

REBEKAH GEORGE BENJAMIN, PHD

Curriculum Vitae

University Address

Psychology Department
Huntington University
2303 College Ave
Huntington IN 46750

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EDUCATION

- 2012** **Ph. D., Educational Psychology**
University of Georgia, Athens GA
Emphasis: Applied Cognition and Development
Dissertation: Development and validation of the Comprehensive Oral Reading Fluency Scale
Advisor: Paula J. Schwanenflugel, Ph. D.
- 2009** **M.A., Educational Psychology**
University of Georgia, Athens GA
Emphasis: Applied Cognition and Development
Thesis: The predictive value of prosody: Differences between simple and difficult texts in the oral reading of second graders
Advisor: Paula J. Schwanenflugel, Ph. D.
- 2005** **Secondary Education Graduate Certificate**
Indiana Wesleyan University
Emphasis: Language Arts
Advisor: Marsha Beal, Ph. D.
- 2004** **Bachelor of Arts, English, cum laude**
Indiana Wesleyan University
Advisor: H. Michael Buck, Ph. D.

PROFESSIONAL TEACHING EXPERIENCE

- 2018-** **Associate Professor of Psychology**, Huntington University
Traditional Undergraduate Courses taught: Child & Adolescent Development, Intro to Research Methods, Applied Research Methods, Adult Development, Introduction to Psychology, Educational Psychology, Motivation and Emotion, Honors Seminar

Traditional Graduate Courses taught: Methods and Practice of Research and Evaluation

Online Courses developed and taught: Child & Adolescent Development, Introduction to Research Methods, Applied Research Methods, Methods and Practice of Research and Evaluation (graduate)

Teaching Evaluations: Evaluations for all evaluated courses have exceeded 4.0 on a 1-5 scale.

2015-2018 **Assistant Professor of Psychology**, Huntington University

2012-2015 **Assistant Professor of Psychology**, Massachusetts College of Liberal Arts
Courses taught: Applied Developmental Psychology; Psychological Research Methods and Statistics I & II; Educational Psychology; Research Seminar; Psychology of Reading; Psychological Measurement & Assessment

2009-2010 **Instructor of record**, Department of Educational Psychology
The University of Georgia, Athens GA
Instructor of record for undergraduate Educational Psychology course, EPSY 2130 (Exploring Learning and Teaching). Responsibilities included all tasks associated with planning, teaching, and measuring student learning.

2005-2007 **High School English Teacher**
Liberty Christian School, Anderson IN
Full-time responsibilities include teaching 3-4 diverse classes six periods each weekday including World Literature, American Literature, British Literature, Speech/Drama, Advanced Placement Literature.

SCHOLARLY ACTIVITY

CURRENT PROJECTS

Benjamin, R. G. (in progress). *Developing souls: The science of teaching faith to our kids*. Book project.

Benjamin, R. G. (in progress). Home faith practices in evangelical families. Empirical research (mixed methods).

ARTICLES & CHAPTERS

- Schwanenflugel, P. J., & **Benjamin, R. G.** (2017). Lexical prosody as an aspect of oral reading fluency. *Reading and Writing, 30*, 143-162.
- Schwanenflugel, P. J., & **Benjamin, R. G.** (2016). The development of reading prosody and its assessment. In J. Thomson & Jarmulowicz, L. (Eds.), *Linguistic Rhythm and Literacy [IASCL series 'Trends in Language Acquisition Research' (TiLAR)]*. Netherlands: John Benjamins.
- Schwanenflugel, P. J., Westmoreland, M. R., & **Benjamin, R. G.** (2015). Reading fluency skill and the prosodic marking of linguistic focus. *Reading and Writing, 28*, 9-30. doi: 10.1007/s11145-013-9456-1
- Lai, S. A., **Benjamin, R. G.**, Schwanenflugel, P. J., & Kuhn, M. R. (2014). The longitudinal relationship between reading fluency and reading comprehension skills in second grade children. *Reading & Writing Quarterly, 30*, 116-138. doi: 10.1080/10573569.2013.789785.
- Benjamin, R. G.**, Schwanenflugel, P. J., Meisinger, E., Groff, C., Steiner, L., Kuhn, M. R. (2013). A spectrographically grounded scale for rating reading expressiveness. *Reading Research Quarterly, 48*, 105-133. doi: 10.1002/rrq.43
- Schwanenflugel, P. J. & **Benjamin, R. G.** (2012). Reading expressiveness: The neglected aspect of reading fluency. In Rasinski, Blachowicz, and Lems (Eds.), *Fluency Instruction (2nd ed.)*. NY, NY: Gilford.
- Benjamin, R. G.** (2012). Reconstructing readability: Recent developments and recommendations in the analysis of text difficulty. *Educational Psychology Review, 24*, 63-88. doi:10.1007/s10648-011-9181-8.
- Benjamin, R. G.** & Schwanenflugel, P. J. (2010). Text complexity and oral reading prosody in young readers. *Reading Research Quarterly, 45*, 388-404. doi:10.1598/rrq.45.4.2

PRESENTATIONS

- Benjamin, R. G.** (October 19-20, 2018). *Text Complexity Effects on Student Learning and Engagement with Research Articles*. Phoenix, AZ: Society for the Teaching of Psychology Annual Conference on Teaching.
- Benjamin, R. G.** (October 12, 2018). *Faith in Families: Religious Practice and Barriers to Religious Practice in Baptist Homes*. New Albany, IN: Indiana Academy of Social Sciences Annual Meeting.

- Benjamin, R. G.** (April 12-14, 2018). *Barriers to faith practices in Christian homes*. Norfolk, VA: Christian Association for Psychological Studies annual conference.
- Benjamin, R. G.,** & Johnson, H. (October 13, 2017). *Home faith practices in Christian families: A pilot study*. Crawfordsville, IN: Indiana Academy of Social Sciences annual conference.
- Babb, T., & **Benjamin, R. G.** (October 21, 2016). *Role immersion teaching experiences: Applications to psychology*. Decatur, GA: Society for the Teaching of Psychology Annual Conference on Teaching.
- Schwanenflugel, P. J., & **Benjamin, R. G.** (July 9, 2016). *Even words have music when children read: Word reading prosody as an aspect of oral reading fluency in third grade children*. Boston, MA: International Literacy Association.
- Benjamin, R. G.** (October 17, 2015). *How to succeed in college: Incorporating teamwork and authentic learning in the classroom*. Decatur, GA: Live from Atlanta presentation, Society for the Teaching of Psychology Annual Conference on Teaching.
- Schwanenflugel, P. J., Westmoreland, M. R., **Benjamin, R. G.,** Steiner, L., & Groff, C. (December 6, 2013). *Linguistic focus prosody and reading fluency*. Dallas, TX: Paper presentation, Literacy Research Association.
- Benjamin, R. G.,** Schwanenflugel, P. J., Meisinger, E. (April 20, 2013). *Measuring Oral Reading Fluency in Third Grade Children: The Comprehensive Oral Reading Fluency Scale*. Seattle, WA: Poster presentation, Society for Research in Child Development.
- Schwanenflugel, P. J., & **Benjamin, R. G.** (April 18, 2013). *Using a spectrographically grounded scale of reading expression*. Houston, TX: Invited symposium, International Reading Association.
- Schwanenflugel, P. J., **Benjamin, R. G.,** Kuhn, M. R., Meisinger, E., Steiner, L., Groff, C. (November 29, 2012). *Rating reading expressiveness*. San Diego, CA: Paper presentation, Literacy Research Association.
- Schwanenflugel, P. J., **Benjamin, R. G.,** Groff, C., Steiner, L., & Lai, S. (July 11-14, 2012). *Reading fluency skill and the prosodic marking of linguistic focus*. Montreal, Canada: Symposium, Society for the Scientific Study of Reading.
- Benjamin, R. G.** (December 3, 2011). *Readability: Recommendations based on developments in the past two decades*. Jacksonville, FL: Paper presentation, Literacy Research Association.
- Benjamin, R. G.** (November 30, 2011). *A psychometric evaluation of three holistic fluency scales*. Jacksonville, FL: Paper presentation, Literacy Research Association.

Lai, S. & **Benjamin, R. G.** (April, 2011). *An analysis of the longitudinal relationship between fluency and comprehension in second graders*. New Orleans, LA: Poster Presentation, AERA Annual Meeting.

Schwanenflugel, P. J. & **Benjamin, R. G.** (June, 2010). *The development of reading prosody*. Cambridge, MA: Invited symposium, Harvard Graduate School of Education.

Benjamin, R. G., Lai, S., & Woodruff, S. (April, 2010). *A longitudinal analysis of the relationship between fluency and comprehension in 2nd graders*. Athens, GA: College of Education Graduate Student Research Conference, University of Georgia.

Benjamin, R. G., Schwanenflugel, P. J., & Kuhn, M. R. (December, 2009). *The influence of text difficulty on the reading prosody of young children*. Albuquerque, NM: Paper presentation, National Reading Conference.

Benjamin, R. G., Schwanenflugel, P. J., & Kuhn, M. R. (May, 2009). *The predictive value of prosody: differences between simple and difficult texts in the oral reading of 2nd graders*. Athens, GA: College of Education Graduate Student Research Conference, University of Georgia.

UNDERGRADUATE RESEARCH (ADVISOR)

Johnson, H., Anderson, M., Westra, H., Suter, H. (2018). Inferences on criminality based on appearance. *Butler Journal of Undergraduate Research*, 4, 87-99.

Various HU students (April 21, 2017). Students in PY/SO/CJ 382 presented their research at the Mid-America Undergraduate Psychology Research Conference (MAUPRC). Presentation titles are as follows:

- Battle of the Sexes: Competition in Homogeneous vs. Heterogeneous Pairs
- Preparation Time, Communication Apprehension, and Performance

Various HU students (April 13, 2017). Students in PY/SO/CJ 382 presented their research at the Butler University Undergraduate Research Conference. Presentation titles are as follows:

- The Effect of Paper Color on Test Performance
- The Relationship Between Social Media, Anxiety, and Depression
- The Effect of Music on Collegiate Athletes' Performance
- The Relationship Between Maslow's Hierarchy of Needs and Persistence in College

Sutter, K., & Rose, R. (April 7, 2018). *Preparation time and communication apprehension*. Portland, OR: Alpha Chi National Convention.

Johnson, H. & Benjamin, R. G. (Summer, 2017). Worked together with Hannah Johnson, psychology major, to develop and conduct research on barriers to faith practices at home in Christian families. See conference presentations, above, for the outcome of this summer project.

Czernicki, L., Park, Y. (April 19, 2017). *Cell phone use and its effects on romantic relationships*. Huntington, IN: Academic Research Forum, Huntington University.

Barrett, S., Kauffman, C. (April 19, 2017). *Judging women on appearance: Evaluation of trustworthiness and competency*. Huntington, IN: Academic Research Forum, Huntington University.

Anderson, M., Caley, H., Johnson, H., Suter, H. (April 19, 2017). *Detecting criminality based on facial features*. Huntington, IN: Academic Research Forum, Huntington University.

Cherry, C., Dixon T., Shelby, C., Williams, C. (April 19, 2017). *Effects of father-daughter relationships on daughters' intimacy and self-esteem*. Huntington, IN: Academic Research Forum, Huntington University.

Hillman, D. Maloy, S., Lindstrand, R. T. (April 19, 2017). *The Bible and the badge: Police legitimacy among college students*. Huntington, IN: Academic Research Forum, Huntington University.

Gerber, I. (April 19, 2017). *God and personality: Effects of religious commitment, personality, and attachment upon trait forgiveness*. Huntington, IN: Academic Research Forum, Huntington University.

Various HU students (April 7, 2017). Students in PY/SO/CJ 382 presented their research at the Butler University Undergraduate Research Conference. Presentation titles are as follows:

- Father Daughter Relationships: Intimacy and Self-Esteem
- The Bible and the Badge: Exploring the Link Between Religiosity and Police Legitimacy Among College Students
- Parental Marital Status and Personality Traits
- Inferences on Criminality Based on Appearance
- Gender Differences in Stress and Coping Mechanisms
- The Effects of Exercise on Academic Performance
- Multitasking: Impact on Students' Academic Performance

Park, Y. (January). *PTSD severity comparison between local and dispatched veterans in Korean War*. Unpublished manuscript.

Various HU students (April 8, 2016). Students in PY/SO/CJ 382 presented their research at the Butler University Undergraduate Research Conference. Presentation titles are as follows:

- Impact of mandala coloring on stress in nursing students

- Judging women on appearance: Evaluation of trustworthiness and competency based on cosmetics
- Cell phone use and romantic relationships
- Multitasking and academic performance
- Foot-in-the-door technique: Does appearance matter?
- Personality types among siblings
- Fear then relief technique: Influencing compliance in groups

Williams, T. G., Greig, D., Hoag, A., & Mills, R. (April 23, 2015). *Examining college student experiences and success: A multivariate approach*. North Adams, MA: Undergraduate Research Conference, Massachusetts College of Liberal Arts.

Peck, S., Law, E., Dwyer, J., Dewey, C. (April 23, 2015). *Re-examining predictors of college student success: A multivariate approach*. North Adam, MA: Undergraduate Research Conference, Massachusetts College of Liberal Arts.

Gerena, C. (April 16-18, 2015). *Affected listeners: The conjunctive effects of music and personality on divergent thinking*. Cheney, WA: National Conference on Undergraduate Research.

Boutiette, T., Colvin, J., Gerena, C., McCormick, M., & Neil, A. (April 17, 2014). *Affected listeners: The conjunctive effects of music and personality on divergent thinking*. North Adams, MA: Undergraduate Research Conference, Massachusetts College of Liberal Arts.

McCormick, M. (April 3-5, 2014) *How to do college: Reflective judgment in academia*. Lexington, KY: National Conference on Undergraduate Research.

McCormick, M., Furney, K., Munsell, B. (April 3-5, 2014). *Student perceptions, performance and motivation in the core curriculum*. Lexington, KY: National Conference on Undergraduate Research.

McCormick, M., Furney, K., Munsell, B., & Harrington, J. (October 12-13, 2013). *Student perceptions, performance and motivation in the core curriculum*. North Adams, MA: COPLAC Regional Undergraduate Research Conference.

McCormick, M., Furney, K., Munsell, B., & Harrington, J. (April 18, 2013). *Student perceptions, performance and motivation in the core curriculum*. North Adams, MA: Undergraduate Research Conference, Massachusetts College of Liberal Arts.

OTHER RESOURCES

Benjamin, R. G. (2017). How to succeed in college: Incorporating teamwork and authentic learning in the classroom. In R. L. Miller & T. Collette (Eds.) *Teaching Tips: A*

Compendium of Conference Presentations on Teaching, 2015-16. Retrieved from the Society for the Teaching of Psychology web site: <http://teachpsych.org/ebooks/>

Benjamin, R. G. (2016, March 15). What should I do with my life?. Blog post (no longer accessible online).

Benjamin, R. G. (2016, January 26). Do you believe what you read?. Blog post (no longer accessible online).

Benjamin, R. G. (2015, December 1). Two simple tips for studying smarter based on cognitive psychology. Blog post (no longer accessible online).

Baker, E. A. & **Benjamin, R. G.** (2011, February 7). Text Complexity and Oral Reading Prosody in Young Readers. Voice of Literacy. Podcast retrieved from <http://voiceofliteracy.org>

PROFESSIONAL AFFILIATIONS & PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT

ORGANIZATION MEMBERSHIPS (CURRENT)

- Society for the Teaching of Psychology, APA Division 2
- Society for the Psychology of Religion and Spirituality, APA Division 36
- Indiana Academy of the Social Sciences (IASS)
- Developmental Psychology, APA Division 7

HONORS & AWARDS

- Recipient of the 2017 Indiana Academy of Social Sciences research grant to conduct research on faith practices in Christian families. Amount: \$500.
- Recipient of the Emeriti Faculty Research Grant (2017) to conduct summer research on developmental psychology and the transmission of religious belief and practice from parents to children. Amount: \$4000 stipend plus a research assistant.
- Co-recipient of the 2014 MCLA Faculty Incentive Award in curriculum development. This is a competitive award given annually to faculty who propose major course/curricular modifications or new course development. The purpose of the award was to develop a new course in the psychology of reading (taught in fall, 2015). This award was split with a colleague. Amount: \$3000.
- Recipient of the 2011 Glickman Dissertation Award. A competitive award given to only six graduate students in the College of Education to provide financial assistance in conducting dissertation research. Amount: \$500.

- Recipient of the 2011 Owen Scott Scholars Award. A competitive award given annually to recognize outstanding student scholarship and to provide monetary support for student research in the Department of Educational Psychology and Instructional Technology. Amount: \$500.
- 3rd Place Quantitative Division for a poster presentation in the April, 2010 College of Education Graduate Student Research Conference, University of Georgia, Athens, GA.
- 1st Place Quantitative Division for a poster presentation in the May 1, 2009 College of Education Graduate Student Research Conference, University of Georgia, Athens, GA.

SERVICE TO THE PROFESSION

RECENT ACTIVITIES

- Ad hoc reviewer for the *Journal of Research in Reading* (October, 2018)
- Session moderator for Mid-America Undergraduate Psychology Research Conference (MAUPRC; April 21, 2017)
- Ad hoc reviewer for *Educational Psychology Review* (fall, 2016)
- Faculty reviewer for *Alethia* (2016; 2018). *Alethia* is an academic journal published by Alpha Chi.
- Session moderator for the Fort Wayne Teaching Conference (winter, 2016)

PAST REVIEWING ACTIVITIES

- Ad-hoc reviewer for *Journal of Educational Psychology*
- Ad-hoc reviewer for *Journal of Research in Reading*
- Ad-hoc reviewer for *Reading & Writing*
- Ad-hoc reviewer for *Journal of Research in Childhood Education*
- Ad-hoc reviewer for *Reading Research Quarterly*
- Ad-hoc reviewer for *Reading and Writing: An Interdisciplinary Journal*
- Reviewer for special text complexity issue of *Elementary School Journal*
- International external referee for the dissertation summary/proposal of Nural Calet Ruiz, Universidad de Granada

CURRENT SERVICE TO THE CAMPUS COMMUNITY

HUNTINGTON UNIVERSITY

- 2019-** Director of the Center for Teaching and Learning
- 2018-** Co-Coordinator of the Forester Lecture series
- 2018-** Assessment Coach
- 2018-** Member of the Student Learning Committee

- 2017- Department Chair for the psychology department**
- 2017- Member of the Committee of Faculty Representatives**
- 2016-2017 Member of the Institutional Review Board**
- 2016-2017 Member of the Learning Technology Council**
- 2015-2017 Academic Advisor in Psychology**
Carry a regular advising load of 15-25 students. Have written numerous letters of recommendation for graduate school entrance.
- 2015- Regularly supervise undergraduate student research**

CURRENT SERVICE TO THE CHURCH AND LOCAL COMMUNITY

- 2017- Licensed Foster Parent** (beginning October, 2017)
Huntington County IN, DCS
Involves 15+ hours of annual training and development.
- 2017- Worship Team**
The Well (church), Huntington IN