

Sydney G. Wicks

Curriculum Vitae

Department of Psychology
University of Mississippi
Oxford, MS 38655

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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

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**
- International Association for Relationship Research Student Scholarship 2026
Society for Personality and Social Psychology Graduate Registration Stipend Award 2025
Society of 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: “Patch it up”: Examining the effect of music listening on social exclusion recovery

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| 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): Unfamiliar language as an obstacle to inclusivity</i> | |
| 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 for Personality & Social Psychology Undergraduate Research Program (\$1,500) | 2021 |
| Society for 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 |

RESEARCH INTERESTS

Social Connection and Exclusion; Close Relationships and Singlehood;
Social Influence; Social Technologies and Media

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/REVISION

† Denotes mentee

- Wicks, S. G.**, Hales, A. H., & Wesselmann, E. D. (*accepted in principle* [Stage 2 registered report, under review]). Does content matter? Examining the influence of event-focused prayer on recovery from ostracism. *Archive for the Psychology of Religion*.
- Mohammadi, S., Pennycuff, K., Fischer, Z. H., **Wicks, S. G.**, †Nguyen, S., & Hales, A. H. (under review). The strategic use of ostracism: How sources adjust exclusion in response to behavioral change.

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

†Aranjo, W. E., **Wicks, S. G.**, Hales, A. H., & Wesselmann, E. D. (2026, April). *Using non-specific prayer to promote basic needs recovery after ostracism* [Poster presentation]. 2026 University of Mississippi Conference on Psychological Science, Oxford, MS.

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) | 2025 |
| Northwestern University, Evanston, IL | |
| Course: Individual Differences in Close Relationships | |
| Sponsor: Society for Personality & Social Psychology | |
| Summer School: “Social Connections and Well-Being in the Digital Era” | 2023 |
| Lake Como School of Advanced Studies, Lake Como, Italy | |
| Sponsors: University of Milano-Bicocca and Italian Association of Psychology | |
| Social-Personality Undergraduate Research (SPUR) Program | 2021 |
| Purdue University, West Lafayette, IN | |
| Mentor: Dr. Erin Hennes | |
| Sponsor: Society for Personality & Social Psychology | |

TEACHING EXPERIENCE

Teaching Credentials

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| 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 |

Instructor

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| <i>University of Mississippi, Undergraduate Courses</i> | |
| Personality (enrollment: 32) | Fall 2024 |
| Instructor rating: 4.33 out of 5.00 | |

Lab Instructor

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| <i>University of Mississippi, Undergraduate Courses</i> | |
| Research Methods (enrollment: 15) | Spring 2023 |
| Instructor rating: 4.09 out of 5.00 | |
| Research Methods (enrollment: 14) | Fall 2022 |
| Instructor rating: 3.60 out of 5.00 | |

Teaching Assistant

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| <i>University of Mississippi, Undergraduate Courses</i> | |
| Developmental Psychology | Spring 2022 |
| Introduction to Psychology | Fall 2021 |

Guest Lectures

University of Mississippi, Graduate Course

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| Quantitative Methods in Psychology I “Chi-Squared Tests” | Fall 2022 |
| <i>University of Mississippi, Undergraduate Courses</i> | |
| Industrial Psychology “Employee Motivation” | Fall 2025 |
| Psychology Club “Falling for You: A Discourse on Romantic Relationships” | Fall 2024 |
| Social Psychology “Romantic Relationships: What Is Love?” | Spring 2024 |
| “Romantic Relationships & Mating” | Fall 2023 |
| Personality “Personality and Relationships” | Spring 2024 |
| “Music and Personality” | Spring 2022 |
| Introduction to Psychology “Operant Conditioning and Social Learning” | Spring 2023 |

MENTORSHIP

Mentored Student Research Achievements

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| 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

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| William Arango (undergraduate directed research co-advisor) | Spring 2026 |
| Katy Chen (Honor’s thesis, undergraduate directed research co-advisor) | 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

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

SERVICE

Editorial Board

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| <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

Society for 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, *Character & Context* Research Blog 2021-2023
 Panelist, Social-Personality Undergraduate Research “Applying to Grad School” Panel 2021

University of Mississippi

Graduate Representative, Psychology Department Research Committee 2025-2026
 Poster Judge, Psychology Department Research Day 2026
 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 2024
 Panelist, Mississippi State University Psi Chi Graduate Student Panel 2022
 Panelist, Mississippi State University Undergraduate Research Experience Panel 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 for Personality & Social Psychology (SPSP)
 Society of Southeastern Social Psychologists (SSSP)