

# Dylan Lyons

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**Virginia Polytechnic and State University**

August 2020 - May 2024

*B.S. in Cognitive and Behavioral Neuroscience, Minor in Psychology*

## Research Experience

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**Mental State Processing & Psychopathology Lab**

January 2024 – Current

*Virginia Polytechnic Institute and State University, Department of Psychology*

- **Role:** Research Assistant
- **Principal Investigator:** Chloe D. Hudson, Ph.D.
- **Research Projects:** Psychological Ontology of Mental State Processing, Study aims to identify how performance on measures of theory of mind, mentalization, and empathy are related and impact functioning in daily life.
- **Tasks:**
  - Conducted systematic searches of databases to identify existing psychological assessments, cognitive tasks, and diagnostic tools relevant to ToM and mental state processing for use in study
  - Categorized measures into categories of accuracy, propensity, self, or other for clear identification and future use
  - Summarized and detailed each assessments, tasks, or measure for organized identification
  - Contributed to the development and submission of the IRB protocol, ensuring ethical compliance
  - Assisted in creation of participant debriefing form to ensure ethical transparency with the participant
  - Designed and created posters for participant recruitment in accordance with IRB guidelines
  - Assisted in meta-analysis by systematically extracting, downloading, and organizing relevant studies into structured Excel sheet

**PREVAIL Center for Chronic Pain**

October 2024 – Current

*Salem VA Medical Center*

- **Role:** Research Assistant
- **Principal Investigator:** Rena (Liz) Courtney, Ph.D.

- **Research Projects:** Treatments for Co-occurring Chronic Pain and Opioid Use Disorder, scoping review identifying core elements of existing interventions for co-occurring chronic pain and opioid addiction.
- **Tasks:**
  - Conducted systematic title and abstract screenings and full-text reviews in Covidence using inclusion and exclusion criteria to determine study eligibility
  - Performed extractions from eligible studies, identifying core methodological and therapeutic elements relevant to psychosocial and medical interventions for CP–OUD, and inputting data into a comparative chart for analysis of characteristics across studies.
  - Assisting in writing and refinement of final manuscript for publication

## Clinical/Work/Volunteer Experience

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### Kroontje Health Care Center

2022 - Current

*Warm Hearth Village, Blacksburg, VA*

- **Position:** Life Enrichment Associate
- **Supervisor:** Danielle Snuffer
- **Job Duties:**
  - Facilitates daily activities for a wide variety of residents across memory care, long-term nursing care, and inpatient rehabilitation units, promoting cognitive engagement, emotional wellbeing, and social connectedness
  - Provides both individualized and group setting support and behavioral engagement to residents with diverse clinical presentations (e.g., dementia related disorders, schizophrenia, depression, anxiety, and developmental disabilities)
  - Conducts individualized assessments and one-on-one visits to evaluate residents' cognitive and emotional needs, tailoring activities to align with their personal goals, individual preferences, and functional abilities
  - Collaborates with interdisciplinary health care staff (e.g., nurses, social workers, occupational and physical therapists) to ensure a holistic approach to resident care
  - Utilizes observational and interpersonal skills to monitor behavioral and affective responses to activities, adapting interventions to optimize engagement and quality of life
  - Provides emotional support and counseling for residents and families coping with a new dementia related diagnoses or transition into long-term care, fostering resilience, acceptance, and a sense of belonging in the care

community

- Documents and charts participation in activities, recording behavioral observations and progress notes to track residents' emotional, social, and cognitive growth over time

### **Emergency Room Volunteer**

Summer 2018, 2019

*Lake Norman Regional Medical Center, Mooresville, NC*

- **Job Duties:**

- Selected to participate in hospital volunteer program providing direct support to emergency department staff and clinical operations
- Assisted with patient intake and orientation, greeting and directing patients and families, answering questions, and facilitated communication between staff and visitors
- Supported nurses and medical personnel by transporting patients, restocking supplies, and maintaining clean and organized patient care environments
- Transported and signed in medical specimens for laboratory analysis in accordance with hospital procedures.
- Managed physical and electronic documentation, maintaining organized records to support continuity of care and departmental efficiency
- Engaged with patients in a compassionate and professional manner, developing skills in patient interaction, crisis communication, and multidisciplinary teamwork within a fast-paced emergency setting

## Awards/Certifications/Training

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### **Dean's List recipient**

Fall 2022, Spring 2023, Fall 2023

*Virginia Polytechnic and State University*

- **In recognition of:** Undergraduate students who complete a minimum of 12 credit hours graded on the A-F option and who earn a 3.4 grade point average (GPA) for either spring or fall semester will be included on the Dean's List for that term.

### **CITI Program Certification: Social & Behavioral Research**

Spring 2024

*Virginia Polytechnic and State University*

- **Certification Description:** Expanded training covering not only major topical areas but also many concepts that are specific to types of research, roles in the protection of human subjects, and advanced modules on informed consent topics, vulnerable populations, big data research, mobile apps research, and disaster and conflict research.

**An Orientation to Concurrent Treatment of PTSD and Substance Use Disorders Using Prolonged Exposure (COPE): A Clinical Workshop**

April 5, 2024

*Virginia Polytechnic and State University, 2024 Daniel Galper Clinical Workshop*

- **Workshop Description:** The workshop taught basic COPE skills that oriented the attendee on the skills used in COPE. The workshop was lead by Dr. Elizabeth Santa Ana, a psychologist and health services researcher at the Charleston VA Medical Center and an Associate Professor in the Addiction Sciences Division in the Department of Psychiatry & Behavioral Sciences at the Medical University of South Carolina (MUSC).

**CPR & First Aid**

July 2024 - Current

*Kroontje Health Care Center, Warm Hearth Village*