

CURRICULUM VITAE

KYLE J. MESSICK, PhD (ORCID ID: 0000-0002-0452-0922)

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RESEARCH INTERESTS

Secular & music cultures, cross-cultural differences, sacredness, nonbelief, open science, bias, processing of violent media, artificial intelligence, psychological impact of COVID-19

TEACHING EXPERIENCE

University of South Carolina Beaufort, Bluffton, South Carolina (USCB) Assistant Professor, Psychology	2021-current
Ivy Tech Community College, South Bend, Indiana (IT) Adjunct Professor, Psychology	2020-2021
Coventry University, Coventry, United Kingdom (CU) Lecturer, Psychology	2016-2019

COURSES TAUGHT

PSYCB101 Introduction to Psychology (USCB)
 PSYCB200 Research Methods in Psychology (USCB)
 PSYCB220 Psychology of Religion (USCB)
 PSYCB331 Social Psychology (USCB)
 PSYCB380 Cultural Psychology (USCB)
 PSY101 Introduction to Psychology (IT)
 PSYC205 Abnormal Psychology (IT)
 116PY Introducing Psychology (CU)
 M137PY Research Methods in Psychology 1 (CU)
 255PY Quantitative Methods for Psychologists (CU)
 256PY Qualitative Techniques and Research Design for Psychologists (CU)
 1003PY Research in Human Behaviour (CU)

RESEARCH EXPERIENCE

University of South Carolina Beaufort, Beaufort, SC USCB Social & Cultural Psychology Laboratory Research Director	2022-present
Coventry University, Coventry, United Kingdom Researcher, Brain, Belief, & Behaviour Lab Advisors: Dr. Miguel Farias, Dr. Jonathan Jong, Dr. Valerie van Mulukom Project: A Psychological Study of the Sacred in Metal Music Culture	2016-2020
Indiana University South Bend, South Bend, IN Research Associate, Social Psychology of Religion Lab Advisor: Dr. Kevin Ladd Project: Prayer Vision: How Spiritual Practices Determine the World You See	2015-2016
Ball State University, Muncie, IN Research Assistant, Social Psychology Lab Advisor: Dr. Brooke Wilken	2013-2014

Project: The Experience of Mixed Emotions through Visual Stimuli

Indiana University South Bend, South Bend, IN

Research Assistant, Social Psychology of Religion Lab

2007-2011

Advisor: Dr. Kevin Ladd

Project: Inward, Outward, Upward Prayer: Programmatic Research Development

EDUCATION

Coventry University, Coventry, United Kingdom

PhD in Psychology

2016-2020

Areas of Concentration: Religious Studies, Metal Music Cultural Studies

Advisors: Dr. Miguel Farias, Dr. Jonathan Jong, Dr. Valerie van Mulukom

Examiners: Dr. Fraser Watts, Dr. Vassilis Saroglou, Dr. Hugh Turpin

Ball State University, Muncie, IN

M.A. in Social Psychology

2012-2013

Areas of Concentration: Mixed Emotions, Humor, Personality, Attitudes

Advisor: Dr. Brooke Wilken

Indiana University South Bend, South Bend, IN

B.A. in Psychology

2005-2010

Areas of Concentration: Prayer, Forgiveness, Humor

Advisor: Dr. Kevin Ladd

ORGANIZATIONS

Faculty Development Committee (USCB)

Chair of the committee

2024-current

International Programs Committee (USCB)

Chair of the committee

2024-current

American Psychological Association (APA)

Member

2024-current

Faculty Development Committee (USCB)

Member

2023-current

International Programs Committee (USCB)

Member

2021-current

International Association for the Psychology of Religion

Website Creator/Manager

2015-2023

iaprweb.org

The Religious Studies Project

Website Manager

2016-2021

religiousstudiesproject.com

American Psychological Association – Division 36

Website Creator/Manager

2016-2017

Indiana University South Bend
 Social Psychology of Religion Laboratory
Website Manager

2007-2011

Indiana University South Bend
 Women's Studies Department
Website Manager, Graphic Design

2009-2010

SELECTED PUBLICATIONS

Messick, K. J., Agcaoili, D., Drane, H., & Taylor, H. (2024). Are heavy metal fans sexist?: The relationship between metal music depicting misogynistic violence and sexism. *Metal Music Studies*, 10(1), 41-60. https://doi.org/10.1386/mms_00126_1

Messick, K.J. (2024). The psychology of metal music, culture, & dis/ability. In J. H. Shadrack & K. Kahn-Harris, *Heavy Metal Music and Dis/Ability: Crips, Crowds, and Cacophony* (pp. 66-79). Intellect.

Messick, K. J., Jong, J., van Mulukom, V., & Farias, M. (2023). The nontheistic sacred: The psychological functions of metal music and artefacts, *The International Journal for the Psychology of Religion*, 33(3), 198-213. <http://dx.doi.org/10.1080/10508619.2023.2196898>

Coleman III, T. J., Messick, K. J., & van Mulukom, V. (2022). Atheism: a new evolutionary perspective on non-belief. In J. Lane & Y. Lior, *The Routledge Handbook of Evolutionary Approaches to Religion*, (pp. 130-150). Routledge.

Messick, K. J. (2021). Music industry in crisis: The impact of a novel coronavirus on touring metal bands, promoters, and venues. In V. Bozkurt, G. Dawes, H. Gülerce, & P. Westenbroek, *The societal impacts of Covid-19: A transnational perspective*, (pp. 93-108). Istanbul University Press. <https://doi.org/10.26650/B/SS49.2021.006.07>

Messick, K. J. (2021). Metal for the masses: how indie metal labels have adapted for the digital era. In V. Sarafian, *The Road to Independence: the Independent Record Industry in Transition* (pp. 153-187). Presses de l'Université Toulouse 1 Capitole.

Messick, K. J., Aranda, B., & Day, C. (2020). The experiences of metal fans with mental and developmental disorders in the metal music community. *Metal Music Studies*, 6(2), 193-214. https://doi.org/10.1386/mms_00013_1

Messick, K. J. & Aranda, B. E. (2020). The role of moral reasoning & personality in explaining lyrical preferences. *PLOS ONE*, 15(1): e0228057. <https://doi.org/10.1371/journal.pone.0228057>

Scozik, K. & Messick, K. J. (2020). Breaking the spell: Reconsidering cognitive and evolutionary approaches to atheism, *Method and Theory in the Study of Religion*, 32,(4-5) 299-327. <https://doi.org/10.1163/15700682-12341501>

Messick, K., & Farias, M. (2020). The psychology of leaving religion. In D. Enstedt, G. Larsson, & T. T. Mantsinen, *Brill Handbook of Leaving Religion* (pp. 307-322). Leiden: Brill.

Messick, K. J. (2020). *A psychological study of the sacred in metal music culture* [Doctoral thesis, Coventry University].

Coleman III, T. J., & Messick, K. J. (2019). Keeping the secular deck intact [peer commentary on The Religious Studies Project: Podcast transcription of Donovan Schaefer's "Is secularism a world religion?"]. *Implicit Religion*, 22(1), 58-65. <https://doi.org/10.1558/imre.40119>

Messick, K., Szocik, K., & Langston, J. (2019). Evolutionary perspectives on unbelief [Special issue]. *Studia Humana*, 8(3).

Messick, K. (2019). Evolutionary perspectives on unbelief: An introduction from the guest editor. *Studia Humana*, 8(3), 1-8. <https://doi.org/10.2478/sh-2019-0021>

Charles, S. J., Bartlett, J. E., Messick, K. J., Coleman III, T. J., & Uzdavines, A. (2019). Researcher Degrees of Freedom in the Psychology of Religion. *The International Journal for the Psychology of Religion*, 29(4), 230-245. <https://doi.org/10.1080/10508619.2019.1660573>

Ladd, K. L., & Messick, K. J. (2016). A brief history of the psychological study of the role(s) of religion. In W. Woody, R. Miller, & W. Wozniak (Eds.), *Psychological Specialties in Historical Context: Enriching the Classroom Experience for Teachers and Students* (pp. 204-216). Division 2, American Psychological Association. Retrieved from <https://teachpsych.org/ebooks/psychspec>

MANUSCRIPTS UNDER REVISION OR IN PREPARATION

Messick, K. J., Fulmer, M., Taylor, H., & Yonce, G. (2024). The psychological effects of artificial intelligence usage in the domains of academics and social media.

Messick, K. J., Yonce, G., Piccolo-Youngblood, F., & Taylor, H. (2024). (Non)Religious proselytizing: Explaining attitudes towards the (de)conversion of others.

Messick, K. J., Drane, H., Weaverling, J., Agcaoili, H., & Ciliento, R. (2022). A psychological exploration into collecting behaviors during the COVID-19 pandemic, *OSF Preprints*. <https://doi.org/10.31219/osf.io/fdm5a>

Messick, K. J. (2021). Milgram revisited: The role of belief in science, *OSF Preprints*. <https://doi.org/10.31219/osf.io/39xrq>

SELECTED PRESENTATIONS AND INVITED TALKS

Messick, K. (October, 2024). South Korea culture and metal music. Documentary presented at Korean Cultural Studies Conference, Hilton Head Island, South Carolina.

Silver, C., Messick, K., Andrews, W., & Bass, A. (October, 2024). Understanding and measuring the new secular identity. Paper presented at the meeting of the Society for the Scientific Study of Religion, Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania.

Williams, J., Fulmer, M., Taylor, H., Anderson, J., Bass, S., Wolff, M., Mitchell, T., Yonce, G., Aranda, B., & Messick, K. J. (2024, April 15). *The psychological correlates of using artificial intelligence across two domains: academics and social media* [Poster presentation]. University of South Carolina Beaufort Student Research and Scholarship Day 2024, Bluffton, SC, United States.

Bass, S., Taylor, H., Wolff, M., Fulmer, M., Yonce, G., Piccolo-Youngblood, F., & Messick, K. J. (2024, April 15). *(Non)Religious proselytizing: Explaining the desire to (de)convert others* [Poster presentation]. University of South Carolina Beaufort Student Research and Scholarship Day 2024, Bluffton, SC, United States.

Taylor, H., Agcaoili, D., Drane, H., & Messick, K. J. (2024, April 15). *Does liking music with misogynistic themes make you sexist?* [Poster presentation]. University of South Carolina Beaufort Student Research and Scholarship Day 2024, Bluffton, SC, United States.

Yonce, G., Messick, K. J., & Aranda, B. E. (August, 2023). (Non)Religious proselytizing: Explaining the desire to (de)convert others. Paper presented at the meeting of the International Association for the Psychology of Religion, Groningen, Netherlands.

- Farrell, B. C., Messick, K. J., Lahar, C. J., & Nadeau, A. L. (January, 2023). Stretching the limits: Going Hyflex. PIE presented at the 45th Annual National Institute on the Teaching of Psychology; Saint Pete Beach, Florida.
- Messick, K. J. & Aranda, B. (August, 2021). Milgram revisited: The role of belief in science. Paper presented at the meeting of the International Association for the Psychology of Religion, Virtual Conference; Istanbul, Turkey.
- Messick, K. J., Aranda, B., Farias, M. & Jong, J. (August, 2019). Finding the sanctity in the secular: the case of heavy metal music culture. Paper presented at the meeting of the International Association for the Psychology of Religion, Gdańsk, Poland.
- Ladd, K. L., Messick, K. J., Aranda, B. (Sept, 2017). Directing motivated beholders: Eye tracking studies of magician's patter. Inaugural conference of the Science of Magic Association, Goldsmiths University, London, UK.
- Messick, K., Aranda, B., Jong, J., van Mulukom, V., & Farias, M. (August, 2017). Belief replacement: creating a theoretical framework from the literature. Paper presented at the meeting of the International Association for the Psychology of Religion, Hamar, Norway.
- Ladd, K., Messick, K., Aranda, B., Fuhrman, R., & Geist, R. (April, 2017). Labyrinths. Video presented at the APA Division 36 mid-year conference, Chattanooga, TN.
- Ladd, K., Rocco, J., Messick, K., Aranda, B., & Kuzdas, A. (April, 2017). Workplace spirituality. Video presented at the APA Division 36 mid-year conference, Chattanooga, TN.
- Messick, K. J., Aranda, B., & Geist, G. (March, 2016). When the religious and non-religious debate the topic of God. Paper presented at the APA Division 36 mid-year conference, Brooklyn, NY.
- Ladd, K. L., Nyhof, M., Messick, K., Aranda, B., Fuhrman, R. & Geist, R. (March, 2016). Viewing sacred space: Patterns of looking and praying. Paper presented at the midyear conference of the Society for the Psychology of Religion and Spirituality (APA, Division 36), Brooklyn, NY.
- Ladd, K. L. & Messick, K. J. (October, 2015). Watching with your eyes: Using technology to enhance performance. Paper presented at the Magic and Meaning conference, Las Vegas, NV.
- Messick, K. J., Rodriguez, D., Ladd, K. L., Brown, W., Bunkelman, C. M. (March, 2010). Predicting forgiveness using spirituality, moral identity, and humor styles. Paper presented at the Division 36, American Psychological Association Mid-Winter conference on Religion and Spirituality, Columbia, MD.
- Cook, C. A., Messick, K. J., Ritter, E. A., & Ladd, K. L. (March, 2010). Postcritical belief scale, prayer, and attachment. Paper presented at the Division 36, American Psychological Association Mid-Winter conference on Religion and Spirituality, Columbia, MD.
- Ladd, K. L., Cook, C. A., Messick, K. J., & Brown, W. (October, 2010). Experimentally induced influences of motion and posture on prayer's objective content and subjective experience. Paper presented at the meeting of the Society for the Scientific Study of Religion, Baltimore, MD.
- Messick, K.J., Cook, C.A., Brown, W., Ritter, E., & Ladd, K. L. (August, 2009). General and Specific Evaluation of the Post-Critical Belief Scale: Learning Styles and Forgiveness. Poster presented at the International Association for the Psychology of Religion Conference, Vienna, Austria.
- Messick, K. J., Brown, W., Ritter, E. A., & Ladd, K. L. (April, 2009). Forgiveness and Beliefs: Insights from the Post-Critical Belief Scale. Paper presented at the Division 36, American Psychological Association Mid-Winter conference on Religion and Spirituality, Columbia, MD.

Cora, J. A., Messick, K., Foreman, K. M., Sinnott, A., & Ladd, K. L. (August, 2009). Data collection strategies in the psychology of prayer. Paper presented at the meeting of the International Association for the Psychology of Religion, Vienna, Austria.

INTERVIEWS IN POPULAR MEDIA

Smith, W. (2024, June). In the Hole w/ Kyle Messick (Maimed and Sewer Rot Records). *Heavy Hole Podcast*. <https://heavyhole.fireside.fm/kylemessick>

Norton, J. M. (2024, April). The stench of perseverance. *Decibel*, 234, 55-64.

Statharas, L. (2021, March 1). Lefteris asks science - Edition 22 - The psychology of heavy metal (with Dr. Kyle J. Messick) [Academic podcast based in Singapore]. *Lefteris Asks Science*. <https://www.lefterisasks.com/episode/lefteris-asks-science-edition-22-the-psychology-of-heavy-metal-w-dr-kyle-j-messick>

Jean, R. & Giard, S. (2021, February 10). *L'ascension metal* [Quebec radio broadcast]. NIKY Radio.

Thayer, S. (2020, July 3). 'I'm like a plant without water': why metal bands are suffering during coronavirus. *The Guardian*. Retrieved from [theguardian.com/music/2020/jul/03/im-like-a-plant-without-water-why-metal-bands-are-suffering-during-coronavirus](https://www.theguardian.com/music/2020/jul/03/im-like-a-plant-without-water-why-metal-bands-are-suffering-during-coronavirus)

SKILLS

Quantitative and qualitative data analysis
 SR Research Experiment Builder & eyetracking hardware/software
 Experience with electroencephalogram (EEG) and physiological measurements
 Experience with using a mock fMRI machine
 SPSS Statistical analysis software
 Adobe Creative Suite: Photoshop, Premiere (video), Audition (sound editing), Dreamweaver (web development), Encore (building DVDs and menus), etc.
 Wordpress
 Microsoft Office
 Members Database Software for Websites (Restrict Content Pro)
 Familiarity with hardware and software for video and music recording
 Survey creation and recruitment tools: Qualtrics, SurveyMonkey, Amazon Mechanical Turk
 Uploading / Capturing video and streaming it live
 Open science research practices
 Transcribing
 Freelance illustration / art commission
 Layout work for physical and digital media

GRANTS, HONORS, SCHOLARSHIPS, AND FELLOWSHIPS

University of South Carolina Beaufort	
Participant in USCB's South Korean and Asian Literacy Education (SKALE) Project as funded by Fulbright-Hays Group Projects Abroad Program	2024
Summer Research Experience (SRE) award for four research students	2024
Advanced Support for Innovative Research Excellent (ASPIRE) award	2023
Nominated for Outstanding First-Year Instructor of the Year Award	2022-2023
Summer Research Experience (SRE) award for three research students	2023
Summer Research Experience (SRE) award for four research students	2022
Coventry University	
Awarded tuition scholarship	2016-2019
Other graduate and undergraduate honors and awards (multiple years)	
Member of Psi Chi (National Honor Society in Psychology)	
Member of Phi Eta Sigma (Honor Society)	

HonorSociety.org member

Dean's List member

MENTORING IN RESEARCH

University of South Carolina Beaufort Social & Cultural Psychology Laboratory	2021-present
Fall 2024	4 undergraduate research assistants
Summer 2024	4 undergraduate research assistants
Spring 2024	6 undergraduate, 2 alumni research assistants
Fall 2023	3 undergraduate, 1 alumni research assistants
Summer 2023	3 undergraduate research assistants
Spring 2023	3 undergraduate research assistants
Fall 2022	7 undergraduate research assistants
Summer 2022	4 undergraduate research assistants
Spring 2022	5 undergraduate research assistants
Fall 2021	1 undergraduate research assistant
Indiana University South Bend Social Psychology of Religion Laboratory	2015-2016
Spring 2015-2016	4 undergraduate research assistants

OTHER PROFESSIONAL SERVICE

International Association for the Psychology of Religion Conference	2021-2023
Website and Payment Maintenance, Member Assistance	
Helped organize the Groningen, Netherlands conference in August 2023	
Reviewer for <i>Personality and Individual Differences</i>	2023-present
Reviewer for <i>PLOS ONE</i>	2023-present
Reviewer for the <i>Archive for the Psychology of Religion</i>	2019-present
Review for the <i>Metal Music Studies Journal</i>	2022-present
Reviewer for <i>The International Journal for the Psychology of Religion</i>	2019-present
International Association for the Psychology of Religion Conference	2017-2019
Website and Payment Maintenance, Member Assistance	
Helped organize the Gdańsk, Poland conference in August 2019	
2020 Northern Indiana Regional Science & Engineering Fair	February 2020
Chair of the Behavioral Sciences judges	
Served as Chair of the Behavioral Sciences at the University of Notre Dame science fair	
<i>Studia Humana's</i> special issue on Evolutionary Perspectives on Atheism	2019
Chief editor	
Served as chief editor for a special issue of the academic journal <i>Studia Humana</i>	
International Association for the Psychology of Religion Conference	2016-2017
Website and Payment Maintenance, Member Assistance	
Helped organize the Hamar, Norway conference in August 2017	
International Association for the Psychology of Religion Conference	2013-2015
Website and Payment Maintenance, Member Assistance	
Helped organize the Istanbul, Turkey conference in August 2015	