

Curriculum Vitae
Samantha L. Bernecker

May 2013

Department of Psychology, University of Massachusetts, Amherst, MA 01003

RESEARCH INTERESTS

Interpersonal processes and their effects on well-being, development of interventions for adults, emotion regulation, self-regulation, information technology-based interventions, psychotherapy process and outcome

EDUCATION

Clinical Psychology Ph.D. student

University of Massachusetts Amherst, Amherst, MA

Advisor: Michael J. Constantino, Ph.D.

M.S., Psychology

February 2013

University of Massachusetts, Amherst, MA

Thesis: "Patient Interpersonal and Cognitive Changes In Relation to Outcome in Interpersonal Psychotherapy for Depression"

Advisor: Michael J. Constantino, Ph.D.

B.S., Psychology, Neuroscience Focus, with Distinction, Minor in Biology

August 2010

Schreyer Honors College, Pennsylvania State University, University Park, PA

Honors Thesis: "The Relation Between Patient Attachment and the Therapeutic Alliance: A Meta-Analysis"

Advisor: Kenneth N. Levy, Ph.D.

AWARDS AND FELLOWSHIPS

University of Massachusetts \$17,000 Graduate School Fellowship	2013-2014
Center for Research on Families' \$10,000 Graduate Research Assistantship, University of Massachusetts Amherst	2013-2014
North American Society for Psychotherapy Research \$400 Kenneth Howard Memorial Student Travel Award	2013
Ubiquitous Learning Conference \$300 Graduate Scholar Award	2011
Pennsylvania Psychological Association \$200 Undergraduate Research Award	2010
Penn State University Undergraduate Research Conference Travel Grant	2010
Schreyer Honors College \$750 Summer Research Grant	2010
First Place, University Libraries Information Literacy Award	2010
Women in Science and Engineering Research (WISER) \$500 Grant	2008
Schreyer Honors College Academic Excellence Scholarship	2007-2010
National Merit Scholarship	2006

RESEARCH EXPERIENCE

Researcher, Psychotherapy Research Laboratory

University of Massachusetts Amherst

Sept. 2011-present

- Provide substantial theoretical and writing contributions to six chapters or articles in first three semesters
- Initiate, conceptualize and design new empirical research; two projects to date
- Review and synthesize large bodies of literature
- Conduct sensitive semi-structured clinical interviews
- Evaluate, advise, and develop laboratory protocols for research assistants and laboratory manager

PI: Michael J. Constantino, Ph.D.

Laboratory Manager, Personality, Psychopathology, and Psychotherapy Laboratory
 Pennsylvania State University May 2010-May 2011

- Supervised 17 research assistants and three graduate students
- Diagnosed research participants using the Structured Clinical Interview for DSM-IV Axis I Disorders and the International Personality Disorder Examination
- Administered the Adult Attachment Interview
- Planned content, evaluated submissions, and coordinated with local organizers for academic conference with over 200 participants
- Prepared grants, IRBs, and financial documents

PI: Kenneth N. Levy, Ph.D.

Research Assistant, Emotion Development Laboratory
 Pennsylvania State University Aug. 2010-Dec. 2010

- Coded vocalizations from videotaped family interactions for content, emotional valence, and purpose
- Maintained inter-rater reliability

PI: Kristen A. Buss, Ph.D.

Project Coordinator, Personality, Psychopathology, and Psychotherapy Laboratory
 Pennsylvania State University Sept. 2009-May 2010

- Coordinated project examining the relationship between attachment style and stress reactivity in patients with borderline personality disorder and healthy controls
- Administered the Trier Social Stress Test
- Collected saliva samples for measurement of cortisol and alpha amylase
- Assessed diagnostic status and reflective function of subjects

PI: Kenneth N. Levy, Ph.D.

Research Assistant, Personality, Psychopathology, and Psychotherapy Laboratory
 Pennsylvania State University Jan. 2009-May 2011

- Coded sensitive data from psychotherapy patient records
- Transcribed Adult Attachment Interviews
- Critiqued and edited manuscripts for publication
- Collected fMRI, EEG, and EKG measurements

PI: Kenneth N. Levy, Ph.D.

Research Assistant, Hedges Evolutionary Biology Laboratory

Pennsylvania State University Jan. 2008-Aug. 2008

- Coordinated evolutionary biology project examining the phylogeny of *Aristelliger praesignis* geckos
- Amplified DNA with PCR and prepared DNA for sequencing
- Analyzed genetic sequences for relationships
- Handled delicate biological specimens to measure morphological traits

PI: S. Blair Hedges, Ph.D.

TEACHING EXPERIENCE

Teaching Associate, Junior Writing (PSYC392) Sept. 2012-May 2013
University of Massachusetts Amherst
Independently-taught, 20-student writing course required for the psychology major.
Supervisor: Elizabeth Jakob, Ph.D.

Teaching Assistant, Research Methods in Psychology (PSYC241) Sept. 2011-May 2012
University of Massachusetts Amherst
Laboratory section of 23 students focusing on evaluating scientific literature, designing studies, statistical analysis, and scientific writing.
Instructor: Elizabeth Kohler, Ph.D.

Teaching Assistant, Psychotherapy Research (PSYCH 490) Jan.-May 2011
Pennsylvania State University
Small upper-level seminar addressing the state of psychotherapy research and research methods. I was partly responsible for designing course content in addition to typical TA duties.
Instructor: Kenneth N. Levy, Ph.D.

Teaching Assistant, Science Fiction (ENGL 191) Aug.-Dec. 2008
Pennsylvania State University
Large (70 student) general education course on analyzing speculative fiction and responding to it in writing.
Instructor: Sarah Birge, M.A.

Reader for the Visually-Impaired, Disability Services Aug.-Dec. 2008
Pennsylvania State University
Aided a student with a visual disability in research and coursework as he pursued a Master of Education degree.

SOFTWARE/APPLICATIONS

R, SPSS, HLM6, ATLAS.ti, Qualtrics, SurveyMonkey, Mendeley, EndNote, Moodle, Titanium, Dropbox, Google Sites, Google Docs, Google Drive, Microsoft Office

STATISTICAL PROCEDURES

General linear model (ANOVA, regression, etc.), factor analysis and scale development, hierarchical linear modeling/multilevel modeling, Bayesian approaches, consensual qualitative research

PROFESSIONAL SERVICE

- 2013-present **Ethics trainer** for all undergraduate research assistants, University of Massachusetts Amherst Psychology Department
- 2012-present **Member**, University of Massachusetts Clinical Psychology Diversity Committee
- 2013 **Chair**, Retreat Subcommittee
- 2012 **Ad hoc reviewer**, *Journal of Psychotherapy Integration*

MENTORSHIP ACTIVITIES

- 2013-2014 Mentor to Kaitlin Banschback, an honors student at the University of Massachusetts Amherst, as she develops and executes her honors thesis
- 2013-present Mentoring four undergraduates at the University of Massachusetts in scientific and professional development
- 2012-2013 “Buddy” to new PhD student Nicholas Morrison
- 2012-2013 Mentoring Shannon McCarrick, a student in the Schreyer Honors College at Penn State University, as she develops and executes her honors thesis
- 2011-2012 Mentored Danyella Greene, a student in a post-baccalaureate research program at the University of Massachusetts

ACADEMIC AND PROFESSIONAL AFFILIATIONS

American Psychological Association
American Psychological Association Division 29, Psychotherapy
Association for Contextual Behavioral Science
Association for Psychological Science
Golden Key International Honour Society
Phi Beta Kappa Society
Psi Chi, the International Honor Society in Psychology
Society for the Exploration of Psychotherapy Integration
Society for Psychotherapy Research
Society for a Science of Clinical Psychology

PEER-REVIEWED PUBLICATIONS

- Bernecker, S. L.**, Levy, K. N., & Ellison, W. D. (in press). A meta-analysis of the relation between patient adult attachment style and the working alliance. *Psychotherapy Research*.
- Constantino, M. J., Boswell, J. F., **Bernecker, S. L.**, & Castonguay, L. G. (in press). Context-responsive integration as a paradigm for research in unified psychotherapy. *Journal of Unified Psychotherapy and Clinical Science*.
- Constantino, M. J., Penek, S., **Bernecker, S. L.**, & Overtree, C. E. (2013). The relation between participant characteristics and patients’ baseline and early treatment beliefs in psychotherapy in a training clinic. *Journal of Psychotherapy Integration*.

Constantino, M. J., Adams, M. L., Pazzaglia, A. M., **Bernecker, S. L.**, Ravitz, P., & McBride, C. (2013). Baseline patient characteristics as predictors of remission in interpersonal psychotherapy for depression. *Psychotherapy Research*, 23(2), 190-200.

Levy, K. N., Ellison, W. D., Scott, L. N., & **Bernecker, S. L.** (2011). Attachment style. *Journal of Clinical Psychology*, 67(2), 193-203.

BOOK CHAPTERS AND INVITED PUBLICATIONS

Constantino, M. J., Overtree, C. E., & **Bernecker, S. L.** (in press). Emerging technologies and innovations. In W. B. Johnson & N. J. Kaslow (Eds.), *Oxford handbook of education and training in professional psychology*. New York, NY: Oxford University Press.

Bernecker, S. L. (2012). How and for whom does interpersonal psychotherapy for depression work? *Psychotherapy Bulletin*, 47(2), 13-17.

Levy, K. N., Ellison, W. D., Scott, L. N., & **Bernecker, S. L.** (2011). Attachment style. In J. C. Norcross (Ed.), *Psychotherapy relationships that work* (2nd ed.). New York, NY: Oxford University Press.

MANUSCRIPTS UNDER REVIEW

Bernecker, S. L., Constantino, M. J., Pazzaglia, A. M., Ravitz, P., & McBride, C. (in review). Patient interpersonal and cognitive changes and their relation to outcome in interpersonal psychotherapy for depression.

MANUSCRIPTS IN PREPARATION

Bernecker, S. L. (in preparation). Helping clients help themselves: How to incorporate minimal-contact/guided self-help interventions into psychotherapy practice while managing ethical concerns and risks.

Smith-Hansen, L., Constantino, M. J., **Bernecker, S. L.**, & Smith, J. Z. (in preparation). Patient interpersonal problems and perceptions of treatment suitability as moderators of outcome in two treatments for bulimia nervosa.

PRESENTATIONS

Bernecker, S. L., & Constantino, M. J. (2013, October). *Making a novel intervention appealing to the public*. Paper accepted for presentation at the meeting of the North American Chapter of the Society for Psychotherapy Research, Memphis, TN.

Bernecker, S. L., Constantino, M. J., & Ametrano, R. M. (2013, May). *Interpersonal emotion regulation: Minimization as potentially harmful in psychotherapy*. Poster presented at the 25th annual convention of the Association for Psychological Science, Washington, DC.

Bernecker, S. L., Constantino, M. J., Pazzaglia, A. M., Iles, B. R., & McBride, C. (2012, June). *Change in interpersonal and cognitive patient variables as predictors of outcome in interpersonal psychotherapy for depression*. Paper presented at the 42nd annual meeting of the Society for Psychotherapy Research, Virginia Beach, VA.

- Constantino, M. J., Adams, M. L., Pazzaglia, A. M., **Bernecker, S. L.**, & McBride, C. (2012, June). *Baseline patient characteristics as predictors of remission in interpersonal psychotherapy for depression*. Paper presented at the 42nd annual meeting of the Society for Psychotherapy Research, Virginia Beach, VA.
- Bernecker, S. L.**, & Levy, K. N. (2011, June). *Credibility of three treatments for borderline personality disorder*. Poster presented at the Annual Convention of the Pennsylvania Psychological Association, Harrisburg, PA.
- Bernecker, S. L.**, Levy, K. N., & Ellison, W. D. (2011, May). *A meta-analysis of the relation between patient attachment and patient-reported alliance*. Poster presented at the Annual Meeting of the Society for the Exploration of Psychotherapy Integration, Washington, D.C.
- Bernecker, S. L.** (2010, June). *The relation between patient attachment and therapeutic alliance: A meta-analysis*. Poster presented at the Annual Convention of the Pennsylvania Psychological Association, Harrisburg, PA.
- Bernecker, S. L.** (2010, April). *The relation between patient attachment and therapeutic alliance: A meta-analysis*. Poster presented at the 2010 Penn State Undergraduate Research Exhibition, University Park, PA.
- Scott, L. N., Ellison, W. D., **Bernecker, S. L.**, & Levy, K. N. (2009, November). *A meta-analysis of the relationship between attachment security and psychotherapy outcomes*. Poster presented at the Mid-Atlantic Regional Meeting of the Society for Psychotherapy Research, Philadelphia, PA.

REFERENCES

Michael J. Constantino, Ph.D.

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Kenneth N. Levy, Ph.D.

Associate Professor of Psychology, Pennsylvania State University
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University Park, PA 16802
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