

Department of Psychology

Newsletter



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Research Profile:

Dr. Alexandra Zelin



Dr. Alexandra Zelin

Dr. Alexandra Zelin joined the UTC faculty in Fall 2016. She earned her Bachelor's degree in psychology and sociology at the University of Mary Washington and graduated with a PhD in Industrial-Organizational Psychology from University of Akron in 2017. Dr. Zelin's current research focuses on sexism against women and because she is an industrial organizational psychologist, she mainly focuses on sexism at work, sexual harassment, and sexual assault prevention. Dr. Zelin's current research interests stemmed from some of the training she received as a graduate student.

University of Akron created a program on bystander intervention training and how to empower the bystander. Dr. Zelin believed that the program was well suited to making cultural change. "Bystander intervention is awesome but it's a Band-Aid," said Dr. Zelin. "So I'm interested in how we make it so people don't have to do bystander intervention." She and Dr. Kate Rogers taught a course in Fall 2017 called Cultural Change Ambassadors, which involved students learning to be empowered bystanders and change the culture here on campus. The course was so successful, *Cultural Change Ambassadors* is now a club on campus for UTC students who are interested in fighting against a culture of sexual assault and sexual harassment.

"Bystander intervention is awesome, but it's a Band-Aid."

In addition to the Cultural Change Ambassador mission, Dr. Zelin is conducting a study examining the sexism that is rampant in comics. They are analyzing the Superman's Girlfriend Lois Lane comics for misogynistic themes and they anticipate wrapping up that study soon.

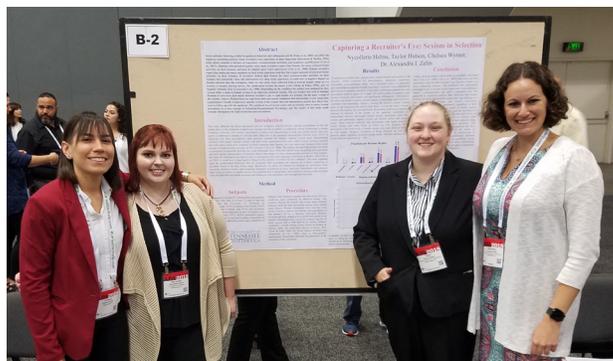
Another ongoing project in Dr. Zelin's research lab involves examining perceptions of men's and women's resumes using eye-tracking technology. The purpose of this research project is to determine if participants look at certain resume details more if the resume is for a man versus when if resume is for a woman. The preliminary results of this project demonstrate a clear bias toward men's resumes, regardless of the participant's gender. Portion of these data, each investigating different research questions, have been presented in three posters and Dr. Zelin's team is finalizing the data analysis for publication.

In keeping with the theme of gender discrimination in the workplace, Dr. Zelin is contributing a chapter to *The Handbook on Interpersonal Violence* that focuses on violence at work and why sexual harassment training programs aren't working.

"... there are actually repercussions for actions."

Dr. Zelin's research isn't stopping anytime soon and she plans to "keep up the fight." Dr. Zelin says, "obviously I wish I could save the world, that is every person's dream, but for right now, I will settle with how to make a difference and change the environment here at UTC, what's immediately surrounding me."

Dr. Zelin's favorite aspect about her research is that she can help people. "If I can prevent somebody else from getting assaulted or harassed, then I am very happy," said Dr. Zelin. "If I can help to make sure survivors/victims are believed or help them feel comfortable coming forward knowing that there are actually repercussions for their abuser's actions, that to me is amazing - I would love to help assist with that."



Left: Dr. Zelin and her students, Chelsea Wymer, Nycollette Helms, and Taylor Hutson presenting their research at the APA Convention in San Francisco this summer.

Industrial-Organizational Psychology programs are designed for students who wish to go directly into practice-oriented careers after completion of their graduate degree. Many UTC I-O graduates enter human resources departments as HR generalists or training/development specialists. Other graduates become specialists in job analysis, compensation, testing and measurement, organization development and effectiveness, and selection. However, the I-O program at UTC also prepares students who wish to pursue a doctoral degree in I-O Psychology or a related field.

Our research is nationally recognized at national and international conferences, in top journals, books, and other outlets. Our faculty and students' impact on the community and workplace has gotten special attention from the media, too! Dr. Cunningham and program alumna, Pooja Vijayakumar, released a working paper on Indian expatriates in the IT industry that has been featured in over 100 news outlets - including Bloomberg and The Economist. Also, Dr. Zelin's work with #MeToo in the workplace hit the front page of SIOP's webpage.

Mobilizing I-O Research at UTC



RANKED #1
Comprehensiveness of Program



RANKED #2
Overall Student Satisfaction



RANKED #2
Perceived Program Quality

I-O is one of the fastest growing and best-paying career options for those interested in applied psychology

All UTC I-O students complete at least 300 hours of supervised work to prepare them for their career.

"You are doing something right... she hit the ground running here and added value very quickly"
- Recent Internship supervisor

Welcome to the 2018/2020 Class!



Back row: Brady Coleman, Jeff Martin, Modupe Omotajo, Alexandra Martin, Linsey Klein, Emily Nixon, Della Waters, Alec Dalton, James Fulks

Front row: Tyler Carr, Kelsey Cate, Destiny Burns, Megan Rogers, Chelsea Wymer, Brittany Branda, Rachel Browder, Alex Britt, Dr. Chris Cunningham

Important Facts About the UTC I-O Psychology Program

- ▶ The UTC I-O Program is one of the longest continually running programs in the world, beginning in 1975.
- ▶ Applications are accepted between October and mid-March with admission decisions being made by early April. Each new cohort begins in August.
- ▶ Each year roughly 70-90 applications are received and processed; ultimately 15-18 students are admitted.

For further information visit:

<https://www.utc.edu/ioprogram>



Meet Our Psychology Majors



Molly Hudson is from Atoka, a small town about 45 minutes outside of Memphis, Tennessee. She says that in her experience, UTC's Department of Psychology is set apart from others because our professors really care about their students' achievements, both academically and otherwise.

Molly has worked closely with one of our professors, Dr. Foerder, as a teaching assistant and has appreciated the opportunity to make connections with other UTC students and faculty members. This year, Molly is also serving as the 2018-2019 President of UTC's Psi Chi chapter. Molly hopes to pursue a master's degree in Industrial-Organizational Psychology and eventually serve in human resource management.

Molly's Best Advice? First and foremost, don't listen to anyone that tells you, "you'll never be successful with that as a major!" At UTC, our professors and our adviser will help you find your passion, if you're willing to work for it!

Olivia Dephillips was born in Delaware and raised in Nashville, TN. She chose to come to UTC to pursue a career in clinical therapy and research / experimental psychology. To this end, Olivia is currently working toward acceptance to a PhD program and is very interested in statistics as a focal area.



She says that the thing about UTC that she loves most is how well the professors and administrators listen to students' needs and suggestions. For example, although UTC doesn't have a statistics program, Olivia says, "the professors and administrators have been very generous and have agreed to work with me to create a statistics-heavy math concentration. I could not be more thankful to everyone who has helped me along the way"

Olivia's Best Advice? Pursue what you love and don't be afraid to communicate with your professors! "I know they can be intimidating at times but they genuinely care and want their students to succeed above all else."

Angelique's Advice

Top 10 Tips Moving into Registration Season.

It's here! Registration season! As you prepare to sign up for spring classes, here are some tips, strategies, and general advice so that your experience can go smoothly and more efficiently.

10 Remember the "rule of thumb" when it comes to advising sheets:

- a. Highlighted = you are eligible to take a category or course
- b. Checked = You are done! You have fulfilled a category or course requirement
- c. Not checked / Not highlighted = You are not eligible to take this specific category or course.

9. If you have taken a statistics course other than PSY 2010, you will always need an overrides for PSY 2020, 2040, 3100, 3110, 3130, 3140, and 3180. Please submit an override form.

8. You must declare a minor. You do not have to declare a concentration.

7. All TA and RA overrides will be processed on *Monday, November 19th*.

#6 Check your advising hold the night before you intend to register.

5 Every student needs 39 hours of upper level credit - you get those by choosing 3000/4000 level classes in your major and also in your concentration and free electives.

4 Have your schedule and CRN numbers in front of you on your registration date and time. *You should also have back-up classes just in case your original options don't pan out.*

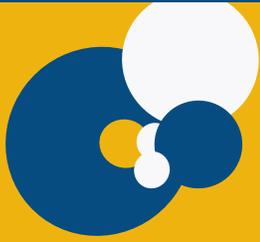
3 Remember that waitlisting for a course DOES NOT guarantee you a seat in the course.

2 If you find a closed class, you can either waitlist or take it in another semester. We do not authorize overrides for classes with active waitlists.

1 If you are current major, you have a graduation plan or advising sheet and customized notes from me in SSC Campus! **Please read everything.**

With these tips, I wish everyone a stress-free and productive registration season. P.S. Check your email for my walk-in schedule. See you soon!

Angelique Cook
UTC Psychology Advisor

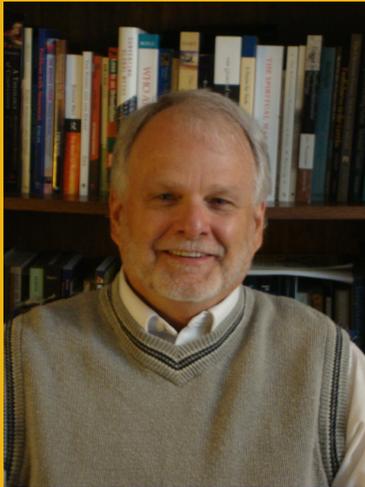


The View from Room 382

Fall has finally arrived and the view from 382 is full of gold, brown and orange leaves, shorter days and cooler temperatures, reflecting the cycle of change that signals the coming winter. That cycle is tangibly evident in the Department of Psychology as we reluctantly say goodbye to Dr. Paul J. Watson, who will retire at the end of the semester due to health issues. Among his many duties over his 41 year career at UTC, Dr. Watson has been responsible for teaching the large sections of our Introduction to Psychology course for longer than most of us can remember. Generations of students can reflect on his enthusiasm, professionalism, and humanity in presenting the



basics of psychology in a fun, clear, and understandable manner. In addition to his outstanding teaching skills, Dr. Watson is also an accomplished researcher, with a CV the size of the Hixson phone book filled with scores of peer reviewed journal articles, book chapters, monographs, and conference presentations.



Most importantly, Dr. Watson is just a genuinely good person who has committed himself to helping others through his teaching, research, and service. Although he will no longer be teaching, I am happy to report that Dr. Watson will continue to support the Department through his research as a Professor Emeritus.

We have begun the process of finding someone to fill the position left by his departure, but it is quite obvious that there will be no replacing Dr. Paul J. Watson. Please keep him and his family in your thoughts and prayers.

Also consider taking a moment to send a short email to him at paul-watson@utc.edu to thank him for his impact on your life.

Thanks, Dr. O

There's still time to join Team UTC Au-Some MOCS for the 6th Annual Chattanooga Autism Awareness Walk



Open your Camera app on your smart device and scan the QR code on the left to be taken directly to Team UTC Au-Some's page.

