

2026 TLC Workshop Directory



Sara Algoe (She / Her) **TLC DIRECTOR, CO-LEADER**

University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill, U.S.

Sara Algoe is a Professor of Psychology & Neuroscience at the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill. She earned her PhD in Social Psychology from the University of Virginia, and went on to Postdoctoral training in Health Psychology at the University of California, Los Angeles. Broadly, her expertise spans emotions, social relationships, and health psychology. She has studied emotions like gratitude, love, and admiration and social behaviors like shared laughter, expressed gratitude, and affectionate touch in the context of strangers, new acquaintances, friends, and romantic partners, using behavioral observation, experience sampling, and longitudinal designs.



Esra Ascigil (She / Her)

Brandeis University, U.S.

Esra Ascigil is a postdoctoral researcher at Brandeis University. She earned her PhD in Psychology from the University of Michigan and was previously a postdoctoral researcher at Sabanci University. Her research examines how everyday social interactions, from close relationships to brief encounters with strangers, influence health and well-being. Her recent work focuses on understanding how these processes vary across cultures and throughout the lifespan.



Alisa Bedrov (She / Her)

Summit View Research Foundation; UCLA, U.S.

Alisa Bedrov is a Postdoctoral Research Fellow with Summit View Research Foundation, an affiliated research group of the UCLA Marriage and Close Relationships Lab. She earned her PhD in Social Psychology from the University of California, Santa Barbara, and was a Senior Research Analyst with the University of Utah in the Department of Internal Medicine prior to her current position. Broadly, her research focuses on close relationships and well-being, with specific interests in self-disclosure, secrecy, trust, social support, and belonging. She has used experience sampling and psychometric scale development to examine secret-keeping and -sharing in close relationships; dyadic data analysis to examine relationship quality and well-being among veteran-caregiver dyads; and latent profile analysis to consider best friendship quality and life satisfaction.



Casey Brown (She / Her)

Georgetown University, U.S.

Casey Brown is an Assistant Professor in the Department of Psychology and the Interdisciplinary Program in Neuroscience at Georgetown University. She earned her PhD in clinical psychology from UC Berkeley, completed her clinical internship at UCSF, and completed her postdoctoral training under a K99 Pathway to Independence Award from the National Institute on Aging. Broadly, her research examines how we share, understand, and regulate one another's emotions, focusing on how these interpersonal processes benefit health or go awry in neuropsychiatric and neurodegenerative disorders. Using multi-method approaches across the lifespan, she studies studies a number of different forms of social connections across the lifespan, with a particular focus on aging in dyads.



2026 TLC Workshop Directory



Po-Heng (Nick) Chen (He / Him)
Baylor University, U.S.

Nick Chen is an incoming assistant professor at Baylor University. Nick earned his Ph.D. at the University of Texas at Austin under the mentorship of Dr. Hannah Williamson. His research encompasses intervention, lower-income couples, and cultural diversity in close relationships.



Audrey-Ann Deneault (She / Her)
University of Montreal, Canada

Audrey-Ann Deneault is an Assistant Professor in Social Psychology at the Université de Montréal. She earned her PhD in Experimental Psychology from the University of Ottawa, and went on to Postdoctoral training at the University of Calgary. Her research focuses on the impact of early attachment on child and youth mental health, with a focus on father-child relationships. She is particularly interested in how macro-ecological conditions shape relationships, parenting, and child mental health. Recently, this line of work has mostly focused on factors such as technology use and climate change. She uses a variety of research methods, including meta-analyses, surveys, photovoice and qualitative methodology, and behavioral observations.



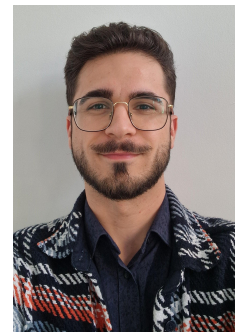
Kristina Coop Gordon (She / Her) **CO-LEADER**
University of Tennessee, U.S.

Kristina Coop Gordon, is a Professor of Psychology at the University of Tennessee, Knoxville. She earned her PhD in Clinical Psychology from the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill. Her research focuses broadly on couple and family relationships, with particular expertise in couple interventions, relationship distress, and forgiveness. Her work increasingly emphasizes community-engaged and implementation-focused approaches to making evidence-based interventions more accessible, particularly for underserved populations. Methodologically, she uses quantitative, qualitative, and mixed-methods approaches and enjoys collaborating across disciplines and with community partners.



Anthony Mauroy (He / Him)
University of Mons, Belgium

Anthony Mauroy is a postdoctoral researcher at the University of Mons, Belgium, where he earned his PhD in Clinical Psychology in 2025. He currently also works as a Senior Teaching Assistant ("First Assistant" in Belgian academic jargon). His research focuses on social cognition in close relationships, with a particular interest in empathy in parent-child relationships. He aims to understand how partners maintain an accurate understanding of each other in both parenting and non-parenting contexts. His methods include behavioral observation of parent-child interactions, experimental designs, interviews, and online surveys, with a particular focus on dyadic designs, while also working with individual-level data.



2026 TLC Workshop Directory



Cristina Salvador (She / Her)
Duke University, U.S.

Cristina Salvador is the Susan W. Beltz and A. Morris Williams Jr. Assistant Professor in the Department of Psychology and Neuroscience at Duke University. She earned her Ph.D. in Social Psychology with honors from the University of Michigan and a B.A. in Psychology and Neuroscience from Pomona College. Her research program examines how culture influences psychology, focusing on norms, cognition, emotion, and the self. She uses a variety of methods from electroencephalography (EEG) to country-level comparisons to examine the influence of culture. One of her primary goals is to expand the scope of cultural psychology to examine tendencies such as interdependence differ across understudied regions in the non-West. Specifically, some of her work aims to situate Latin America in the Cultural Psychology Literature. Growing up in South America with an Ecuadorian and American family influenced her research path.



Eri Sasaki (She / Her)
Vrije Universiteit, Amsterdam

Eri Sasaki is a postdoc at the Vrije Universiteit Amsterdam. She earned a PhD in Social Psychology from the University of Auckland and held a postdoc position at the University of Toronto before moving to Amsterdam. Her research integrates the areas of close relationships (particularly couples), emotions (e.g., love, gratitude), and communication (e.g., during conflict and sacrifice), with a particular focus on dyadic processes between partners, and more recently, cross-cultural perspectives. She uses behavioral observations, experience sampling, longitudinal designs, and lab experiments to understand how people navigate interactions in ways that strengthen social connections.



Laura Sels (She / Her)
Ghent University, Belgium

Laura Sels is an Assistant Professor in Couples and Family Psychology at the Department of Experimental-Clinical and Health Psychology at Ghent University, Belgium. She earned her PhD in Psychology from KU Leuven, at the research group of Quantitative Psychology and Individual Differences, which combines emotion dynamic research with developing statistical models. Building on her methodological background, her work increasingly started to integrate substantive and clinical perspectives, overall focusing on how emotions unfold and shape close relationships in moment-to-moment interactions. Laura uses dyadic observational, experience sampling, and longitudinal methods to study how emotional exchanges shape relationship functioning over time.



Meghan Sullivan (She / Her) **DISTINGUISHED SPEAKER**
University of Notre Dame, U.S.

Meghan Sullivan is the Wilsey Family College Professor of Philosophy and director of the Institute for Ethics and the Common Good and the Notre Dame Ethics Initiative at the University of Notre Dame. ECG is the hub for University research and teaching in ethics, and includes DELTA, The Love Ethic, the Rev. John I. Jenkins, C.S.C, Center for Virtue Ethics, the Notre Dame-IBM Technology Ethics Lab, and a major grant from the John Templeton Foundation focused on developing the next generation of courses on human flourishing, as well as a robust slate of highly competitive fellowships and programming.



2026 TLC Workshop Directory



Ashley Thomas (She / Her)
Harvard University, U.S.

Ashley Thomas is an Assistant Professor in the Department of Psychology at Harvard University. She earned her PhD in Cognitive Science from UC Irvine, followed by an extended postdoc: NRSA-funded training at Harvard and MIT, a year at the Center for Research on Equitable and Open Scholarship (CREOS) at the MIT Libraries, and a position at UC Berkeley on representations of caregiving. Her research examines how infants and children think about social relationships. She has studied their reasoning about social hierarchy — situations with a "winner" and a "loser," or where someone is "in charge" and as how they think about social intimacy, including physical intimacy, emotional intimacy, and consent. She also investigates how infants and children interpret social interactions involving their own caregivers differently from interactions that do not, using a method she developed that crops caregivers into well-controlled stimuli.



Amrisha Vaish (She / Her) **CO-LEADER**
University of Virginia, U.S.

Amrisha Vaish is Professor of Psychology at the University of Virginia, where she directs the Early Social Development Lab. She earned her PhD in Developmental Psychology from the Max Planck Institute for Evolutionary Anthropology (Germany), where she also completed her postdoctoral training. Her research focuses on social and moral development, particularly on the emotions and motivations underlying young children's moral and cooperative behaviors. Her current projects are focused on the early development of forgiveness, a cross-cultural study of early gratitude in India and the U.S., children's responses to inequality, and children's understanding of prosocial actions and motives in relational contexts.



Berdien Vrijders (She / Her)
Ghent University, Belgium

Berdien Vrijders is an incoming postdoctoral scholar in Developmental Psychology at Ghent University. Her research examines how support, care, pressure, and control are communicated through tone of voice, and how these subtle vocal cues shape the experiences and responses of children and adolescents in interactions with their parents. With a background in linguistics and language and the brain, her work combines experimental methods with acoustic analysis, psychophysiology, behavioral measures, and self-report.



2026 TLC Workshop Directory



Danielle Weber (She / Her)

University of North Carolina at Greensboro, U.S.

Danielle Weber is an Assistant Professor of Psychology at the University of North Carolina at Greensboro. She earned her PhD in Clinical Psychology from the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill and completed postdoctoral training in the Department of Psychology at the University of Georgia. Her research expertise is broadly in committed intimate relationships, including how relationship dynamics impact and are impacted by health and external stressors. She is also a couple therapist. Her research has focused on samples of couples and individuals in relationships and has spanned different methodologies, including observations of communication and self-report surveys across different spans of time. She also has growing interest and exposure to methodologies like actigraphy and biomarkers of aging.



Hope White (She / Her)

University of Nebraska-Lincoln, U.S.

Hope White is a Postdoctoral Research Associate in the Department of Psychology at the University of Nebraska–Lincoln. She earned her PhD in Social Psychology at the University at Buffalo. Broadly, Hope’s research focuses on interpersonal processes, emotion regulation, and health. Her program of research adopts a lifespan perspective and has included work on parenting, adolescent peer relationships, and adult romantic relationships. She also has an interest in the development of relationship-based interventions to promote physical and mental health. Hope’s research uses diverse methods such as behavioral observation, linguistic analysis, and experience sampling.

