

# WPA Early Career Research Awards

The WPA Early Career Research Award is given to a WPA member relatively new in her/his career (10 years or fewer post-Ph.D.) who has demonstrated extreme promise in research. Such promise can be demonstrated through success in publishing articles, chapters, and books and through success in obtaining grants for research.

## 2016 Outstanding Early Career Research Award

**Cameron L. Neece, Ph.D.**, Loma Linda University



Dr. Cameron Neece is Assistant Professor of Psychology at Loma Linda University. Dr. Neece received her B.A. from University of California, Berkeley and her M.A. and Ph.D. in Clinical Psychology (with a minor in Quantitative Psychology) from University of California, Los Angeles.

Dr. Neece's research interests are in the development of psychopathology under conditions of risk, with a specific focus on transactional models examining family factors that may ameliorate or exacerbate risk over time. The majority of her work has focused on the development of children with intellectual and developmental disabilities from early childhood through young adulthood. A primary goal of her research is to develop interventions to help parents of children with developmental disabilities. Targeting such parents for intervention has resulted in improvements for not only these parents but also their children (given the bi-directional and reciprocal nature of parent/child relationship dynamics).

Already, Dr. Neece has 21 peer-reviewed publications plus five papers currently under review, as well as four book chapters. Her papers have appeared in the leading journals in the field of intellectual and developmental disabilities. She has been actively involved in grant acquisition and, along with her co-principal investigators, she was successful in securing a university GRASP (Grants for Research and School Partnerships) grant, which is awarded only to research teams with the potential of making significant and original contributions arising out of interdisciplinary collaboration. Out of this grant she formed the Mindfulness Awareness for Parenting Stress project and, through this project, is laying the foundation for future grant activities. She currently has under consideration a NIH R01 grant, "Parental Stress and Mindful Awareness: Improving Outcomes for Children with Intellectual and Developmental Delays." Dr. Neece has developed fruitful research collaborators in the departments of pediatrics, pediatric surgery, and public health.

Dr. Neece inspires students to develop their identities and skills as both scientists and practitioners. She is the primary research mentor for 17 doctoral students, 11 Ph.D. and 6 Psy.D. students. She has chaired 21 dissertation, thesis, and doctoral project committees, and she has guided several student projects through to publication. As a Licensed Clinical Psychologist in California, she has supervised doctoral students clinically.

For all these reasons and more, the Western Psychological Association is pleased to recognize Dr. Cameron Neece with the 2016 WPA Early Career Research Award.

### **2015 WPA Early Career Research Award**

**Jason Holland**, University of Nevada, Las Vegas

Dr. Jason Holland is Assistant Professor of Psychology at the University of Nevada, Las Vegas. He received his Ph.D. in Clinical Psychology from the University of Memphis in 2008. Prior to accepting the position at UNLV, he held a Postdoctoral Research Fellowship at the VA Palo Alto Health Care System, Stanford University School of Medicine, and was Visiting Assistant Professor in the Department of Psychiatry and Behavioral Sciences at the Stanford University School of Medicine. He teaches statistics, psychology of aging, adult intervention, and he is a clinical supervisor.



Dr. Holland has in press or already published 52 peer-reviewed articles and eight book chapters. He also has 10 manuscripts under review, a first-authored book under contract with Routledge, and two ongoing grant-funded research projects. He has developed and tested several instruments that aim to better capture the implications of stressful and traumatic experiences on one's sense of meaning in life, spirituality, and perception of morality.

Dr. Holland's research is timely and already impactful. Given the rapid growth of older adults as a demographic group in the U.S, the Department of Health and Human Services has identified "supporting older adults and their caregivers" as a national healthcare priority. Much of Dr. Holland's research is designed to improve interventions and clinical assessment for older adults who have experienced significant late-life stressors (e.g., bereavement, caregiving, and chronic illness). Another body of his research is focused on treatment and clinical assessment issues with military veterans and other violence-exposed populations. This effort is also timely, given the rapid growth in this demographic group. His work is influenced by positive psychology and focuses on the importance of finding meaning and making sense of stressful life events

One "thread" of Dr. Holland's research program has focused on helping to define normal and complicated (or pathological) grief reactions. Notably, his dissertation research focused on empirically examining whether the construct of complicated grief should be treated continuously or categorically. Subsequent work then focused on distinguishing between normal grief experiences and complicated grief symptomatology and identifying clusters of core bereavement phenomena. These studies have featured prominently in recent discussions about whether or not complicated grief (also termed prolonged grief disorder) should be included in established diagnostic manuals.

Dr. Holland's work demonstrates strong methodological skills, with applications of meta-analysis, latent class growth analysis, structural equation modeling, and multilevel modeling. Complementing his technical ability, Dr. Holland is able to present complex information in an accessible way that can

be understood even by readers not skilled in data analysis. The accessibility and intuitive appeal of his work has undoubtedly contributed to its impact.

Dr. Holland has been recognized by the Alzheimer's Association for his substantial contribution to the field, and he was awarded the Kathryn Grupe Award for Alzheimer's Research.

For all these reasons and more, the Western Psychological Association is pleased to recognize Dr. Jason Holland with the 2015 WPA Early Career Research Award.

**2014 WPA Early Career Research Award**  
**Jason T. Siegel, Claremont Graduate University**



Dr. Siegel is a Research Associate Professor at Claremont Graduate University. He received his Ph.D. from the University of Arizona in 2004. Along with conducting copious amounts of research, Dr. Siegel teaches three graduate courses per year and advises graduate students.

Dr. Siegel's work focuses on the application and development of social psychological theory with the goal of influencing health behaviors. Much of his work has been focused on reducing substance use and increasing organ donation. Regarding substance abuse, Dr. Siegel investigates how anti-drug ads can be more effective, while exploring new paths for prevention. His work on organ donation centers on increasing the number of people who register as organ donors and facilitating living donation. Much of Dr. Siegel's research in this area is relevant to Spanish-Dominant Hispanics. He recently investigated psychological and economic barriers to living donation among recent immigrants.

Dr. Siegel's research on health persuasion led him to a new stream of research focused on increasing the amount of help received by people with depression. Specifically, Dr. Siegel's work combines theories of persuasion and clinical understandings of depression to devise ads that will increase the likelihood that people with depression will seek help. He has also been investigating how to overcome the reduction in social support that often befalls people with depression.

Complementing his applied research, Dr. Siegel has developed a new theoretical framework to help explain when goal expectation violations will cause psychological disequilibrium and the system-wide changes that occur as a result. Dr. Siegel believes many instances of irrational behavior and poor decision-making can be traced back to responses to goal expectation violations.

Dr. Siegel has published, or has in press, 42 peer-reviewed articles, 12 book chapters, two books and an invited editorial. As Principal Investigator or Co-Investigator, he has secured 10 grants or contracts of \$500,000 to over \$1,000,000 each from federal agencies, including the National Institute on Drug Abuse, the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services, the U.S. Center for Disease Control, and the U.S. Department of Labor; and smaller organizations such as the Blaise Family Foundation. This

support is overwhelming evidence of the enormous societal value that national funding agencies place on Dr. Siegel's research.

In addition to his outstanding research accomplishments, Dr. Siegel has demonstrated exceptional effectiveness as a teacher and mentor. He has mentored dozens of graduate students and has published with 28 of them; 11 of these students have published with Dr. Siegel on more than one occasion. Even at this early stage of his career, Dr. Siegel has made a huge impact on the field and is nationally recognized as a leading scholar who has enormous future promise.

For all these reasons and more, the Western Psychological Association is pleased to recognize Dr. Jason Siegel with the 2014 WPA Early Career Research Award.

### **2013 WPA Early Career Research Award**

**Bettina Casad**, California Polytechnic State University, Pomona



Dr. Casad is Associate Professor of Psychology at California Polytechnic State University, Pomona. Dr. Casad completed her Ph.D. in social psychology at Claremont Graduate University in 2006, and joined the faculty at Cal Poly that year.

The focus of much of Dr. Casad's research is on participation and success of women and minorities in STEM (Science, Technology, Engineering, and Math) disciplines. Dr. Casad has been remarkably successful in attaining grant support for her work. Currently she is PI on an NIH grant for over \$900,000 on *Effects of Threatening Environments on*

*Women's Success in Biomedical Majors*. She has received nearly \$2 million from 17 external grants, plus over a quarter million dollars' worth of internal grants, either as Principal Investigator or co-PI.

As author or coauthor, Dr. Casad has published seven peer-reviewed research papers and seven book chapters, plus multiple encyclopedia articles, online papers, and technical reports. A prolific contributor to WPA for over ten years, Dr. Casad is author or coauthor of 43 conference presentations and 88 poster presentations, many with her students. Recognition of the importance of Dr. Casad's work has led to her giving 17 invited presentations at other universities, professional organizations, and community organizations.

Dr. Casad has a very active research lab, mentoring many students each year. She also is the advisor of an award winning Psi Chi chapter. For all these reasons and more, the Western Psychological Association is pleased to recognize Dr. Bettina Casad with the 2013 WPA Early Career Research Award.

## 2012 WPA Early Career Research Award

George M. Slavich, University of California, Los Angeles



Dr. George Slavich is Assistant Professor of Psychiatry and Biobehavioral Sciences at the University of California, Los Angeles. Following his B.A. degree in psychology and M.A. degrees in psychology and communication at Stanford University, he earned his M.S. and Ph.D. in Clinical Psychology from the University of Oregon, completed his Clinical Psychology Internship at McLean Hospital and Harvard Medical School, an NIMH Postdoctoral Fellowship in Health Psychology at the University of California, San Francisco, and an NIMH Postdoctoral Fellowship in Psychoneuroimmunology at the University of California, Los Angeles.

The volume, substance, and range of Dr. Slavich's work are outstanding. His work has had a continuing, meaningful impact on understanding basic behavioral processes, as well as human gene expression, depression, and transformational aspects of classroom teaching. He has published multiple articles in first rate journals, attracting the attention of intellectual leaders. His research on human social genomics shows that social adversity (e.g., social isolation and rejection) can influence our most deeply internal biological processes – namely, the expression of our genes. This work has the potential to completely change our beliefs about gene X environment interactions in health and, at a more fundamental level, our notions about the “self” as being biologically stable across time and situations. He recently submitted an invited article to *Science* describing his research and the blossoming area of human social genomics.

Currently Dr. Slavich is co-authoring a review on inflammation and depression with renowned psychiatrist Dr. Aaron Beck. The review examines evidence that inflammation promotes negatively biased thinking styles that are a hallmark of depression. This review is likely to define future research on this cutting-edge topic.

Dr. Slavich has received multiple grants to support his work, including the Society in Science: Branco Weiss Fellowship, which provides over \$500,000 in personal research support for the study of how neural and peripheral processes translate the external social environment into the internal biological environment of disease pathogenesis.

The continuing contributions of Dr. Slavich to WPA are also noteworthy. He founded and served as Chair of the WPA Student Council from 2001-2005, served on the WPA Board of Directors from 2002-2006, has been a member of the WPA Council of Representatives since 2001, and has reviewed abstracts for the annual convention since 2006. He has presented at almost all of the annual conventions since becoming a member in 1999 and has encouraged all of his students to present at the convention. He has also given two invited talks at the Terman Teaching Conference. Put simply, he has contributed to WPA in all ways possible – as a scientist, teacher, leader, and innovator.

In recognition of his prolific and substantive research contributions, the Western Psychological Association is pleased to recognize Dr. George Slavich with the 2012 WPA Early Career Research Award.

**2011 WPA Early Career Research Award:**

**Jason F. Reimer**, California State University, San Bernardino

Dr. Jason Reimer is Associate Professor of Psychology at California State University, San Bernardino where he has been on the faculty for the past ten years. Dr. Reimer earned his Ph.D. in Developmental Psychology and Cognitive Development from the University of Nebraska, Lincoln.



Dr. Reimer's research spans multiple areas, including cognitive control and executive functions, visual word recognition, auditory masking and perception, and semantic feedback. As an indication of the high quality of Dr. Reimer's theory-driven research, it has been published in journals which are widely recognized for reporting leading-edge discoveries based on scientifically rigorous designs, techniques, and analyses. He serves as a frequent reviewer for the high-profile journals where he publishes. Dr. Reimer and his students also regularly present their research at WPA conferences.

In addition to numerous internal grants from CSUSB to help fund his research efforts, Dr. Reimer has obtained four external grants from major funding sources, including two from the National Institutes of Health. He serves frequently as reviewer for high-profile journals and he has been invited by the National Institute of Child Health and Human Development to assist in the review of grant applications.

Dr. Reimer has served on many committees for his department and university. Currently he is Director, Master of Arts in Child Development Program, California State University, San Bernardino, 2009 – Present. He received the Outstanding Faculty Service Award from his department in 2008.

In recognition of his prolific research contributions, the Western Psychological Association is pleased to recognize Dr. Jason Reimer with the 2011 WPA Early Career Research Award.

**2010 WPA Early Career Research Award:  
Daniel Krauss, Claremont McKenna College**

Dr. Daniel Krauss is Associate Professor of Psychology at Claremont McKenna College. Dr. Krauss received his Ph.D. in 2000 from University of Arizona with a joint major in clinical psychology and psychology, public policy and the law. He received his J.D. from University of Arizona in 1996. He recently obtained diplomate status in Forensic Psychology from the American Board of Professional Psychology. Dr. Krauss is dedicated to research at the intersections of law, psychology, and public policy.

Dr. Krauss has over 30 research publications and edited books, plus a series of seven brief articles for the American Psychology-Law Newsletter and over 40 presentations at professional conferences, many in collaboration with his students.

Dr. Krauss' research on the relationship between the empirical realities of clinical psychological expertise and the admissibility standards used by the courts has been published in leading journals and is regarded by experts as especially influential. In another line of research, Dr. Krauss is empirically examining judicial and juror decision-making behavior, and in particular, the ability of these legal actors to deal accurately with psychological information.

Dr. Krauss has a growing national and international reputation as a researcher and contributor to his field. He was elected to serve on the APA's Committee on Legal Issues, he was selected for a prestigious United States Supreme Court Fellowship, and he was asked to join the editorial board for the two leading journals in forensic psychology: Psychology, Public Policy & Law as well as Law and Human Behavior. He also is on the editorial board for The Encyclopedia of Psychology and Law.

Dr. Krauss has been carrying a full teaching load, along the way performing 10-20 hours of clinical work a week and completing examinations so he could be licensed as a psychologist. Additionally, he recently completed board certification by the American Board of Professional Psychology (ABPP) in Forensic Psychology. He is truly a well-balanced teacher, scholar, researcher, and clinician. The Western Psychological Association is pleased to recognize Dr. Daniel Krauss with the 2010 WPA Early Career Research Award.

**2009 WPA Early Career Research Award:**

**James C. Kaufman**, California State University, San Bernardino

Dr. James C. Kaufman from California State University, San Bernardino received the Early Career in Research Award. Dr. Kaufman received his Ph.D. from Yale University under the direction of Robert Sternberg in 2001. In his brief career, he has published 59 articles with an additional 11 in press, nine books with an additional six in press, 17 book chapters with another seven in press, 10 book reviews, and numerous other kinds of publications such as introductions to books and encyclopedia entries, primarily in the area of creativity. He has been part of research grants that have totaled nearly \$400,000 and was even part of a U.S. patented method for evaluating applicants. Moreover, he has been an editor or associate editor of seven journals and on the editorial board of seven other journals. He has delivered 62 conference presentations and invited addresses, and he has conducted seven workshops.

In the words of his nominator, "In the relatively short time since his Ph.D. in 2001 he has produced an amazing record of publications. . . . It is not surprising that he is an internationally recognized expert on creativity and widely in demand in the U.S. as well as abroad as a speaker." This nominator also noted that Dr. Kaufman is creative in non-academic domains, as he is a playwright and lyricist. He is the founding director of the Learning Research Institute at California State University, San Bernardino



**2008 WPA Early Career Research Award: No award 2007 WPA Early Career Research Award:  
Shana Levin, Claremont McKenna College**

This year's recipient of the Early Career in Research Award is Shana Levin from Claremont-McKenna College in Claremont, CA. In just ten years post-Ph.D., Dr. Levine has compiled an impressive record. She has published 33 articles, books, and chapters, and 45 conference presentations. Moreover, she was the local conference co-chair of the 2006 Biannual SPSSI (Society for the Psychological Study of Social Issues) Conference in Long Beach, CA. She was the co-PI for a major grant from NSF and received two Honorable Mention Awards from SPSSI for the Gordon Allport Intergroup Relations Prize for best paper or article of the year. She has been elected to the governing councils of SPSSI and of the International Society of Political Psychology.

Sam Gaertner, who wrote a letter of support for Dr. Levin, wrote, "A few years ago I served as a Co-Guest Editor for a special issue of *Group Processes and Intergroup Relations* that focused on the Contact Hypothesis in which Dr. Levin (Levin, van Laar and Sidanius; 2003) published 5- year longitudinal study of inter-racial attitudes. This was a very special study in the field of intergroup relations because its design was able to resolve the issue of whether people with more favorable intergroup attitudes develop cross-racial friendships or whether cross-racial friendships reduce inter-racial biases. Rarely, in my experience, does a single study address an issue of such importance so definitively. While I am certainly biased, having participated in the publication process, I am confident that this study will be influential in our field."

**2006 WPA Early Career Research Award:****Bradley C. Donohue**, University of Nevada, Las Vegas

This year's recipient of the Early Career in Research Award is Bradley C. Donohue from the University of Nevada, Las Vegas. Associate Professor and Director of Achievement Center in the Department of Psychology, Dr. Donohue, a clinical psychologist, is most interested in the development of treatment programs relevant to drug abuse and child maltreatment. Indeed, he was one of the primary investigators in the development of Family Behavior Therapy for drug abuse, which is one of the few evidence-based treatment programs espoused by the National Institute on Drug Abuse. In addition to having been an invited Guest Editor for Guidance and Counseling, he is currently Co-Editor of the Journal of Child and Adolescent Substance Abuse and Editorial Board Member of 7 other peer-reviewed journals. In just ten years post-Ph.D., Dr. Donohue has compiled an impressive record. He has published 47 articles in refereed journals, 19 book chapters, a treatment manual, a dozen encyclopedia entries, book reviews, and has conducted 123 presentations at professional conferences, including an invited keynote address at the Nordic-Baltic Congress of Cognitive Behaviour Therapy in Finland. His publications have been in such prestigious journals as *Behavior Modification*, *Psychology of the Addictions*, *Psychology of Addictive Behaviors*, *Journal of Clinical Psychology Review*, *International Journal of Neuroscience*, *Behavior Therapy*, *British Journal of Sports Medicine*, and *Journal of General Psychology*. He has been the principle investigator on research grants totaling more than \$1.7 million, as well as co-investigator and consultant on federal grants from NIDA, SAMHSA, and OJJDP. For his work, he has received his University's Applied Research Initiative Award and the Barrick Scholar Award for Distinguished Research, in addition to the UNLV College of Liberal Arts Research Award and New Investigator Award. Relevant to his encouragement of students in research, he was honored with the Student-Focused Award by the UNLV Alumni Association, and is the only professor at UNLV to receive 2 Alumni Association Student-Centered Project Awards. Recognized nationally for his work, he has reviewed grants for CDC and NIDA. For someone as incredibly young as Dr. Donohue, he has definitely contributed to the science of psychology and looks to contribute to the profession for years to come.

**2005 WPA Early Career Research Award:**

**P. Wesley Schultz**, California State University, San Marcos

Dr. Schultz of California State University, San Marcos has published 22 peer-reviewed articles and 3 book chapters in his very short career. Moreover, he has published four books and was the co-editor of a special issue on environmental psychology in the *Journal of Social Issues*. He has also received numerous grants, including one grant for over a quarter of a million dollars and another grant for over a half a million dollars, totaling over \$1,000,000 in grant activities all told. He has been an ad hoc reviewer for nine journals and six book companies, and he is on the editorial board of the *Journal of Environmental Psychology*.

**2004 WPA Early Career Research Award:**

**Joan S. Tucker**, RAND Corporation

Dr. Tucker received her Ph.D. from the University of California, Riverside, in 1993. She was an Assistant Professor at Brandeis University from 1993 until 1999 and has been at the RAND Corporation since August 1999 after giving up tenure at Brandeis. Her research areas include (1) social network influences on health and engagement in health behaviors across the lifespan, (2) antecedents, patterns, and consequences of substance use in adolescence and young adulthood, (3) prevalence and predictors of HIV risk behaviors in high-risk populations, and (4) mental health issues among HIV-infected individuals. In just 10 years post-Ph.D., she has received grants totaling over \$1.4 million, she is on two editorial boards, has been an ad hoc reviewer for eight other journals, has published 47 peer-reviewed articles with 21 of these being senior author publications, has co-edited three books, and has nine manuscripts currently under review unless they have already been accepted since she had submitted her material last fall. In the words of Howard Freedman at UC Riverside, "With over three dozen high quality research papers in core journals, Dr. Tucker has compiled a record that makes her a rising young star in psychology. She is truly deserving of our junior award. . . . Perhaps the most distinctive aspect of Dr. Tucker's contribution is her beautiful integration of developmental and social conceptualizations of health processes and health promotion. That is, she quite often takes a longitudinal or even a life-span approach to her research. Such research is usually very difficult to do: it is difficult to design, difficult to collect data, and difficult to analyze. Yet these challenges do not deter Dr. Tucker one bit."

**2003: James Gross**

**2002: Dacher Keltner**

**2001: Stewart I. Donaldson**

**2000: No award**

**1999: No award**

**1998: Michael A. Webster**

**1997: Thomas Bradbury**

**1996: Ellen Skinner**

**1995: Jeansok J. Kim**

**1994: Brett M. Pelham**

**1993: Diane M. Mackie**