Debra O'Connell, Ph.D.

Licensed Psychologist

CURRICULUM VITAE

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PSYCHOLOGY LICENSES

State of Missouri: Number 2025053852

State of Nebraska: Number 1051

EDUCATION

2019 **DOCTOR OF PHILOSOPHY IN CLINICAL PSYCHOLOGY**
Washington State University, Pullman, WA
APA-Accredited Program in Clinical Psychology
Dissertation title: The Association Between Psychopathic Personality Traits & Executive Functions

2014 **MASTER OF SCIENCE IN CLINICAL PSYCHOLOGY**
Washington State University, Pullman, WA
Thesis title: Attitudes Toward Sexually Predatory Tactics in College men and Women in Relation to the Triarchic Model of Psychopathy

2007 **BACHELOR OF ARTS: PSYCHOLOGY & ANTHROPOLOGY WITH CONCENTRATION IN ARCHAEOLOGY**
University of California, San Diego-La Jolla, CA
*Included one year abroad at the National University of Ireland, Galway (2005-2006)

EXPERIENCE

PROFESSIONAL

01/2026-Present **NEUROPSYCHOLOGIST**
Witcher & Associates, LLC, Kansas City, MO &
Heartland Neuropsychology, LLC, Kansas City, MO

- Provision of neuropsychological batteries to assist with diagnostic clarification and mitigation in clinical, criminal, and legal cases.
- Write reports based on findings and submit those reports to the referring office.
- Testify as an expert.
- Consult with attorneys regarding psycholegal issues and client care.
- Consult/supervise other practitioners and interns within Witcher & Associates, LLC.

09/2021-Present **CLINICAL NEUROPSCYHOLOGIST**
Veterans Administration, Leavenworth, KS
VA Eastern Kansas Healthcare System

- Conduct primarily outpatient neuropsychological evaluations for a variety of presenting concerns, including dementia, multiple sclerosis, stroke, traumatic brain injury, attention-deficit/hyperactivity disorder as well as psychiatric conditions such as bipolar disorder.
- Complete capacity evlauations on an inpatient basis.
- Supervise doctoral interns.
- Member of the Steering Committee for policies and procedures related to the VA's dementia care.

FELLOWSHIP

2019-2021 **NEUROPSYCHOLOGIST**
University of Nebraska Medical Center, Lincoln, NE
APP-CN Member Program

- Four, three month rotations performing Epilepsy & DBS (for Parkinson's Disease) pre-surgical assessments; Memory and movement disorders; General neurology (e.g., multiple sclerosis, stroke, brain injury, neruo-oncology), & General medical disorders (e.g., solid organ transplant evaluation, psychiatric disorders)
- Conducted comprehensive neuropsychological assessments for a variety of neurological and psychological conditions on both an outpatient and inpatient basis.
- Communicated results of evaluations to patients, their families, and medical providers as a member of multi-disciplinary team meetings.
- Supervised graduate level trainees on neuropsychological test administration, scoring and interpretation.
- Offered cogntivie intervention services via telehealth for various diagnoses, including multiple sclerosis and mild cognitive impairment.

INTERNSHIP

2018-2019 **PREDOCTORAL PSYCHOLOGY INTERN**
APA Accredited Psychology Internship Program
Veterans Administration, Puget Sound, WA
VA Puget Sound Health Care System, American Lake Division

- Neuropsychology Track with three, four month rotations described below:
- ***Mental Health-Neuropsychology***: Completed outpatient evaluations for patients with complex medical and psychiatric history. Referrals were from neurology, psychatiry, primary care, and other hospital clinicals.
- ***Clinical Geropsychology (Major) & Geriatric Neuropsychology (Minor):*** Provided consultation and psychotherapy services to an older adult population on both an inpatient and outpatient basis. Conducted comprehensive neurophsychological evaluations specific to a geriatric population.
- ***Primary Care Mental Health Integration:*** Performed brief, functional assessments and provided evidence-based therapies as a multidisciplinary team member. Treatment modalities included same-day access clinic, brief individual therapy, as well as psychoeducational classes and group therapy focused on a variety of behavioral health concerns.

PRACTICA

2013-2018 **PSYCHOLOGY TRAINEE**
Mann-Grandstaff Veteran Affairs Medical Center, Spokane, WA (2015-2018)
WSU Health & Wellness: Same Day Mental Health, Primary Care Integration (2016-2017)
WSU Psychology Clinic [Therapy Assistantship] (2015-2016)
WSU Alcohol and Drug Counseling, Assessment, & Prevention Services (2014-2015)
WSU Psychology Clinic [Assessment Assistantship] (2014-2015)
WSU Counseling & Testing Services (2013-2014)
WSU Psychology Clinic (2013-2014)

LEADERSHIP & SERVICE EXPERIENCE

2021-Present	APA Division 49 Treasurer, Elected Position
2019-2022	APA Division 40 Programming Committee Member, Reviewer for Convention Abstracts
2018-2019	Diversity Committee, Member, American Lake VA (Puget Sound Healthcare System)
2018-2019	APA Division 49 Programming Chair, Annual American Psychological Assosciation Convention
2015-2016	WSU Graduate & Professional Student Association (GPSA), Senator Committee: Internal Affairs
2015	Faculty Hire Search Committee, WSU, Non-Voting Graduate Student Representative
2012-2013	Graduate Representing to Clinical Faculty Meetings, WSU, Faculty Chair: David Marcus, Ph.D.

TEACHING

06/2015-07/2018 **INSTRUCTOR**
Washington State University, Global Campus (online)
Department of Psychology
- Courses: Self Control, Psychology of Aging, Introductory to Psychology, Psychology of Women
- Developed course materials, graded and participated in weekly discussion posts, graded concept application papers, managed and coordinated TAs, and held virtual office hours to address student questions and concerns.

06/2013-05/2018 **INSTRUCTOR**
Washington State University, Pullman, WA
Department of Psychology
- Course: Introductory Psychology
- Developed course materials, created and graded exams and papers, introduced students to APA formatting, lectured five times per week, and held office hours to address student questions and concerns.

RESEARCH

2016-2018 **DOCTORAL DISSERTATION**
Washington State University, Pullman, WA
The Association Between Psychopathic Personality Traits & Executive Functions
Supervisor/Chair: David Marcus, Ph.D.
- Study aim: Examine whether psychopathic personality traits predict performance on neuropsychological tests of executive functions.
- Designed and tested the neuropsychological testing protocol.
- Trained graduate research assistants on all aspects of project (e.g., test administration, data collection, scoring).
- Maintained Institutional Review Board applications.
- Analyzed data using hierarchical regression techniques.
- Collected and analyzed data for eventual manuscript preparation.

Summer 2016 **MARCHIONNE RESEARCH FELLOW**
Washington State University, Pullman, WA
Department of Psychology
- Applied for and received a funded position to support independent research inquires.

- Adapted a research-validated neuropsychological testing protocol for executive functions for use in my dissertation research.
- Editied computer code for PsyScope applications and pilot tested the protocol with volunteers.

2012-2014 **MASTER'S THESIS**
Washington State University, Pullman, WA
Attitude Toward Sexually Predatory Tactics in College Men & Women in Relation to the Triarchic Model of Psychopathy
Supervisor/Chair: David Marcus, Ph.D.

- Examined whether gender moderated the association between psychopathic personality traits and attitude toward predatory sexual functions.
- Analyzed data using hierarchical regression.
- Maintained Institutional Review Board applications.
- Developed measure, collected and analyzed data, and prepared manuscript.

2012-2018 **GRADUATE RESEARCH ASSISTANT**
Washington State University, Pullman, WA
Psychopathy & Personality Labratory
Studies: Dodo Bird Meta-Analysis; Operationalization & Assessment of Spite; Impulsivity & Prospective Memory; Identifying Response Bias; & Psycopathy & Sadism Meta-Analysis

- Proposed novel research programs, rafted and obtained Institutional Review Board approval for suggested research protocols, managed participant recruitment, managed and trained undergraduate research assistants, collected & analyzed data, and prepared manuscripts for presentation and publication.

2012-2013 **Research Assistantships for Diverse Scholars (RADS)**
Washington State University, Pullman, WA

- Nominated for and received a funded position to support independent research inquiries.
- Funding provided by the graduate school to increase access and opportunities to graduate education for U.S. students from underrepresented/underserved communities and to increase graduate student diversity.

2007 **Undergraduate Research Assistant**
The Scripps Research Institute, San Diego, CA
Study Aim: *Determine the Role of the Central Nucleus Amygdala in Drug Addiction Using an Animal Model*
Prinicipal Investigator: George F. Koob, Ph.D.

- Assissted in planning and implementing pilot experiments related to understanding the neuropharmacological basis of drug addiction in an animal model.
- Responsibilities included care of rodent research subjects, research design, and data collection and interpretation.

PUBLICATIONS & PRESENTATIONS

MANUSCRIPTS

Szymkowicz, S. M., May, P. E., Weeks, J. W., **O'Connell, D.,** & Nelson Sheese, A. L. (2024). Psychometric properties of the Montreal Cognitive Assessment (MoCA) in inpatient liver transplant candidates. *Applied neuropsychology. Adult*, *31*(1), 19-26.

O'Connell, D., & Marcus, D. K. (2019). A meta-analysis of the association between psychopathy and sadism in forensic samples. *Aggression and Violent Behavior, 46,* 109-115.

Marcus, D.K., Sawaqdeh-Church, A., **O'Connell, D.,** & Lilienfeld, S.O. (2016). Identifying response bias with the Psychopathic Personality Inventory—Revised (PPIR) validity scales. *Assessment, 25,* 31-39.

O'Connell, D., & Marcus, D. K. (2016). Psychopathic personality traits predict positive attitudes toward sexually predatory behaviors in college men and women. *Personality and Individual Differences, 94,* 372-376.

Cuttler, C., **O'Connell, D.**, & Marcus, D. K. (2016). Relationships between dimensions of impulsivity and prospective memory. *European Journal of Personality, 30*, 83-91.

Marcus, D. K., **O'Connell, D.,** Norris, A. L., & Sawaqdeh, A. (2014). Is the dodo bird endangered in the 21st century? A meta-analysis of treatment comparison studies. *Clinical Psychology Review, 34*, 519-530.

PRESENTATIONS

O'Connell, D., May, P., Phatak, V., & Schmidt, E. (2021). *Inter-rater reliability in the assessment of Hepatic Encephalopathy in liver transplant candidates.* [Poster presentation]. Annual research day symposium of the University of Nebraska Medical Center Neurology Department, Omaha, NE, United States.

Szymkowicz, S., May, P., Weeks, J., **O'Connell, D.,** & Nelson Sheese, A. (2021). *Optimal cut-off score of the Montreal Cognitive Assessment (MoCA) in assessing cognitive dysfunction in inpatient liver transplant candidates: A retrospective chart review.* [Poster presentation]. annual meeting of the International Neuropsychological Society, San Diego, CA, United States.

O'Connell, D. & Marcus, D.K. (2019). *The association between psychopathic personality traits and executive functions.* [Poster presentation]. Annual meeting of the International Neuropsychological Society, New York, NY, York, United States.

O'Connell, D. & Marcus, D.K. (2016). *The association between psychopathy and sadism* [Poster presentation]. American Psychological Association Convention; Denver, CO, United States.

O'Connell, D. & Marcus, D.K. (2015). *Psychopathy predicts positive attitudes toward sexually predatory tactics in college men and women.* [Invited address]. Presented to the staff of the Sex Offender Treatment Program; Airway Heights, WA, United States.

O'Connell, D. & Marcus, D.K. (2015). *Attitudes toward sexually predatory tactics in college women in relation to the triarchic model of psychopathy.* [Poster presentation]. American Psychology-Law Society Conference; San Diego, CA, United States.

O'Connell, D. & Marcus, D.K. (2015). *Attitudes toward sexually predatory tactics in college women in relation to the triarchic model of psychopathy.* [Poster presentation]. Wiley Research Exposition; Pullman, WA, United States.

Marcus, D. K., **O'Connell, D.,** Norris, A. L., & Sawaqdeh, A. (2014). *The Dodo bird in the 21st century*. [Poster presentation]. American Psychological Association Convention; Washington, D.C., United States.

PROFESSIONAL AFFILIATIONS

American Academy of Clinical Neuropsychology
American Psychological Association (APA)-Divisions 40 and 49