**EMMA J. O’BRIEN**

University of Pittsburgh Medical Center, Western Psychiatric Hospital

100 N. Bellefield Ave. Pittsburgh, PA, 15213, Room 740

(612) 913-8675 | obrienemj@gmail.com

**EDUCATION**

Fall 2024 **Incoming Graduate Student in the Clinical Psychology Doctoral Program**

Louisiana State University, Baton Rouge, LS, US

PI: Raymond Tucker, PhD

2016-2020 **Bachelor of Arts Degree in Psychology and French and Francophone Studies**

Earlham College, Richmond, IN, US

Thesis advisors: Michelle Tong, PhD, and Angel Muñoz, PhD

Thesis: The perceived impact of empathy on speech as a measure of self-concept

**­­**

2017-2018 **Semester Study Abroad Program**

Paris and Nantes, FR

No degree, completed advanced French coursework

**AWARDED GRANTS, HONORS & SCHOLARSHIPS**

20­20 College and French Departmental Honors, Earlham College

2019-2020 The Jay Scholarship, Earlham College ($2,500)

2016-2020 Quaker Fellows Scholarship, Earlham College ($40,000)

Faculty Scholarship, Earlham College ($84,000)

Earlham College Grant, Earlham College ($36,395)

2019 The Earlham Program for an Integrated Curriculum (EPIC) Advantage ($5,000)

2017-2018 Elma & Orville Wilkinson Scholarship, Earlham College ($10,520)

**PEER-REVIEWED PUBLICATIONS**

1. **O’Brien, E.** &Whitman, K., Buerke, M., Galfalvy, H., Szanto, K. (2022). Life-Satisfaction, Engagement, Mindfulness, Flourishing, and Social Support: Do they Predict Depression, Suicide Ideation, and History of Suicide Attempt in Late Life? *American Journal of Geriatric Psychiatry*. https://doi.org/10.1016/j.jagp.2022.12.192

**MANUSCRIPTS UNDER REVIEW**

1. Szücs, A. & Falconi, M., **O’Brien, E.,** Szanto, K., Keilp, J., Bridge, J., Galfalvy, H. [under review] Objective and subjective suicidal intent are differentially associated with attempt lethality based on age of onset of suicidal behavior.

**MANUSCRIPTS IN PREPARATION**

1. **O’Brien, E.,** Buerke, M., Bauer, B., Anestis, M., Capron, D. [manuscript in preparation] Post-traumatic stress symptoms relate to suicide capability through dissociation and alcohol use in the National Guard.
2. Szücs, A., **O’Brien, E**., Wong, M., Pankowska, P., Maier, A., Szanto, K., Galfalvy, H. [manuscript in preparation] Personality profiles in middle-aged and older suicide attempters.
3. **O’Brien, E.,** Falconi, M., Stahl, S., Galfalvy, H., Szanto, K. [manuscript in preparation] Deterrents to suicide in late life.

**RESEARCH EXPERIENCE**

**Volunteer Part-Time Research Assistant 2024-present**

University of California, San Diego, remote.

PI: Kevin Kuehn, PhD

Study title: Developing and Testing a Brief, Personalized Intervention for Suicidal Thoughts and Behaviors

* Contributing to the development of Dr. Kevin Kuehn’s study manual and assisting with study pipeline, creating study clinician scripts, and testing coaching dashboard.

**Volunteer Part-Time Research Assistant 2023-present**

University of Denver, remote.

PI: Kathryn Fox, PhD

* Assisting Dr. Kathryn Fox in the coding and reviewing of peer-reviewed articles for meta-analysis on minority stress and internalizing symptoms (i.e., anxiety, depression) in gender and sexual minority youth.

**Clinical Research Coordinator 2020-present**

Longitudinal Research Program in Late-Life Suicide

University of Pittsburgh Medical Center, Western Psychiatric Hospital, Pittsburgh, PA.

PI: Katalin Szanto, MD

PI: Sarah Stahl, PhD

Study title (R01): Decision Processes of Late-Life Suicide (LRP)

Study title (R01): Rhythms after Loss for Improving Suicide Risk in Elders (RISE)

* Supervise and mentor a team of (6) clinical, (2) data, and (2) undergraduate student researchers.
* Lead start-up and data collection for two ongoing R01s 1) assessing predictors of suicide in late life and 2) using health coaching and motivational interviewing to mitigate the effects of bereavement in a high-suicide-risk sample of older adults.
* Lead start-up and completion of a smaller study investigating the role of memory and cognition on suicide risk.
* Lead start-up of and data collection for an ongoing smaller study on the role of sleep and mood states on suicide risk using Ecological Momentary Assessment (EMA) and actigraphy data collection.
* Train lab members in clinical (e.g., SCID-IV, HDRS 24-item, SSI, SIS, CSSRS, CIRS-G) and neuropsychological (e.g., MMSE, TICS, WTAR, DRS, EXIT, Rey AVLT) assessments.
* Oversee recruitment of staff including conducting interviews of applicants.
* Contribute to Dr. Szanto’s projects and annual Research Performance Progress Report.
* Lead the annual Data and Safety Monitoring Board meeting.
* Manage NIH My Bibliography records for the lab and Dr. Szanto.
* Lead analysis and manuscript preparation and submission for publications.
* Present ongoing projects to lab members and collaborators.
* Compose and deliver clinical summaries at weekly patient review meetings.
* Lead patient review meetings when Dr. Szanto is unavailable.
* Oversee study recruitment and participant referrals for external studies (i.e., WELL) and intensive outpatient programs (i.e., BEST IOP).
* Administer clinical assessments and neuropsychological assessments as part of baseline visits (85 thus far) and (~6) monthly follow-up visits (~240 total).
* Ensure strict compliance with NIH, HIPAA, and human subjects research guidelines.

**Volunteer Part-Time Research Assistant 2023**

PI: Colin Depp, PhD

Study title: iTEST: Introspective Accuracy as a Novel Target for Functioning in Psychotic Disorders

* Contributed to Dr. Colin Depp’s start-up for R01 via the development of client and therapist manuals for intervention: a six-week digital health intervention to improve internal appraisal in adults with severe psychopathology.

**Research Assistant 2020**

Earlham College, Department of Psychology, Richmond, IN.

PI: Rachael Reavis, PhD

* Facilitated literature review on the foster care system, child development, child welfare, and policy in the United States and led discussions on findings at weekly team meetings.
* Designed an undergraduate course on the American foster care system to be implemented by Dr. Reavis.

**Research Assistant**  **2019-2020**

The Social Fringe Lab, Department of Psychology, Earlham College, Richmond, IN.

PI: Maggie Thomas, PhD

* Designed and conducted a project on social perceptions and attitudes towards identity and gendered language using Qualtrics survey design.
* Managed IRB submissions, recruitment, scheduling, data collection, data entry, and data analysis.

**Intern 2019** Midwest Special Services (MSS), Saint Paul, MN.

Supervisor: Taylor McLaughlin, BA

* Independently organized day programs for adults with developmental and intellectual disabilities, psychiatric concerns, and cognitive impairment.
* Managed case files to address behavioral outcomes and achievements toward individualized goals.
* Produced independent research project via semi-structured interviews and observation presented to the MSS Board of Directors.

**Research Assistant 2019** Earlham College, Department of Psychology, Richmond, IN.

PI: Maggie Thomas, PhD

* Designed and conducted experimental research on human perception of complex emotions in wild vs. domesticated animals using Qualtrics.
* Managed IRB submission, recruitment scheduling, data collection, data entry, and data analysis, and presented findings to upper-level undergraduate students.

**Research Assistant 2018-2019** The Mind Lab, Earlham College, Department of Psychology, Richmond, IN.

PI: Angel Muñoz, PhD

* Conducted literature reviews and submitted IRB materials for a project related to prospective memory, perception and recognition, and commission errors, coded on SuperLab 5, and conducted data collection and synthesis.

**CONFERENCE PRESENTATIONS**

1. **O’Brien, E.,** Buerke, M., Bauer, B., Anestis, M., Capron, D. (2024, March) Higher psychopathology predicts dispositional suicide capability and suicidal thoughts, planning, and impulses in National Guard members but not acquired or practical suicide capability. Poster abstract submission.
2. **O’Brien, E**., Szücs, A., Szanto, K., Galfalvy, H. (2024, February). Personality profiles in older suicide attempters. Poster presented to the Society for Personality and Social Psychology Conference, San Diego, CA.
3. **O’Brien, E.,** Buerke, M., Capron, D. (2024, January) Post-traumatic stress relates to suicide capability through dissociation and alcohol use in the National Guard. Oral presentation accepted to present to the Suicide Research Symposium, April 2024, virtual.
4. Krandhasi, K. & Ho, R., **O’Brien, E.**, Redic, M., Li, E. (2023, November). An AI’s Theory of Mind: perceived empathy in Chat-GPT. Poster presentation to the Association for Behavioral and Cognitive Therapies (ABCT) Conference, Seattle, WA.
5. **O’Brien, E.,** Szücs, A., Wong, M., Falconi, M., Keilp, J., Bridge, J., Maier, A., Galfalvy, H., Szanto, K. (2023, November) Suicide attempt lethality has a differential association between objective and subjective suicidal intent based on age of onset of suicidal behavior. Poster presentation to the Developmental Affective Neuroscience Symposium, Pittsburgh, PA.
6. **O’Brien, E**. & Redic, M., Krandhasi, K., Ho, R., Li, E. (2023, June). Can a ChatGPT have the theory of mind abilities across a lifespan, and what does that mean for psychological therapies? Poster presentation at the Society of Digital Mental Health Meeting, virtual.
7. **O’Brien, E.** & Falconi, M., Szücs, A., Szanto, K., Keilp, J., Bridge, J., Galfalvy, H. (2023, June). Are carefully planned suicide attempts more lethal? Effect of age of onset on the relationship between planning and suicide attempt lethality. Poster presentation at the University of Pittsburgh’s Psychiatry Annual Research Day, Pittsburgh, PA.
8. **O’Brien, E.** & Whitman, K., Buerke, M. (2022, March). Life-satisfaction, engagement, and social support: Do they predict depression severity, suicide ideation, and history of attempt in late-life depression? Poster presentation at the American Association for Geriatric Psychiatry Conference, Orlando, FL.
9. **O’Brien, E.** & Schumacher, E., Szanto, K. (2021, October) New findings from the Pittsburgh longitudinal research program in late-life suicide: Implications for identification and treatment / Q&A. Oral presentation at the 11th Annual Behavioral Health and Aging Conference: Addressing Clinical Challenges in Late Life, virtual.
10. **O’Brien, E**., Yao, D., Feller, M., Okorie, H., Pham, U. (2020, April). Who are "guys," anyway? An investigation of collective nouns and gendered representation. Poster presentation at the Mid-America Undergraduate Psychology Research Conference, virtual.

**ORAL PRESENTATIONS**

1. **O’Brien, E**. (2024, February) Protective factors to suicide in late life. Oral presentation to the Sahlgrenska Suicide Studies research group at the University of Gothenburg, virtual.
2. **O’Brien, E**., Khani, A. (2023, September) Motivations for living in older depressed adults. Oral presentation at lab-wide enrichment meeting, Pittsburgh, PA.
3. **O’Brien, E.**, Gariepy, A. (2023, July) Decision processes of late-life suicide: An overview of the longitudinal research program in late-life suicide. Oral presentation at Western Psychiatric Hospital to resident physicians, fellows, clinical staff, and social workers, Pittsburgh, PA.
4. **O’Brien, E.** (2023, March) Differential diagnosis of psychotic-like symptoms in depression and personality disorders, psychotic episodes, and psychotic disorders. Oral presentation at lab-wide enrichment meeting, Pittsburgh, PA.
5. **O’Brien, E.** &Whitman, K. (2022, September) Revisions to life-satisfaction, mindfulness, life engagement, and social support: Do they predict depression severity, suicide ideation, and history of suicide attempt in late-life depression? Oral presentation at lab-wide enrichment meeting, Pittsburgh, PA.
6. **O’Brien, E.,** Schumacher, E., Wang, C., Gariepy, A. (2022, July) Decision processes of late-life suicide: An overview of the longitudinal research program in late-life suicide. Oral presentation at Western Psychiatric Hospital to medical residents, fellows, clinical staff, and social workers, Pittsburgh, PA.
7. **O’Brien, E.** & Whitman, K. (2022, May) Life-satisfaction, engagement, mindfulness, and social support: An overview of successful aging, resilience, and late-life suicide. Oral presentation at lab-wide enrichment meeting, Pittsburgh, PA.
8. **O’Brien, E.** (2021, February) Understanding self-harm in older people: A systematic review of qualitative studies. Oral presentation at lab-wide enrichment meeting, Pittsburgh, PA.
9. **O’Brien, E.** & Chang, Y. (2020, June) Association of suicide prevention interventions with subsequent suicide attempts, linkage to follow-up care, and depression symptoms for acute care settings: A systematic review and meta-analysis. Oral presentation to the Joint Journal Suicide Club, Pittsburgh, PA.
10. **O’Brien, E.** (2019, December) The perceived impact of empathy on speech as a measure of self-concept. Undergraduate comprehensive psychology senior research project thesis presented to the Department of Psychology, Earlham College, Richmond, IN.

**TEACHING EXPERIENCE**

**Teaching Assistant 2019-2020**

Department of Psychology, Earlham College, Richmond, IN.

Professor: Angel Muñoz, PhD

* Provided in-class support to Dr. Muñoz for *Introduction to Psychological Perspectives* undergraduate course, led weekly review sessions for students, designed study guides for exams, documented student progress and attendance, oversaw class preparations, and taught one lecture.

**VOLUNTEER EXPERIENCES**

**Volunteer 2023**

Psychin’ Out, online community

**Volunteer 2022, 2023**

Out of the Darkness Walk, American Foundation for Suicide Prevention, Western Pennsylvania Chapter, Pittsburgh, PA.

**Shadow 2023**

UPMC Hillman Cancer Center, Physician: Taofeek Kunle Owonikoko, MD, PhD, Pittsburgh, PA.

**French Tutor 2019-2020**

The Academic Enrichment Center, Earlham College, Richmond, IN.

**Program Lead 2018**

Boys & Girls Club of Wayne County, Richmond, IN.

**AD-HOC REVIEWS**

2023 *Journal of Affective Disorders*

2021 *Death Studies*

**PROFESSIONAL TRAININGS AND WORKSHOPS**

October 2023 Comprehensive Crisis Management training, Level 2, Western Psychiatric Hospital (WPIC)

October 2023 Multilevel Modeling in R Virtual Workshop at the University of Louisville

October 2022 Comprehensive Crisis Management training, Level 2, WPIC

October 2021 R Workshops I-III, taught by Yama Chang, M.A., Data Coordinator

June 2020 Comprehensive Crisis Management training, Level I, WPIC

**CERTIFICATIONS**

February 2024 Cultural Formulation Interview (CFI) training program, certification by Center of Excellence for Cultural Competence

December 2023 Counseling on Access to Lethal Means (CALM) certification by Zero Suicide

January 2021 Certification of Completion for the Assessment of Suicidal Risk Using C-SSRS Training Module by CPI and the Columbia Lighthouse Project

October 2020 IASR/AFSP Suicide Prevention Research Methods Training Series Certificate

**PROFESSIONAL MEMBERSHIPS AND AFFILIATIONS**

June 2023-present Association for Women in Science, *Member*

July 2023-present International Network of Early Career Researchers in Suicide and Self-harm, *Early Career Researcher*

February 2024-present DIS.connected Network, *Early Career Researcher*

**RELEVANT TECHNICAL SKILLS & LANGUAGES**

* **Data collection/coding**: Actigraphy, Ecological Momentary Assessment, Python, REDCap, Qualtrics, Amazon Mturk, Inquisit, SuperLab 5
* **Data analysis**: R, SPSS, JASP
* **Languages**: English (native), French (fluent), Spanish (beginner)