

Christi L. Nelson

School of Aging Studies
College of Community and Behavioral Sciences
University of South Florida
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Education

- Ph.D. University of South Florida, Tampa, FL
Aging Studies, 2018-Present
- M.A. University of Massachusetts Dartmouth, North Dartmouth, MA
Research Psychology, 2015
Thesis Title: *“The Effects of Personality and Marital Status on Cognitive Performance in Community-Dwelling Older Adults”*
- B.A. Bridgewater State University, Bridgewater, MA
Psychology, Sociology, 2010
Thesis Title: *“An Examination of College Students’ Attitudes Toward Aging”*

Professional Experience

- 2018- Present Graduate Teaching Associate, University of South Florida, Tampa, FL
- 2017- 2018 Teacher/Counselor, Lifeworks INC, Westwood, MA
- 2013- 2017 Relief Staff (per diem), Lifeworks INC, Westwood, MA
- 2012- 2013 Teacher/Counselor, Lifeworks INC, Westwood, MA

Grants

- 2014 College of Arts and Sciences Dean’s Graduate Thesis Support Grant
- 2009 Adrian Tinsley Program Travel Grant
- 2009 Adrian Tinsley Program Semester Grant

Research

Current Research Interests

Lesbian, gay, bisexual, and transgender older adults; intellectual and developmental disabilities; cognitive aging

Peer-Reviewed Conference Presentations

Revell, A.J. Iuchno, Campbell, Vertentes, & Nelson, C. L. (2015, July). “*Fear of Falling Predicts Depression, High-Risk Medications, and Declines in Word List Memory.*” Poster presented at Alzheimer’s Association International Conference, Washington, D.C.

Nelson, C. L., Revell, A. J. (2014, November). “*Marital Status Predicts Better Episodic and Semantic Memory Performance in Older Adults.*” Poster presented at the Gerontological Society of America (GSA) Annual Scientific Meeting, Washington, D.C.

Nelson, C. L. (2011, February). “*The Fear of Aging: An Examination of College Students’ Attitudes Toward Aging.*” Paper presented at the Eastern Sociological Society Annual Meeting, Philadelphia, PA.

Cohen, J. H., Raymond, J. M., Nelson, C. L. (2010, October). “*Voices in the discussion of Heritage: What World Heritage means to visitors and residents in Lunenburg, Nova Scotia.*” Paper presented at the Middle Atlantic & New England Council for Canadian Studies, Providence, RI.

Nelson, C. L. (2010, Spring). “*Anti-Aging: An Examination of College Students’ Attitudes Toward Aging.*” Paper presented at the Bridgewater State College Undergraduate Research symposium, Bridgewater, MA.

Nelson, C. L. (2010, April). “*Forever Young?: An examination of College Students’ Attitudes Toward Aging.*” Paper presented at the National Conference for Undergraduate Research, Missoula, MT.

Nelson, C. L. (2009, April). “*An Analysis of Bridgewater State College's Campus Climate in Relation to LGBT Students.*” Paper presented at the Bridgewater State University Undergraduate Research Symposium, Bridgewater, MA.

Nelson, C. L. (2009, April). “*Higher Education- Narrow-Minded and Unsupportive?: An Analysis of Support on Campus for LGBT Students.*” Paper presented at the Southern Sociological Society Annual Meeting, New Orleans, LA.

Research Experience

Master’s Thesis, University of Massachusetts Dartmouth, Department of Psychology

Project: The Effects of Personality and Marital Status on Cognitive Performance in Community-Dwelling Older Adults

PI: Christi Nelson, September 2014- August 2015

Description: Successfully proposed study; received IRB approval for study with older adult participants; awarded grant funding; recruited, scheduled, and interviewed 52 community-dwelling older adults; administered neuropsychological assessments; assessed health and demographic information, cognitive performance and personality characteristics; managed

finances, lab and testing materials; managed a research assistant; entered and analyzed data in SPSS.

Research Assistant, University of Massachusetts Dartmouth

Project: Emotional and Cortisol Differences associated with Context-Inappropriate Anger

PI: Dr. Robin Locke-Arkerson), May 2014- January 2015

Description: Recruited children for study, communicated and interacted with parents, trained new research assistants, communicated with contact person at a local hospital for potential recruitment opportunities, coordinated recruitment and experimentation at testing site at a local hospital, conducted behavioral assessments and cortisol assessments.

Research Assistant, University of Massachusetts Dartmouth, Laboratory of Adult Cognitive Development

Project: Southcoast Cognitive Aging Study

PI: Dr. Andrew Revell, September 2013- May 2015

Description: Trained to administer neuropsychological assessments to older adults; coordinated data entry in SPSS.

World Heritage Site Sociological Research Group, Lunenburg, Nova Scotia, Canada

Project: Voices in the discussion of Heritage: What World Heritage means to visitors and residents in Lunenburg, Nova Scotia

PI: Dr. Jodi Cohen, July 2010

Description: Conducted street interviews with town officials, residents, and visitors of Lunenburg, Nova Scotia as part of a research team; recorded and transcribed interviews; presented research at the 2010 Middle Atlantic & New England Council for Canadian Studies annual conference.

Undergraduate Honors Thesis, Bridgewater State College, Bridgewater, MA, Department of Sociology

Project: An Examination of College Students' Attitudes Toward Aging

PI: Christi Nelson, Fall 2009- Spring 2010

Description: Received IRB approval and grant funding for research study involving human subjects; recruited and surveyed 194 psychology and sociology students at Bridgewater State College; entered and analyzed data in SPSS; presented research at the 2010 National Conference for Undergraduate Research.

Sociology of Education Research Group, Bridgewater State College, Bridgewater, MA, Department of Sociology

Project: Higher Education- Narrow-Minded and Unsupportive?: An Analysis of Support on Campus for LGBT Students.

Supervisor: Dr. Jodi Cohen, Fall 2008

Description: Surveyed students in Introduction to Sociology classes on their perceptions of campus climate and safety as part of a research team; conducted and facilitated focus group discussions; entered and analyzed data using SPSS; presented research at the 2009 Southern Sociological Society Conference.

Approved IRBs for Human Subjects Research

15.001. *The Effects of Personality on Cognitive Performance in Late Life*. Submitted to University of Massachusetts Dartmouth.

Teaching Experience

Fall 2018 Guest Lecture, University of South Florida
Course: Psychology of Aging, Fall 2018
Instructor: Dr. Soomi Lee
Topic: Dementia and Alzheimer's Disease

Fall 2019 Instructor, University of South Florida
Course: Psychology of Aging, Fall 2019

Honors, Awards, and Memberships

2018-Present Gerontological Society of America Student Member
2014 Gerontological Society of America Student Member
2014 Psi Chi International Honors Society in Psychology
2011 Eastern Sociological Society Student Member
2009 Alpha Kappa Delta National Sociology Honors Society
2006-2010 John and Abigail Adams Scholarship