

**Clara Bunnell**

615.663.7847 || Clara.Bunnell@gmail.com

**EDUCATION**

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**B.A. Psychology, Honors Concentration**

**May 2025**

University of Tennessee — Knoxville, TN

Major: Psychology

Minors: Child and Family Studies, Neuroscience

GPA: 3.87 || Major GPA: 3.99

Magna Cum Laude

**RESEARCH INTERESTS:**

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- How do biases and prejudice affect self-esteem or self-perception particularly in adolescence and emerging adulthood?
- How do social norms influence children’s concepts of gender roles and gender biases?
- How do environmental factors (e.g., media, peers, authority figures) influence the development of prejudices?
- How does the experience of prejudice affect various outcomes for students? Can interventions counteract resulting disparities?

**AWARDS, HONORS, AND SCHOLARSHIPS**

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HOPE Scholarship (with Merit Supplement)	2022-2025
UT Volunteer Scholarship	2022-2025
George and Hattie Morris Scholarship	2022-2025
Advanced Undergraduate Research Activity Award (\$2,500)	2023, 2024
CIE Study Abroad Scholarship	2023
Honors and Scholars Experience Grant (\$1,400)	2023
UT Honors Enrichment Fund	2023
Middle Tennessee Electric Scholarship	2022-2023
Departmental Research Assistantship (\$1,500)	2023
Chancellor’s Honors Program	2022-2025
Dean’s List, All semesters	2022-2025
Volunteer of Distinction	2025
Arts and Sciences Undergraduate Research Symposium Award Winner	2025
Exhibition of Undergraduate Research and Creative Achievement, Social Sciences division	
Achievement Award	2025
Outstanding Undergraduate Researcher in Psychology Award	2025

**RESEARCH EXPERIENCE**

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*Social Perception and Cognition Lab*      Dr. Sarah Lamer      University of Tennessee  
 January 2023-Current

- Designed honors thesis on how representations of highly competent women and men shape stereotypes, drawing from theories on social norms
- Developed a codebook to identify themes of victim blame and language framing survivors with agency in media about sexual assault cases

- Read through a stimulus set of sentences about sexual assault from news articles and coded for the presence of themes outlined in the codebook (e.g., victim blame, survivors having agency)
- Conducting literature reviews on how agency plays a role in sexual assault cases, the role of negative affect in intergroup relationships, the representation of bisexual and transgender people in media, the development, expression, and experience of binegativity, and the effects of descriptive norms on memory
- Accurately entering participant information into running tables and communicating effectively with other members of the lab to facilitate accurate data collection and interpretation
- Developing experimental manipulations for descriptive norms
- Programming Qualtrics studies
- Monitoring data collection and compiling running notes for data cleaning

*Olson Attitudes and Social Cognition Lab*  
Tennessee January-May 2023

Dr. Michael Olson

University of

- Professionally engaged with undergraduate participants to ensure accurate completion of study protocols
- Qualitatively assessed participant videos from a study in which they were communicating with a conversation partner of modified race for disposition, comfortability, warmth, and other factors
- Carefully entered correct participant information into run sheet and maintained lab space to assist other research assistants
- Read relevant literature to the study and maintained an understanding of study subjects and objectives

## MANUSCRIPTS

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Bonagura, D., Bluhm, J., **Bunnell, C.**, Lou, W., Lamer, S. A. (under review). *Survivors as Agents: How Linguistic Agency Impacts Perceptions of Survivors and Perpetrators of Sexual Assault.*

## PRESENTATIONS

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### Regional and National Conferences

**Bunnell, C., B.A.;** Preston, G., B.A.; Lamer, S., A., Ph.D. (2025, November) *The Seen and The Unseen: How Imbalanced Gender Representation Influences Stereotypical Norms.* Poster presented at the Society of Southeastern Social Psychologists, St. Petersburg, FL.

**Bunnell, C.;** Bonagura, D., M.A.; Lamer, S., A., Ph.D. (2025, February). *Survivors and Victims: Linguistic Agency and Political Lean in Sexual Assault.* Poster presented at The Society for Personality and Social Psychology Annual Convention, Denver, CO.

**Bunnell, C.;** Bonagura, D., M.A.; Lamer, S., A., Ph.D. (2024, November). *Survivors and Victims: Linguistic Agency in Sexual Assault.* Poster presented at the annual meeting of the Society of Southeastern Social Psychologists, Memphis, TN.

## University Conferences

**Bunnell, C.;** Preston, G., B.A.; Lamer, S., A., Ph.D. (2025, May) *Brilliant Men and Women: How Gender-based Exemplars of Brilliance Shape Norm Beliefs*. Poster presented at University of Tennessee's Psychology Department Spring Celebration.

**Bunnell, C.;** Preston, G., B.A.; Lamer, S., A., Ph.D. (2025, April) *Brilliant Men and Women: How Gender-based Exemplars of Brilliance Shape Norm Beliefs*. Talk presented at University of Tennessee's annual Arts and Sciences Undergraduate Research Symposium.

**Bunnell, C.;** Preston, G., B.A.; Lamer, S., A., Ph.D. (2025, April) *Brilliant Men and Women: How Gender-based Exemplars of Brilliance Shape Norm Beliefs*. Poster presented at University of Tennessee's annual Exhibition of Undergraduate Research and Creative Achievement.

**Bunnell, C.;** Bonagura, D., M.A.; Lamer, S., A., Ph.D. (2024, April) *Survivors and Victims: Mechanisms of Linguistic Agency in Sexual Assault*. Poster presented at University of Tennessee's annual Exhibition of Undergraduate Research and Creative Achievement.

**Bunnell, C.;** Bonagura, D., M.A.; Lamer, S., A., Ph.D. (2024, January) *Survivors and Victims: Mechanisms of Linguistic Agency in Sexual Assault*. Poster presented at University of Tennessee's Departmental Research Assistant orientation.

**Bunnell, C.;** Bonagura, D., M.A.; Lamer, S., A., Ph.D. (2023, September) *Survivors and Victims: Mechanisms of Linguistic Agency in Sexual Assault*. Poster presented at University of Tennessee's annual Fall Discovery Day.

## UNIVERSITY INVOLVEMENT

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First-Year Experience Peer Mentor

April 2023-December 2024

- Co-instructing a first-year studies course
- Meeting one-on-one with first year students to provide personalized guidance and aid transition to campus
- Preparing weekly lesson materials and coordinating with co-instructor
- Corresponding and meeting with First Year Experience leadership and other mentors
- Assisting in orientation programs and engaging with incoming students

FUTURE Peer Mentor

August-December 2024

- Working one-on-one with students with intellectual and developmental disabilities (IDD)
- Assisting students with IDD in courses and with study sessions
- Socializing with and providing emotional support to students with IDD
- Supporting students with IDD with independent living goals

## **RELEVANT COURSE WORK**

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### *Psychology*

General Psychology, Honors Introduction to Psychology Research Methods, Research Methods in Psychology Lab, Social Psychology, Statistics in Psychology, Supervised Research, Abnormal Psychology, Honors Advanced Research Methods in Psychology, Psychology of Prejudice, Honors Thesis in Psychology, Evolutionary Psychology

### *Child and Family Studies*

Directed Study (abroad) in Child & Family Studies, Human Development, Marriage and Family: Roles and Relationships, Family Stress, Family Interactions, Diversity Among Children and Families

### *Neuroscience*

Foundations in Behavioral Neuroscience, Learning and Thinking, Foundations in Neurobiology, Drugs and Behavior

## **MEMBERSHIPS**

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Psi Chi Honors Society	2023 – Current
Society for Personality and Social Psychology	2024 – Current

## **RELEVANT EXPERIENCE**

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UTK in Sweden: Culture, Family, and Childhood May-June 2023

- Study abroad in Uppsala, Sweden
- Experienced firsthand Sweden's child-centered culture through family policies and by speaking with both parents and children
- Studied gender equality in Sweden to develop a deeper understanding of gender roles and inequality in the United States and other countries
- Developed an understanding of Sweden's education system through site visits including a forest preschool, a rural middle school, and the Uppsala Municipality Education Department

## **ADDITIONAL WORK EXPERIENCE**

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### **Server/Bartender**

Outback Steakhouse, Knoxville TN January 2024 – current

- Communicating hospitably and effectively with guests and ensuring all customer requests are completed to the best of my ability
- Training new server assistants, servers, and bartenders
- Creating meaningful connections with customers
- Maintaining front of house areas including the dining room and bar
- Opening and closing restaurant as both a server and bartender
- Providing customers and colleagues with up to date and accurate information about our food and beverage offerings

## **SKILLS**

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- Microsoft Office Suite
- IBM SPSS
- Qualtrics
- R
- SONA Research Pool Database
- Media Lab
- Data entry
- Adobe Photoshop
- Adobe Premiere Pro