

Sydney G. Wicks

Curriculum Vitae

Department of Psychology
University of Mississippi
Oxford, MS 38655

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www.sydneywicks.com

EDUCATION

- PhD, Experimental Psychology** (expected) 2026
University of Mississippi, Oxford, MS
Minor: Applied Statistics
Advisor: Dr. Andrew Hales
Dissertation: *Singlehood and social exclusion*
- Master of Arts, Experimental Psychology** 2023
University of Mississippi, Oxford, MS
Advisor: Dr. Andrew Hales
Thesis: *Distraction by any other name? The impact of music on social exclusion recovery*
- Bachelor of Science, Psychology** 2021
Mississippi State University, Starkville, MS
Minors: Sociology, Marketing

RESEARCH INTERESTS

Social connection and exclusion; close relationships and singlehood; media and technology use

GRANTS, FELLOWSHIPS, HONORS, & AWARDS

Ongoing

National Science Foundation Graduate Research Fellowship (\$159,000) 2023-2026
Project: *The role of observer supportive messages on ostracism recovery*

Past

- Society for Personality and Social Psychology Graduate Registration Stipend Award 2025
Society for Southeastern Social Psychologists Poster Award 2024
Project: *Three, five, four, phub: Rapid recovery from a single phub and accumulating displeasure from repeated phubs*
- Scholarship of Teaching & Learning Internship (\$4,000) 2024
John Templeton Foundation Open Science of Religion Project (\$21,000) 2024
Role: Co-Investigator (Principal Investigator: Dr. Andrew Hales)
Project: *Does content matter? Examining the influence of event-focused prayer on recovery from ostracism*
- International Association for Relationship Research Student Funding Award 2024

Mississippi Psychological Association Data Blitz Second Place	2023
Project: <i>“Patch it up”</i> : Examining the effect of music listening on social exclusion recovery	
Mississippi Psychological Association Student Travel Award	2023
University of Mississippi Achieving Equity Grant (\$7,950)	2023
Role: Co-Investigator (Principal Investigator: Dr. Andrew Hales)	
Project: <i>AIE (Acronym-Induced Exclusion)</i> : Unfamiliar language as an obstacle to inclusivity	
University of Mississippi Encouraging Fellowship & Grant Scholarship (\$1,000)	2022
American Psychological Association & Psi Chi Junior Scientist Fellowship (\$1,000)	2021
Project: <i>Cyberostracism, rejection, and the willingness to spread misinformation</i>	
University of Mississippi Provost’s Elite Scholar Designation (\$30,000)	2021
University of Mississippi Excellence in Inclusivity Fellowship (\$12,000)	2021
Society of Personality & Social Psychology Undergraduate Research Program (\$1,500)	2021
Society of Personality & Social Psychology Diversity Undergraduate Registration Award	2021
Mississippi State University Spirit of State Award	2021
Mississippi State University Omicron Delta Kappa Honor Society	2021
Mississippi State University Honors Research Travel Award (\$1,500)	Spring 2020, 2021
Mississippi State University Dean’s Scholar	Spring 2019-Spring 2021
Mississippi State University Shackouls Honors College	2017-2021
Mississippi State University Psi Chi Excellence Award	2020
Mississippi State University President’s Scholar	Fall 2017-Fall 2018, Spring 2020

PUBLICATIONS

† Denotes mentee

Wirth, J. H., Hales, A. H., **Wicks, S. G.**, & Okdie, B. M. (in press). CyberballOS: An updated, easily implemented open-source virtual ball-toss game to study social interactions. *Advances in Methods and Practices in Psychological Science*.

Wood, N. R., **Wicks, S. G.**, Beam, A. J., Mudryk, E., †Fitts, E., & Hales, A. H. (2026). What could have been: Predicted and actual exclusion by potential romantic partners and platonic friends. *European Journal of Social Psychology*.
<https://doi.org/10.1002/ejsp.70066>

Wicks, S. G., & Hales, A. H. (2026). Examining the impact of brief exposure to happy and sad music on ostracism recovery. *Current Psychology*, 45(6), 586.
<https://doi.org/10.1007/s12144-025-08990-7>

Wicks, S. G., & Sinclair, H. C. (2026). Single-sided: Associations between social network opinions and singlehood among heterosexual and sexually diverse individuals. *Personal Relationships*, 33(1), e70055. <https://doi.org/10.1111/per.70055>

Wicks, S. G., †Paul, M., & Sinclair, H. C. (2025). Balancing relationships: What happens when your friends and romantic partners do not get along? *Personal Relationships*, 32(4), e70039. <https://doi.org/10.1111/per.70039>

Hales, A. H., **Wicks, S. G.**, Wood, N. R., & Mohammadi, S. (2024). Phubbing responses in real-time: Rapid recovery from a single phub and declining affect with repeated phubs. *Social Influence*, 19(1). <https://doi.org/10.1080/15534510.2024.2414958>

Wicks, S. G., Hales, A. H., & Hennes, E. P. (2023). Does disseminating (mis)information restore social connection during a global pandemic? *Social and Personality Psychology Compass*, e12825. <https://doi.org/10.1111/spc3.12825>

Wood, N. R., Leckfor, C. M., **Wicks, S. G.**, & Hales, A. H. (2023). Ghosting from the workplace: The impact of feedback (or lack thereof) on applicants' psychological needs satisfaction. *Routledge Open Research*, 2(3), 3. <https://doi.org/10.12688/routledgeopenres.17725.2>

MANUSCRIPTS UNDER REVIEW OR REVISION

Wicks, S. G., Hales, A. H., & Wesselmann, E. D. (*accepted in principle* [registered report, studies in progress]). Does content matter? Examining the influence of event-focused prayer on recovery from ostracism. *Archive for the Psychology of Religion*.

SELECT MANUSCRIPTS IN PREPARATION

Wicks, S. G., Szkody, E., & Sinclair, H. C. (in preparation). Are all networks created equal? Gender differences in the social network effect.

Wicks, S. G., Richmond, B. S., & Sinclair, H. C. (in preparation). Swipe White: Examining sexual racism in online dating.

Wicks, S. G., Hampton, A., & Hennes, E. P. (in preparation). The investment model of system justification: A relational framework for understanding commitment to the status quo.

Wicks, S. G., Utley, J. W., & Sinclair, H. C. (in preparation). Enemy Impact Inventory-Revised: Integrating ostracism theory to understand enemy relationships.

BOOK CHAPTER

Wicks, S. G., Mohammadi, S., Wood, N. R., & Hales, A. H. (2026). Ostracism as an existential threat. In K. E. Vail, D. R. Van Tongeren, R. J. Schlegel, J. Greenberg, L. A. King, & R. M. Ryan (Eds.). *Handbook of the Science of Existential Psychology*.

PAPER PRESENTATIONS

† Denotes mentee

Wicks, S. G., & Sinclair, H. C. (2025, August). *Singlehood, sexual orientation, and social network opinions* [Paper presentation]. 2025 International Association for Relationship Research Conference, London, England.

- Williams, K. D., Hales, A. H., Bernstein, M. J., & **Wicks, S. G.** (2025, May). *Ostracism: An abbreviated presentation* [Paper presentation]. 2025 Duck Conference, Corolla, NC.
- Wicks, S. G.**, Hales, A. H., Bernstein, M. J., & Williams, K. D. (2025, April). *Rated E for everyone? Abbreviation-induced exclusion among gamers and non-gamers* [Data blitz]. 2025 University of Mississippi Conference on Psychological Science, Oxford, MS.
- Wicks, S. G.**, & Sinclair, H. C. (2025, March). *Shaping singlehood: How gender, sexual orientation, and network opinions influence singlehood experiences* [Paper presentation]. 2025 University of Mississippi Isom Student Gender Studies Conference, Oxford, MS.
- Wood, N. R., Hales, A. H., **Wicks, S. G.**, & Mohammadi, S. (2024, April). *Real-time responses to single and persistent phubbing* [Data blitz]. 2024 University of Mississippi Conference on Psychological Science, Oxford, MS.
- Wicks, S. G.**, & Hales, A. H. (2023, September). “Patch it up”: *Examining the effect of music listening on social exclusion recovery* [Data blitz]. 2023 Mississippi Psychological Association, Tupelo, MS.
- Wicks, S. G.**, & Hales, A. H. (2023, April). *One good thing about music: Moving music and social exclusion recovery* [Data blitz]. 2023 University of Mississippi Conference on Psychological Science, Oxford, MS.
- Rios, J. W., Shaw, C. M., **Wicks, S. G.**, & Smith, C. V. (2023, April). *Gender, Greek life, and sexual motivation* [Data blitz]. 2023 University of Mississippi Conference on Psychological Science, Oxford, MS.
- †Paul, M., **Wicks, S. G.**, & Sinclair, H. C. (2022, July). *Balancing relationships: What happens when your friends and romantic partners don't get along?* [Paper presentation]. 2022 International Association for Relationship Research (virtual).
- Wicks, S. G.** (2022, April). *Virtual ostracism, rejection, and the willingness to spread COVID-19 misinformation* [Data blitz]. 2022 University of Mississippi Conference on Psychological Science, Oxford, MS.

INVITED TALKS

- Wicks, S. G.** (2026, March). *Associations between social network opinions and singlehood among heterosexual and sexually diverse individuals*. Invited talk in Geoff MacDonald's MacLab, University of Toronto, Toronto, ON, Canada (virtual).
- Wicks, S. G.** (2026, March). *What happens when your friends and romantic partners do not get along?* Invited talk in Kevin McIntyre's Senior Seminar in Relationship Science, Trinity University, San Antonio, TX (virtual).

POSTER PRESENTATIONS

† Denotes mentee

- Wicks, S. G.**, Hales, A. H., & Wesselmann, E. D. (2026, February). *Does content matter? Examining the influence of event-focused prayer on recovery from ostracism* [Poster presentation]. 2026 Society for Personality and Social Psychology, Chicago, IL.
- Wicks, S. G.** (2026, February). *Excluded for being single: Associations between relationship status-based exclusion and singlehood* [Poster presentation]. 2026 Society for Personality and Social Psychology Close Relationships Pre-conference, Chicago, IL.
- †Chen, K., **Wicks, S. G.**, & Hales, A. H. (2025, April). *Claiming more to cope: Does ostracism increase overclaiming?* [Poster presentation]. 2025 University of Mississippi Conference on Psychological Science, Oxford, MS.
- Mohammadi, S., Hales, A. H., **Wicks, S. G.**, & †Peak, H. (2025, April). *Ostracism, fairness perception, and schadenfreude* [Poster presentation]. 2025 University of Mississippi Conference on Psychological Science, Oxford, MS.
- †Hudson, N., **Wicks, S. G.**, & Sinclair, H. C. (2025, April). *Living single: How do friends and family affect life as a single person?* [Poster presentation]. 2025 Louisiana State University Discovery Day, Baton Rouge, LA.
- †Chen, K., **Wicks, S. G.**, & Hales, A. H. (2025, March). *Does ostracism increase overclaiming?* [Poster presentation]. 2025 University of Mississippi Honors Undergraduate Research Symposium, Oxford, MS.
- Wicks, S. G.**, & Sinclair, H. C. (2025, February). *Singled out: Associations between social network opinions and singlehood among heterosexual and sexually diverse individuals* [Poster presentation]. 2025 Society for Personality and Social Psychology, Close Relationships Preconference, Denver, CO.
- Wicks, S. G.**, Hales, A. H., Bernstein, M. J., & Williams, K. D. (2025, February). *AIE: Abbreviation-induced exclusion* [Poster presentation]. 2025 Society for Personality and Social Psychology, Denver, CO.
- Wicks, S. G.**, Hales, A. H., Wood, N. R., & Mohammadi, S. (2024, November). *Three, five, four, phub: Rapid recovery from a single phub and accumulating displeasure from repeated phubs* [Poster presentation]. 2024 Society of Southeastern Social Psychologists, Memphis, TN.
- Wicks, S. G.**, Wood, N. R., Beam, A. J., Mudryk, E., †Fitts, E., & Hales, A. H. (2024, July). *What could have been: Rejection from potential romantic and platonic partners* [Poster presentation]. 2024 International Association for Relationship Research, Boston, MA.

- Wicks, S. G.,** Richmond, B. S., & Sinclair, H. C. (2024, May). *Swipe White: Examining the effects of implicit and explicit biases in online dating* [Poster presentation]. European Association of Social Psychology and International Association for Relationship Research, Joint Symposium “What’s Love Got To Do With It (Part II): Inequality in Close Relationships” (virtual).
- †Chen, K., †Duckworth, G., **Wicks, S. G.,** Wood, N. R., & Hales, A. H. (2024, April). *From objects to outcasts: Associations between workplace objectification and ostracism* [Poster presentation]. 2024 University of Mississippi Conference on Psychological Science, Oxford, MS.
- †Duckworth, G., †Chen, K., **Wicks, S. G.,** Rios, J. W., & Hales, A. H. (2024, April). *Dark intentions: Associations between dark personality traits, ostracism motives, and frequency for ostracizing others* [Poster presentation]. 2024 University of Mississippi Conference on Psychological Science, Oxford, MS.
- Wicks, S. G.,** Utley, J. W., & Sinclair, H. C. (2024, February). *Strength means blessed with an enemy? The negative and positive impact of enemy relationships on basic psychological needs* [Poster presentation]. 2024 Society for Personality and Social Psychology, Close Relationships Preconference, San Diego, CA.
- Wicks, S. G.,** & Hales, A. H. (2024, February). *Distraction by any other name? Examining the impact of music on social exclusion recovery* [Poster presentation]. 2024 Society for Personality and Social Psychology, San Diego, CA.
- Wicks, S. G.,** & Hales, A. H. (2023, November). *Examining the impact of music on ostracism recovery* [Poster presentation]. 2023 Society of Southeastern Social Psychologists, Charlotte, NC.
- Wicks, S. G.,** & Sinclair, H. C. (2023, March). *Refining the Enemy Impact Inventory: Integrating ostracism detection theory to better understand the impact of enemy relationships* [Poster presentation]. 2023 International Convention of Psychological Science, Brussels, Belgium.
- †Paul, M., **Wicks, S. G.,** & Sinclair, H. C. (2023, March). *Love me, choose me: When asked to choose between your partner and your friend, who would you choose?* [Poster presentation]. 2023 International Convention of Psychological Science, Brussels, Belgium.
- Wicks, S. G.,** & Hales, A. H. (2023, February). *You are now listening: Examining the influence of music on recovery from social rejection* [Poster presentation]. 2023 Society for Personality and Social Psychology, Atlanta, GA.
- †Paul, M., **Wicks, S. G.,** & Sinclair, H. C. (2023, February). *It goes both ways: Friend opinions affect romantic relationship outcomes and romantic partner opinions affect friendships* [Poster presentation]. 2023 Society for Personality and Social Psychology, Atlanta, GA.

- Rios, J. W., Shaw, C. M., **Wicks, S. G.**, & Smith, C. V. (2023, February). *Gender, Greek life, and sexual motivation* [Poster presentation]. 2023 Society for Personality and Social Psychology, Atlanta, GA.
- Wicks, S. G.**, Hales, A. H., & Hennes, E. P. (2022, February). *Online ostracism, rejection, and the willingness to spread COVID-19 misinformation* [Poster presentation]. 2022 Society for Personality and Social Psychology, Attitudes and Social Influence Preconference, San Francisco, CA.
- Wicks, S. G.**, Hodum, H., Szkody, E., & McKinney, C. (2021, February). *Empathy and support: How supportive are you?* [Poster presentation]. 2021 Society for Personality and Social Psychology (virtual).
- Wicks, S. G.**, Szkody, E., Steele, E. H., & McKinney, C. (2021, February). *Parental coping suggestions, perceived social support, & emotion regulation among emerging adults* [Poster presentation]. 2021 Society for Personality and Social Psychology (virtual).
- Wicks, S. G.**, Dao, V., Szkody, E., & McKinney, C. (2020, October). *The influence of supportive messages on the interpretation of personality traits among emerging adults.* [Poster presentation]. 2020 Society of Southeastern Social Psychologists (virtual).
- Wicks, S. G.**, Utley, J. W., & Sinclair, H. C. (2020, October). *O, I am fortune's fool: The influence of implicit theories of destiny and growth in moderating of parental disapproval on commitment to one's romantic relationship* [Poster presentation]. 2020 Mississippi State University Fall Undergraduate Research Symposium, Starkville, MS.
- Wicks, S. G.**, Szkody, E., & McKinney, C. (2020, February). *Family cohesion and flexibility, conformity, and emotion regulation in emerging adults* [Poster presentation]. 2020 Society for Personality and Social Psychology, New Orleans, LA.
- Wicks, S. G.**, Moussa Rogers, M., & McKinney, C. (2019, April). *Overprotective parenting and parental warmth: Implications for child anxiety and peer bonding* [Poster presentation]. 2019 Mississippi State University Spring Undergraduate Research Symposium, Starkville, MS.

ADDITIONAL TRAINING

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| Summer Institute for Social and Personality Psychology (SISPP)
Northwestern University, Evanston, IL
Course: Individual Differences in Close Relationships
Sponsor: Society of Personality & Social Psychology | 2025 |
| Summer School: "Social Connections and Well-Being in the Digital Era"
Lake Como School of Advanced Studies, Lake Como, Italy
Sponsors: University of Milano-Bicocca and Italian Association of Psychology | 2023 |

Social-Personality Undergraduate Research (SPUR) Program 2021
 Purdue University, West Lafayette, IN
 Mentor: Dr. Erin Hennes
 Sponsor: Society of Personality & Social Psychology

TEACHING

Instructor

University of Mississippi, Undergraduate Courses

Personality	Fall 2024
Research Methods (delivered weekly lab instruction)	Fall 2022, Spring 2023

Guest Lectures

University of Mississippi, Undergraduate Courses

Industrial Psychology	
“Employee Motivation”	Fall 2025
Social Psychology	
“Romantic Relationships: What Is Love?”	Spring 2024
“Romantic Relationships & Mating”	Fall 2023
Psychology Club	
“Falling for You: A Discourse on Romantic Relationships”	Fall 2024
Introduction to Psychology	
“Operant Conditioning and Social Learning”	Spring 2023
Personality	
“Personality and Relationships”	Spring 2024
“Music and Personality”	Spring 2022

University of Mississippi, Graduate Course

Quantitative Methods in Psychology I	
“Chi-Squared Tests”	Fall 2022

Teaching Assistant

University of Mississippi, Undergraduate Courses

Developmental Psychology	Spring 2022
Introduction to Psychology	Fall 2021

Teaching Credentials

Excellence in Teaching Credential, University of Mississippi	2024
Online Teaching Endorsement, University of Mississippi	2024
Emerging Teaching Credential, University of Mississippi	2024
Fundamentals of Teaching Credential, University of Mississippi	2023

MENTORSHIP

Mentored Student Research Achievements

Discover Day Third Place Poster Award (<i>Nicolas Hodson</i>)	2025
Project: <i>Living single: How do friends and family affect life as a single person?</i>	
Conference on Psychological Science Outstanding Research Poster Award (<i>Katy Chen</i>)	2025
Project: <i>Claiming more to cope: Does ostracism increase overclaiming?</i>	
Sally McDonnell Barksdale Honors College Research Fund Award (<i>Katy Chen</i>)	2024
Project: <i>Ostracism and overclaiming</i>	

University of Mississippi

William Arango (undergraduate directed research co-advisor)	Spring 2026
Katy Chen (undergraduate directed research co-advisor, Honor's thesis)	2024-2025
Elijah Arnold (undergraduate directed research co-advisor)	Summer 2025
Hayden Peak (undergraduate directed research co-advisor)	Spring 2025
Gabrielle Duckworth (undergraduate directed research co-advisor)	Spring 2024

The Ohio State University

Zhaoji Jiang (undergraduate directed research co-advisor)	Fall 2023
Alex Shaheen (undergraduate directed research co-advisor)	Fall 2023

SERVICE

Editorial Board

<i>Personality and Social Psychology Review</i> Emerging Editor Board	2022-Present
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Ad Hoc Journal Reviewing

Behavior and Social Issues
Group Processes & Intergroup Relations
Personality and Social Psychology Bulletin
Personality and Social Psychology Review (2)
Social and Personality Psychology Compass (3)

International Association for Relationship Research

Chair, Sexual Diversity Oral Presentation Session, Mini-Conference	2025
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Society of Personality & Social Psychology

Assistant Director, Social-Personality Undergraduate Research Program	2024
Facilitator, Social-Personality Undergraduate Research "Thriving in Grad School" Panel	2024
Site Volunteer, Society of Southeastern Social Psychologists Conference	2024
Facilitator, Social-Personality Undergraduate Research Competitive Fellowship Panel	2024
Facilitator, Social-Personality Undergraduate Research "Applying to Grad School" Panel	2024
Editorial Assistant, <i>Character & Context</i> Research Blog	2021-2023
Panelist, Social-Personality Undergraduate Research "Applying to Grad School" Panel	2021

University of Mississippi

Graduate Representative, Psychology Department Research Committee	2025-Present
Representative, College of Liberal Arts Research & Creative Scholarship Council	2023-2025
Poster Judge, Psychology Department Research Day	2024

Undergraduate Advisor, Psychology Department Summer Orientation	2023
Volunteer, Mississippi Day, Psychology Department	2023
Panelist, Psychology Department Research Day Graduate Panel	2023
Panelist, Psi Chi & Psychology Club "Day in the Life of a Grad Student" Panel	2023
Graduate Peer Mentor, Psychology Department Diversity Committee	2022-2023
Graduate Student Member, Psychology Department Communications Committee	2021-2023
Panelist, Psychology Department Research Day Graduate Panel	2022

Other Relevant Service Work

Member, The Love Consortium Marketing and Public Relations Committee	2026-Present
Speaker, Johns Hopkins' Center for Talented Youth Summer Program Psychology	Summer 2024
Panelist, Mississippi State University Psi Chi Graduate Student Panel	2022
Panelist, Mississippi State University Undergraduate Research Experience Panel	2021

PROFESSIONAL CERTIFICATIONS

Foundations of Digital Marketing, Google Digital Garage	2021
Social Media Marketing Certification, HubSpot	2021
Content Marketing Certification, HubSpot	2021
Inbound Marketing Certification, HubSpot	2021
Social Media Marketing Certification, Hootsuite	2021
Hootsuite Platform Certification, Hootsuite	2021

PROFESSIONAL MEMBERSHIPS

American Psychological Association (APA)
 Association for Psychological Science (APS)
 Black Social and Personality Psychologists Network (BSPN)
 International Association for Relationship Research (IARR)
 International Singles Studies Association (ISSA)
 Mississippi Psychological Association (MPA)
 Psi Chi, The International Honor Society in Psychology
 Society of Personality & Social Psychology (SPSP)
 Society of Southeastern Social Psychologists (SSSP)