

KAREN E. SMITH

Address: 1500 Highland Av Rm 395, Madison, WI 53705

Email: kesmith23@wisc.edu

Phone: 406.209.2567

Website: <https://karenesmithphd.com/>

Google Scholar: <https://scholar.google.com/citations?user=OyPL9SYAAAAAJ&hl=en>

EDUCATION

June 2018	Ph.D., University of Chicago Psychology, Integrative Neuroscience
August 2015	M.A., University of Chicago Social Sciences, Integrative Neuroscience
June 2011	B.A., University of Chicago Psychology, With honors

ACADEMIC APPOINTMENTS

2018 - Current	Postdoctoral Scholar Dr. Seth Pollak, Child Emotion Lab Department of Psychology, University of Wisconsin - Madison
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PEER REVIEWED PUBLICATIONS

Smith, K.E. & Pollak, S.D. (2022). Children's value-based decision making. *Scientific Reports*, 12, 5953. <https://doi.org/10.1038/s41598-022-09894-3>

Smith, K.E. & Pollak, S.D. (2022). Approach motivation and loneliness: Individual differences and parasympathetic activity. *Psychophysiology*. <https://doi.org/10.1111/psyp.14036>

Smith, K.E. & Pollak, S.D. (2021). Early life stress and perceived social isolation influence how children use value information to guide behavior. *Child Development*. <https://doi.org/10.1111/cdev.13727>

Pollak, S.D. & **Smith, K.E.** (2021). Thinking clearly about biology and childhood adversity: Next steps for continued progress. *Perspectives on Psychological Science*, 16(6), 1473-1477. <https://doi.org/10.1177%2F17456916211031539>

Smith, K.E. & Pollak, S.D. (2021). Social relationships and children's perceptions of adversity. *Child Development Perspectives*, 15(4), 228-234. <https://doi.org/10.1111/cdep.12427>

Smith, K.E. & Pollak, S.D. (2021). Early life stress and neural development: Implications for understanding the developmental effects of COVID-19. *Cognitive, Affective, & Behavioral Neuroscience*. <https://doi.org/10.3758/s13415-021-00901-0>

Smith, K.E., Norman, G.J., & Decety, J. (2020). Increases in loneliness during medical school are associated with increases in individuals' likelihood of mislabeling emotions as negative. *Emotion*. <https://psycnet.apa.org/doi/10.1037/emo0000773>

Smith, K.E. & Pollak, S.D. (2020). Re-thinking concepts and categories for understanding the neurodevelopmental effects of early childhood adversity. *Perspectives on Psychological Science*, 16(1), 67-93. <https://doi.org/10.1177%2F1745691620920725>

Smith, K.E. & Pollak, S.D. (2020). Early life stress and development: Potential mechanisms for adverse outcomes. *Journal of Neurodevelopmental Disorders*, 12, 34. <https://doi.org/10.1186/s11689-020-09337-y>

Smith, K.E., Leitzke, B.T., & Pollak, S.D. (2020). Youth's processing of emotion information: Responses to chronic and video-based laboratory stress. *PNEC*, 122, 104873. <https://doi.org/10.1016/j.psyneuen.2020.104873>

Smith, K.E., Norman, G.J., & Decety, J. (2020). Medical students' empathy positively predicts their charitable donation behavior. *Journal of Positive Psychology*, 15(6), 734-742. <https://doi.org/10.1080/17439760.2019.1651889>

Dimitroff, S.J., Harrod, E., **Smith, K.E.**, Faig, K.E., Decety, J., & Norman, G.J. (2019). Third party punishment following observed social rejection. *Emotion*, 20(4), 713-720. <https://psycnet.apa.org/doi/10.1037/emo0000607>

Stenfors, C.U.D., Van hedger, S.C., Schertz, K.E., Meyer, F., **Smith, K.E.**, Norman, G.J., Bourrier, S.C., Enns, J.T., Karden, O., Jonides, J., & Berman, M.G. (2019). Positive effects of nature on cognitive performance across multiple experiments: Test order but not affect modulates the effect. *Frontiers in Psychology*, 10, 1413. <https://doi.org/10.3389/fpsyg.2019.01413>

Decety, J., **Smith, K.E.**, & Norman, G.J. (2018). Predictive utility cannot substitute for construct validity. *Medical Education*, 52(4), 456-458. <https://doi.org/10.1111/medu.13506>

Smith, K.E., Norman, G.J., & Decety, J. (2017). The complexity of empathy during medical school training: Evidence for positive changes. *Medical Education*, 51(11), 1146-1159. <https://doi.org/10.1111/medu.13398>

Smith, K.E. & Norman, G.J. (2017). Brief relaxation training is not sufficient to alter tolerance to experimental pain in novices. *PloSOne*, 12(5), e017728. <https://doi.org/10.1371/journal.pone.0177228>

Porges, E.C., **Smith, K.E.**, & Decety, J. (2015). Individual differences in vagal regulation are related to testosterone responses to observed violence. *Frontiers in Psychology*, 6, 19. <https://doi.org/10.3389/fpsyg.2015.00019>

Smith, K.E.* & Faig, K.E.* (2014). The role of flexibility in personal space preferences. *The Journal of Neuroscience*, 34(31), 10135-10136. <https://doi.org/10.1523/JNEUROSCI.1997-14.2014>

Decety, J., **Smith, K.E.**, Norman, G.J., & Halpern, J. (2014). A social neuroscience perspective on clinical empathy. *World Psychiatry*, 13(3), 233-237. <https://doi.org/10.1002/wps.20146>

Smith, K.E.*, Porges, E.C.*, Norman, G.J., Connelly, J.J., & Decety, J. (2014). Oxytocin receptor gene variation predicts empathic concern and autonomic arousal while perceiving harm to others. *Social Neuroscience*, 9(1), 1-9. <https://doi.org/10.1080/17470919.2013.863223>

*Authors contributed equally to manuscript

PUBLICATIONS UNDER REVIEW AND IN REVISION

Faig, K.E., **Smith, K.E.**, & Dimitroff, S.J. Somatovisceral influences on emotional development. Under review.

Smith, K.E., Dimitroff, S.J., Faig, K.E., Silver, E., & Norman, G.J. Interactions between early life stress, home environment, and children's self-regulatory behaviors. Under review.

Smith, K.E., Graf, E., Faig, K.E., Dimitroff, S.J., Rockwood, F.M., Hernandez, M.W., & Norman, G.J. Perceived control, loneliness, early-life stress, and parents' perceptions of stress: Convergent evidence from two populations. Under review.

Faig, K.E., Necka, E.A., **Smith, K.E.**, Dimitroff, S.J., & Norman, G.J. Resting RSA predicts malodor-induced increase in perceived foreignness of outgroup speakers. Under review.

ORAL PRESENTATIONS AND INVITED TALKS

Smith, K.E. (2021). Perceived social isolation, resting parasympathetic activity, and motivated behaviors in children and adults. Talk presented as part of an oral session at the annual meeting of the International Society for Developmental Psychobiology. Hybrid conference.

Smith, K.E. (2021). Understanding variability in responses to stress: An integrative cross-disciplinary approach. Invited talk hosted by the Department of Psychology at Hamilton College. Virtual talk.

Smith, K.E., Leitzke, B.T., & Pollak, S.D. (2020). A video-based Trier Social Stress Test for youths. In B.M. Reid & B. Donzella (chairs) *Successes and challenges adapting the Trier Social Stress Test for remote, diverse, and fMRI populations*. Talk presented as part of a paper symposium conducted at the biennial meeting of the Society for Research in Child Development. Virtual conference.

Smith, K.E. & Pollak, S.D. (2020). Children's use of value information is characterized by differential autonomic reactivity during learning. Talk presented at the annual meeting of the International Society for Psychoneuroendocrinology. Virtual conference.

Smith, K.E. (2020). Stress and loneliness: Thinking about their relationship to COVID-19. Invited talk presented as a part of the Colorado Academy's SPEAK lecture virtual lecture series. Denver, CO.

Smith, K.E. (2019). Understanding individual differences in responses to stress: A focus on early childhood. Talk presented at the University of Wisconsin – Madison Department of Psychology Developmental and Social Brownbag. Madison, WI.

Smith, K.E. & Pollak, S.D. (2019). Psychophysiological encoding of value signals in children exposed to abuse. In K.E. Smith (chair) & J. Raper (co-chair) *Effects of parenting and disease on human and non-human primate brain development*. Talk presented as part of a nanosymposium conducted at the annual meeting of the Society for Neuroscience. Chicago, IL.

Smith, K.E. (2018). University of Chicago and Child and Parent Services (CAPS) collaboration: Cooperative Family Development Parenting Course. Talk presented at June staff meeting of Cooperative Family Development Parenting Course at Child and Parent Services (CAPS). Elkhart, IN.

Smith, K.E. (2018). University of Chicago and Child and Parent Services (CAPS) collaboration: Building Blocks Preschool. Talk presented at June staff meeting of Buildings Blocks Preschool at Child and Parent Services (CAPS). Elkhart, IN.

Smith, K.E. (2017). Understanding individual differences in responses to early life stress. Talk presented at the University of Chicago Psychology Department Cognition Workshop Series. Chicago, IL.

Smith, K.E. & Norman, G.J. (2017). Intervention efficacy for at risk children and parents: What contributes to individual differences. Talk presented at the January Board meeting of Child and Parent Services (CAPS). Elkhart, IN.

Smith, K.E. (2016). Individual differences in the experience of early adversity. Talk presented at the University of Chicago's Psychology Department's Developmental Brownbag Seminar Series. Chicago, IL.

Smith, K.E. (2015). The effects of an acute dose of acetaminophen on perceived social rejection. Talk presented at the Chicago Psychology Graduate Student Research Symposium. Chicago, IL.

Smith, K.E. (2014). Factors that modulate behavioral changes in children who have experienced early adversity. Talk presented at the University of Chicago Wisdom Research Forum. Chicago, IL.

Smith, K.E. (2014). The effects of early adversity on social and emotional behavior. Talk presented at the University of Chicago Wisdom Research Forum. Chicago, IL.

PUBLISHED POSTER ABSTRACTS

Smith, K.E. & Pollak, S.D. (2021). Perceived social isolation, resting parasympathetic activity, and motivated behaviors. Poster presented at the annual meeting of the Society for Neuroscience. Virtual Conference.

Smith, K.E. & Pollak, S.D. (2020). Stress, predictability, parasympathetic activity, and children's motivated behaviors. Poster presented at the annual meeting of the International Society for Developmental Psychobiology. Virtual conference.

Smith, K.E. & Pollak, S.D. (2020). Stress exposure, perceived predictability, parasympathetic cardiac regulation, and children's approach and avoidance behaviors. Poster presented at the annual meeting of the Society for Psychophysiological Research. Virtual conference.

Faig, K.E., **Smith, K.E.**, Necka, E.A., & Norman, G.J. (2020). Depressive symptomology and resting parasympathetic functioning are associated with positive evaluation of emotional pictures. Poster presented at the annual meeting of the Society for Psychophysiological Research. Virtual conference.

Faig, K.E., Necka, E.A., Onishi, K.O., **Smith, K.E.**, Dimitroff, S.J., & Norman, G.J. (2020). Baseline parasympathetic functioning is associated with vaccine-induced changes in social attention and motivation. Poster presented at the annual meeting of the International Society for Psychoneuroendocrinology. Virtual conference.

Smith, K.E., Dimitroff, S.J., & Norman, G.J. (2018). Parasympathetic cardiac functioning and children's behavioral responses to abuse. Poster presented at the annual meeting of the Society for Psychophysiological Research. Quebec City, Quebec, Canada.

Rockwood, F.M., **Smith, K.E.**, & Norman, G.J. (2018). The relationship between early life adversity, parasympathetic cardiac functioning, and current perceived stress in parents of young children. Poster presented at the annual meeting of the Society for Psychophysiological Research. Quebec City, Quebec, Canada.

Smith, K.E., & Norman, G.J. (2017). Interactions between behavior and autonomic cardiac functioning: Change over time in preschool program targeting children exposed to early-life stress. Poster presented at the annual meeting of the Society for Social Neuroscience. Washington, DC.

Faig, K.E., Necka, E.A., **Smith, K.E.**, Dimitroff, S.J., Rockwood, F.M., & Norman, G.J. (2017). Autonomic nervous system activity and disgust sensitivity predict social evaluation of speech. Poster presented at the annual meeting of the Society for Social Neuroscience. Washington, DC.

Dimitroff, S.J., Harrod, E.G., Faig, K.E., **Smith, K.E.**, & Norman, G.J. (2017). Elevated resting heart rate as a predictor of altruistic behavior. Poster presented at the annual meeting of the Society for Social Neuroscience. Washington, DC.

Smith, K.E., Dimitroff, S.J., Faig, K.E., Rockwood, F.M., & Norman, G.J. (2017). Parasympathetic nervous system functioning predicts changes in self-regulatory behaviors in children exposed to early life stress. Poster presented at the annual meeting of the Society for Psychophysiological Research. Vienna, Austria.

Dimitroff, S.J., **Smith, K.E.**, Faig, K.E., Rockwood, F.M. & Norman, G.J. (2017). Physiological factors that predict the detection of anxiety in others. Poster presented at the annual meeting of the Society for Psychophysiological Research. Vienna, Austria.

Smith, K.E. & Norman, G.J. (2017). Parasympathetic nervous system functioning predicts behavioral changes in children exposed to early life stress. Poster presented at the biennial meeting of the Society for Research in Child Development. Austin, TX.

Smith, K.E. & Norman, G.J. (2017). Individual differences in at risk children's behavior: Influences of prior exposure to stress. Poster presented at the biennial meeting of the Society for Research in Child Development. Austin, TX.

Smith, K.E. & Norman, G.J. (2016). Parasympathetic nervous system functioning predicts behavioral changes in children exposed to early life stress. Poster presented at the International Society for Developmental Psychobiology's Poster Showcase at the annual meeting of the Society for Neuroscience. San Diego, CA.

Smith, K.E. & Norman, G.J. (2016). Parasympathetic nervous system functioning predicts behavioral changes in children exposed to early life stress. Poster presented at the annual meeting of the International Society for Developmental Psychobiology. San Diego, CA.

Van Hedger, K., Necka, E.A., **Smith, K.E.**, & Norman, G.J. (2015). Examining the psychophysiological effects of social stress on time perception. Poster presented at the annual meeting of the Society for Psychophysiological Research. Seattle, WA.

Porges, E.C., **Smith, K.**, & Decety, J. (2012). Resting vagal regulation predicts testosterone responses to observed violence. Poster presented at annual meeting of Society for Psychophysiological Research. New Orleans, LA.

Coleman, D., Aylward, S., Zageris, D., Lewis, G., Macellaio, M., **Smith, K.**, Heilman, K., & Porges, S.W. (2012). Excessive crying in infants at 6 months is related to atypical autonomic reactivity and social behavior at 36 months. Poster presented at annual meeting of The Midwestern Psychological Association. Chicago, IL.

Porges, E.C., **Smith, K.**, & Decety, J. (2012). Resting vagal regulation predicts sympathetic and testosterone responses to observed violence. Poster presented at the annual meeting of Cognitive Neuroscience. Chicago, IL.

Smith, K., Porges, E.C., & Decety, J. (2011). Autonomic responses to viewing mixed martial arts and individual factors which influence them. Poster presented at the University of Chicago CCIHE Undergraduate Research Symposium. Chicago, IL.

Smith, K., Porges, E.C., & Decety, J. (2011). Autonomic responses to viewing mixed martial arts and individual factors which influence them. Poster presented at the University of Chicago Psychology Department Honors Day. Chicago, IL.

GRANTS, FELLOWSHIPS, AND AWARDS

2021	International Society for Developmental Psychobiology Travel Award
2018 – 2021	NIMH Training Program in Emotion Research
2020	Student Poster Award: International Society for Psychoneuroendocrinology
2017	Norman Henry Anderson Travel Fund Award
2017	University of Chicago Graduate Council Travel Fund Award
2016	Psychology Graduate Student Organization Travel and Research, Travel Award
2016	International Society for Developmental Psychobiology Travel Award
2015	Norman Henry Anderson Research Fund Award
2014	Psychology Graduate Student Organization Travel and Research, Research Award
2014	Norman Henry Anderson Research Fund Award
2013 – 2018	Social Sciences Fellowship: The University of Chicago
2012	Student Poster Award: Society for Psychophysiological Research
2008 – 2011	Dean’s List Honors: University of Chicago

TEACHING AND MENTORING

2022 Spring	Guest Lecturer, University of Florida Methods in Cognitive Neuroscience
2022 Spring	Guest Lecturer, Hamilton College Emotion
2021 Spring	Health Psychology
2017 Winter	Guest Lecturer, University of Chicago Windows to the Social Brain
2017 Spring	Teaching Assistant, University of Chicago Developmental Psychology
2017 Winter	Biological Psychology
2017 Winter	Windows to the Social Brain
2016 Winter	Biological Psychology
2015 Fall	Psychology and Neurobiology of Stress
2021 – Current	Research Mentor, University of Wisconsin – Madison Alex Henoch, Undergraduate Research Assistant Eden Comer, Undergraduate Research Assistant Weijia Liang, Undergraduate Research Assistant
2021 – 2021	Julian Bok, Undergraduate Research Assistant
2019 – 2021	Anisa Ciaciura, Undergraduate Research Assistant
2019 – 2020	Ava Painter, Undergraduate Research Assistant Zoey Dlott, Undergraduate Research Assistant Emma Collins, Undergraduate Research Assistant
2017 – 2019	Research Mentor, University of Chicago Naomi Ganz, Undergraduate Thesis Student
2014 – 2017	Arielle Von Hippel, Undergraduate and Masters Research Assistant

SKILLS AND TECHNIQUES

Psychophysiological data collection, extraction, and analysis techniques

Methods: Proficient with electrocardiogram (ECG), cardiothoracic impedance, galvanic skin response/skin conductance (GSR), blood pressure, electromyography (EMG), gene extraction and isolation, hormone collection and ELISAs; Familiar with fMRI and EEG techniques; Ambulatory psychophysiological data collection and analysis

Software: Mindware Systems acquisition and analysis software, Biopac Systems Acknowledge acquisition and analysis software, CardioEdit and CardioBatch (Brain-Body Center) heart rate and heart rate variability analysis software

Stimulus and survey presentation software

E-prime, Inquisit, Direct RT, Qualtrics, Lookit, JSPsych, and other similar presentation platforms

Data analysis and coding

Analysis Techniques: longitudinal data analysis, time series analysis, multilevel modeling/hierarchical linear modeling (HLM), survival analysis, structural equation modeling (SEM) and path analysis, logistic regression, analysis of variance techniques, cluster analysis techniques

Programming Skills: R, SPSS, Matlab, HLM 7, JavaScript, Python

PROFESSIONAL SERVICE

Department Service

2013 – 2018	Member Psychology Graduate Student Organization Travel and Research Committee
2015 – 2016	Head of Psychology Graduate Student Organization Travel and Research Committee
2014 – 2015	Treasurer Psychology Graduate Student Organization

Society Membership

2020 – Current	International Society for Psychoneuroendocrinology
2017 – Current	Society for Social Neuroscience
2016 – Current	Society for Neuroscience
2016 – Current	Society for International Developmental Psychobiology
2016 – Current	Society for Research in Child Development
2014 – Current	Society for Psychophysiological Research

Reviewer

Adaptive Human Behavior & Physiology
Assessment
Biological Psychiatry
Child Abuse & Neglect
Child Development
Cognition & Emotion
Developmental Psychobiology
Development & Psychopathology
Developmental Review
Early Human Development
Health Psychology
Human Brain Mapping
Journal of Child Psychology & Psychiatry
Journal of Experimental Social Psychology
Neuroscience & Biobehavioral Reviews
Perspectives on Psychological Science
PLOS One
Psychological Science
Psychophysiology
SAGE Open

Outreach and Media

Smith, K.E. (2020) Coping with the “Quarantine Blues.” *Badger Talks University of Wisconsin-Madison*. <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Sxb6SpY1Z08&feature=youtu.be>

Smith, K.E. (2020) Crossroads of Ideas COVID-19 Edition Part 2: Settling in – UW-Madison contributions to managing the pandemic. Panelist. *University of Wisconsin-Madison WARF*. https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Wxl_ruv1dnI&t=7s

Smith, K.E. (2020) Psychological effects from COVID-19. Interview with Dennis Shaffer. *Perpetual Notion Machine, WORT-FM*. Madison, WI. <https://www.wortfm.org/psychological-effects-from-covid-19/>

Smith, K.E. (2020) You are not alone. Interview with A.R. Conklin. *University of Wisconsin-Madison College of Letters & Science*. <https://ls.wisc.edu/news/you-are-not-alone>

Smith, K.E. (2020) We are interacting less during the pandemic: Here's why some people are feeling better than others. Interview with A. Rogan. *The Journal Times*. Racine, WI. https://journaltimes.com/news/local/we-are-interacting-less-during-the-pandemic-here-s-why-some-people-are-feeling-better/article_0cb03951-7017-5548-af85-7c4725d3e2a1.html?fbclid=IwAR05DJGW15fBbqOxTF9VADhmoCrB2176bwTdnbCvDTHlwl1N8RBMH9yYnBI

Smith, K.E. (2020) Back on campus, COVID-19 challenges students' mental health. Interview with S. Bolich. *The Cap Times*. Madison, WI. https://madison.com/ct/news/local/education/back-on-campus-covid-19-challenges-students-mental-health/article_e6597095-5238-59a9-90e6-765c1f155d9f.html