

TODD J. WILLIAMS

Curriculum Vitae | 01.05.26

2313 Au Sable Hall | Department of Psychology | Grand Valley State University | Allendale | MI | 49401
todd_williams@gvsu.edu

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

Professor, <i>Grand Valley State University</i> , Psychology	(08.2024 – Present)
Associate Professor, <i>Grand Valley State University</i> , Psychology	(08.2014 – 07.2024)
Assistant Professor, <i>Grand Valley State University</i> , Psychology	(08.2008 – 08.2014)
Teaching/Research Assistant, <i>University of Alberta</i> , Psychology	(08.2003 – 08.2008)
Research Consultant, <i>University of Alberta</i> , Art and Design	(07.2005 – 06.2008)
Instructor, <i>University of Alberta</i> , Psychology	(01.2007 – 08.2007)

Student Collaboration

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

In Progress

Deleeuw, J. & Williams, T. J. (R1) Professional dog trainers' perspectives on training methods: Ethical and evidentiary insights. *Frontiers in Veterinary Science*

Williams, T. J., Wolfe, M., & **Denison, A.** (R2) Awareness of belief change predicts increased information seeking. *Metacognition and Learning*.

Dillard, A., Thakur, M., Wolfe, M. & Williams, T. J. (draft) Affective forecasting error in women's reproductive expectations.

Wolfe, M., & Williams, T. J. (draft). Elaboration of Beliefs Does not Influence Belief Change or Awareness of it

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.

Peer Reviewed Publications (Students in bold)

Dillard, A., Meier, B., Williams, T. J., Wolfe, M. & Thakur, M. (2025). Associations between trait mindfulness and distress in fertility patients: Evidence from two clinical samples. *European Journal of Health Psychology*. doi: 10.1027/2512-8442/a000189

- Wolfe, M. B., Williams, T. J., **Denison, A. J. & Hart, L. W.** (2024). Verification of past beliefs moderates belief change. *The Open Psychology Journal*, 17: e18743501351250. doi: 10.2174/0118743501351250241129115353
- Hart, L.**, Wolfe, M., Williams, T. J. & **Russell, G.** (2024). Belief change after reading predicts argumentative essay content. *Instructional Science*, 53(2): 151-172. 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. doi: 10.1080/15298868.2015.1036919
- 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. Zenzulka-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>

Refereed Presentations (2020 – Present)

(Students in bold)

- Dillard, A., Meier, B., Williams, T. J., Wolfe, M. & Thakur, M. (Accepted: April, 2026). *Overestimating emotions for reproductive outcomes: Testing the impact bias in patients having in-vitro fertilization*. Poster presentation at the 47th Annual Meeting & Scientific Sessions of the Society of Behavioral Medicine, Chicago, IL.

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- Dewey, R., Wolfe, M. & Williams, T. J.** (Accepted: April, 2026). *Is comprehension influenced by belief consistency?* Poster presented at the Annual Midwestern Psychological Association, Chicago, IL.
- Wolfe, M., Williams, T. J. & **Dewey, R.** (July, 2025) *Comprehension as a function of belief consistency: Discrimination and response bias.* Paper presented at the 35th Conference of the Society for Text and Discourse, Padua, Italy.
- Dewey, R., DeSantis, A., Stuckey, J., Wolfe, M. & Williams, T. J.** (April, 2025). *Do we comprehend information better if we believe it?* Poster presented at the Annual Midwestern Psychological Association, Chicago, IL.
- Wolfe, M., Williams, T. J., **Lindsay, C., Postma, A. & Russell, G.** (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. (June, 2024). *The seasons have changed, but I have not.* Invited presentation 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.

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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.

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.

Recent Teaching Assignments

Psychology 400: *Advanced Research Methods in Psychology*

Psychology 350: *Psychology Research and Data Applications*

Psychology 300: *Introduction to Research Methods in Psychology*

Psychology 360: *Social Psychology*

Psychology 101: *Introduction to Psychology*