

Brett A. Murphy, J.D., Ph.D.

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Department of Health and Behavioral Sciences
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Tenure-Track Faculty Employment

August 2024 to present **Assistant Professor of Psychology, Department of Health and Behavioral Sciences** | Texas A&M University – San Antonio

Education and Training

Fall 2019 – August 2024 Postdoctoral Researcher, Social Psychology | University of North Carolina
Mentor: Sara B. Algoe, Ph.D.

Fall 2014 - Summer 2019 **Ph.D., Psychology** | Emory University
Dissertation: The Varieties of Self-Reported Empathic Tendencies
Dissertation Chair: Scott O. Lilienfeld, Ph.D.

Fall 2012 – Summer 2014 Ph.D. Student, Clinical Psychology | University of Illinois – Urbana-Champaign
Mentor: Edelyn Verona, Ph.D.

Fall 2008 – Spring 2011 **J.D. (*cum laude*)** | Harvard Law School

Fall 2000 – Spring 2004 **B.A., History** | Rice University

Primary Research Interests

Close Relationships • Positive Emotions • Character Virtues • Construct Validity • Metascience •

Grant Funding Obtained

July 2021-July 2024 The John Templeton Foundation
Validation and Unification of Love Measurement
(PI: Sara Algoe; UNC Chapel Hill)
\$1,433,137 total direct costs
Role: Led conceptualization of research questions and writing of grant narrative; co-designed proposed studies, events, and timelines with PI

Editorial Board Memberships

Advances in Methods and Practices in Psychological Science (2026-present)

Psychological Assessment (2026-present)

Manuscripts Submitted or Preparing to Resubmit

Murphy, B.A., Strauss, C.L.L, Chung, J.M, Hansen, Z., Le, E., Cameron, A.M., & Algoe, S.B. (rejected after full review, preparing to resubmit). Love in the moment: A new approach to elucidating and assessing a lay prototypical everyday experience in romantic relationships

Jolink, T.A., Le, E., Hansen, Z., Chandler, K.R., Cameron, A.M, Barry, I., **Murphy, B.A.** & Algoe, S.B. (revise and resubmit). Enacted love: Capitalization responses signal love, including toward strangers.

Hansen, Z., **Murphy, B.A.**, & Algoe, S.B. (revise and resubmit). Beyond hugs and kisses: A new look at affectionate touch in same-gender friendships

** Denotes co-first authorship contribution. The general principle I try to follow is that the less-published scholar's name should go first in the order in co-first authorship situations.*

Peer-Reviewed Publications

- 2026 *Keeler, J.B., & ***Murphy, B.A.** (in press). AI chatbots and human-human relationships: The need for research on potential downstream harms of GenAI. *Community, Work, & Family*
- *Dickens, L.R., ***Murphy, B.A.**, & Duong, F. (in press). How do laypersons interpret the Authentic/Hubristic Pride Scales? A three-study content validity investigation. *Frontiers in Psychology*
- Kim, J. J., Joel, S., Gonzales, A. M., **Murphy, B.A.**, Perez, J. C., Kaufman, V. A., Eastwick, P. W., Bradbury, T. N., & Karney, B. R. (in press). Construct redundancy in relationship science: A single general factor captures most of the variance across 34 common relationship measures. *PLOS One*
- 2025 *Lawson, K., ***Murphy, B.A.**, Azpeitia, J., Lombard, E., & Pope, T. Citing behaviors in psychology: A roadblock to cumulative and inclusive science. *Advances in Methods and Practices in Psychological Science*, 8(3).
<https://doi.org/10.1177/25152459251351287>

- 2024 ***Murphy, B.A., & *Hall, J.A.** How a strong measurement validity review can go astray: A second Look at Higgins et al. (2024) and recommendations for future measurement-focused reviews. *Clinical Psychology Review*, 114, 102506. <https://doi.org/10.1016/j.cpr.2024.102506>
- *Stosic, M., *Murphy, B.A., Duong, F., Fultz, A., Harvey, S., & Bernieri, F.** Careless responding: Why many findings are spurious or spuriously inflated. *Advances in Methods and Practices in Psychological Science*, 7(1). <https://doi.org/10.1177/25152459241231581>
- Körner, R., **Murphy, B.A.**, Zverling, E., Sha'ked, A., & Schütz, A. Dominance and prestige in romantic relationships: Actor and partner links to relationship quality. *Journal of Social and Personal Relationships*, 41(1), 302-332. <https://doi.org/10.1177/02654075231212940>
- 2023 **Murphy, B.A., Watts, A.L., Baker, Z., Don, B.P., Jolink, T.A., & Algoe, S.B.** The Basic Psychological Need Satisfaction and Frustration Scales probably do not validly measure need frustration. *Psychological Assessment*, 35(2), 127–139. <https://doi.org/10.1037/pas0001193>
- *Dickens, L.R. & *Murphy, B.A.** The Authentic and Hubristic Pride scales do not validly assess the two-facet model of pride: Time to rewind and reboot with new measures. *Emotion*, 23(3), 886–893. <https://doi.org/10.1037/emo0001142>
- *Murphy, B.A. & *Dickens, L.R.** Authentic/Hubristic pride controversies as a window on broader emotion measurement issues. *Emotion*, 23(3), 899–90. <https://doi.org/10.1037/emo0001197>
- Chandler, K.R., Don, B.P., Jolink, T.A., **Murphy, B.A.**, Algoe, S.B. Making the future a reality: Commitment assurances and time investment in daily life. *Journal of Social and Personal Relationships*, 41(1), 225-246. <https://doi.org/10.1177/02654075231212199>
- McKinley, S.J., Hoffman, A., **Murphy, B.A.**, Verona, E., & Watts. A.L. Psychopathy facets, perceived power, and forms of aggression. *Personality Disorders: Theory, Research, and Treatment*, 14(3), 259–273. <https://doi.org/10.1037/per0000562>
- 2022 **Murphy, B. A., Algoe, S.B., & Lilienfeld, S.O.** Why we should reject the restrictive isomorphic matching definition of empathy. *Emotion Review*, 14(3), 167-181. <https://doi.org/10.1177/17540739221082215>

- *This was published alongside three solicited commentaries and our response to those commentaries.*

Murphy, B. A., & Algoe, S.B. Empathy and creativity: Dangers of the methodological tail wagging the conceptual dog. *Emotion Review*, 14(3), 189-193. <https://doi.org/10.1177/17540739221108220>

Murphy, B.A., Hall, J.A., & Duong, F. It looks like construct validity, but look again: Comment on Clutterbuck et al. (2021) and recommendations for test developers in the broad “empathy” domain. *Psychological Assessment*, 34(4), 397-404. <https://doi.org/10.1037/pas0001063>

Murphy, B.A., Casto, K.V., Watts, A.L., Costello, T.H., Jolink, T.A., Verona, E., & Algoe, S.B. “Feeling Powerful” versus “Desiring Power”: A pervasive and problematic conflation in personality assessment? *Journal of Research in Personality*, 101, 104305. <https://doi.org/10.1016/j.jrp.2022.104305>

2021 **Murphy, B.A., & Lilienfeld, S.O.** C.S. Peirce’s forgotten but enduring relevance to psychological science. *American Journal of Psychology*, 134(3), 347-361. <https://doi.org/10.5406/amerjpsyc.134.3.0347>

2020 **Murphy, B.A., Costello, T.H., Watts, A.L., Cheong, Y.F., Berg, J.M., & Lilienfeld, S.O.** Strengths and weaknesses of two empathy measures: A comparison of the measurement precision, construct validity, and incremental validity of two multidimensional indices. *Assessment*, 27(2), 246-260. <https://doi.org/10.1177/1073191118777636>

- *This piece has been cited 119 times, according to Google Scholar*

Costello, T.H., Watts, A.L., **Murphy, B.A.**, Berg, J.M., & Lilienfeld, S.O. Extending the nomological network of interpersonal sexual objectification to psychopathic and allied personality traits. *Personality Disorders: Theory, Research, and Treatment*, 11(4), 237-248. <https://doi.org/10.1037/per0000377>

2019 **Murphy, B.A., Manning-Geist, B., Conrad, A., Chao, S., Desalegn, D., Richards., A. . . Goedken, J.** Sexual assault in Ethiopian contexts: Data from a large sample of women and girls presenting at two hospital-based, limited-resource sexual assault treatment clinics. *Violence Against Women*, 25, 1079-1095. <https://doi.org/10.1177/1077801218807097>

Murphy, B.A. & Lilienfeld, S.O. Are self-report cognitive empathy measures valid proxies for cognitive empathy ability?: Negligible meta-analytic relations with behavioral task performance. *Psychological Assessment*, 31(8), 1062-1072. <https://doi.org/10.1037/pas0000732>

- *This piece has been cited 292 times, according to Google Scholar*

Murphy, B.A. The Griffith Empathy Measure does not validly distinguish between cognitive and affective empathy in children. *Australian Psychologist*, 54, 159-164. <https://doi.org/10.1111/ap.12336>

Murphy, B.A. The Griffith Empathy Measure needs to be revised and reinterpreted: A reply to Dadds (2019). *Australian Psychologist*, 54, 167-170. <https://doi.org/10.1111/ap.12386>

Lilienfeld, S. O., Watts, A. L., **Murphy, B.**, Costello, T. H., Bowes, S. M., Smith, S. F., ... & Tabb, K. Personality disorders as emergent interpersonal syndromes: Psychopathic personality as a case example. *Journal of Personality Disorders*, 33(5), 577-622. <https://doi.org/10.1521/pedi.2019.33.5.577>

Lilienfeld, S. O., Watts, A. L., **Murphy, B.**, Costello, T. H., Bowes, S. M., Smith, S. F., ... & Tabb, K. Psychopathy as an emergent interpersonal syndrome: Further reflections and future directions. *Journal of Personality Disorders*, 33(5), 645-652. <https://doi.org/10.1521/pedi.2019.33.5.645>

2018 **Murphy, B.A.**, Costello, T.H., & Lilienfeld, S.O. Is empathic contagion good or bad? Overlooked heterogeneity in the Empathy Index. *Psychological Assessment*, 30(12), 1703-1708. <https://doi.org/10.1037/pas0000641>

Verona, E., **Murphy, B.**, & Bresin, K. Oxytocin-related single nucleotide polymorphisms, family environment, and psychopathic traits. *Personality Disorders: Theory, Research, and Treatment*, 9, 584-589. <https://doi.org/10.1037/per0000290>

Bowes, S.M., Watts, A.L., Costello, T.H., **Murphy, B.A.**, & Lilienfeld, S.O. Psychopathy and entertainment preferences: Clarifying the role of abnormal and normal personality in music and movie interests. *Personality and Individual Differences*, 129, 33-37. <https://doi.org/10.1016/j.paid.2018.03.009>

Nagel, M.G., Watts, A.L., **Murphy, B.A.**, & Lilienfeld, S.O. (in press). Psychopathy and interests: Implications of psychopathic personality traits for vocational and avocational interests. *Personality Disorders: Theory, Research, and Treatment*, 9, 484-489. <https://doi.org/10.1037/per0000287>

2016 **Murphy, B.**, Lilienfeld, S., Skeem, J., & Edens, J. F. Are fearless dominance traits superfluous in operationalizing psychopathy? Incremental validity and sex differences. *Psychological Assessment*, 28(12), 1597-1607. <https://doi.org/10.1037/pas0000288>

Verona, E., **Murphy, B.**, & Javdani, S. Gendered pathways: Violent childhood maltreatment, sex exchange, and drug use. *Psychology of Violence*, 6(1), 124. <https://doi.org/10.1037/a0039126>

Schulz^ω, N., **Murphy, B.**, & Verona, E. Gender differences in psychopathy links to drug use. *Law and Human Behavior*, 40(2), 159. <https://doi.org/10.1037/lhb0000165>

* *denotes co-first authorship contribution*

ω *denotes mentored undergraduate first-authorship*

Book Chapters and Other Non-Peer Reviewed Publications

Murphy, B.A. (2024). Psychopathy and Heroism. In S.T. Allison, Beggan, J.K., and G.R. Goethals (Eds.), *Encyclopedia of Heroism Studies*. NY: Springer.

Murphy, B., Watts, A.L., & Lilienfeld, S.O. (2016). Psychopathy and Heroism: Unresolved Questions and Future Directions. In S.T. Allison, G.R. Goethals, and R.M. Kraemer (Eds.), *Handbook of Heroism and Heroic Leadership* (pp. 525-546). NY: Routledge.

Blazer, J., and **Murphy, B.** (2011). Addressing the Needs of Immigrants and Limited English Communities in Disaster Planning and Relief. In National Council of La Raza, *Emergency Managers Tool Kit: Meeting the Needs of Latino communities*.

External Professional Talks (Last 5 Years)

Murphy, B.A. (2025, February). *Careless responding: Why many findings are spurious or spuriously inflated*. [Invited Talk]. Close Relationships Preconference, Society for Personality and Social Psychology International Conference 2025, Denver, Colorado, United States

Murphy, B.A. (2024, July). *Participant ratings of power in their established romantic relationships: Basic questions*. [Symposium presentation]. International Association of Relationships Research Conference 2024, Boston, Massachusetts, United States.

Murphy, B.A. (2023, June). *The Basic Psychological Need Satisfaction and Frustration Scales probably do not validly assess need frustration*. [Conference presentation]. Self Determination Theory International Conference 2023, Orlando, Florida, United States.

Murphy, B.A., & Algoe, S.B. (2023, May). *Bottom-up operationalization of "love in the moment" for romantic partners*. [Symposium presentation]. Association for Psychological Science 2023 Annual Conference. Washington, D.C., United States.

Revised March 2026

Murphy, B.A. (2023, January). *Folk emotion concepts and scientific emotion concepts*. [Invited talk]. University of Oslo, Norway, virtual.

Murphy, B.A. (2022, November). *The mismeasurement of power*. [Invited talk]. University of Oslo, Norway, virtual.

Murphy, B.A. (2022, November). *Studying love: Perspective from a postdoc with the Love Consortium*. [Invited talk]. University of Baltimore, Maryland, United States, virtual.

Murphy, B.A., & Algoe, S.B. (2022, September). *Love in the moment: Romantic relationships*. [Conference presentation]. Love Consortium Conference, Durham, North Carolina, United States.

Murphy, B.A. (2021, August). *The varieties of self-reported empathic tendencies*. [Symposium presentation]. American Psychological Association 2021 Annual Conference, Washington, D.C., United States, virtual.

Notable Awards and Fellowships

2018

Scholarly Inquiry and Research at Emory (SIRE), Graduate Fellowship

- Multidisciplinary mentorship of undergraduate researchers across majors; weekly pedagogical training meetings with faculty mentor
- Full 5th year PhD funding (25 hrs/week)

ORDER/IDEAS at Emory, Graduate Fellowship

- Training and support to teach interdisciplinary undergraduate courses
- Supplemental 5th year PhD funding (15 hrs/week)

2015

Field Scholar Award, Emory Global Health Initiative

- Training and financial support for multidisciplinary field research at sexual assault clinics in multiple regions of Ethiopia

2009

Dean's Scholar Prize in Legal Research and Writing

Harvard Law School

Best Brief Award in Legal Research and Writing

Harvard Law School

2005

Emerson National Fellowship

Congressional Hunger Center

- Highly selective non-profit leadership development program

Teaching Experience (Undergraduate)

2024-2026

Instructor | Writing for Psychology

- Fall 2024 Student Rating: 4.85 (out of 5)
- Spring 2025 Student Rating: 4.71 (out of 5)

Instructor | Research Methods and Statistics II

- Fall 2024 Student Rating: 4.60 (out of 5)
- Spring 2025 Student Rating: 4.74 (out of 5)
- Fall 2025 (2 sections) Student Ratings: 4.65, 4.36 (out of 5)

Instructor | Culture and Psychology, Spring 2025

- Student Rating: 4.43 (out of 5)

2020

Co-Instructor | Research Lab, SES and Personality, Spring and Summer

- With another postdoctoral researcher, mentored undergraduate students in a meta-analytic investigation of the links between socioeconomic status and personality disposition related to altruism

2018-2019

Co-Instructor | “What Does It Mean to be Human?”, both semesters

- Interdisciplinary course co-taught with a genetics scholar and an Islamic studies scholar. Preparation, lecturing, and grading responsibilities shared equally between the three of us.

Instructor | “Research Partners Program Seminar”, both semesters

- Weekly course across a full school year, mentoring students from across different majors in conducting research projects and developing broader scholarship skills

Summer 2019

Instructor | “Summer Undergraduate Research Seminar”

- Intensive summer version of the course listed immediately above, mentoring 30+ students from multiple universities engaging in research at Emory University

2017

Lab Instructor | Psychology Research Methods (Course Instructor: Jessica Barber, Ph.D.)

2016

Teaching Assistant | Personality Theories (Instructor: Jessica Barber)

2015

Teaching Assistant | Introductory Psychology (Instructor: Elizabeth Kim)

External Service

The Love Consortium

- Events committee member (2026-present)

Society for the Scientific Study of Psychopathy

- Student Committee Chair and student member of Executive Board (2014-2015)

Ad Hoc Grant Application Reviewer

- *John Templeton Foundation*

Ad Hoc Journal Reviewer

- *Clinical Psychological Science, Journal of Personality and Social Psychology, Journal of Social and Personal Relationships, Psychological Bulletin, Psychological Assessment, Journal of Personality Assessment, Behavior Research Methods, Assessment, Journal of Social Psychology, PLOS One, Autism, Emotion Review, Emotion, American Journal of Psychology, Trends in Cognitive Science, Frontiers in Psychology*

Internal Service

Curriculum Committee, TAMUSA College of Arts and Sciences

- 2025-present

Adjunct Hiring Committee, TAMUSA Psychology Program

- 2025-present

Non-Profit Work Highlights

2015-2018

Grassroots Advocate

RESULTS [Atlanta chapter]

Engaged in grassroots anti-poverty and public health lobbying efforts in Georgia and Washington, D.C. Gave presentations in Georgia on global health issues. Part-time volunteer.

Spring 2009-
Spring 2011

Supervising Student Attorney

Harvard Prison Legal Assistance Project

Represented incarcerated individuals at prison disciplinary hearings, assisted clients with legal and informational needs, and supervised less-experienced organization members. Full-time paid position in both summers; part-time volunteer during fall and spring semesters.

2007

Public Policy Coordinator

Regional Food Bank of Oklahoma

Coordinated public policy and advocacy activities for the Oklahoma Food Bank system, worked with community leaders and elected officials to conduct anti-poverty programs, and was the principal author of the final report of the Oklahoma State Senate's Task Force on Hunger. Full-time paid position, funded by a one-year grant from Mazon: A Jewish Response to Hunger.

Summer 2005 **Emerson Fellow**

–Summer 2006 *Congressional Hunger Center*

A one-year full-time paid fellowship with an anti-poverty leadership development program. With the National Policy and Advocacy Council on Homelessness: conducted oral histories with Hurricane Katrina survivors, evacuees, and service providers in New Orleans and Houston; assisted relief effort activities; prepared and presented advocacy documents in Washington, D.C. With the National Immigration Law Center: conducted interview research on immigrant experiences during Hurricane Katrina and developed policy toolkits for disaster preparedness in immigrant and limited English-proficient communities.

Psychological Science Proficiencies

Technical: R, MPlus, SPSS, JASP, Qualtrics

Analytic: Observational coding, psychometrics, latent variable models (e.g., EFA, CFA, IRT, bifactor modeling, etc.), dyadic longitudinal analyses, multi-level modeling, repeated measures designs, meta-analysis

Methodological: In-person dyadic studies; nonverbal behavior analysis; test design, construction, and validation; behavioral experiments; online data collection; diagnostic assessment; survey sampling