychology, University of Miami.

**2018** *Award*, S.T. Calvin Award for Excellence in the Application of Statistical Methods ($250) – Department of Psychology, University of Miami.

**2017** *Award*, Center for Computational Science Research Fellowship ($250) – University of Miami's highly competitive fellowship program for interdisciplinary computational research, awarded for Fall 2017 and Spring 2018. *Project title: Network analysis of evolved forgiveness systems*.

**2017** *Funding*, National Science Foundation Research Fellowship (~$15,000) – East Asia and Pacific Summer Institute Fellowship, Kobe University, Japan, awarded for summer 2017. Project title: *A cross-cultural study of the relationship between social ecology and evolved cognitive systems for forgiveness*.

**2016** *Funding*, presentation travel award ($100) – 28th annual Human Behavior and Evolution Society student travel award.

**2016** *Funding*, student research grant ($300) – Arts & Sciences Graduate Research Grant, College of William & Mary, awarded for fall 2016.

**2016** *Nomination*, Japanese Ministry of Affairs Friendship Ties Competitive Study Abroad program, College of William & Mary.

**2015** *Funding*, presentation travel award ($300) – Arts & Sciences Graduate Student Association Conference Funds, College of William & Mary.

## PUBLICATIONS

**McCauley, T.G.**, & McCullough, M.E. (under review). Perceived Omega: Experimental Validation of a New Measure of Perceptions of Re-Encounter Probability.

**McCauley, T. G.**, McAuliffe, W.H., Mulhinch, M., Pedersen, E.J.P., Schug, J., Ohtsubo, Y., & McCullough, M. E. (under review). *Does Measurement Bias Explain Sex Differences In Self-Reported Empathy?*. PsyArXiv. https://osf.io/preprints/psyarxiv/6ps2r_v1.

**McCauley, T. G.**, McAuliffe, W., & McCullough, M. (in prep). *The Psychology of Common Knowledge and Inequity Aversion Explains the Appearance of Altruistic Motivation*.

**McCauley, T.G.**, Forster, D.F., Coles, N., & McCullough, M. (in prep). *The Effects of Cheap Talk Versus Costly Signals Upon Gratitude*.

***McCauley, T.G. -** Tang, C., & McCullough, M.E. (in prep). *Does Interpersonal Closeness Reduce the Effect of Inequity on Envy?*.

***McCauley, T.G.** - Liu X.S. & McCullough, M.E. (in prep). *Watch Me Be Self-controlled.*

**McCauley, T.G.**, & McCullough, M.E. (2026). State and trait empathy are positively correlated, albeit weakly, with prosocial learning. *Motivation Science*. Advance online publication. https://dx.doi.org/10.1037/mot0000429.

**McCauley, T.G.**, McAuliffe, W. H., & McCullough, M.E. (2024). Does Empathy Promote Helping by Activating Altruistic Motivation or Concern About Social Evaluation? A Direct Replication of Fultz et al. (1986*)*. *Emotion, 24*(8), 1868–1884.

Bainter, S. A., **McCauley, T. G.**, Fahmy, M. M., Goodman, Z. T., Kupis, L. B., & Rao, J. S. (2023). Comparing Bayesian variable selection to lasso approaches for applications in psychology. *Psychometrika*, *88*(3), 1032-1055.

**McCauley, T. G.**, & McCullough, M. E. (2022). Retrospective self-reported childhood experiences in enriched environments uniquely predict prosocial behavior and personality traits in adulthood. *Evolutionary Psychology, 20*(3), 1-20.

Hoogeveen, S., Sarafoglou, A., Aczel, B., Aditya, Y., Alayan, A. J., Allen, P. J., … **McCauley, T.G.**, … & Nilsonne, G. (2023). A many-analysts approach to the relation between religiosity and well-being. *Religion, Brain & Behavior, 13*(3), 237-283.

**McCauley, T. G.**, Billingsley, J., & McCullough, M. E. (2022). An evolutionary psychology view of forgiveness: individuals, groups, and culture. *Current Opinion in Psychology*, *44*, 275-280.

Rogers, B. G., Glynn, T. R., Bainter, S. A., **McCauley, T.G.**, Antoni, M. H., & Safren, S. A. (2021). Syndemics and salivary inflammation in people living with HIV/AIDS. *Psychology & Health, 36*(4), 496-510.

*Hone, L. S. E. - **McCauley, T. G.**, Pedersen, E. J., Carter, E. C., & McCullough, M. E. (2021). The sex premium in religiously motivated moral judgment. *Journal of Personality and Social Psychology, 120*(6), 1621–1633.

McAuliffe, W. H., Moshontz, H., **McCauley, T. G.**, & McCullough, M. E. (2020). Searching for prosociality in qualitative data: Comparing manual, closed–vocabulary, and open–vocabulary methods. *European Journal of Personality, 3*4(5), 903-916..

Smith, A., **McCauley, T. G.**, Yagi, A., Yamaura, K., Shimizu, H., McCullough, M. E., & Ohtsubo, Y. (2020). Perceived goal instrumentality is associated with forgiveness: A test of the valuable relationships hypothesis. *Evolution and Human Behavior*, *41*(1), 58-68.

Forster, D. E., Billingsley, J., Russell, V. M., **McCauley, T. G.**, Smith, A., Burnette, J. L., Ohtsubo, Y., Schug, J., Lieberman, D., & McCullough, M. E. (2020). Forgiveness takes place on an attitudinal continuum from hostility to friendliness: Toward a closer union of forgiveness theory and measurement. *Journal of Personality and Social Psychology, 119*(4), 861.

Yasinski, C., Hayes, A. M., Alpert, E., **McCauley, T.G.**, Ready, C. B., Webb, C., & Deblinger, E. (2018). Treatment processes and demographic variables as predictors of dropout from trauma-focused cognitive behavioral therapy (TF-CBT) for youth. *Behaviour Research and Therapy*, *107*, 10-18.

Hayes, A. M., Yasinski, C., Grasso, D., Ready, C. B., Alpert, E., **McCauley, T.G.**, & Deblinger, E. (2017). Constructive and unproductive processing of traumatic experiences in trauma-focused cognitive-behavioral therapy for youth. *Behavior Therapy*, *48*(2), 166-181.

Yasinski, C., Hayes, A. M., Ready, C. B., Cummings, J. A., Berman, I. S., **McCauley, T.G.**, & Deblinger, E. (2016). In-session caregiver behavior predicts symptom change in youth receiving trauma-focused cognitive behavioral therapy (TF-CBT). *Journal of Consulting and Clinical Psychology*, *84*(12), 1066.

*indicates co-first authorship

## PRESENTATIONS

**McCauley, T.G.**, Tang, C., and McCullough, M.E. (2026). *Social Closeness Buffers Envy*. Poster presented at the annual meeting of the Society for Personality and Social Psychology, Emotion Preconference, February 26th-28th, 2026.

**McCauley, T.G.**, Tang, C., and McCullough, M.E. (2025). *Social Closeness Buffers Envy*. Talk presented at the annual meeting of the Evolution and Human Behavior Society, June 3rd - 6th, 2025.

**McCauley, T.G.**, Mulhinch, M., and McCullough, M.E. (2025). *Measuring Moral Excellence in the Laboratory*. Poster presented at the annual meeting of the Society for Personality and Social Psychology, Moral Psychology Preconference, February 8th-10th, 2024.

**McCauley, T.G.**, Mulhinch, M., and McCullough, M.E. (2024). *Does Measurement Bias Explain Sex Differences in Self-Reported Empathy?*. Talk presented at the annual meeting of the Evolution and Human Behavior Society, May 22nd - 25th, 2024.

**McCauley, T.G.**, Mulhinch, M., and McCullough, M.E. (2024). *Cues, Causes,and Consequences of Need-based Helping*. Talk presented at the annual meeting of the Society for Personality and Social Psychology, Evolutionary Psychology Preconference, February 8th-10th, 2024.

**McCauley, T.G.**, Mulhinch, M., and McCullough, M.E. (2023). *Honesty-Humility Predicts Need-Based Helping, But Only In The Absence of Social Rewards*. Talk presented at the annual meeting of the Society for Personality and Social Psychology, Evolutionary Psychology Preconference, February 23th-26th, 2023.

**McCauley, T.G**. (2022). *Do Trait Differences In Prosocial Motivation Modulate Model-Free Reinforcement Learning?*. Talk presented at the California Workshop on Evolutionary Social Sciences, May 6th-8th, 2022.

**McCauley, T.G**., Mulhinch, M., and McCullough, M.E. (2022). C*omputational Mechanisms and Individual Differences Underlying Empathic Concern and Need-Based Helping*. Talk presented at the annual meeting of the Society for Personality and Social Psychology, Evolutionary Psychology Preconference, February 16th-19th, 2022.

McAuliffe, W.H.B., Moshontz, H., **McCauley, T.G**., and McCullough, M.E. (2020). *Searching for Prosociality in Qualitative Data*. Talk presented at the annual meeting of the Psychological Science Accelerator Virtual Conference, September 8th-10th, 2020.

**McCauley, T.G**. (2020). *Enriched environments uniquely predict moral behavior, emotion, and personality traits*. Poster presented at the annual meeting of the Society for Personality and Social Psychology, Justice and Morality Preconference in New Orleans, LA.

**McCauley, T.G**. (2020). *Pre-registration: an introduction*. Talk presented at the University of California, San Diego's Social Psychology Brown Bag colloquium series.

**McCauley, T.G**. (2020). *Enriched environments uniquely predict moral behavior, emotion, and personality traits*. Talk presented at the University of California, San Diego's Social Psychology Brown Bag colloquium series.

Bainter, S.A., and **McCauley, T.G.** (2019). *Evaluating Stochastic Search Variable Selection for Applications in Psychology*. Talk accepted for presentation at the 31st annual meeting of the Association for Psychological Science.

**McCauley, T.G.**, Hone, L.S.E., and McCullough, M.E. (2019). *Sex premium in religiously motivated moral judgement*. Talk presented at the annual meeting of the Society for Personality and Social Psychology in Portland, OR.

**McCauley, T.G**. (2018). *Network analysis of evolved forgiveness systems*. Talk presented at the University of Miami's Center for Computational Sciences Research Fellowship colloquium.

**McCauley, T.G.,** Ohtsubo, Y., and Schug, J. (2018). *Investigating the psychometric properties of the TRIM-18 in the United States and Japan*. Poster presented at the annual meeting of the Society for Personality and Social Psychology, Evolutionary Psychology Preconference, in Atlanta, GA

**McCauley, T.G.,** Ohtsubo, Y., and Schug, J. (2017). *A cross-cultural study of the relationship between social ecology and evolved cognitive systems for forgiveness*. Poster presented at the 2017 Japan Society for the Promotion of Science Research Fellowship Symposium in Sokendai, Japan.

**McCauley, T.G.** *Social ecology and the evolved function of forgiveness*. (2017). Talk presented at the College of William & Mary's Department of Psychology colloquium series.

**McCauley, T.G.,** Schug, J., Yokotoa, K. **(**2016). *Social ecology moderates the extent to which synchrony enhances group cooperation*. Poster presented at the 28th annual meeting of the Human Behavior and Evolution Society.

Lamba, A., Schug, J., and **McCauley, T. G**. (2016). *Simulating cooperative dynamics on static networks with stochastic modeling*. Poster presented at the 28th annual meeting of the Human Behavior and Evolution Society.

Lamba, A., Schug, J., **McCauley, T.G**. (2016). *Allelic variation in the oxytocin transporter gene relates to social but not non-social risk taking*. Poster presented at the 10th annual meeting of the Northeastern Evolutionary Psychology Society.

**McCauley, T.G.** *Synchrony, cooperation, and trust*. (2016). Talk presented at the 15th annual William & Mary Graduate Research Symposium.

**McCauley, T.G.**, Schug, J., Wiltermuth, S.S., Yokotoa, K., & Ensign, A. *A cross-cultural comparison of the effects of synchrony and relational mobility on in-group cooperation*. (2015). Talk presented at the 37th annual meeting of the Society of Southeastern Social Psychologists.

**McCauley, T.G**., Gemino, H., Furey, W., Heidt, R., Stivers, A., & Kuhlman, D. (2015). *Facial width-to-height ratio and aggression*. Poster presented at the 86th annual meeting of the Eastern Psychological Association.

**McCauley, T. G.** *Self-reported neuroticism, judgment of neuroticism by others, and the facial width-to-height ratio*. (2014). Poster presented at the University of Delaware Psychological and Brain Sciences research symposium.

Prokop, T., Gemino, H., **McCauley, T. G.,** Furey, W., Francisco, D., Heidt, R., Piazza, P., Riggelman, J. (2013). *Physical attractiveness and the facial width-to-height ratio in*

*cooperators, competitors, and individualists*. Poster presented at the University of Delaware Psychological and Brain Sciences research symposium.

## RESEARCH EXPERIENCE

Center for Research in Experimental Evolutionary Psychology, August 2019-Present
*Principal Investigator*: Dr. Michael McCullough
Role: Graduate Research Assistant

Evolution and Human Behavior Lab, August 2017-August 2019
*Principal Investigators*: Dr. Michael McCullough and Dr. Debra Lieberman
Role: Graduate Research Assistant

Evolutionary Social Psychology Lab, June 2017-August 2017
*Principal Investigator*: Dr. Yohsuke Ohtsubo
Role: Visiting Research Fellow

Mind and Society Lab, June 2015-June 2017
*Principal Investigator*: Dr. Joanna Schug
Role: Graduate Research Assistant

Depression and Trauma Cognitive-Behavioral Therapy Lab, April 2012-July 2015
*Principal Investigator*: Dr. Adele Hayes
Role: Research Assistant

Social Value Orientation Lab, September 2012-May 2015
*Principal Investigator*: Dr. D. Michael Kuhlman
Role: Research Assistant

Child Well-Being Initiative, April 2012-December 2013
*Principal Investigators*: Dr. Adele Hayes and Dr. Charles Webb
Role: Intern

Electrophysiology Lab, September 2012-December 2012
*Principal Investigator*: Dr. Robert Simons
Role: Research Assistant

## PROFESSIONAL MEMBERSHIPS

Society for Personality and Social Psychology, 2017-present
Association for Psychological Science, 2014-present
Eastern Psychological Association, 2014-2015
Human Behavior and Evolution Society, 2016
Northeastern Evolutionary Psychology Society, 2016
Society for the Teaching of Psychology, 2014-present

## TEACHING EXPERIENCE

Social Psychology (PSYC 104), University of California, San Diego, *Instructor of record*, Fall 2026 (350 students)

Social Psychology (PSYC 322), University of San Diego, *Instructor of record*, Fall 2026 (25 students)

Cross-Cultural Psychology (PSYC 324), University of San Diego, *Instructor of record*, Fall 2026 (25 students)

Research Methods (PSYC 300), University of San Diego, *Instructor of record*, Spring 2026 (25 students)

Cross-Cultural Psychology (PSYC 324), University of San Diego, *Instructor of record*, Fall 2025 (30 students)

Social Psychology (PSYC 104), University of California, San Diego, *Instructor of record*, Fall 2025 (350 students)

Foundations of Developmental Psychology (PSYC 6), Dr. Lindsey Powell, University of California, San Diego, *Teaching Assistant*, Fall 2022 (150 students)

Evolution and Human Nature (PSYC 141), Dr. Michael McCullough, University of California, San Diego, *Teaching Assistant*, Winter 2022 (115 students)

Tests and Measurement (PSYC 151), Dr. Dale Glaser, University of California, San Diego, *Teaching Assistant*, Winter 2022 (35 students)

Evolution and Human Nature (PSYC 141), Dr. Michael McCullough, University of California, San Diego, *Teaching Assistant*, Winter 2020 (9 students)

Psychology of Human Sexuality (PSYC 172), Dr. David Frederick, University of California, San Diego, *Teaching Assistant*, Winter 2020 (186 students)

Multiple Regression and Multivariate Statistics (PSY 632), Dr. Maria Llabre, University of Miami, *Teaching Assistant*, Spring 2019 (14 students).

Biobehavioral Statistics (PSY 291/292), Dr. Rick Stuetzle, University of Miami *Teaching Assistant*, Spring 2019 (28 students)

Psychological Statistics, Research Design, and Methods (PSY 631), Dr. Sierra Bainter, University of Miami, *Invited Lecturer*, Open Science and Pre-registrations, Fall 2018.

Psychological Statistics, Research Design, and Methods (PSY 631), Dr. Sierra Bainter, University of Miami *Teaching Assistant*, Fall 2018 (15 students).

Biobehavioral Statistics (PSY 291), Dr. Elizabeth Simpson, University of Miami *Teaching Assistant*, Spring 2018 (31 students)

Biobehavioral Statistics (PSY 291), Dr. Elizabeth Simpson, University of Miami
*Teaching Assistant*, Fall 2017 (22 students)

Prenatal Development (PSY 432), Dr. Christine Delgado, University of Miami
*Teaching Assistant*, Fall 2017 (20 students)

Research in Social Psychology (PSYC 414), Dr. Joanna Schug, College of William & Mary
*Lab Instructor*, Spring 2017 (15 students)

Research in Social Psychology (PSYC 414), Dr. Cheryl Dickter, College of William & Mary
*Lab Instructor*, Fall 2016 (15 students)

Graduate Research Methods (PSYC 631), Dr. Catherine Forestell, College of William & Mary
*Invited Lecturer*, topics in mediation and moderation analysis, Fall 2016 (7 students)

Elementary Statistics (PSYC 301), Dr. Cheryl Dickter, College of William & Mary
*Lab Instructor*, Spring 2016 (40 students)

Elementary Statistics (PSYC 301), Dr. Cheryl Dickter, College of William & Mary
*Lab Instructor*, Fall 2015 (40 students)

## SERVICE

*Representative*, Graduate Student Association, Department of Psychology, Spring 2023

*Representative*, Graduate Student Association, Department of Psychology, Spring 2016

*Session proctor,* William & Mary 15th annual Graduate Research Symposium, Spring 2016

*Treasurer (elected),* Graduate Student Association, 2016-2017

*Reviewer experience*, Society for Personality and Social Psychology; Evolution and Human Behavior; European Journal of Personality.

## PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT

*Graduate Grade Point Average*
University of California, San Diego – 35 credits, 4.0 GPA.
University of Miami – 24 credits, 3.925 GPA.
College of William & Mary – 34 credits, 4.0 GPA.

*Selected Coursework*
**2022** Learning By Thinking (PSYC 274) – Dr. Caren Walker (*University of California, San Diego*)

**2021** Cognitive Psychology (PSYC 218) – Dr. John Wixted (*University of California, San Diego*)
**2020** Computational Models of the Mind (PSYC 211) – Dr. Ed Vul (*University of California, San Diego*)
**2020** Writing About Thinking (PSYC 272) – Dr. Michael McCullough (*University of California, San Diego*)
**2020** Human rationality (PSYC 237) – Dr. Craig McKenzie (*University of California, San Diego*)
**2020** Biological Psychology (PSYC 222) – Dr. Michael Gorman (*University of California, San Diego*)
**2019** Item Response Theory (EPS 707) – Dr. Cengiz Zopluoglu (*University of Miami*)
**2018** Structural Equation Modeling (PSY 633) – Dr. Maria Llabre (*University of Miami*)
**2018** Hierarchical Linear Modeling (PSY 634) – Dr. Sierra Bainter (*University of Miami*)
**2018** Cognitive Development (PSY 622) – Dr. Elizabeth Simpson (*University of Miami*)
**2018** Classical Test Theory (EPS 705) – Dr. Cengiz Zopluoglu (*University of Miami*)
**2018** Behavioral Medicine II (PSY 610) – Dr. Barry Hurwitz (*University of Miami*)
**2017** Statistical Modeling (PSYC 663) – Dr. Todd Thrash *(College of William & Mary)*
**2017** Social Psychology (PSY 625) – Dr. Michael McCullough (*University of Miami*)
**2017** Psychological Statistics, Research Methods, and Design (PSY 631) – Dr. Terry Froman (*University of Miami*)
**2017** Behavioral Medicine I (PSY 610) – Dr. Neil Schneiderman (*University of Miami*)
**2016** Networks in Systems Biology (APSC 791) – Dr. Greg Smith *(College of William & Mary)*
**2016** Computer Applications in Psychology (PSYC 672) – Dr. Paul Kieffaber *(College of William & Mary)*
**2016** Advanced Statistics II (PSYC 633) – Dr. Matthew Hillimire *(College of William & Mary)*
**2015** Research Methods (PSYC 631) – Dr. Catherine Forestell *(College of William & Mary)*
**2015** Proseminar in Personality (PSYC 662) – Dr. Todd Thrash *(College of William & Mary)*
**2015** Multiple Regression (PSYC 861) – Dr. Jean-Phillipe Laurenceau *(University of Delaware)*
**2015** Advanced Statistics I (PSYC 632) – Dr. Lee Kirkpatrick *(College of William & Mary)*
**2014** ANOVA (PSYC 860) – Dr. Michael Kuhlman (*University of Delaware)*

## PROGRAMMING SKILLS

R
Python
Qualtrics
SPSS
SoPHIE

## References

Michael McCullough, Ph.D., Professor
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Sierra Bainter, Ph.D., Associate Professor
University of Miami
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