Gillian Michelle Preston

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EDUCATION

Ph.D. Social Psychology, University of Tennessee Knoxville (Fall 2023-Present)
Minor: Statistics

Master of Arts, University of Tennessee Knoxville (Spring 2026)
Experimental Psychology
Thesis: *Mechanisms of Gender-Based Source Misattribution*
Advisor: Sarah Ariel Lamer, Ph.D.

Bachelor of Arts, University of Tennessee Knoxville **(**Fall 2021)
Cumulative GPA: 3.98
Major GPA: 4.0
Major: Psychology
Minor: Biological Sciences
Honors: Summa Cum Laude

Research Interests:
Development of Intersectional Stereotypes, Socialization of Gender Norms, Transmission of Normative Information through Nonverbal Behavior, Gender and Leadership Stereotypes

PUBLICATIONS

Lamer, S. A., **Preston, G. M**., Bonagura, D., & Ruskey, M. (2025). Tracing pathways from social ecology to the mind: A cultural snapshots approach to understanding gender stereotype socialization. *Social and Personality Psychology Compass*, *19*(7). https://doi.org/10.1111/spc3.70074

Lamer, S. A., Beck, H. B., ten Brinke, L., & **Preston, G. M.** (2025). How culturally prevalent patterns of nonverbal behavior can influence discrimination against women leaders. *Psychology of Women Quarterly, 49*(2), 220-242. https://doi.org/10.1177/03616843251318964

MANUSCRIPTS IN PREPARATION

Lamer, S. A., Sweeny, T. D., Er, G., & **Preston, G. M.** (in preparation). *TenDen: An AI Faceset for the Psychological Sciences.*

Preston, G. M., Eccleston, C., Mellinger, C. & Lamer, S. A. (in preparation). *Mechanisms of misattribution: Understanding gender-based biases in source memory.*

Preston, G.M., & Lamer, S.A. (in preparation). *Televised nonverbal bias in children's TV.*

Preston, G.M., & Lamer, S.A. (in preparation). *Televised representations of women leaders: How they influence women's interest in leadership.*

Er, G., Lamer, S. A., **Preston, G.M.,** & Sweeny, T. D. (in preparation). *Angry crowd bias as a function of crowd composition: An eye-tracking study.*

Bonagura, D., McDonagh, D., **Preston, G.M.,** Er, G., Sweeny, T., & **Lamer, S. A.** (in preparation). *Angry crowd bias in the news.*

Updated: 11/6/2026

CONFERENCE PRESENTATIONS AND POSTERS
[+]Mentored Undergraduate Student Author

Preston, G.M., Hoyt, C., Lamer, S.A. (2027, February*). Effectively communal: How communal leaders motivate women to lead, but only when perceived as effective*. Poster accepted at the SPSP Self and Identity Preconference, Philadelphia, PA.

Preston, G.M., Hoyt, C., Lamer, S.A. (2027, February*). Effectively communal: How communal leaders motivate women to lead, but only when perceived as effective*. Poster accepted at the annual meeting of the Society for Personality and Social Psychology, Philadelphia, PA.

[+]Bunnell, D., **Preston, G.M.,** Lamer, S.A. (2027, Feb). *Who is noteworthy?: How gendered representation of prestige shapes norms*. Poster accepted to the annual meeting of the Society of Personality and Social Psychology, Philadelphia, PA.

Bonagura, D., **Preston, G.M.,** Lamer, S.A. (2027, Feb). *Emotion through a biased lens: Misgendering and negativity in judgments of transgender individuals*. Poster accepted to the annual meeting of the Society of Personality and Social Psychology, Philadelphia, PA.

[+]Shumpert, K., **Preston, G.M.**, Lamer, S.A. (2026, April). *Move like a leader: How motion shapes social judgment.* Undergraduate poster presented at Exhibition of Undergraduate Research and Creative Achievement Symposium, Knoxville, TN.

Preston, G.M., Hoyt, C., Lamer, S.A. (2026, February*). How (not) to inspire leadership aspirations: When possible selves contradict women's socialized gender role*. Poster accepted at the annual meeting of the Society for Personality and Social Psychology, Chicago, IL.

[+]Bunnell, C., **Preston, G.M.**, Lamer, S.A. (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., **Preston, G.M.**, Lamer, S.A. (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.M.**, Lamer, S.A. (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.

Preston, G., Eccleston, C., Lamer, S.A., (2025, February). *Mechanisms of misattribution: Understanding gender-based biases in source memory.* Poster presented at the SPSP Gender Preconference, Denver, CO. [Graduate Student Poster Award Recipient]

Preston, G., Eccleston, C., Lamer, S.A., (2025, February). *Mechanisms of misattribution: Understanding gender-based biases in source memory.* Poster presented at the annual meeting of the Society for Personality and Social Psychology, Denver, CO.

Er, G., Lamer, S. A., Pourramezan Fard, A., **Preston, G**., Mahoor, M., & Sweeny, T. (2025, February). *An AI Faceset*. Poster presented at the annual meeting of the Society for Personality and Social Psychology, Denver, CO. [Rosenthal Poster Award Recipient]

[+]Brock, E., **Preston, G**., Sweeny, T., Mahoor, M., Fard, A., Er, G., & Lamer, S.A. (2024, April). *The benefits of large AI sets for facial perception studies.* Undergraduate poster accepted at Exhibition of Undergraduate Research and Creative Achievement Symposium, Knoxville, TN.

Preston, G., Weisbuch, M., Pauker, K., Beck, H., & Lamer, S.A. (2024, February). *I feel what you feel, but only if we look the same: How children's use of racial categorization predicts their empathy towards peer emotions*. Poster accepted at SPSP Annual Convention, San Diego, CA.

[+]Brock, E., **Preston, G**., Sweeny, T., Mahoor, M., Fard, A., Er, G., & Lamer, S.A. (2023, September). *The benefits of large AI sets for facial perception studies*. Undergraduate poster presented at University of Tennessee Knoxville Discovery Day, Knoxville, TN.

[+]Lerner, S., **Preston, G**., [+]Klaes, A., & Lamer, S.A. (2023, April). *Changing the channel: The impact of television on children's racial biases in emotion perception*. Undergraduate poster accepted at Exhibition of Undergraduate Research and Creative Achievement Symposium, Knoxville, TN.

Preston, G., Lamer, S.A., & Beck, H. (2023, February). *(Don't) be confident: How racialized gender stereotypes about agency are modelled for children*. Undergraduate poster presented at SPSP Annual Convention, Atlanta, GA.

Preston, G., Lamer, S.A., & Beck, H. (2023, February). *(Don't) be confident: How racialized gender stereotypes about agency are modelled for children*. Undergraduate poster presented at SPSP Nonverbal Preconference, Atlanta, GA.

Preston, G., Lamer, S.A., & Beck, H. (2022, February). *Intersectional stereotype development in childhood: How nonverbal behavior in television can teach racialized-gender stereotypes*. Undergraduate poster presented at SPSP Annual Convention, San Francisco, CA.

Preston, G., Lamer, S.A., & Beck, H. (2022, February). *Intersectional stereotype development in childhood: How nonverbal behavior in television can teach racialized-gender stereotypes*. Undergraduate poster presented at SPSP Nonverbal Preconference, San Francisco, CA.

RESEARCH EXPERIENCE

University of Tennessee Knoxville: **Social Perception and Cognition Lab,** Department of Psychology
Lab Manager (December 2021-Summer 2023)
Research Assistant (June 2021-December 2021)

- Trained and managed research assistants to work with children and adult participants
- Edited videos from television shows to create stimuli used to assess perceptions of nonverbal behavior
- Assisted in the design of a task to assess how racial stereotypes influence children's emotion perception
- Programmed studies using PsychoPy and Qualtrics
- Organized a coding task to measure perceptions of communality from clips of nonverbal behavior
- Oversaw the conduct of a social-developmental study on the impact of nonverbal emotion in television on children's racial beliefs
- Implemented a task to measure the impact of gender stereotypes of intelligence on children's growth mindsets
- Aided in the organization of materials and procedures for contacting families to participate in a study
- Assisted in the design of a study to assess how racialized-gender stereotypes about intelligence are socialized in the media
- Built materials for NSF-funded Vision Science Outreach

Supervisor: Sarah Ariel Lamer, Ph.D.

University of Tennessee Knoxville: **Group Attention and Behavior Lab**, Department of Psychology
Research Assistant (June 2020-May 2021)

- Conducted literature reviews on social and evolutionary psychology topics including the origins of human altruism and morality
- Assisted in writing vignettes for a study
- Attended weekly research meetings
- Communicated research findings to contribute to discussions on research design

Supervisor: Garriy Shteynberg, Ph.D.; Phillip McGarry, Graduate Student

MENTORSHIP

Undergraduate student theses and grants co-mentored

Chelsea Kratz (B.A.; UTK): *How patterns of visual gaze in children's television influence beliefs about social power* (Spring 2027)
Advanced Undergraduate Research Assistantship | Chelsea Kratz ($2,500) (Summer 2026)
Clara Bunnell (B.A.; UTK): *Brilliant men and women: How gender-based exemplars of brilliance shape norm beliefs [Psychology Honors Thesis]* (Spring 2025)
Advanced Undergraduate Research Assistantship | Clara Bunnell ($2,500) (Summer 2024)
Anhaar Ajaz (B.A.; UTK): *Gender-Based Memory Bias [Honors Project]* (Spring 2024)
Faculty Research Assistantship Fund | Emmanuel Brock ($2,500) (Summer 2023)
Award of Excellence for Undergraduate Research Presentation | Sarah Lerner (Spring 2023)
Faculty Research Assistantship Fund | Anna Klaes ($2,500) (Summer 2022)

TEACHING

Research Methods in Psychology, University of Tennessee Knoxville (Fall 2026-Spring 2027)
Instructor

Research Methods in Psychology Lab, University of Tennessee Knoxville (Fall 2025-Spring 2026)
Lab Instructor

Social Psychology, University of Tennessee Knoxville (Spring 2024)
Teaching Assistant

Orientation to the Psychology Major, University of Tennessee Knoxville (Fall 2023-Spring 2024)
Teaching Assistant

Honors General Psychology, University of Tennessee Knoxville
Teaching Assistant (Fall 2023)

SERVICE

Blanchard | Leadership Development Training & Consulting: **Research Dialogue** (Summer 2025)
Presenter

- Presented current research findings about women's experiences in leadership and strategies for designing effective interventions to foster women's leadership potential
- Facilitated discussions among a team of researchers about the role of gender bias in the workplace and effective ways to design leadership development programs

University of Tennessee Knoxville: **Vision Science Outreach Program** (Summer 2022-Present)
Organizer

- Designed and implemented an outreach program to teach elementary-aged children about vision science
- Established partnerships with local elementary schools and non-profit organizations

PROFESSIONAL AFFILIATIONS

Student Member, Society for Personality and Social Psychology (November 2021-Present)

REFERENCES

Sarah Lamer (Associate Professor of Social Psychology)
University of Tennessee
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Lowell Gaertner (Professor of Social Psychology)
University of Tennessee
gaertner@utk.edu

Michael Olson (Professor of Social Psychology)
University of Tennessee
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Bob DuBois (Associate Director for Undergraduate Studies)
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drbob@utk.edu

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