Rachel Thompson

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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). Studying language in online food recipes to identify popular food patterns. Submission in press at *First Monday*.

Blackburn, K., Wang, W., Pedler, R., **Thompson, R**., & Gonzalez, D. (Accepted). Exploring women's psychological responses to miscarriages and abortions through their natural online conversations. Submission in press at *Journal of Language and Social Psychology*.

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.

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

2020	Edited videos of data analysis presentations for fellow lab members
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
Contextualizer
EZPZTXT
Meaning Extraction Helper (MEH)
RStudio
Linguistic Inquiry and Word Count (LIWC)