

Megan Ruskey

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### Education

**University of Tennessee, Knoxville**

**Ph.D. Student in Experimental Psychology**

Present

**Rutgers University, New Brunswick**

**B.A. Psychology**

May 2024

School of Arts & Sciences Honors Program, Departmental Honors in Psychology

Honors Thesis: *Spatial Agency Bias in a Political Context*

Overall GPA: 3.924

### Honors & Awards

Rutgers University School of Arts and Sciences Dean's List Fall 2020-Spring 2024

Dorothy & David Cooper Summer Undergraduate Research Fellowship Scholarship 2023

Frank T. Gorman, Jr. Scholarship for Excellence in the Humanities 2023

Dee Garrison Award for Peacemaking in Women's, Gender, and Sexuality Studies 2024

Marilyn Shaw Award for Research Promise 2024

Henry Rutgers Scholar Award 2024

### Research Experience

**Honors Thesis**, Department of Psychology 2022-2024

Rutgers University-New Brunswick

Dr. Gandalf Nicolas, Research Advisor

- Designed an in-person study to evaluate perceptions of agency for multiply categorized political candidates across a horizontal axis
- Executed study design by scheduling and collecting data for over 100 participants

**Cooper Summer Undergraduate Research Fellowship** 2023

Rutgers University-New Brunswick

Dr. Gandalf Nicolas & Graduate Assistant Erin Foy

- Formulated an online research study using Qualtrics to investigate the stereotyping of intersectional identities within gendered occupations
- Utilized the coding languages 'R' and Java to improve study design and efficiently analyze data

**Lloyd C. Gardner Fellowship in Social Policy**, School of Arts and Sciences 2022-2023

Rutgers University-New Brunswick

Dr. Mary Trigg, Research Advisor

- Conducted original research regarding political lesbianism as a framework for analyzing modern hookup culture on college campuses

**Undergraduate Research Assistant** 2022-2024

Rutgers University- New Brunswick

The Nicolas Lab, Dr. Gandalf Nicolas (director)

- Investigated and synthesized information from scientific studies on cognitive biases to conduct literature reviews and prepare research proposals
- Employed Microsoft Excel in order to gather data for lab projects

### Professional Experience

#### **Center for Family Guidance Law Enforcement Internship** 2023

Center for Family Guidance, Marlton, NJ 08053

Dr. Joel Freidman, Internship Mentor

- Administered and scored MMPI and Shipley-2 assessments for law enforcement candidates
- Prepared accurate score reports and background information for psychologists to assess potential officers
- Acquired an understanding of internal corrections processes by joining psychologists for parole interviews

#### **Long Term Healthcare Resident's Assistant** 2018-2024

Wiley Mission, Marlton, NJ 08053

Ann Porrecca, Manager

- Utilized proper feeding techniques to assist disabled residents with eating their meals
- Advocated for the needs of mentally ill and non-verbal residents to nurses in order to maximize comfort and health of residents

#### **Lead Writing Tutor** 2021-2024

Plangere Writing Center, Rutgers University-New Brunswick

- Developed the reading and writing skills of expository writing students to improve understanding and student grades
- Promoted to Lead Tutor in Fall 2022 to assist with administrative tasks and oversee group tutoring sessions

### Poster Presentations

Foy, E. C., **Ruskey, M.**, & Nicolas, G. (2024). *Evaluating perceptions of intersectional identities across professional contexts: An application of the Spontaneous Stereotype Content Model*. Poster presented to the Society for Personality and Social Psychology, San Diego, CA, February 8-10.

**Ruskey, M.** & Nicolas, G. (2024). *Spatial Agency Bias in a Political Context*. Poster presented at the annual Rutgers University Honors Thesis Symposium, New Brunswick, NJ, April 8.

**Ruskey, M.** (2024). *Evaluating Hookup Culture on Campus: A Lesbian Separatist Perspective*. Presented to the New Jersey Women's and Gender Studies Consortium hosted by Drew University, Madison, NJ, April 13.

## Publications

**Ruskey, M.** (2024). *Evaluating Hookup Culture on Campus: A Lesbian Separatist Perspective*. Embodied: The Stanford Undergraduate Journal of Feminist, Gender, and Sexuality Studies. Vol. 3 No. 1.

## Volunteer Experience

**Peer Mentor for the Rutgers Center for Adult Autism Services**  
Rutgers University-New Brunswick

2022-2024

## Relevant Coursework

Abnormal Psychology (Fall 2020)  
Calculus for the Social Sciences (Fall 2020)  
Basic Statistics for Research (Fall 2021)  
Forensic Psychology (Fall 2021)  
Social Psychology (Fall 2021)  
Learning Processes (2022)  
Psychology of Language (Fall 2022)  
The Religious Mind (Fall 2022)  
Advanced Topics: Architecture of Intelligence (Spring 2023)  
Honors Research Seminar (Fall 2023)