

Meriel Burnett

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EDUCATION

M.A., Experimental Psychology Completed: May 2025

University of North Carolina at Greensboro, Greensboro, NC

GPA: 3.9/4.00

Thesis: “Exploring Profane and Aggressive Language in Humor with HEXACO and Dark Tetrad Personality Using Random Forests”

Advisor: Dr. Paul J. Silvia

B. Psychological Sciences with Honours 2018–2021

Swinburne University of Technology, Melbourne, VIC, Australia

GPA: 3.39/4.00 (“Upper-Second Class Honours”)

Thesis: “Social Support in the Digital Age: The Relationship Between Online Perceived Social Support, Well-Being, and Loneliness”

Advisor: Dr. Ben Williams

PUBLICATIONS AND MANUSCRIPTS

Burnett, M. I., & Atari, M. (2026). Historical change in the structure of personality descriptors. Manuscript in preparation.

Burnett, M. I., & Atari, M. (2026). Roman personality. Invited manuscript for *Journal of Personality*.

Silvia, P. J., & **Burnett, M. I.** (2026). Brief assessment of the triarchic model of psychopathy: Evaluating the short TriPM scales with exploratory graph analysis and item response theory. *Current Psychology*.

Silvia, P. J., & **Burnett, M. I.** (in press). What’s brown and sticky? Peering into the ineluctable comedic mystery of dad humor with a handful of machine learning models, hundreds of humans, and tens of thousands of dad jokes. *Psychology of Aesthetics, Creativity, and the Arts*.

Burnett, M. I., & Silvia, P. J. (2025). Funny \$#%: Predicting profanity use in creative humor production. *Psychology of Aesthetics, Creativity, and the Arts*.

Burnett, M. I., & Silvia, P. J. (2025). Vulgarity and hilarity: The Dark Tetrad and HEXACO as predictors of creating aggressive, obscene, and otherwise offensive humor. *Journal of Research in Personality*, 119, 104667.

Zell, E., & **Burnett, M. I.** (2024). Transgender knowledge mediates U.S. political differences in prejudice and support for trans-inclusive policies. *Sex Roles*, 90(12), 1879–1890.

PRESENTATIONS AND POSTERS

Burnett, M. I., & Atari, M. (2026, February). Changes in the nomological network of personality over historical time [datablitz talk]. Society for Personality and Social Psychology Annual Convention.

Burnett, M. I. (2026, March). Humor, personality, and online aggression on r/RoastMe [symposium talk]. APA Division 10 Conference.

Burnett, M. I., & Atari, M. (2026, February). Moral values on Capitol Hill: How moral foundations are represented across 300 years of Congress [poster]. Society for Personality and Social Psychology Annual Convention.

Burnett, M. I., & Silvia, P. J. (2024, March 15–16). Some funny #%@!: Predicting profanity use in creative humor production tasks [conference presentation]. APA Division 10 Conference, Denton, TX.

Burnett, M. I., & Zell, E. (2023, November 4). Ideology, ignorance of history, and perception of racism [poster presentation]. Society for Southeastern Social Psychologists Conference, Charlotte, NC.

TEACHING

Course Instructor August 2024–Present

University of Massachusetts Amherst

PSY337: Junior Writing. Fall 2025 and Spring 2026.

UNC Greensboro

PSY311L: Research Methods. Fall 2024. Class of 25 students.

- Designing and delivering bi-weekly lectures

- Managing assessments and grading
- Holding weekly office hours

Teaching Assistant August 2023–June 2024

UNC Greensboro

PSY122: Careers in Psychology. Spring 2024.

PSY455: Social and Personality Development. Spring 2024.

PSY250: Developmental Psychology. Spring 2023.

PSY456: Cognitive Development. Fall 2023.

PSY341: Adult Psychopathology. Fall 2023.

PSY455: Social and Personality Development. Fall 2023.

Attending classes and directing activities, grading assignments and exams, corresponding with students via email, holding office hours, printing and distributing study materials, tracking student participation and engagement.

NOTEWORTHY COURSEWORK

IAL620 – Text Analysis and Natural Language Processing

STA622 – Complex Data Analysis

ERM785 – R for Education and Social Sciences

PSY609 – Statistical Methods in Psychology I

PSY610 – Statistical Methods in Psychology II

PSY401 – Advanced Quantitative Methods

SKILLS

Programming languages

R (intermediate–advanced). Particularly familiar with the following packages in R: quanteda, reticulate, caret, ggplot2, text, rparty, NetworkToolbox, conText. Python (intermediate), SQL (beginner).

Software

SQL Workbench (beginner), Mplus (beginner), SPSS (advanced but out of practice).

HONORS AND AWARDS

Summer Research Award. \$2000. June 2024.

Judge’s Choice Award for Best Speech, APA Division 10 Student Showcase. \$200 cash prize. March 2024.

UNC Greensboro Travel Award. \$500. April 2024.

UNC Greensboro Travel Award. \$500. November 2023.

MEMBERSHIPS AND CERTIFICATES

Member, Society for Personality and Social Psychology. 2023–Present.

Member, American Psychological Association: Division 10, Aesthetics and Creativity. 2024–Present.

Associate, Australian Society of Rehabilitation Counsellors (member no. 13002). 2022–2023.

Tri-citizen of Ireland, Australia, and the United Kingdom.