

Molly G. Smith

Curriculum Vitae
May 2025

University of California, Los Angeles
5533 Pritzker Hall
mollysmith@ucla.edu

Education & Employment History

- 2023 – present** **University of California, Los Angeles (UCLA)**
Ph.D. Student
- Major: Social Psychology
Minor: Quantitative Psychology
Advisor: Benjamin R. Karney, Ph.D.
- 2024** **University of California, Los Angeles (UCLA)**
M.A., Psychology
- 2021 – 2023** **UCLA David Geffen School of Medicine, Department of Neurosurgery**
Research Assistant & Project Manager, Neurotrauma Lab
Principal Investigator: Mayumi Prins, Ph.D.
- 2021** **Carleton College, Northfield, MN**
B.A., Psychology, *cum laude*
Advisor: Neil Lutsky, Ph.D.

Honors & Awards

- 2025 - 2026** UCLA Graduate Research Mentorship Award
- 2025** UCLA Graduate Summer Research Mentorship Award
- 2025** Summer Institute for Social and Personality Psychology (SISPP)
- 2025** Winning Proposal, *National Couples' Health and Time Study*: Wave 3 Call for Proposals
- 2024** UCLA Graduate Summer Research Mentorship Award
- 2024** Psychology Graduate Summer Research Mentorship Award
- 2021** Sigma Xi Scientific Research Honor Society: Associate Member
- 2020** Carleton College Independent Thesis Fund in Psychology
- 2020** Robert E. Will Endowed Internship in Social Entrepreneurship (\$4,200)
- 2019** Puzak Award for Experiential Learning and Community Engagement (\$2,000)
- 2019** *Exemplary* (top 6%) Carleton College Undergraduate Writing Portfolio

Peer-Reviewed Publications

Smith, M. G., Bradbury, T. N., & Karney, B. R. (revision under review) Can generative AI chatbots emulate human connection? A relationship science perspective.
<https://doi.org/10.31234/osf.io/vyfa4>

Karney, B. R., Zaber, M. A., **Smith, M. G.**, Mann S., AlFakhri, M., Coe, J., Ryan, J., Gadwah-Meaden, C., Mallory, C., Sears, B., & Garber, C. (2024). *Twenty years of legal marriage for same-sex couples in the United States: Evidence review and new analyses*. Santa Monica, CA, RAND. https://www.rand.org/pubs/research_reports/RRA2912-1.html. Also available in print form.

Smith, M. G. (2022). Queer enough to swipe right? Dating app experiences of sexual minority women: A cross-disciplinary review. *Computers in Human Behavior Reports*, 8. <https://doi.org/10.1016/j.chbr.2022.100238>

Policy & Research Briefs

Karney, B. R., Zaber, M. A., **Smith, M. G.**, Mann S., AlFakhri, M., Coe, J., Ryan, J., Gadwah-Meaden, C., Mallory, C., Sears, B., & Garber, C. (2024). Legalizing marriage for same-sex couples benefitted LGBT individuals and their children: Twenty years of evidence. Santa Monica, CA, RAND Corporation. https://www.rand.org/pubs/research_briefs/RBA2912-2.html

Karney, B. R., Zaber, M. A., **Smith, M. G.**, Mann S., AlFakhri, M., Coe, J., Ryan, J., Gadwah-Meaden, C., Mallory, C., Sears, B., & Garber, C. (2024). Legalizing marriage for same-sex couples did not harm family formation in the United States: Twenty years of evidence. Santa Monica, CA, RAND Corporation. https://www.rand.org/pubs/research_briefs/RBA2912-1.html

Conference Presentations - Talks

Smith, M. G., Karney, B. R., & Zaber, M. A. (February, 2025) *Twenty years of same-sex marriage in the United States*. Talk presented at the annual convention of the Society for Personality and Social Psychology, Denver, CO.

Smith, M. (February, 2022) *Social sensitivity and inflammation after moderate TBI in adolescence*. Talk presented at the UCLA Brain Injury Research Meeting, Los Angeles, CA.

Smith, M. (May, 2021) *Too many fish in the sea? How implicit theories of romantic relationships influence the nets cast in online dating*. Talk presented at the Carleton College Psychology Comps Symposium, Northfield, MN.

Conference Presentations - Posters

Pourasgari, E., **Smith, M.**, & Prins, M. (June, 2024). *The effects of early life stress and traumatic brain injury on anxiety and risk-taking behaviors in adolescent female rats*. Poster presented at the annual meeting of the National Neurotrauma Society, San Francisco, CA. <https://doi.org/10.1089/neu.2024.41112.abstracts>

Smith, M., Pourasgari, E., Bennett, S., Ferguson, L., Folkerts, M., Greco, T., & Prins, M. (June, 2023). *Effect of sex and timing of post-rTBI exercise on behavior in previously sedentary*

adolescent rats. Poster presented at the annual meeting of the National Neurotrauma Society, Austin, TX.

Smith, M., Robert, H., Bailard, J., Flores, P., Ferguson, L., & Prins, M. (July, 2022). *Timing of return to exercise after rTBI shapes inflammation and pain sensitivity in adolescent female rat athletes*. Poster presented at the International Neurotrauma Symposium, Berlin, Germany. *Journal of Neurotrauma*, 39(15-16), A1-A27.
<https://doi.org/10.1089/neu.2022.29128.abstracts>

Robert, H., **Smith, M.,** Serpa, R., Bailard, J., Flores, P., Greco, T., Ferguson, L., Prins, M. (June, 2022). *Exercise and plasticity in adolescence: Sex and running behavior affect dendritic spine morphology in rats*. Poster presented at the annual meeting of the National Neurotrauma Society, Atlanta, GA. *Journal of Neurotrauma*, 39(11-12), A1–A128.
<https://doi.org/10.1089/neu.2022.29126.abstracts>

Flores, P., Bailard, J., **Smith, M.,** Robert, H., & Greco, T. (June, 2022). *Sex-specific neuroendocrine dysfunction after traumatic brain injury is mediated by HPA-activation*. Poster presented at the annual meeting of the National Neurotrauma Society, Atlanta, GA. *Journal of Neurotrauma*, 39(11-12), A1–A128.
<https://doi.org/10.1089/neu.2022.29126.abstracts>

Ferguson, L., Robert, H., **Smith, M.,** Greco, T., Folkerts, M., Prins, M. (June, 2022). *Behavioral deficits after mild brain injury in female adolescent rats are activity dependent*. Poster presented at the annual meeting of the National Neurotrauma Society, Atlanta, GA. *Journal of Neurotrauma*, 39(11-12), A1–A128.
<https://doi.org/10.1089/neu.2022.29126.abstracts>

Bailard, J., Flores, P., **Smith, M.,** Robert, H., Prins, M., Greco, T. (June, 2022). *Sex-dependent timelines of mitochondrial loss and mitophagic activity after traumatic brain injury*. Poster presented at the annual meeting of the National Neurotrauma Society, Atlanta GA. *Journal of Neurotrauma*, 39(11-12), A1–A128.
<https://doi.org/10.1089/neu.2022.29126.abstracts>

Ferguson, L., Robert, H., **Smith, M.,** Greco, T., Folkerts, M., Prins, M. (May, 2022). *Behavioral deficits following repeat mild brain injury in adolescent rats are sex and activity dependent*. Poster presented at the UCLA Specialized Centers of Research Excellence on Sex Differences (SCORE) Symposium.

Smith, M. (January, 2020). *Understanding the need for non-pharmaceutical treatment for PTSD, TBI, and military sexual trauma: Service dogs for veterans at Believet Canine Service Partners*. Poster presented at the Carleton College Undergraduate Research and Internship Symposium, Northfield, MN.

Teaching Experience

Social Psychology (PSYCH 135), Teaching Assistant

Spring 2025

University of California, Los Angeles

Instructor: Julie Smurda, Ph.D.

Intimate Relationships (PSYCH 137C), Teaching Assistant

University of California, Los Angeles

Instructor: Benjamin Karney, Ph.D.

Winter 2025

Social Psychology Lab (PSYCH 136A), Teaching Assistant

University of California, Los Angeles

Instructor: Julie Smurda, Ph.D.

Fall 2024

Introductory Psychology (PSYCH 10), Teaching Assistant

Spring 2024

University of California, Los Angeles

Instructor: Melissa Paquette-Smith, Ph.D.

Service

Social Area Colloquium Committee

Sept 2023 – June 2024

Psychology Department, UCLA

- Invite and coordinate with speakers for the department's weekly Brown Bag talks. Organize coffee hour discussions with speakers and graduate students.

Statistical Skills

Software

SPSS

- Regression, ANOVA
- PROCESS macro (mediation, moderation, conditional process analysis)

MPlus

- Structural equation modeling

R, RStudio

- PROCESS macro (mediation, moderation, conditional process analysis)
- Lavaan (structural equation modeling)
- Blimp (multilevel modeling)

Specialty Coursework

Advanced Psychological Statistics: ANOVA, regression (graduate coursework)

Mediation, Moderation, & Conditional Process Analysis (graduate coursework)

Dyadic Longitudinal Data Analysis (workshop)

Multivariate Analysis with Latent Variables (graduate coursework)

Multilevel Modeling (graduate coursework)

Item Response Theory (workshop)