Wilson N. Merrell

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Academic Employment

Aarhus University
2024 – present — **Postdoctoral Researcher**
Center for the Experimental-Philosophical Study of Discrimination (CEPDISC)

Academic Training and Education

University of Michigan
2018 – 2023 — *Ph.D., Social Psychology*
Advisors: Dr. Josh Ackerman, Dr. Arnold Ho
Committee Members: Dr. David Dunning, Dr. Charleen Case

2023 — *Summer Institute for Personality and Social Psychology*

2021 — *Graduate Teaching Certificate*, Center for Research on Learning and Teaching

2020 — *M.S., Social Psychology*

University of Zurich
2023 — *Research Fellow*

International Max Planck Research School on the Life Course
2021 – 2023 — *Fellow*

Macalester College
2012 - 2016 — *B.A., Psychology (with honors) and Economics*

Research Interests

Hierarchy and Discrimination • Pathogen Management Psychology • Intraminority Intergroup Relations • Fundamental Social Motivations • Social Ecologies • Multiracial Identity

Publications

Ackerman, J., **Merrell, W.**, & Williams, L. (*In press*). Consumer psychology. In D. Carlston, K. Johnson, & K. Hugenberg (Eds.), The Oxford Handbook of Social Cognition, 2nd New York: Oxford University Press.

Merrell, W., Choi, S., Ackerman, J. (2024). When and why people conceal infectious disease. *Psychological Science*. https://doi.org/10.1177/09567976231221990.

Fessler, D.*, **Merrell, W**.*, Holbrook, C., Ackerman, J. (2023). Beware the foe who feels no pain: Relationships between relative formidability and pain sensitivity in U.S. online samples. *Evolution and Human Behavior*. https://doi.org/10.1016/j.evolhumbehav.2022.11.003. [Popular press blog post]

Choi, S., **Merrell, W.**, Ackerman, J. (2023). Safety first, but for whom? Shifts in risk perception for self and others following COVID-19 vaccination. *Social and Personality Psychological Compass*. https://doi.org/10.1111/spc3.12757.

Choi, S., **Merrell, W.**, Ackerman, J. (2022). Keep your distance: Different roles for knowledge and affect in predicting social distancing behavior. *Journal of Health Psychology*. https://doi.org/10.1177/13591053211067100. [Popular press coverage]

Ackerman, J., **Merrell, W**., Choi, S. (2020). What people believe about detecting infectious disease using the senses. *Current Research in Ecological and Social Psychology*. https://doi.org/10.1016/j.cresp.2020.100002

* Represents joint first authorship

Manuscripts invited for revision and resubmission, under review, and submitted for publication

Merrell, W., Vossoughi, N., Kteily, N., Ho, A. (*Invited Revise & Resubmit)*. Looking White but feeling Asian: The role of physical permeability and perceived discrimination in multiracial-monoracial alliances. *Personality and Social Psychology Bulletin*. [Pre-print]

Merrell, W., Ackerman, J. (*Under Review)*. Conspicuous experiences as unique social signals of both status and warmth. [Pre-print]

Vossoughi, N., **Merrell, W.**, Kteily, N., Ho, A. (*Submitted for Publication*). Incorporating egalitarian ideology in models of collective action.

Honors & Awards

Provost Teaching Innovation Prize (2021)**,** University of Michigan, annually recognizes the most innovative pedagogical projects across the University. “Inclusive Teaching in Research

Methods Courses," $5,000 (team members: Julie Boland, Colleen Seifert, Joshua Rabinowitz, Zachary Reese, Nadia Vossoughi)

Fellowships and Grants

Fellowships
Rackham Dissertation Fellowship (2023), University of Michigan, competitive award for senior graduate students to fund dissertation research, about two awarded per year, "Conspicuous experiences as unique signals of both status and warmth," $12,629.

Sweetland Fellows Seminar, Junior Writing Fellow (2021)**,** University of Michigan, selected as one of eight graduate students across the University to participate in a seminar focused on interdisciplinary undergraduate writing instruction and develop my own writing-intensive first year course. $11,000.

Research & Project Grants
Pillsbury Graduate Research Award (2021), University of Michigan, competitive award for senior graduate students to conduct independent research, about five awarded per year. "A First Look at Infectious Disease Concealment," $1,000.

Evolution and Human Adaptation Program Research Award (2020), University of Michigan, competitive award for projects that address an important theoretical area relevant to evolutionary approaches to human adaptation, about five awarded per year. "Exploring Fundamental Motivations in Older Adults," $1,000.

Rackham Graduate Student Research Grant (2020), University of Michigan, award to support independent research pre-candidacy, "Flaunting Ferraris or Florence? Exploring Patterns of Material vs. Experiential Conspicuous Consumption," $1,500.

Small Travel & Training Grants
Rackham Graduate Student Research Grant (2023), University of Michigan, award to support independent research post-candidacy, "Infectious disease concealment," $3,000.

Rackham Professional Development Grant (2023), University of Michigan, funding for attendance at SPSP's Summer Institute in Social and Personality Psychology, $400.

Early Career Award, Network of Multiracial Scholars (2020), Society for Personality and Social Psychology, $100.

Rackham Institute for Social Research Training Award (2020), University of Michigan, "Multi-Level Modeling," $2,600.

Rackham Conference Travel Award, University of Michigan. $900

- 2024, “Looking White but Feeling Asian: The Role of Physical Permeability and Perceived Discrimination in Multiracial-Monoracial Alliances”
- 2023, “Beware the Foe who Feels no Pain.”
- 2022, “Infectious Disease Concealment.”
- 2020, “Revisiting Conspicuous Consumption as a Costly Signal.”
- 2019, “Conspicuous Consumption of Experiential Goods.”

Academic Presentations

**Refereed*; ^*Invited*

Symposia Chaired
Banding together, pulling apart? Challenging racial hierarchy through intraminority coalitions (co-chair Dr. Nadia Vossoughi). Annual Meeting of the Society for Personality and Social Psychology, San Diego, CA (2024).**

- Talk presented: Looking White but Feeling Asian: The Role of Physical Permeability and Perceived Discrimination in Multiracial-Monoracial Alliances

Hiding who we are, what we know, and how we feel (co-chair Dr. Josh Ackerman). Annual Meeting of the Society for Personality and Social Psychology. Atlanta, GA (2023).*

- Talk presented: Infectious disease concealment

Presented talks listed by topic
Note: Some presentations were given under varied titles

Infectious Disease Concealment

Nov 2023 – LIFE Academy, University of Zurich^
Oct 2023 – Society of Experimental Psychology, Madison WI* (Josh Ackerman presented talk on my behalf due to conference rules)*
May 2022 – LIFE Academy, University of Virginia (virtual)^
March 2021 – Social Psychology Brown Bag Series, University of Michigan (virtual)

Asian-White Multiracial Identity

Dec 2023 – University of Richmond^
Nov 2023 – St. Olaf College^
Nov 2023 – Social Psychology Brown Bag Series, University of Michigan
May 2023 – LIFE Program Academy, University of Michigan^
Feb 2023 – Haverford College (virtual)^
Dec 2022 – Gustavus Adolphus College^
Nov 2022 – Lake Forest College^

Experiential Conspicuous Consumption

Nov 2022 – LIFE Program Academy, Max Planck Institute for Human Development^
Apr 2019 – Social Psychology Brown Bag Series, University of Michigan

Pain sensitivity and Formidability

May 2023 – Human Behavior and Evolutionary Society, Palm Springs CA*
Nov 2021 – Social Psychology Brown Bag Series, University of Michigan (virtual)

Critical Pedagogy in Research Methods (with Nadia Vossoughi)

Feb 2021 – Society for the Teaching of Psychology Pre-Conference at the Society for Personality and Social Psychology (virtual)*

Fundamental Social Motives and Older Adults

Feb 2021 – Social Psychology Brown Bag Series, University of Michigan

Teaching experience

Overall instructor efficacy ratings (based on student evaluations)

Winter 2019	Fall 2019	Winter 2020	Fall 2020	Winter 2021	Fall 2021
4.9/5.0	4.9/5.0	4.9/5.0	5.0/5.0	N/A, grading position	5.0/5.0

Courses taught

Fall 2021	**Instructor of Record**, "Separating Fact from Fiction in Psychological Science;" self-created course developed for the Sweetland Fellows Seminar as a first year writing seminar in the English department. (Syllabus)
Winter 2021	**Graduate Student Instructor**, "Introduction to Psychology." Responsible for test creation and grading assignments.
Winter 2020 and Fall 2020	**Graduate Student Instructor,** "Research Methods in Psychology." Taught two lab sections per semester of 20 students each, designed lesson plans, oversaw semester-long individual research projects. In Winter 2020 developed modules on critical pedagogy to create a more inclusive research methods curriculum. (materials)
Winter 2019 and Fall 2019	**Graduate Student Instructor, "**Introduction to Social Psychology." Taught three discussion sections per semester of 25 students each, designed lesson plans, wrote exams with teaching team, and held office hours.

Undergraduate Research Advising

At the University of Michigan, students engage with research labs by signing up for courses that provide them with different levels of research training. Under "independent research supervision" you will see students I have supervised who developed their own projects for year-long or semester-long papers. Oftentimes my role here was to provide feedback on big picture theoretical ideas, help them design studies, and provide feedback on analyses and manuscript drafts. Under "lab research supervision" you

will see projects I have supervised as part of my own or my advisors' broader program of research. For these students my role was to teach and oversee literature reviews, data cleaning in R, stimuli development, participant recruitment, and conducting laboratory studies.

Independent research supervision

AY 2021-2022	Honors Thesis (co-advised with Dr. Josh Ackerman) Ariella Kushner *Disease concealment and welfare trade-off ratios*
Fall 2021	Directed Advanced Research for Psychology William Gonzalez *Lay beliefs about scent and social class*
Fall 2020	Directed Advanced Research for Psychology Ariella Kushner *Social harm and infectious disease concealment*

Lab research supervision

Sclera coloration and infectious disease threats (Spring 2023, 1 RA)
Motivations underlying infectious disease concealment (Winter 2023, 2 RAs)
Experiential conspicuous consumption, dominance, and prestige (Fall 2022, 3 RAs)
Environmental harshness and pain sensitivity (Winter 2022. 5 RAs)
Children's perceptions of status signals (Fall 2020, 3 RAs)
Strategic disease concealment (Winter 2020, 3 RAs)
Speed of processing in online dating (Fall 2019 3, RAs)
Humblebragging in the online and offline sphere (Winter 2019, 3 RAs)

Service to the field

Ad hoc reviewer, *Evolution and Human Behavior*

Positions Held

2021 - 2023	**Graduate Student Instructional Consultant**, Center for the Research on Learning and Teaching, University of Michigan.
2019 - 2020	**Academic Mentor for Football**, Academic Success Program, University of Michigan Athletics Department
2016 - 2018	**Research Analyst**, The Brattle Group, Washington DC
2013 - 2016	**Research Assistant**, Macalester College eye-tracking lab (Dr. R. Brooke Lea), St. Paul MN

Leadership & Departmental Service

2021 - 2022	**Social Area Departmental Associate**, University of Michigan, attended faculty

	meetings to serve as one of two student representatives for our area.
2021	**Graduate Student Admissions Committee**, University of Michigan, one of four students chosen to read applications and decide on admissions for the next cohort of social area students.
2020	**Recruitment Weekend Organizer**, University of Michigan, one of two students chosen To plan and facilitate recruitment weekend activities for prospective students
2019 - 2020	**Diversity Representative,** Psychology Diversity Committee, University of Michigan
2019 - 2022	**Co-chair,** Asian Psychological Student Association, University of Michigan
2018 - 2019	**Treasurer**, Asian Psychological Student Association, University of Michigan
2018 - 2020	**Player**, Maize FC, University of Michigan club soccer team
2015 - 2016	**Captain**, Macalester men's varsity tennis team
2012 - 2015	**Player**, Macalester College men's varsity tennis team
2012 - 2016	**Player**, Macalester College men's varsity soccer team
2012 - 2016	**Representative**, Macalester College student-athlete academic advisory committee

Professional Memberships

American Psychological Association
Society for Personality and Social Psychology
Human Behavior and Evolution Society

Programming Skills

R, Stata, SPSS, MPlus, Excel, Qualtrics, SR Experiment Builder, SR Data Viewer

References

Dr. Josh Ackerman
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Dr. Arnold Ho
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Dr. David Dunning
Professor of Psychology, University of Michigan
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Dr. Theresa Tinkle
Director, Sweetland Center for Writing, Professor of English and Arthur F. Thurnau Professor, University of Michigan
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