

Megan E. LaMotte, Ph.D.

Curriculum Vitae

mel43@psu.edu

(814) 898-6616

EDUCATION

- Ph.D. Interdisciplinary Social Psychology Program, University of Nevada, Reno, 2024.
M.A. Interdisciplinary Social Psychology Program, University of Nevada, Reno, 2021.
B.A. Department of Psychology & Women and Gender Studies, University of Delaware, 2015.

PROFESSIONAL EXPERIENCE

2024-Present Associate Director of Research and Evaluation of Susan Hirt Hagen Center for Community Outreach, Research and Evaluation (CORE)

Assistant Research Professor, Penn State Behrend, School of Humanities and Social Sciences

2021-2023 Instructor, University of Nevada, Reno, Department of Sociology.

2016-2019 Senior Research Assistant, Geisinger Obesity Research Institute.

PUBLICATIONS

2026 Elliott, M., Ragsdale, J., Prager, N., **LaMotte, M.E.**, and Devereux, P. The Protective Effects of Social Class on Mental Health During the Global Pandemic. *Under Review*.

LaMotte, M.E., Elliott, M. and Etienne, V.Y. "This is Just Depressed-Ville": Lay Explanations of the Black White Mental Health Paradox. *Under Review*.

LaMotte, M.E., Elliott, M. and Popova, E. How the Intersection of Race and Gender Shapes Reactions to Depression in Others and Oneself: A Vignette-based Experiment. *Manuscript in Progress*.

2025 **LaMotte, M.E.**, Elliott, M. and Mouzon, D.M. 2024. An Intersectional Approach to Testing Explanations of the Black-White Mental Health Paradox. *Sociology of Race and Ethnicity*, 11(3):333-350. <https://doi.org/10.1177/23326492241304724>

2024 Elliott, M., Ragsdale, J.M. and **LaMotte, M.E.** 2024. Causal Explanations, Treatability, and Mental Illness Stigma: An Experimental Study. *Psychiatric Services*, 75(2):131-138.

2023 Ramirez, E., Elliott, M. and **LaMotte, M.E.** 2023. Acculturation, Acculturative Stress, and Eating Disorder Symptoms among Latina University Students. *Hispanic Journal of Behavioral Sciences*, 45(1), 23-42.

- LaMotte, M.E.**, Elliott, M. and Mouzon, D.M. 2023. Revisiting the Black-White mental health paradox during the coronavirus pandemic. *Journal of Race and Ethnic Health Disparities*, 10, 2802–2815. <https://doi.org/10.1007/s40615-022-01457-6>
- 2022 Ragsdale, J., **LaMotte, M.E.**, and Elliott, M. 2022. The impact of the coronavirus pandemic on stress: A cross-national analysis of economic and public health policies and individual characteristics. In M. Elliott (Ed.), *Research Handbook on Society and Mental Health*. Edward Edgar Publishing.
- Hartzell, S.Y.T., **LaMotte, M.E.**, Thompson, M., and Devereux, P. 2022. A mixed methods approach to understanding college student’s experiences throughout the COVID-19 pandemic. *Journal of Higher Education Management*, 37(2), 103-126.
- 2019 Lent, M.R., Kell, M., Still, C.D., Cunningham, K., Murakami, J., Lawson, J., Ranck, S., Yohn, M., **LaMotte, M.**, Campbell, L., Gorrell, S., Petrick, A., Wood, G.C. 2019. The feasibility of a behavioral group intervention after weight-loss surgery: A randomized pilot trial. *PLOS ONE*, 14(10). e0223885. <https://doi.org/10.1371/journal.pone.0223885>
- Overby, L., **LaMotte, M.**, and Font, L. 2019. Dance education. In G. Young, J.O. Shanahan, & L. Young-Overby (Eds.), *Undergraduate Research in Dance: A Guide for Students*. Routledge Press.
- 2018 **LaMotte, M.** 2018. The integrated approach vs. the traditional approach: Analyzing the benefits of a dance integrated curriculum in teaching transportation concepts. *Journal of Dance Education*, 18(1), (23-32).

TECHNICAL REPORTS

- 2025 **LaMotte, M.E.**, Hodge, J.J., Nixon, C., and Anderson, T. (2025). Mentorship at General McLane High School: Mid-year Check-in with Teachers.
- Yang, D., **LaMotte, M.E.**, Anderson, T.A., Diaz-Guitierrez, K., Hodge, J.J. (2025). Mentorship at General McLane High School: Increasing Resilience and Belonging in our Student Community Program Evaluation 24-25.
- Yang, D., Anderson, T.A., Diaz-Guitierrez, K., **LaMotte, M.E.** and Hodge, J.J. (2025). Dafmark Dance Theater Cohort 11: Local Evaluation Report, Program Year 2023-24.
- LaMotte, M.E** and Liao, P. (2025). The Mentor Project: 24-25 Erie County Schools Evaluation Reports.
- LaMotte, M.E** and Anderson, T.A. (2025). Iroquois Elementary School, After-School Program, Marking Period 4 Evaluation.

2024 **LaMotte, M.E.**, Yang, D., Hodge, J.J., Nixon, C. and Kinner, J.G. (2024). Mentorship at General McLane High School: Increasing Resilience and Belonging in our Student Community.

LaMotte, M.E., Hodge, J.J., Nixon, C., Yang, D. and Kinner, J.G. (2024). Harbor Creek Junior High: Initial Teacher Survey.

Yang, D., Kinner, J.G., **LaMotte, M.E.** and Hodge, J.J. (2024). Dafmark Dance Theater Cohort 11: Local Evaluation Report, Program Year 2023-24.

Yang, D., Kinner, J.G. and **LaMotte, M.E.** (2024). Pathways to Success: Summer Start (PaSSS): Evaluation Report for Summer 2024 Program.

FELLOWSHIPS & AWARDS

2023 Recipient of the *Bilinski Educational Foundation Dissertation Year Fellowship*, College of Liberal Arts. University of Nevada, Reno. Funding of \$40,000.

Recipient of the *Outstanding Graduate Teaching Award*, Department of Sociology. University of Nevada, Reno.

2022 Runner-up for the *Founders' Award for Best Paper*, Interdisciplinary Social Psychology Program. University of Nevada, Reno.

2021 Recipient of the *Outstanding Graduate Teaching Assistant*, Department of Sociology. University of Nevada, Reno.

GRANTS

2025 Hartmann, M.A., Johnson, B. G., Young, B. A., Shelton, C., **LaMotte, M. E.**, Hodge, J. J., Anderson, T. A. (External Evaluator). "Virtual and Augmented Reality in Plastic Processing," COP, Department of Community and Economic Development. Total requested: \$199,577. (awarded: December 19, 2025).

2024 **LaMotte, M.E.** and Elliott, M. (Principal Investigator). "How Race and Gender Shape Responses to Symptoms of Major Depressive Disorder: A Nationally Representative Experiment." Time-sharing Experiments for the Social Sciences (TESS) proposal funded by the National Science Foundation.

2022 **LaMotte, M.E.** (Principal Investigator). "In-depth Qualitative Exploration of What Underlies the Black-White Mental Health Paradox" sponsored by the *Society for the Psychological Study of Social Issues*. 2022. \$1,000.

Elliott, M., Berthelot, E., Devereux, P., **LaMotte, M.E.**, Prager, N., & Ragsdale, J. Student Investigator. "Social Determinants of the Impact of COVID-19 Infection on

Mental Health” sponsored by *School for Social Research and Justice Studies*. 2022. \$1,387.

Elliott, M., Ragsdale, J.M. and **LaMotte, M.E.** “Causal Explanations, Treatability, and Mental Illness Stigma: An Experimental Study.” Time-sharing Experiments for the Social Sciences (TESS) proposal funded by the National Science Foundation.

- 2021 Elliott, M. & **LaMotte, M.E.** Student Investigator. “Revisiting the Race Paradox in Mental Health in 2020” sponsored by *School for Social Research and Justice Studies*. 2021. \$1,000.

CONFERENCE ACTIVITY

- 2024 **LaMotte, M.E.**, Elliott, M. and Mouzon, D.M. *An Intersectional Approach to Testing Explanations of the Black-White Mental Health Paradox*. Presentation at the International Conference of Social Stress Research, June 2024, Portland, OR.

LaMotte, M.E., Elliott, M. and Mouzon, D.M. *An Intersectional Approach to Testing Explanations of the Black-White Mental Health Paradox*. Presentation at the American Sociological Association (ASA) Annual Conference, August 2024, Montreal, Canada.

LaMotte, M.E., Elliott, M., Etienne, V. “*This is just Depressed-Ville*”: *Lay Explanations of The Black-White Mental Health Paradox*. Presentation at the Society for the Psychological Study of Social Issues (SPSSI) Annual Conference, June 2024, Philadelphia, PA.

- 2023 Elliott, M., Ragsdale, J.M., Berthelot, E., Devereux, P, **LaMotte, M.E.** and Prager, N. *Social Determinants of the Psychological Effects of the Global Pandemic*. Poster presentation at the Society for the Psychological Study of Social Issues (SPSSI) Annual Conference, June 2023, Denver, CO.

- 2022 Hartzell, S., **LaMotte, M.E.**, Hagen, M., & Devereux, P. *Understanding college students’ covid-19 pandemic experiences through a mixed methods approach*. Roundtable presentation at American Public Health Association (APHA) Annual Meeting, November 2022, Boston, MA.

LaMotte, M.E., Elliott, M. and Mouzon, D.M. *Revisiting the Black-White mental health paradox during the coronavirus pandemic*. Presentation at the American Sociological Association (ASA) Annual Conference, August 2022, Los Angeles, CA.

LaMotte, M.E., Prager, N., Devereux, P. & Elliott, M. *The effects of depression stigma on self-reported symptoms between racial groups: An experimental survey*. Presentation at the Pacific Sociological Association (PSA) Annual Conference, April 2022, Sacramento, CA.

- 2021 **LaMotte, M.E.**, Elliott, M. and Mouzon, D.M. *The race mental health paradox in crisis*. Presented at the Northern Nevada Diversity Summit, April 2021, Reno, NV.
- 2014 **LaMotte, M.** *The integrated approach vs. the traditional approach: Analyzing the benefits of a dance integrated curriculum in teaching transportation concepts*. Paper presented at the National Dance Education Organization (NDEO) Annual Conference, November 2014, Chicago, IL.

COMMISSIONED PRESENTATIONS

- 2025 LaMotte, M.E., Nixon, C. and Hesch, K. Mentorship at General McLane High School: Results from the 2024-2025 Program Evaluation. Data Presentation for General McLane Faculty and Administration, August 2025, Erie, PA.
- 2024 LaMotte, M.E., Nixon, C. and Hesch, K. Mentorship at General McLane High School: Increasing Resilience and Belonging in our Student Community. Data Presentation for General McLane Faculty and Administration, September 2024, Erie, PA.
- Nixon, C., Hesch, K. and LaMotte, M.E. Understanding Your PAYS and School Climate Data. Data Presentation for Harbor Creek Junior High, October 2024, Erie, PA.

CAMPUS TALKS

- 2026 “Research at CORE” *Invited Talk for the Community Engaged Research, Action, and Partnerships Workgroup and Affiliated Departments*. University Park, Penn State University, January 2026.
- “Depression for Thee, but Not for Me: A Vignette-based Experiment of Race, Gender, and Depression Stigma” *Faculty Showcase*, Penn State Behrend, January 2026.
- 2025 “From Insight to Inquiry” *Research Workshop for General McLane’s AP Research Class*, Penn State Behrend, Fall 2025
- 2024 “Career and Training of a Psychologist” *Psychology Coalition Speaker Series*, Penn State Behrend, Fall 2024
- 2023 “Preparing your Bilinski Fellowship Application” *Interdisciplinary Social Psychology Brown Bag*, University of Nevada, Reno, Fall 2023
- 2022 “My Methodologies” *Guest lecture in HON235*, University of Nevada, Reno, Nov 2022
- “The effects of depression stigma on self-reported symptoms between racial groups: An experimental survey.” *Interdisciplinary Social Psychology Brown Bag*, University of Nevada, Reno, March 2022

2021 “The race mental health paradox in crisis.” *Interdisciplinary Social Psychology Brown Bag*, University of Nevada, Reno, March 2021

“The race mental health paradox in crisis.” *Guest lecture in SOC379*, University of Nevada, Reno, April 2021

TEACHING EXPERIENCE

Penn State Behrend

PSYC520: Research Methods

University of Nevada, Reno

APST270: Introduction to Statistical Methods

SOC320: Sociology of Happiness

SOC706: Graduate Intermediate Statistics

RESEARCH INTERESTS

Social Determinants of Well-Being
Prejudice and Discrimination
Race, Class, and Gender
Sexual Violence

Mixed Methods Research
Quantitative Methods and Analysis
Qualitative Methods and Analysis
Survey Methods and Design

PROFESSIONAL SERVICE

Penn State Behrend

Committee Member, Ambassadors of Fun, 2025-Present

Judge, Sigma Xi Undergraduate Student Research and Creative Accomplishment Conference, 2025

University of Nevada, Reno

Mentor, UNR Honors College Career and Community Mentorship Program, 2023-2024

External Co-Chair, Social Psychology Club 2020-2021

Reviewer, Scholarly Refereed Journals

Journal of Mental Health and Clinical Psychology

Journal of Health and Social Behavior

Sociology of Race and Ethnicity

PROFESSIONAL ASSOCIATION

Member, American Sociological Association (ASA)

Member, Society for the Psychological Study of Social Issues (SPSSI)