# TODD J. WILLIAMS

Curriculum Vitae | 19.04.2024

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**Doctor of Philosophy (2009)** Doctor of Philosophy in Psychology

University of Alberta, Edmonton, AB, Canada

**Dissertation Title:** Extrinsic contingency focus and reactions to idealized body images in advertising media.

**Bachelor of Arts (2001)** Psychology, Awarded with Distinction

University of Alberta, Edmonton, AB, Canada,

# Academic Employment

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Professor, *Grand Valley State University*, Psychology (08.2024 – Present)

Associate Professor, *Grand Valley State University*, Psychology (08.2014 – 07.2024)

Assistant Professor, *Grand Valley State University,* Psychology (08.2008 – 08.2014)

Teaching/Research Assistant, *University of Alberta,* Psychology (08.2003 – 08.2008)

Research Consultant, *University of Alberta,* Art and Design (07.2005 – 06.2008)

Instructor, *University of Alberta,* Psychology (01.2007 – 08.2007)

# Research Grants

**\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_**

Grand Valley State University (05.2021 - 09.2021) Student Summer Scholars Program (S3) *Machiavellianism and Coping Strategies.* [Student – Lily Kedzuch],$7,750 USD.

Grand Valley State University (05.2020 - 09.2020) Student Summer Scholars Program (S3) *Machiavellianism and Morality.* [Student – Elise Richards],$6,000 USD.

Grand Valley State University (03.2018 – 07.2018) REACH Scholars Program *Awareness of Belief Change* [Co-supervisor – Michael Wolfe, Ph.D.; Student – Alexander Denison], $6,750 USD.

Grand Valley State University (05.2014 - 09.2014) Student Summer Scholars Program (S3) *I can’t remember:  The effects of lying and Machiavellianism on people’s ability to recall past events.* [Co-Supervisor – Michael Wolfe, PhD; Student - Isaac Simon],$6,000 USD.

Grand Valley State University (05.2014-09.2014) Student Summer Scholars Program (S3*) Desire for cognitive consistency as a potential explanation for poor recollection of past beliefs* [Co-Supervisor – Michael Wolfe, PhD; Student – John Hessler],$6,000 USD.

# Social Sciences and Humanities Research Council of Canada (07.2009–06.2010) – Killam Cornerstone Grant *“Luxury of the North”* [Collaborator; PI- Tim Antoniuk], $45,100 CAD. ($28,000 CAD in kind support from Droog)

# Manuscripts in Progress

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**Under Review**

Wolfe, M. B., Williams, T. J., Denison, A. J. & Hart, L. W. Verification of Past Beliefs Moderates Belief Change

**In Progress**

Williams, T. J., Kedzuch, L., Wolfe, M. & Denison, A. (draft). Machiavellian Views and Tactics are Associated with Coping Strategies and Life Satisfaction*.*

Williams, T. J., Richards, E., Monaghan, C., & Wolfe, M. B. (draft). Machiavellianism and Morality.

Williams, T. J., Wolfe, M., & Denison, A. (draft). Awareness of Belief Change Predicts Increased Information Seeking.

# Peer Reviewed Publications

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Hart, L., Wolfe, M., Williams, T. J. & Russell, G. (2024). Belief change after reading predicts argumentative essay content. *Instructional Science, TBD,* doi: 10.1007/s11251-024-09663-x?

Wolfe, M. B. & Williams, T. J., Dewey, E., Mitchell, J., Pomp, A. & Wolfe, B. (2023). Awareness of health change is associated with weight loss following bariatric surgery. *Health Psychology*, *42*(6): 403-410. doi: 10.1037/hea0001279

Monaghan, C., Bizumic, B., Williams, T., & Sellbom, M. (2020). Two-dimensional Machiavellianism: Conceptualization, theory, and measurement of the views and tactics dimensions. *Psychological Assessment, 32*(3), 277–293. doi: 10.1037/pas0000784

Wolfe, M. B. & Williams, T. J. (2018). Poor metacognitive awareness of belief change. *Quarterly Journal of Experimental Psychology, 71,* 1898-1910*.* doi: 10.1080/17470218.2017.1363792

Wolfe, M. B. & Williams, T. J. (2017). Effects of text content and beliefs on informal argument evaluation. *Discourse Processes, 54,* 446-462*.* doi: 10.1080/0163853X.2017.1319654

Hayes, J., Schimel, J., Williams, T. J., Howard, A., Webber, D. & Faucher, E. (2015). Worldview accommodation: Selectively modifying committed beliefs provides defense against worldview threat. *Self and Identity. 14,* 521-548.

Williams, T. J., Schimel, J., Hayes, J. & Usta, M. (2014). Following and resisting body image ideals in advertising: The moderating role of extrinsic contingency focus. *Self and Identity, 14,* 398-418.doi: 10.1080/15298868.2013.836133

Galen, L., Williams, T. J. & Ver Wey, A. (2014). Personality ratings are influenced by religious stereotype and group identity bias. *International Journal for the Psychology of Religion, 24,* 282-297.doi:10.1080/10508619.2013.837658

Williams, T. J., Schimel, J., Hayes, J. & Faucher, E. (2012). The effects of existential threat on reading comprehension of worldview affirming and disconfirming information. *European Journal of Social Psychology, 42,* 602-616.

#### Williams, T. J., Schimel, J., Hayes, J. & Martens, A. (2010). The moderating role of extrinsic contingency focus on reactions to threat. *European Journal of Social Psychology, 40,* 300-320.

Hayes, J., Schimel, J., & Williams, T. J. (2008). Fighting death with death: The buffering effects of learning that worldview violators have died.  *Psychological Science. 19,* 501–507.

Hayes, J., Schimel, J., Faucher, E. H., & Williams, T. J. (2008). Evidence for the death thought accessibility hypothesis II: Threatening self-esteem increases the accessibility of death thoughts. *Journal of Experimental Social Psychology, 44*, 600-613.

Strachan, E., Schimel, J., Arndt, J., Williams, T., Solomon, S., Pyszczynski, T., & Greenberg, J., (2007). Terror Mismanagement: Mortality salience exacerbates phobic and compulsive behaviors. *Personality and Social Psychology Bulletin, 33,* 1137-1151.

Schimel, J., Hayes, J., Williams, T. J. & Jahrig, J. (2007). Is death really the worm at the core? Converging evidence that worldview threat increases death-thought accessibility. *Journal of Personality and Social Psychology, 92,* 789-803.

Schimel, J., Wohl, M. J. A. & Williams, T. J. (2006). Terror management and trait empathy: Evidence that mortality salience promotes reactions of forgiveness among people with empathic (vs. non-empathic) worldviews. *Motivation and Emotion,* *30,* 217-227.

Williams, T. J., Schimel J., & Gillespie, M. (2003). The security of obedience: Evidence that mortality salience promotes conformity to authority among individuals raised by authoritarian parents. In J. Gifford & G. Zezulka-Mailloux. Eds. *Culture and the State: Alternative Interventions, Vol. 4.* Edmonton, AB: University of Alberta CRC Studio.

# Community Reports

Deleeuw, J. & Williams, T. (2022). Community Value Survey Results. Travis County Texas Pilot Directors Meeting, Virtual, USA.

Brace, K., McHolme, L., Smith, T. & Williams, T. J. (2013). Community Literacy Initiative: Literacy Needs and Opportunities in Grand Rapids Hope Zones. Grand Rapids, MI. Literacy Center of West Michigan. http://www.literacycenterwm.org/wp-content/uploads/2013/11/2014-Hope-Zone-CNA-Report.pdf

McHolme, L. & Williams, T. J. (2013). Community Literacy Initiative: Literacy Volunteer Survey Report. Grand Rapids, MI. Literacy Center of West Michigan. http://www.literacycenterwm.org/wp-content/uploads/2012/01/Literacy-Volunteer-Report1.pdf

# Recent Refereed Presentations (Students indicated in bold)

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Wolfe, M., Williams, T. J., **Lindsay, C., Postma, A**. & **Russell, G.** (Accepted for presentation July, 2024). *Elaboration of Beliefs Does not Influence Belief Change or Awareness of it.* Paper presented at the 34th Conference of the Society for Text & Discourse, Chicago, IL.

Williams, T. J. & Wolfe, M. B. (Accepted for presentation June, 2024). *The seasons have changed, but I have not.* Paper presented by invitation at the Second Conference on The Role of Beliefs in Human Experience: Theoretical Aspects and Implications for Practice. University of Montreal, Montreal, QC

Wolfe, M. & Williams, T. J. (June, 2023). *Comprehension as a function of belief consistency: Null results.* Paper presented at the 33rd Conference of the Society for Text & Discourse, Oslo, Norway.

**Hart, L., Russell, G.,** Wolfe, M. & Williams, T. (May, 2023). *Beliefs influence the components of essays in argumentative writing.* Poster Presented at the 9th Annual Midwest Cognitive Science Conference, Grand Rapids, MI.

**Hart, L.,** Wolfe, M., **Russell, G.,** & Williams, T. J. (July, 2022). *Belief change after reading predicts argumentative essay content.* Paper presented at the 32nd Conference of the Society for Text & Discourse, Virtual.

**Hart, L., Russell, G.**, Wolfe, M. & Williams, T. J. (April, 2022). *Information about past beliefs influences current beliefs.* Poster presented at the Annual Midwestern Psychological Association, Chicago, IL.

**Kedzuch, L.,** Williams, T. J., & Wolfe, M. (April, 2022). *Machiavellian views and tactics and their associations with coping strategies, locus of control and life satisfaction.* Poster presented at the Annual Midwestern Psychological Association, Chicago, IL.

**Russell, G.**, Williams, T. J., **Denison, A.,** Wiernik, B. & Wolfe, M. (April, 2022). *Machiavellian views and tactics: Association with workplace values and vocational interests.* Poster presented at the Annual Midwestern Psychological Association, Chicago, IL.

**Thompson, C.**, Williams, T. J., **Richards, E., Denison, A.,** & Wolfe, M. (April, 2022). *Differentiating Machiavellian views and tactics: Associations with moral foundations.* Poster presented at the Annual Midwestern Psychological Association, Chicago, IL.

Wolfe, M. B., Williams, T. J., Dewey, E. N., & Wolfe, B. M., (November, 2021). *Poor metacognitive awareness of health change following bariatric surgery.* Paper presented at the conference of the Psychonomic Society, Virtual.

Wolfe, M. B, Williams, T. J., **Denison, A. J., Rose, M., Gilbert, H., & Olsen, K.** (July, 2020). *Does misinformation about past beliefs influence current beliefs.* Paper presented at the 30th Conference of the Society for Text & Discourse, Virtual.

Williams, T. J., **Denison, A. J.,** & Wolfe, M. B., (February, 2019). *Machiavellianism predicts careless responding if incentive is present.* Poster presented at the 21st *Annual Society for Personality and Social Psychology Research Conference*, New Orleans, LA.

Williams, T. J., Wolfe, M. B., Moore, S., **Denison, A.,** & Monaghan, C. (September, 2019). *Awareness of belief change and information seeking.* Paper presented by invitation at the first conference on the role of beliefs in human existence. Université du Québec en Abitibi-Témiscamingue, Témiscamingue, QC

Wolfe M. B., Williams, T. J., & **Denison, A.** (July, 2019). *Association between awareness of belief change and information seeking.* Paper presented at the 29th Conference of the Society for Text & Discourse, New York, NY.

Williams, T. J., Wolfe, M. B., **Simon, I. & Denison, A. J.** (February, 2019). *Memory, machiavellianism, lies and latent semantic analysis.* Poster presented at the 20th Annual Society for Personality and Social Psychology Research Conference, Portland, OR.

Denison, A. J.,Wolfe, M. B.,Williams, T. J., **Ciagala, K. & Evans, T.** (February, 2019). *Awareness of belief change predicts novel information seeking.* Poster presented at the 20th Annual Society for Personality and Social Psychology Research Conference, Portland, OR.

Monaghan, C., Bizumic, B., Williams T. J. & Selbom, M. (March, 2018). *Two-dimensional measure of Machiavellianism.* Poster presented at the Annual Society for Personality and Social Psychology Research Conference, Atlanta, GA.

Wolfe M. B., Williams, T. J., **Confer, S., Johnson, B. & Lambert, K.** (August, 2017). *Metacognitive awareness of belief change.* Paper presented at the 27th Conference of the Society for Text & Discourse, Philadelphia, PA.

Williams, T., Dillard, A. & **Confer, S.** (June, 2017). *The influence of gender and expressed emotion on judgments of individuals with disabilities.* Poster presented at the 1st International Symposium on Intergroup Communication. Thessaloniki, Greece.

Williams, T. J. (April, 2017). *The role of fear and existential anxiety in social and political judgement.* Paper presented by invitation at the Center for Inquiry Lecture Series, Grand Rapids, MI

Williams, T. J. (February, 2017). *The role of fear and existential anxiety in social and political judgement.* Paper presented by invitation at the Back to Basics Lecture Series (Sponsored by the Haustein Center), Grand Rapids, MI

Wolfe M. B., Williams, T. J., **Rydecki, K. & Loutzenhiser, D.,** (July, 2016). *Argument evaluation biases change following belief change.* Paper presented at the 26th Conference of the Society for Text & Discourse, Kassel, Germany.

Williams, T. J., Dillard, A., **Toth, M., & Confer, S.,** (June, 2016). *The intersection of emotion, gender and physical ability on the judgement of others.* Poster presented at the 77th conference of the Canadian Psychological Association, Victoria, BC.

Wolfe M. B., **Simon, I. D.,** Williams, T. J., & **Hessler, J. K.**, (August, 2015). *Lying and telling the truth: Machiavellianism as a moderator of the influence of lying on later memory.* Paper presented at the 25th conference of the Society for Text & Discourse, Minneapolis, MN.

Williams, T. J., Dillard, A. & **Desautels, A.** (2015, February). *The role of facial expressions on perceptions of individuals with disabilities.* Poster presented at the 15th Annual Society for Personality and Social Psychology Research Conference, Long Beach, CA.

**Simon, I., Hessler, J.,** Williams, T. J. & Wolfe, M. B. (2015, February). *Machiavellianism moderates the relationship between lying and recall of past events.* Poster presented at the 15th Annual Society for Personality and Social Psychology Research Conference, Long Beach, CA.

**Hessler, J., Simon, I.,** Wolfe, M. B., Williams, T. J. & Moore, S. (2015, February). *The role of cognitive consistency in memory for beliefs after belief change.* Poster presented at the 15th Annual Society for Personality and Social Psychology Research Conference, Long Beach, CA.

Williams, T. J. (August, 2014). *Information Literacy in the Field of Psychology*. Invited Panel Discussant. Michigan Instruction Exchange (MIX) Conference, Allendale, MI.

Wolfe M. B., Williams, T. J., **Geers, C. G., Hessler, J. K., & Simon, I. D.** (August, 2014). *Belief change and memory for previous beliefs after comprehension of contentious scientific information.* Paper presented at the 24th conference of the Society for Text & Discourse, Chicago, IL.

Williams, T., **Hessler, J., Simon, I.,** Hayes, J. & Schimel, J. (2014, February). *I am top shelf: The effect of image oriented advertising and extrinsic contingency focus on attitudes toward high and low status consumer products.* Poster presented at the Attitudes Pre-conference at the 14th Annual Society for Personality and Social Psychology Research Conference, Austin, TX.

Williams, T., Galen, L. & **Ver Wey, A** (2014, February). *Ratings of prosocial personality traits are contaminated by religious stereotype bias.* Poster presented at the 14th Annual Society for Personality and Social Psychology Research Conference, Austin, TX.

# Media

Krauss Whitbourne, S. (2020, February). 12 *Signs that you are Dealing with a Master Manipulator*. Psychology Today. https://www.psychologytoday.com/us/blog/fulfillment-any-age/202002/12-signs-you-re-dealing-master-manipulator

McRaney, D. (2018, March). You are not so smart – Episode 124: *Belief Change Blindness*. https://youarenotsosmart.com/podcast/

# Resnick, B. (2017, November). Republicans’ Beliefs are Bending to Trump. Here’s Why They Might Not Even Notice. Vox Science and Health. https://www.vox.com/science-and-health/2017/11/17/16585982/psychology-memory-polls-trump?fbclid=IwAR1T7GVNG8ec6-fYr26Fr98m47lsvo6rIxKKiX4Smf3KvkNNwqF06efzwKY

# Fracassi, J. (2017, February). *GVSU professor to discuss "Fear and Anxiety" as part of lecture series* [Newspaper] Grand Valley Lanthorn.

Grand Valley State University (2015, May 8). *Faculty Spotlight.* [Webpage profile; YouTube]. https://www.gvsu.edu/admissions/spotlight.htm?spotlightId=B22D2E63-FA90-B92B-94D693F3990ECBA0

Kalinoski, S. (2012, April 11). *The Psychology of Gas Prices.* [Television broadcast]. Grand Rapids, MI: WZZM13

Mitchell, L. (2012, October 28). *Film Projection Series Sparks Cross-Discipline Dialogue.* [Newspaper] Grand Valley Lanthorn.

Martinez, S. (2011, December, 14). *Secret Santa Giving Continues: More than 40 layaway bills paid off at Grand Rapids Kmart.* [MLive Online Newspaper] http://www.mlive.com/business/west-michigan/index.ssf/2011/12/secret\_santa\_giving\_at\_grand\_r.html

Otman, H. (2010, December, 5). *Like a Little Invades GVSU Campus.* [Newspaper] Grand Valley Lanthorn.

# Teaching Experience

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Psychology 400: *Advanced Research Methods in Psychology*. Grand Valley State University, Allendale, MI.

Psychology 300: *Introduction to Research Methods in Psychology.* Grand Valley State University, Allendale, MI.

Psychology 360: *Social Psychology.* Grand Valley State University, Allendale, MI.

Psychology 101: *Introduction to Psychology*. Grand Valley State University, Allendale, MI.

Psychology 105: *Individual and Social Behavior.* University of Alberta, Edmonton, AB.