

# Kyla Rankin, M.A.

University of California, Riverside | Department of Psychology  
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## EDUCATION

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University of California, Riverside, *expected*: 2021  
Ph.D. Social/Personality Psychology

University of California, Riverside, 2017  
M.A. Social/Personality Psychology  
Thesis: "Divided We Stand, United We Worry: Exploring the Role of Uncertainty in the 2016 U.S. Presidential Election"

California State University, Fresno, 2015  
B.A. Psychology, Summa Cum Laude, Psychology Honors Program

## PUBLICATIONS

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(\*co-authorship with an undergraduate student)

**Rankin, K.**, Andrews, S., Sweeny, K. (2019). Awe-full uncertainty: Easing discomfort during waiting periods. *Journal of Positive Psychology*.

**Rankin, K.**, Walsh, L. C., & Sweeny, K. (2018). A better distraction: Exploring the benefits of flow during uncertain waiting periods. *Emotion*.

Sweeny, K. & **Rankin, K.** (2018). The role of attitudes in cancer. In D. Albarracín & B. T. Johnson, (Eds.), *Handbook of Attitudes* (2<sup>nd</sup> ed.).

*Under review and under revision*

**Rankin, K.** & Sweeny, K. (invited resubmission). Divided we stand, united we worry: Predictors of worry in anticipation of a political election.

\***Rankin, K.**, Sweeny, K., & Xu, S. (invited resubmission). Associations between subjective time perception and well-being during stressful waiting periods.

\***Rankin, K.**, \*Le, D., & Sweeny, K. (under review). Preemptively finding benefit in a cancer diagnosis: A qualitative analysis.

**Rankin, K.**, Sweeny, K. (under revision). Downstream consequences of preemptively finding benefits in bad news.

\*Dooley, M. D., **Rankin, K.**, Sweeny, K., & Tehrani, K. (under revision). Being optimistic versus seeming optimistic: Consequences for interpersonal success.

## **PRESENTATIONS**

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### *Talks*

**Rankin, K.** & Sweeny, K. (April, 2019). *Seeking silver linings in bad news*. Presented at the Annual Western Psychological Association, Pasadena, CA.

**Rankin, K.** (2019, April). *Best practices in graduate school applications*. Presented at the Annual Western Psychological Association, Pasadena, CA.

**Rankin, K.** (2019, April). *Life as a graduate student*. Presented at the Annual Western Psychological Association, Pasadena, CA.

Sweeny, K., **Rankin, K.**, & Walsh, L. (2018, October). *Finding flow during life transitions*. Symposium presentation at the Annual Conference for the Society of Experimental Social Psychology, Seattle, WA.

**Rankin, K.** & Sweeny, K. (2018, April). *Divided we stand, united we worry: Coping with uncertainty in the 2016 U.S. presidential election*. Presented at the Annual Western Psychological Association, Portland, OR.

**Rankin, K.** (2018, April). *Life as a graduate student*. Presented at the Annual Western Psychological Association, Portland, OR.

**Rankin, K.**, Le, D., & Sweeny, K. (2018, March). *Finding benefit in a breast cancer diagnosis: A qualitative analysis*. Data blitz presented at Health Preconference at Society for Personality and Social Psychology Conference, Atlanta, GA.

**Rankin, K.** (2018, February). *Finding benefit in a breast cancer diagnosis: A qualitative analysis*. Presented at brown bag series at University of California, Riverside.

Sweeny, K., & **Rankin, K.** (2017, May). *The role of attitudes in cancer*. Invited presentation at the conference for the *Handbook of Attitudes*, Philadelphia, PA.

**Rankin, K.** (2017, March). *The relationship between flow and well-being while waiting for bar exam results*. Presented at University of California Well-Being Conference, University of California, Riverside.

**Rankin, K.** (2014, May). *The effects of virtual eye-height on memories of object size*. Presented at the California State University Student Research Competition, California State University, East Bay, *placed second*.

### *Posters*

**Rankin, K.**, Andrews, S., & Sweeny, K. (2019, February). *Awe-full uncertainty: Easing discomfort during waiting periods*. Presented at the 2019 Happiness and Well-Being

Preconference at Society for Personality and Social Psychology Conference, Portland, OR.

**Rankin, K.,** Xu, S., Sweeny, K. (2019, February). *Distorted time perception during stressful waiting periods*. Presented at 2019 Society for Personality and Social Psychology Conference, Portland, OR.

**Rankin, K.** & Sweeny, K. (2018, March). *The benefits of flow while awaiting uncertain news*. Presented at 2018 Society for Personality and Social Psychology Conference, Atlanta, Georgia.

**Rankin, K.,** & Sweeny, K. (2017, July). *Individual differences in managing uncertainty during the 2016 U.S. presidential election*. Presented at 2017 Association for Research in Personality Psychology, Sacramento, California.

**Rankin, K.,** & Sweeny, K. (2017, January). *The complex dynamics of subjective time perception while waiting for uncertain news*. Presented at 2017 Society for Personality and Social Psychology Conference, San Antonio, Texas.

Hilliard, S., **Rankin, K.,** & Lachs, L. (2015, April). *Embodied perception: The effect of optical flow on embodied reaching in virtual reality*. Presented at 2015 Annual Western Psychological Association, Las Vegas, Nevada.

**Rankin, K.,** & Lachs, L. (2014, April). *The effects of virtual eye-height on memories of object size*. Presented at 2014 Annual Western Psychological Association, Portland, Oregon.

## **TEACHING EXPERIENCE**

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### *Evaluations upon request*

*Associate Instructor*—University of California, Riverside

- Psychological Research Methods: Summer 2018
- Health Psychology: Summer 2019

*Teaching Assistant*—University of California, Riverside

- Health Psychology: Fall 2018
- Health and Behavior Change: Spring 2018
- Social Psychology: Fall 2016, Winter 2019
- Psychological Research Methods: Summer 2016, Summer 2017, Winter 2018
- General Psychology: Fall 2017

*Extending the Class Leader*—Fresno City College, Fresno, California

- Introduction to Psychology: Spring 2015, Fall 2015
- Psychological Research Methods: Fall 2014

## **AWARDS, SCHOLARSHIPS, & HONORS**

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Heritage Dissertation Research Award

Selected by department to submit full application; currently under review

Award amount: \$2,000

Dissertation Year Program Award, 2019

Award amount: \$7,200

Society for Personality and Social Psychologists Conference Graduate Travel Award, 2018

Award amount: \$500

Outstanding Teaching Assistant Award, 2018

Psi Chi Steering Committee Travel Grant, 2018-2019

Award amount: \$750

Eugene Cota Robles Award, UC, Riverside, 2015-2016

Award amount: \$24,000

California State University Pre-Doctoral Scholarship, 2015

Award amount: \$3,000

McNair Summer Research Project Award, CSU, Fresno, 2014

Award amount: \$2,700

Faculty Sponsored Student Research Award, CSU, Fresno, 2014

Award amount: \$1,000

Edward V. Tenney Memorial Award, CSU, Fresno, 2014

Award amount: \$200

McNair Honors Scholars Program, CSU, Fresno, 2013-2015

Psychology Honors Program, CSU, Fresno, 2013-2014

## **PROFESSIONAL EXPERIENCE**

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*GradSuccess Summer Coordinator, July-September, 2019*

Grad Success Program, UC, Riverside

*Independent Contractor/Consultant, February, 2019-Present*

Project Title: "Authors without Borders: Continuing Investigation of International Authorship Norms among Scientists and Engineers"

Client: Sigma Xi: The Scientific Research Honor Society

Scope of Work: Qualtrics survey design

*Graduate Student Peer Mentor (university), 2016-Present*  
Graduate Student Mentorship Program, UC, Riverside

*Transfer Student Summer Program Lead Mentor, 2015*  
Student Support Services Program, Fresno City College, Fresno

## **SERVICE EXPERIENCE**

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*Graduate Representative Steering Committee Member, 2017-Present*  
Psi Chi National Honors Society

*Graduate Student Representative, 2017-2018*  
Psychology Department, University of California, Riverside

*Chair, Psi Chi National Honors Society Speakers; Western Psychological Association Conference*  
Bryan Dik, Career Speaker, 2019  
Theodore Burnes, Distinguished Speaker, 2019  
Eric Landrum, Psi Chi President and Career Speaker, 2018

*Reviewer, Society for Personality and Social Psychology Conference*  
Outstanding Research Award, 2018

*Reviewer, Psi Chi National Honors Society; Western Psychological Association Conference*  
Travel Award, 2018-2019  
Undergraduate Research Award, 2018-2019

*Graduate Student Peer Mentor, 2016-Present*  
Psychology Department, UC, Riverside

*Reoccurring Graduate Student Panelist, 2016-2018*  
CHASS F1RST and Transfer Outreach Program, UC, Riverside

*Psychology Outreach Board Member, 2016-2017*  
Graduate Student Association, UC, Riverside

*President and Vice President, 2013-2015*  
Psi Chi National Honors Society, California State University, Fresno

## **UNDERGRADUATE MENTORING**

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### *Research*

- Janine Medina Huerta—Spring 2019-Present  
Applied for a mini-grant for undergraduate research and creative activities (under review). Mentoring primarily focuses on project development and conducting literature reviews.

- Sandra Xu—Paper under review; Spring 2017-Fall 2018  
Project focused on subjective time perception. Paper is currently under review.
- Dakota Le—Paper under review; Fall 2016-Spring 2017  
Project focused on preemptive benefit finding while women await breast biopsy results. Paper is currently under review.
- Kaitlyn Spillane—Published in UCR undergraduate journal; Winter 2017  
Spillane, K., **Rankin, K.**, & Sweeny, K. (2017). Predicting political engagement from moral values during the 2016 U.S. presidential election. *University of California, Riverside: Undergraduate Research Journal*.

### *Teaching*

- Kyle Kester—Introduction to American Sign Language R'Course; Winter 2018  
Mentored undergraduate student instructor; assisted in developing the course, managing students, and ensuring course instruction was completed in a professional manner.

### **MEDIA COVERAGE**

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#### [\*The Zen of Video Games\*](#)

NPR Wow in the World, January, 2019.

#### [\*Can't stop worrying? Try Tetris to ease your mind.\*](#)

NPR, November 2018.

#### [\*Researching Flow to Cope with Stress\*](#)

BTR Today, November 2018

#### [\*Classic video games can help people achieve flow state.\*](#)

KQED Morning Report, October, 2018.

#### [\*For dreamers, fear of deportation is scary – but waiting is even worse.\*](#)

Washington Post, April 2018.

### **TRAINING & WORKSHOPS**

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Research and Scholarship Ethics, Graduate Division Course  
Led by Dena Plemmons, Director of the Research Ethics Education Program

Health Psychology Summer Workshop, Summer (2016 & 2017)  
Intercampus Consortium on Health Psychology at University of California, Los Angeles

### **PROFESSIONAL AFFILIATIONS**

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Society for Personality and Social Psychology  
Association for Psychological Science  
Western Psychological Association  
Social Personality Health Network  
Association for Research in Personality