

Ross E. O'Hara

Curriculum Vitae

October 9, 2010

Psychological and Brain Sciences Office: (603) 646-0071
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Education

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- Dartmouth College, Ph.D., expected June, 2011 2008 – 2011
Department of Psychological and Brain Sciences
Advisor: Frederick X. Gibbons
Dissertation – The role of anticipated emotion in health decision making:
An extension of the Prototype / Willingness Model
- Iowa State University, M.S., August, 2008 2006 – 2008
Department of Psychology
Advisors: Frederick X. Gibbons & Meg Gerrard
Thesis – The effect of perceived control and stress on college students'
willingness and intention to binge drink
- Albion College, B.A., *Summa cum laude*, May, 2006 2002 – 2006
Double major: Psychology and English with a Creative Writing focus
Joseph C. Heston Award for Outstanding Senior Psychology Major
Kirsten D. Metalonis Memorial Scholarship in Psychology
Thesis advisor: Mark I. Walter
Thesis – The parsimony of electoral decision making: Need for cognition
and need for closure as predictors of political interest

Publications

Peer-reviewed articles

- Gibbons, F.X., Etcheverry, P.E., Stock, M.L., Gerrard, M., Weng, C., Kiviniemi, M.T., & **O'Hara, R.E.** (in press). Exploring the link between racial discrimination and substance use: What mediates, what buffers? *Journal of Personality and Social Psychology*.
- O'Hara, R.E.**, Hull, J.G., Lyons, K.D., Bakitas, M., Hegel, M.T., Li, Z., & Ahles, T.A. (in press). Changing caregiver burden: Impact of a patient-focused palliative care intervention for patients with advanced cancer. *Palliative & Supportive Care*.
- Gerrits, J., **O'Hara, R.E.**, Piko, B., Gibbons, F.X., de Ridder, D., Keresztes, N., Kamble, S.V., & de Wit, J. (in press). Self-control, diet concerns and prototypes: Shared predictors of adolescents' unhealthy eating across cultures. *Health Education Research*.
- O'Hara, R.E.**, Walter, M.I., & Christopher, A.N. (2009). Need for cognition and conscientiousness as predictors of political interest and voting strategy. *Journal of Applied Social Psychology*, 39, 1397-1416.

Book chapters

- Gibbons, F.X., Stock, M.L., **O'Hara, R.E.**, & Gerrard, M. (in press). Prospecting prejudice: An examination of the long-term effects of perceived racial discrimination on the health

behavior and health status of African Americans. To appear in Y.F. Thomas, L.N. Price, & A.V. Lybrand (Eds.), *Drug Use Trajectories in Minority Youth*.

Revise and resubmit

O'Hara, R.E., Gibbons, F.X., Weng, C., Gerrard, M., & Simons, R.L. Racial discrimination as a barrier to college attendance among African Americans: Mediation by academic orientation and expectations. *Personality and Social Psychology Bulletin*.

Lane, D.J., Gibbons, F.X., **O'Hara, R.E.**, & Gerrard, M. Standing out from the crowd: How comparison to prototypes can decrease health-risk behavior in young adults. *Basic and Applied Social Psychology*.

Under review

O'Hara, R.E., Sinnott-Armstrong, W., & Sinnott-Armstrong, N.A. Wording effects in moral judgments.

Gibbons, F.X., **O'Hara, R.E.**, Stock, M.L., Gerrard, M., Weng, C., & Wills, T.A. The erosive effects of racism: Reduced self-control mediates the relation between perceived racial discrimination and substance use in African American adolescents.

In preparation

O'Hara, R.E., Gibbons, F.X., & Lane, D.J. College retention, academic performance, and prototypes of the typical college student.

Gerrard, M., Stock, M.L., Roberts, M.E., Gibbons, F.X., **O'Hara, R.E.**, & Weng, C. Discrimination and substance use among African Americans: Use of substances as a coping mechanism.

Gibbons, F.X., Kingsbury, J.H., Weng, C., Gerrard, M., **O'Hara, R.E.**, Roberts, M.E., Cutrona, C., & Wills, T.A. Perceived racial discrimination predicts health problems and problematic substance use in African American women.

Presentations

Invited presentations

Racial discrimination and health: Findings from the Family and Community Health Study.

Co-presenters: Megan E. Roberts and John H. Kingsbury. Health, Emotion, and Behavior Lab, Yale University, April, 2010.

Wording effects in moral judgments. Co-presenter: Walter Sinnott-Armstrong. Moral Psychology Research Group, Princeton University, March, 2010.

Multi-national study on social factors that influence the eating habits of adolescents. Gilbert High School, Gilbert, Iowa, May, 2007.

Need for cognition and need for closure as predictors of political interest. Michigan Undergraduate Psychology Research Conference, Adrian College, April, 2006.

Poster presentations

O'Hara, R.E., Gibbons, F.X., Gerrard, M., & Gardiner, C. (2011, January). *Temporal framing influences future health behaviors*. Poster to be presented at the 12th annual Society for Personality and Social Psychology Convention, San Antonio, TX.

O'Hara, R.E., Bakitas, M., Hull, J.G., Lyons, K.D., & Li, Z. (2010, June). *Predictors of caregiver burden in a palliative care randomized trial to improve patients' quality of life*.

Poster presented at the 6th Research Congress of the European Association of Palliative Care, Glasgow, Scotland, UK.

O'Hara, R.E., Sinnott-Armstrong, W., & Sinnott-Armstrong, N.A. (2010, May). *Wording effects in moral judgments*. Poster presented at the 22nd Association for Psychological Science Annual Convention, Boston, MA.

O'Hara, R.E., Alert, M., Gibbons, F.X., & Stock, M.L. (2010, January). *African Americans exhibit higher health optimistic bias than European Americans*. Poster presented at the 11th annual Society for Personality and Social Psychology Convention, Las Vegas, NV.

O'Hara, R.E., Gibbons, F.X., & Gerrard, M. (2009, February). *The effect of perceived control and stress on college students' willingness and intention to binge drink*. Poster presented at the 10th annual Society for Personality and Social Psychology Convention, Tampa, FL.

O'Hara, R.E., & Gibbons, F.X. (2007, May). *Student prototypes and self-esteem predict minority retention at a predominantly white university*. Poster presented at the 19th annual Association for Psychological Sciences Convention, Washington, D.C.

O'Hara, R.E., Walter, M.I., & Christopher, A.N. (2006, May). *Need for cognition and need for closure as predictors of political interest*. Poster presented at the 18th annual Association for Psychological Sciences Convention, New York City, NY.

Reviewing

Peer reviewer, *Journal of Applied Social Psychology* 2010 – present
Peer reviewer, *Teaching of Psychology* 2007 – present

Grants

Extramural funding

American Psychological Association International Travel Grant 2010

Intramural funding

Dartmouth Center for the Advancement of Learning Mini-grant for Attending Teaching Conferences 2010

Dartmouth College Arts and Sciences Graduate Alumni Research Award 2010

Diversity Grant, Office of the Executive Vice President and the Provost at Iowa State University 2006

Albion College Foundation for Undergraduate Research and Creative Activity 2005 – 2006

- Summer research grant to conduct pilot testing for senior thesis
- Academic year grant to conduct senior thesis research
- Travel Grant to present senior thesis at a national conference

Professional Development

Statistical Workshops

Data Analysis Training Institute of Connecticut, Structural Equation Modeling 2010
One-week workshop on path analysis, confirmatory factor analysis, and structural modeling using AMOS software

22nd Annual Convention for the Association for Psychological Science, Introduction to Structural Equation Modeling
One-day workshop on theory underlying path analysis, confirmatory factor analysis, and structural modeling

Teaching Workshops

- National Institute on the Teaching of Psychology (upcoming) 2011
Four-day conference and workshop on effective pedagogy in psychology
- Ethics Institute, Dartmouth College 2010
Five-week training workshop for teaching seminar course on research and professional ethics to first-year graduate students
- Society for Personality and Social Psychology Teaching Pre-Conference
One-day workshop with presentations and small-group discussions on topics such as facilitating undergraduate research and teaching research methodology to non-psychology majors
- Dartmouth Center for the Advancement of Learning 2008 – 2010
- Teaching Science Series
Multi-week workshop on teaching science to undergraduates
 - Syllabus Design Workshop
Three-week workshop on designing a syllabus for a college course
 - Teaching Series
Five-week workshop on effective teaching techniques, including topics such as collaborative learning and diversity in the classroom
 - Discussing Online Courses Face-to-Face
One-day workshop on designing and teaching effective online courses

Teaching Experience

Dartmouth College, Psychological and Brain Sciences

- Graduate Ethics, Instructor 2010
Currently leading discussion-based seminar for 10 multidisciplinary first-year graduate students on topics such as research ethics, publishing, plagiarism, and mentoring
- The Social Psychology of Health Behavior, Guest Lecturer
Lectured on dual-process models in health psychology for approximately 15 students
- Laboratory in Psychology, Guest Lecturer
Lectured on non-experimental research designs for approximately 40 students
- Experimental Design and Methodology, Teaching Assistant & Guest Lecturer 2009
Assisted students in individual and group review sessions and lectured on statistical power for approximately 40 undergraduates
- Social Psychology, Teaching Assistant
Assisted students individually with understanding of course material

Albion College, Department of Psychology

- Research Design & Analysis, Advanced Social Psychology, Teaching Assistant 2004 – 2006
Conducted laboratory sessions for approximately 25 undergraduates per semester, teaching SPSS data analysis and advising research project designs

Mentoring Experience

Dartmouth College, Psychological and Brain Sciences

Undergraduate Research Mentor 2009 – 2010

- Helped supervise independent project on racial differences in comparative optimism, resulting in poster presentation at the 11th annual Convention for the Society for Personality and Social Psychology
- Trained four undergraduates in experimental procedure and survey methodology

Iowa State University, Department of Psychology

Undergraduate Research Mentor 2007 – 2008

- Supervised undergraduate in field research on high school obesity prevention
- Trained three undergraduates in experimental procedure and survey methodology

Albion College, First-Year Experience Program

First-Year Experience Mentor 2003 – 2006

Taught weekly seminar to approximately 15 first-semester undergraduates on topics related to academic and social adjustment to college

First-Year Experience Student Director 2004 – 2005

Trained approximately 40 undergraduate mentors to deliver weekly lessons to their first-semester undergraduate seminars

Professional Service

Treasurer, *Graduate Students in Psychology, Iowa State University* 2007 – 2008

Treasurer, *Psi Chi, Albion College* 2005 – 2006

Professional Memberships

American Psychological Association
Association for Psychological Science
Social Personality and Health Network
Society for Personality and Social Psychology
Society for the Teaching of Psychology