

Walton G. Ferguson

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EDUCATION

Expected May 2029
University of Notre Dame, South Bend, IN
Doctor of Philosophy, Quantitative Psychology
Advisor: Dr. Alison Cheng
Burns Fellow, Program for Interdisciplinary Education Research

May 2024
Auburn University, Auburn, AL
Bachelor of Arts, Psychology; Statistics Minor
University Honors Research Scholar

RESEARCH INTERESTS

Item Response Theory, Educational Measurement, Applied and Interpretable Machine Learning, Educational Assessment, Knowledge Tracing

RESEARCH EXPERIENCE

August 2024 - Present
Learning Analytics and Behavioral Measurement (LAMBS) Lab
University of Notre Dame, South Bend, IN
Graduate Researcher, Advisor: Dr. Alison Cheng
Conduct original psychometric research; collaborate with stakeholders across the University of Notre Dame on applied learning analytics with real assessment data

November 2022 – May 2024
Lazarte Lab
Auburn University, Auburn, AL
Research Assistant, Advisor: Dr. Alejandro Lazarte
Develop E-Prime experiments targeting the relationship between reading tempo enforced by rapid serial visual presentation and working memory; write proposals and IRB for fellowship and IRB applications; assist in experiment execution

August 2021 – May 2024
Research on Eating Disorders and Suicide (REDS) Lab
Auburn University, Auburn, AL
Research Assistant, Advisor: Dr. April Smith
Collaborate with lab faculty to complete academic writings on interoception and suicidality; process and analyze large sets of data collected from physiological measurements and questionnaires

June 2023 – July 2023
Center for Assessment and Research Studies
James Madison University, Harrisonburg, VA
Undergraduate Intern, Advisor: Dr. Yu Bao
Completed a research project analyzing student motivation in a large-scale low-stakes assessment using response-time analysis and item response theory modeling; consolidated and presented research findings to the CARS faculty and students

TEACHING

Fall 2024 *Teaching Assistant* – Methods for Behavioral Sciences (PSY 30160)
 Responsibilities: Teach weekly lectures reviewing course material and APA Specifications; define and grade a semester-long research assignment

HONORS/AWARDS

August 2024 - Present University of Notre Dame Burns Fellowship
 May 2022 - May 2024 Auburn University Undergraduate Research Fellow
 March 2023 Auburn College of Liberal Arts Research Fellowship
 October 2022 Virginia Assessment Group 2022 Conference Scholarship Award
 May 2022 James Madison University Assessment 101 Undergraduate Fellow

PUBLICATIONS, PEER-REVIEWED ARTICLES

Ferguson, W., Grunewald, W., Smith, A.R. (2023). Research Highlight: Testing Interoceptive Dysfunction as a Mediator between Sleep Disturbances and Suicidal Ideation Relationships among Military Service Members. *Auburn University Journal of Undergraduate Research Scholarship*.

Grunewald, W., Fogelberg, S., **Ferguson, W.**, Hines, S., Fortenberry, B., & Smith, A. R. (2023). Longitudinal relationships between specific domains of interoception and muscle dysmorphia symptoms. *Eating Behaviors*.

CONFERENCE PRESENTATIONS

Ferguson, W., Bao, Y. (2023, July). An Exploratory Comparison of Noneffortful Response Detection Methods: Self-reported Motivation and Response Time. 2023 Center for Assessment and Research Studies Student Internship Symposium, Harrisonburg, VA, USA.

Ferguson, W., Grunewald, W., & Smith, A. R. (2023, April). Testing Interoceptive Dysfunction as a Mechanism of Relationships between Sleep Disturbances and Suicidal Ideation among Military Service Members. 2023 Suicide Research Symposium, Virtual.

Ferguson, W., Grunewald, W., & Smith, A. R. (2023, March). Testing Interoceptive Dysfunction as a Mechanism of Relationships between Sleep Disturbances and Suicidal Ideation among Military Service Members. 2023 Auburn University Student Research Symposium, Auburn, AL, USA.

Ferguson, W., Good, M. (2022, November). Seeds of Doubt and Hopes for Improvement: An Undergraduate's Glimpse into a better Future of Higher Education. Presented at the 2022 Virginia Assessment Group Conference, Richmond, VA, USA.

Ferguson, W., Ramesh, S., Moore, T., & Dhanasekaran, M. (2022, April). Probing the prophylactic neuroprotective impact of *Crataegus monogyna*. Presented at the 2022 Harrison College of Pharmacy Research Symposium, Auburn, AL, USA.

Grunewald, W., Fogelberg, S., **Ferguson, W.**, Hines, S., Fortenberry, B., & Smith, A. R. (2022, March). Longitudinal Relationships Between Specific Domains of Interoception and Muscle Dysmorphia Symptoms. Presented at the 2022 Auburn University Undergraduate Research Symposium, Auburn, AL, USA.

LEADERSHIP/SERVICE

August 2022 – **Auburn University Honors Leadership Lab**
May 2023 *Lead Curriculum Developer for Honors Interdisciplinary Explorations Course*

September 2022 – **Auburn University Faculty Review Board – Dr. Tiffany Sippial**
April 2023 *Undergraduate Board Member*

TECHNICAL SKILLS

Computational: R (tidyverse, ggplot, MIRT), Qualtrics, E-Prime Script, LATEX, Microsoft Suite

Laboratory: E-Prime, Mindware Portable EKG, BioWare