

# Sarah D. McCrackin, Ph.D.

## *Curriculum Vitae*

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Postdoctoral Researcher | McGill University | 2001 McGill College Avenue, Montreal, QB, H3A 1G1

**Personal Information:** *Female, Canadian Citizen*

**Personal Website:** [www.smccrackin.ca](http://www.smccrackin.ca)

### EDUCATION

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**Postdoctoral Researcher  
Psychology**  
*11/2020 – present*

**McGill University**, Montreal, QC  
Supervisor: Jelena Ristic  
Laboratory for Attention and Social Cognition

**Doctor of Philosophy  
Cognitive Neuroscience**  
*07/2020*

**University of Waterloo**, Waterloo, ON  
Supervisor: Roxane Itier  
Thesis: Perceiving direct and averted gaze during  
emotion discrimination, affective empathy and  
affective theory of mind judgements:  
electrophysiological and behavioural effects

**Master of Arts  
Cognitive Neuroscience**  
*08/2017*

**University of Waterloo**, Waterloo, ON  
Supervisor: Roxane Itier  
Thesis: The time-course of contextual valence and  
self-relevance effects on the perception of faces with direct  
versus averted gaze

**Honors Bachelor of Science  
Minor in Biology**  
*04/2014*

**McMaster University**, Hamilton, ON  
Psychology, Neuroscience, and Behavior  
Supervisor: Margaret McKinnon  
Thesis: Investigating mindfulness as a protective factor in a  
healthcare professionals exposed to a shared traumatic event

### AREAS OF EXPERTISE

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Electroencephalography (EEG) | Eye-tracking | Face Perception | Eye-gaze Processing | Social Attention |  
Individual Differences | Cognitive Neuroscience | Empathy | Theory of Mind

### RESEARCH FUNDING

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#### Awarded:

*06/2025-06/2027*     **SSHRC Insight Development Grant (National),**  
*Social Sciences and Humanities Research Council of Canada*  
The social impact of face occlusion across cultures  
Co-applicant: Jelena Ristic  
\$64,898 over 2 years

- 03/2025-03/2027 **NSERC Banting Postdoctoral Fellowship (National),**  
*Natural Sciences and Engineering Research Council of Canada*  
 \$140,000 over 2 years, held for 5 months until commencement of faculty position  
 -One of the 36 (out of ~850) postdoctoral fellows nominated by McGill University  
 -Then ranked 14<sup>th</sup> out of 195 applicants (top 7.2%) at the national level
- 09/2022-09/2024 **NSERC PDF Postdoctoral Fellowship (National),**  
*Natural Sciences and Engineering Research Council of Canada*  
 \$90,000 over 2 years
- 11/2022-11/2023 **GW Stairs Grant, (Institutional),**  
*McGill University*  
 Overcoming social barriers created by face masks  
 Co-applicant: Jelena Ristic  
 \$30,434 over 1 year
- 09/2021-09/2022 **NSERC Collaborative Research and Training Experience (CREATE) Postdoctoral Fellowship (National),** *Natural Sciences and Engineering Research Council of Canada*  
 \$40,000 over 1 year
- 09/2017 – 08/2020 **President's Graduate Scholarship (Institutional),** *University of Waterloo*  
 \$15,000.00 over 3 years (won three times)
- 09/2015 – 08/2020 **Queen Elizabeth II Graduate Scholarship for Science and Technology (Provincial),** *Ontario Ministry of Training, Colleges and Universities*  
 \$60,000.00 over 4 years (won four times)

## AWARDS AND HONORS

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- 09/2024 **OPAM Professional Development Award for Research Excellence, Object Perception, Attention, and Memory (OPAM) Conference**  
 \$200
- 10/2023 **APF Mentorship Award, McGill University**  
 Given yearly to an individual who has demonstrated significant effort to advise and mentor trainees including undergraduate and graduate students
- 04/2019 **Arts Award for Excellence in Teaching, University of Waterloo**  
 Given yearly to recognize exceptional course teaching in the Arts Department
- 04/2019 **Certificate in University Teaching (CUT) Award, University of Waterloo**  
 Given yearly to the individual with highest teaching program achievement  
 \$1000.00
- 09/2015 -08/2016 **Graduate Scholarship (Institutional), University of Waterloo**  
 \$17,072.00 over 2 years (won twice)
- 04/2016 **Best Poster Award (Institutional), Graduate Discovery Conference**

|         |                                                                                                                                               |
|---------|-----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| 09/2014 | <b>Arts Graduate Experience Award (Institutional), University of Waterloo</b><br>\$4,222.00                                                   |
| 09/2013 | <b>Senate Scholarship (Institutional), McMaster University</b><br>\$800.00                                                                    |
| 09/2010 | <b>Honors Award, Level 2 (Institutional), McMaster University</b><br>\$1000.00                                                                |
| 09/2010 | <b>Queen Elizabeth II Aiming for the Top Scholarship (Provincial)</b><br>Ontario Ministry of Training, Colleges and Universities<br>\$1000.00 |

## **PUBLICATIONS (\*indicates co-supervised undergrad. student, IF= impact factor)**

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### **Journal Articles**

1. **#McCrackin, S.**, #Mayrand, F., & \*Wei, C. & Ristic, J. (in press). Filtering reality: Information about picture editing influences social affective judgements of depicted individuals. #Equal contribution. *Current Psychology*. IF = 2.50
2. Mayrand, F., **McCrackin, S.**, & Ristic, J. (2024). Perceived intentionality in eye gaze facilitates mental state attribution but not gaze following. *Nature Communications Psychology*, 90(2).
3. **McCrackin, S.**, & Ristic, J. (2024). Beyond the Whole: Reduced empathy for masked emotional faces is not driven by disrupted configural face processing. *Behavioral Sciences*, 14(9), 850. **SPECIAL ISSUE: Recent Advances in Understanding Facial Expression Processing: New Methods, Measures and Models**. IF = 2.50
4. **McCrackin, S.**, & Ristic, J. (2024) Lower empathy for face mask wearers is not explained by observer's reduced facial mimicry. *PloS one*, 19(9), e0310168. IF = 2.90
5. **McCrackin, S.**, & Ristic, J. (2024). Improving masked communication: the case for transparent masks. *Frontiers in Communication*, 9, 1371142. IF = 1.50
6. **McCrackin, S.**, \*#Provencher, S., \*#Mendell, E., & Ristic, J. (2023). Decoding the silent language of the eyes: Occluding the eye-region impacts understanding and sharing of emotions with others. #Equal contribution. *Social Cognition*, 41(4), 365-389. IF = 1.82
7. **McCrackin, S.**, & Ristic, J. (2022). Emotional context can reduce the negative impact of face masks on inferring emotions. *Frontiers in Psychology*, 13, 928524. IF = 2.99
8. **INVITED. McCrackin, S.**, \*#Provencher, S., \*#Mendell, E., & Ristic, J. (2022). Transparent masks mitigate the negative impact of opaque masks on understanding emotional states, but not on sharing them. #Equal contribution. *Cognitive Research: Principles and Implications*, **SPECIAL ISSUE: Face coverings: Considering the implications for face perception and speech communication**. 7(1), 59. IF = 3.70
9. **McCrackin, S.**, Capozzi, F., Mayrand, F., & Ristic, J. (2022). Face masks impair basic emotion recognition: Group effects and individual variability. *Social Psychology*. **SPECIAL ISSUE: Understanding others in Moments of Crisis**. 54(1-2), 4-15. IF = 2.71

10. Hudson, A., Durston, A. J., **McCrackin, S.**, & Itier, R. J. (2021). Emotion, Gender and Gaze Discrimination Tasks do not Differentially Impact the Neural Processing of Angry or Happy Facial Expressions—a Mass Univariate ERP Analysis. *Brain Topography*, 34(6), 813-833. IF = 3.02
11. **McCrackin, S.**, & Itier, R. (2021). I can see it in your eyes: Perceived gaze direction impacts ERP and behavioural measures of affective theory of mind. *Cortex*, 143, 205-222. IF = 4.03
12. \*Chen, Z., **McCrackin, S.**, \*Morgan, A., Itier, R. (2021). The gaze cueing effect and its enhancement by facial expressions are impacted by task demands: direct comparison of target localization and discrimination tasks. *Frontiers in Psychology*, 12, 696. IF = 2.99
13. **McCrackin, S.**, & Itier, R. (2020). Feeling through another's eyes: Perceived gaze direction impacts ERP and behavioral measures of positive and negative affective empathy. *NeuroImage*, 226, 117605. IF = 6.56
14. **McCrackin, S.**, Lee, C. M., Itier, R. J., & Fernandes, M. A. (2020). Meaningful faces: Self-relevance of semantic context in an initial social encounter improves later face recognition. *Psychonomic Bulletin & Review*, 1-9. IF = 5.54
15. **McCrackin, S.**, & Itier, R. (2019). Perceived gaze direction differentially affects discrimination of facial emotion, attention and gender – an ERP study. *Frontiers in Neuroscience*, 13, 517. IF = 4.50
16. **McCrackin, S.**, \*Soomal, K. S., \*Payal, P., & Itier, R.J. (2019). Spontaneous eye-movements in neutral and emotional gaze-cuing: An eye-tracking investigation. *Heliyon*, 5(4), e01583. IF = 2.85
17. **McCrackin, S.**, & Itier, R. (2019). Individual differences in the emotional modulation of gaze-cuing. *Cognition and Emotion*, 1-33. IF = 2.68
18. **McCrackin, S.**, & Itier, R. (2018). Is it about me? Time-course of self-relevance and valence effects on the perception of neutral faces with direct and averted gaze. *Biological Psychology*, 135, 47-64. IF = 3.25
19. **McCrackin, S.**, & Itier, R. (2018). Both fearful and happy expressions interact with gaze direction by 200ms SOA to speed attention orienting. *Visual Cognition*, 1-22. IF = 1.88

### **Articles Submitted**

1. **McCrackin, S.**, Mayrand, F., & Ristic, J. (submitted: COGNIT-D-25-00476). Social attention is enhanced by facial emotions even for occluded faces. *Cognition*.

### **Articles in Preparation**

1. **McCrackin, S.**, Gallant, A., & Ristic, J. (in prep). Expertise for recognizing emotions from masked faces is domain-specific. *Expected submission April 2025*.
2. **McCrackin, S.**, Mayrand, F., & Ristic, J. (in prep). Gaze cues impact perception of temporal order of gazed-at targets. *Expected submission June 2025*.
3. **McCrackin, S.**, Chatzis, G., & Ristic, J. (in prep). Neural correlates of occluded face perception. *Expected submission August 2025*.
4. Colombatto, C., **McCrackin, S.**, Scholl, B., & Ristic, J. (in prep). The Cone of Direct Gaze is widened by dilated pupils. *Expected submission June 2025*.

## **Non-Technical Publications**

1. **McCrackin, S.** (2020). Quantitatively assessing the success of your critical thinking teaching strategies. *Teaching Innovation Projects*, 9(1), 1-15. <https://doi.org/10.5206/tips.v9i1.10342>
2. **McCrackin, S.** (2020). Empirically supported strategies for encouraging critical thinking. *Teaching Innovation Projects*, 9(1), 1-18. <https://doi.org/10.5206/tips.v9i1.10335>

## **Published Abstracts**

1. **McCrackin, S.**, Mayrand, F., & Ristic, J. (accepted at VSS). Emotional modulation of gaze-cuing proceeds in absence of lower face information. *Journal of Vision*.
2. Mayrand, F., **McCrackin, S.**, Ristic, F. (accepted at VSS). Emotional gaze increases target temporal processing. *Journal of Vision*.
3. Colombatto, C., **McCrackin, S.**, Scholl, B., & Ristic, F. (accepted at VSS). Eyes vs. attentiveness: Pupil dilation widens the perceived cone of direct gaze. *Journal of Vision*.
4. Ristic, J. & **McCrackin, S.** (2022). Occluding face parts impairs human social communication. *Journal of Vision*, 22(14), 3649.
5. **McCrackin, S.**, \*Provencher, S., \*Mendell, E., & Ristic, J. (2022). Occluding the eye-region impacts inferring and sharing a face's emotional state. #Equal contribution. *Journal of Vision*, 22(14), 3672.
6. Mayrand, F., **McCrackin, S.**, & Ristic, J. (2022). Gaze following from another's perspective. *Journal of Vision*, 22(14), 4426.
7. Mayrand, F., **McCrackin, S.**, Capozzi, F., & Ristic, J. (2021). Both cue directionality and mental perspective contribute to social attention. *Journal of Vision*, 21(9), 2309.
8. #**McCrackin, S.**, #Capozzi, F., \*Mendell, E., \*Provencher, S., Mayrand, F., & Ristic, J. (2021). Recognition of emotions is affected by face masks. #Equal contribution. *Journal of Vision*, 21(9), 2153.
9. Lebel, M. M., Doan, T., **McCrackin, S.**, Denison, S., & Itier, R. (2021). Are you talking about me? A pilot investigation of how gender modulates the effects of self-relevance and valence on emotional feelings. *Proceedings of the Annual Meeting of the Cognitive Science Society*, 43, 43.
10. **McCrackin, S.**, & Itier, R. (2019). Positive and negative empathy exert different effects on the perception of neutral faces with direct and averted gaze. *Journal of Vision*, 19(10), 217b.
11. **McCrackin, S.**, & Itier, R. (2018). Perceived gaze direction affects basic cognitive and affective theory of mind processes – an ERP study. *Journal of Vision*, 18(10), 605.
12. **McCrackin, S.**, & Itier, R. (2016). The impact of contextual valence and self-relevance on electrocortical and behavioral responses to faces with direct and averted gaze. *Journal of Vision*, 16(12), 1392.
13. **McCrackin, S.**, & Itier, R. (2015). Increased attention orienting by fearful faces varies with Stimulus-Onset Asynchrony. *Journal of Vision*, 15(12), 142.

## CONFERENCE PRESENTATIONS

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### Talks

1. **McCrackin, S.**, & Ristic, J. (submitted). Social impairment from occluded faces stems from visual obstruction, not implied social barriers. *Psychonomics*. Denver, CO, USA.
2. **McCrackin, S.**, \*Naasz, S., & Ristic, J. (May 2025). From surgical masks to niqabs: How different face coverings influence social judgements. *Healthy Brains, Healthy Lives (HBHL)*. Montreal, QC, CA.
3. **McCrackin, S.**, & Ristic, J. (November 2024). What occluded faces tell us about configural face perception. *Configural Processing Consortium*. New York City, NY, USA.
4. **McCrackin, S.**, & Ristic, J. (November 2024). Visual expertise improvements in reading social cues from occluded faces are context-specific. *Psychonomics*. New York City, NY, USA.
5. **McCrackin, S.**, & Ristic, J. (June 2024). Opaque face masks reduce empathy through impaired holistic perception. *Canadian Psychological Association*. Ottawa, ON, CA.
6. #Mayrand, F., #**McCrackin, S.**, \*Liu, A. & Ristic, J. (June 2024). The Impact of Face Masks on Emotional Modulation of the Gaze Cueing Effect. #Equal contribution. *Canadian Psychological Association*. Ottawa, ON, CA.
7. **INVITED. McCrackin, S.**, \*Provencher, S., \*Mendell, E., Mayrand, F., Capozzi, F., & Ristic, J (May 2024). Masked Connections: Navigating Social Dynamics in the Era of Face Coverings. *Integrate & Fire! Big Questions in Neuroscience*. Montreal, ON, CA.
8. Mayrand, F., **McCrackin, S.**, & Ristic, J. (November 2023). Gazing with purpose: Perceived intentionality in Gaze Shifts Facilitates Gaze Following. *Psychonomics*. San Francisco, CA, USA.
9. **INVITED. McCrackin, S.** \*Provencher, S., \*Mendell, E., Mayrand, F., Capozzi, F., & Ristic, J (October 2023). Unmasking Our Emotions: Navigating Human Connections in a Masked World. *Cognitive Research at McGill (CRAM)*. Montreal, ON, CA.
10. **McCrackin, S.**, \*Zhang, A., Mayrand, F., Ristic, J. (July 2023). Eyes on the clock: How emotional gaze cues make time slow down. *Canadian Society for Brain, Behavior and Cognitive Science (CSBBCS)*. Guelph, ON, CA.
11. **McCrackin, S.**, & Ristic, J. (June 2023). The negative impact of face masks on empathy is not explained by reduced facial mimicry. *Canadian Psychological Association*. Toronto, ON, CA.
12. #**McCrackin, S.**, #Colombatto, C., \*Fratino, V., Scholl, B., & Ristic, J. (November 2022). Pupil Dilation Widens the Perceived Cone of Direct Gaze. #Equal contribution. *Psychonomics*. Boston, MA, USA.
13. **INVITED SYMPOSIUM TALK. McCrackin, S.**, \*#Provencher, S., \*#Mendell, E., & Ristic, J. (August 2022). Putting up a wall: Occlusion of the eye and mouth regions reduces the ability to recognize, infer, and share emotional states. #Equal contribution. *European Society for Cognitive Psychology (ESCoP)*. Lille, France.

14. **McCrackin, S.,** \*Provencher, S., \*Mendell, E., \*Audet, I., & Ristic, J. (July 2022). Unmasking emotions: The negative impact of facial occlusion by masks on reading emotions may be reduced with transparent masks and emotional context. *Canadian Society for Brain, Behavior and Cognitive Science (CSBBCS)*. Halifax, NS, CA.
15. **McCrackin, S.,** Mayrand, F., & Ristic, J. (November 2021). Mentalistic not directional aspect of social orienting is associated with perspective taking ability. *Object Perception, visual Attention, and visual Memory (OPAM)*. Virtual International Conference.
16. **McCrackin, S.,** Mayrand, F., & Ristic, J. (November 2021). Gaze signals include complex representations of other people's minds. *Psychonomics*. Virtual International Conference.
17. **McCrackin, S.,** Capozzi, F., \*Provencher, S., \*Mendell, E., Mayrand, F. & Ristic, R. (June 2021). Individual differences in social competence and personality traits modulate emotion recognition from masked faces. *Canadian Society for Brain, Behavior and Cognitive Science (CSBBCS)*. Montreal, QC, CA.
18. **McCrackin, S.,** & Itier, R., (June 2019). Putting the "eyes" in empathizing: Electrocortical and behavioral responses during a positive empathy task are modulated by perceived gaze direction. *Canadian Society for Brain, Behavior and Cognitive Science (CSBBCS)*. Waterloo, ON, CA.
19. **McCrackin, S.,** & Itier, R., (April 2018). Autistic traits are associated with reduced emotional enhancement of gaze-orienting. *Graduate Discovery Conference*. Waterloo, ON, CA.

### **Poster Presentations**

1. **McCrackin, S.,** Chatzis, G. & Ristic, J. (November 2024). Visual occlusion of faces alters typical neural face processing. *Object Perception, visual Attention, and visual Memory (OPAM)*. New York City, NY, USA.
2. **McCrackin, S.,** Chatzis, G. & Ristic, J. (April 2024). Electrophysiological correlates of altered emotional face perception by face masks. *Social Affective Neuroscience Society (SANS)*. Toronto, ON, CA.
3. **McCrackin, S.,** \*Zhao, P., Mayrand, F., Ristic, J. (July 2023). The gaze advantage: Temporal order judgements are more accurate for gazed-at targets. *Canadian Society for Brain, Behavior and Cognitive Science (CSBBCS)*. Guelph, ON, CA.
4. Mayrand, F, **McCrackin, S.,** \*Wei, Claire, & Ristic, J. (July 2023). The effect of photo editing and perceived attractiveness on sociability in social media. *Canadian Society for Brain, Behavior and Cognitive Science (CSBBCS)*. Guelph, ON, CA.
5. **McCrackin, S.,** \*Coco Jie Wang, & Ristic, J. (June 2023). Mimicking the facial expressions of masked faces does not restore empathetic responses towards them. *Canadian Psychological Association*. Toronto, ON, CA.
6. Mayrand, F, **McCrackin, S.,** \*Wei, Claire, & Ristic, J. (June 2023). 'Beautifying' an image using a filter app is associated with increased ratings of attractiveness and sociability regardless of knowledge of photo editing. *Canadian Psychological Association*. Toronto, ON, CA.
7. **McCrackin, S.,** Mayrand, F., \*Zhao, P., & Ristic, J. (May 2023). Emotional gaze cuing impacts temporal order judgements for gazed-at targets. *Canadian Association for Neuroscience (CAN)*. Montreal, QC, CA.

8. Mayrand, F., **McCrackin, S.**, Lowry, A., Shao, C., & Ristic, J. (May 2023). Reading the minds of others: self-generated eye gaze shifts are responded to faster than the computer-instructed ones. *Canadian Association for Neuroscience (CAN)*. Montreal, QC, CA.
9. \*Audet, I, **McCrackin, S.**, & Ristic, J. (May 2023). Context reduces the negative impact of masks on inferring emotions. *Healthy Brains, Healthy Lives (HBHL)*. Montreal, QC, CA.
10. Mayrand, F., **McCrackin, S.**, & Ristic, J. (November 2022). Perceptual display variability does not modulate the mentalistic and directional aspects of gaze following. *Psychonomics*. Boston, MA, USA.
11. **McCrackin, S.**, \*Khalil, N., & Ristic, J. (August 2022). Both cue directionality and mental perspective contribute to social attention. *NSERC Collaborative Research and Training Experience (CREATE) Symposium*. Virtual provincial conference.
12. **McCrackin, S.**, \*Fratino, V., Ristic, J. (July 2022). The Cone of Direct Gaze can be reliably measured online using the Virtual Chin Rest. *Canadian Society for Brain, Behavior and Cognitive Science (CSBBCS)*. Halifax, NS, CA.
13. Mayrand, F., \*Khalil, N., **McCrackin, S.**, & Ristic, J. (July 2022). The role of gaze direction and mental content in social orienting: An eye-tracking investigation. *Canadian Society for Brain, Behavior and Cognitive Science (CSBBCS)*. Halifax, NS, CA.
14. **McCrackin, S.**, \*Audet, I., & Ristic, J. (May 2022). The negative impact of face occlusion by masks on social communication is reduced by the availability of appropriate emotional context. *Social Affective Neuroscience Society (SANS)*, Virtual international conference.
15. **McCrackin, S.**, \*Provencher, S., \*Mendell, E., & Ristic, J. (November 2021). I can't see it in your eyes: Occluding an individual's eye-region impacts the ability to infer and share their emotional state. #Equal contribution. *Women in Psychology's Annual Trends in Psychology Summit (TiPS)*, Boston (virtual), MA, USA.
16. \*Chen, Z., **McCrackin, S.**, \*Morgan, A., & Itier, R. (October 2020). Cognitive demands can disrupt the enhancement of gaze cueing by emotional expressions. *Graduate Discovery Conference*. Waterloo, ON, CA.
17. #Lee, C., #**McCrackin, S.**, Itier, R., & Fernades, M. (July 2020). You said something about me: Contextual self-relevance during a first encounter with a face impacts later face recognition. #Equal contribution. *Cognitive Science Society (CSS)*. Virtual international conference.
18. Hudson, A., \*Durstun, A., **McCrackin, S.**, & Itier, R. (February 2020). Using mass univariate statistics to examine task effects on early face expression processing. *Lake Ontario Visionary Establishment (LOVE)*. Niagara Falls, ON, CA.
19. **McCrackin, S.**, \*Soomal, S., \*Payal, P., & Itier, R.J. (February 2019). A systematic investigation of eye-movements in the emotional gaze-cuing paradigm. *Lake Ontario Visionary Establishment (LOVE)*. Niagara Falls, ON, CA.
20. Hudson, A., **McCrackin, S.**, Lee, M. & Itier, R. (February 2019). Task effects on early expression processing. *Lake Ontario Visionary Establishment (LOVE)*. Niagara Falls, ON, CA.
21. **McCrackin, S.**, & Itier, R. (May 2018). Perceived gaze direction affects basic cognitive and affective theory of mind processes – an ERP study. *Southern Ontario Neuroscience Association (SONA)*. Waterloo, ON, CA.

22. **McCrackin, S., & Itier, R.** (February 2018). Autistic traits, but not anxiety or depression, modulate the emotional enhancement of gaze-cuing. *Lake Ontario Visionary Establishment (LOVE)*. Niagara Falls, ON, CA.
23. **McCrackin, S., & Itier, R.,** (May 2017). Time course of face processing modulations by contextual self-relevance and sub-clinical social anxiety levels. *Southern Ontario Neuroscience Association (SONA)*. St. Catherine's, ON, CA.
24. **McCrackin, S., & Itier, R.,** (March 2017). Contextual self-relevance modulates face processing differently in those with high versus low sub-clinical social anxiety. *Cognitive Neuroscience Society Conference (CNS)*. San Francisco, CA, USA.
25. **McCrackin, S., & Itier, R.,** (May 2016). The impact of contextual valence and self-relevance on electrocortical and behavioral responses to faces with direct and averted gaze. *Southern Ontario Neuroscience Association (SONA)*. Waterloo, ON, CA.
26. **McCrackin, S., & Itier, R.,** (May 2016). The impact of contextual valence and self-relevance on electrocortical and behavioral responses to faces with direct and averted gaze. Graduate Discovery Conference. Waterloo, ON, CA. **\*WON BEST POSTER AWARD**
27. **McCrackin, S.,** Nazarov A., Lanius R., Rhind S., Moulden H., Mamak, M., Di Battista, A., Furimski, I., Chaimowitz, G., McKinnon, M., (April 2014). Investigating mindfulness as a protective factor in a group of healthcare professionals exposed to a shared traumatic event. McMaster University Psychology Poster Day. Hamilton, ON, CA.

### Workshops

1. **McCrackin, S.** (April 2018). Motivating students to think critically with empirically supported strategies. University of Waterloo Teaching and Learning Conference. Waterloo, ON, CA. Workshop creator and facilitator.

### INVITED COMMUNITY PRESENTATIONS

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|---------|----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| 03/2025 | <b>Guest Lecturer: Neuroscience of Social Cognition and Face Perception</b><br>Queen's University                                |
| 01/2024 | <b>Guest Panelist: Attention and Social Cognition and Postdoctoral Life</b><br>McGill University Graduate Research Methods Class |
| 11/2023 | <b>Guest Panelist: Poetry Matters Panel on Poetic Attention</b><br>McGill University Poetry Matters Initiative                   |
| 07/2020 | <b>Guest Panelist: Graduate School Information Session</b><br>University of Waterloo                                             |
| 06/2017 | <b>Guest Lecturer: How to Read a Scientific Paper</b><br>University of Waterloo                                                  |
| 05/2017 | <b>Guest Lecturer: Research Methods, Ethics and Public Perception</b><br>Bluevale Collegiate Institute                           |

- 04/2017*      **Guest Lecturer: Psychology 101**  
Grand River Collegiate Institute
- 01/2017*      **Guest Panelist: Research Methods in Behavioral Neuroscience**  
University of Waterloo
- 11/2016*      **Guest Lecturer: Emotion**  
University of Waterloo
- 10/2015*      **Guest Lecturer: Neural Correlates of Face Processing**  
University of Waterloo
- 12/2014*      **Guest Panelist: Ask an Aspiring Neuroscientist**  
University of Waterloo

## **PRESS AND MEDIA COVERAGE OF RESEARCH**

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### **Video Interviews or Invitations:**

- 05/2022*      **Face masks impair emotion recognition**  
Zoom interview invitation for Arirang TV, an international English-language television network based in Seoul
- 02/2022*      **Our ability to read facial expressions is impacted by face masks**  
French Video interview for an ICI RDI segment
- 02/2022*      **Behind the mask: How masks impact our social interactions**  
French Video pre-interview for an ICI RDI segment

### **Radio Interviews or Invitations:**

- 10/2022*      **How masks (public health) affect emotion and empathy**  
English Radio [interview](#) with Canadian Broadcasting Company (CBC) segment "Let's Go"
- 03/2022*      **Face masks and emotion recognition**  
English Radio [interview](#) with CKCU-FM for the Midweek Radio show. Timestamp: 17:10
- 02/2022*      **How wearing a mask has altered the communication of emotions (Comment le port du masque a altéré la communication des émotions)**  
French Radio [interview](#) with Radio Canada for the segment "In the Mosaic" (Dans la Mosaïque)
- 02/2022*      **What emotions are hidden by the mask? (Quelle émotions sont cachées par le masque?)**  
French Radio [interview](#) with Radio Canada for the segment "It's Never the Same" (C'est Jamais Pareil)

02/2022 **Does wearing a mask interfere with nonverbal communication? (Est-ce que le port du masque nuit à la communication non-verbale?)**  
 French Radio [interview](#) with Radio Canada for the segment “Junction-11-17” (Jonction-11-17)

### **Written Interviews and Other Coverage**

05/2025 **Follow my gaze - A new study reveals how eyes can replace words in communicating with others.**  
 Written [interview](#) featured on Atlantico.fr

05/2025 **People really can communicate with just their eyes, study finds**  
 Written [interview](#) featured on LiveScience.com

04/2025 **Our brains can communicate wordlessly, through our eyes**  
 Written [interview](#) featured on both the McGill Newsroom and the McGill Science Homepage

10/2022 **What’s going on behind that face mask?**  
 Written [coverage](#) of our research featured on Research2Reality, a science knowledge translation site

10/2022 **Transparent face masks restore emotional understanding, but not empathy**  
 Written [interview](#) featured on both the McGill Newsroom and the McGill Science Homepage - Picked up and distributed by 4 other online media sources including: [Mirage News](#), [Medical Press](#) (also shared 11 times on this site), [Academic Gates](#) and [My Science](#)

10/2022 **Masks impede people’s ability to understand and share emotions**  
 Written [coverage](#) of our research featured in a Think Fast segment on Politico.com

05/2022 **As masks start to come off in school, anxieties over facial features appear to rise**  
 Written [interview](#) for Townsend Harris High School’s (population of 1108 students) newspaper, The Classic

03/2022 **Masks impede communication says study**  
 Written [coverage](#) of our research featured on The Suburban, the largest weekly English newspaper in Quebec

02/2022 **Face masks impair nonverbal communication between individuals**  
 Written [interview](#) with the McGill Newsroom, featured on the McGill University homepage - Picked up and distributed by 7 online media sources including: [TrueViralNews](#) (liked 2.2K times), [Phys Org](#), [Alpha Galileo](#), [MirageNews](#), [Psychreg](#), [ScienceBlog](#) and [EurekAlert!](#)

### **Knowledge Mobilization Through Social Media**

11/2022 **Purposeful Empathy Podcast**  
[Podcast](#) featuring Dr. Jelena Ristic discussing our research on Anita Nowak’s show Purposeful Empathy  
 -Posted on [Facebook](#) (1.4K followers), [Instagram](#) (612 followers), [Youtube](#) (400 subscribers), [Spotify](#) and [Apple Podcasts](#)

- 02/2022 **New research shows masks make it more difficult to read emotions from faces**  
 Blogpost [interview](#) for the popular psychology blog site PsyPost.org  
 -Viewed 12,000 times on PsyPost.org, 6,000 times at MSN, and generated 272 interactions (likes, comments, shares) on [Facebook](#))
- 02/2022 **Masks impair the recognition of six basic facial expressions, according to new research**  
 Reddit [thread](#) discussing our research with over 7000 upvotes and 664 comments

## TEACHING AND MENTORSHIP

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### Undergraduate Courses Developed and Taught

- 05/2021-07/2022 **Cognition (Psych 213 – Online and In-person), McGill University**  
 Developed and taught course
- 09/2018-12/2019 **Introductory Psychology (Psych 101), Renison University College**  
 Developed and taught course
- 01/2018-04/2018 **Physiological Psychology (Psych 261 - Online), University of Waterloo**  
 Taught pre-existing course

### Undergraduate Student Co-Supervision

| Year | Student Name          | Course/Affiliation                   | Topic/Thesis Title                                                            |
|------|-----------------------|--------------------------------------|-------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| 2025 | Sophie Naasz          | Honours Thesis<br>McGill University  | How different face occluders influence emotion recognition and empathy        |
| 2025 | Ruonan (Tristan) Kong | Honours Thesis<br>McGill University  | The impact of clear and opaque occluders on empathy, realness, and experience |
| 2024 | Angran (Lar) Liu      | Honours Thesis<br>McGill University  | Investigating the impact of face masks on emotional and neutral gaze cuing    |
| 2023 | Coco Jie Wang         | Honours Thesis<br>McGill University  | The impact of face masks on empathy is not driven by spontaneous mimicry      |
| 2023 | Phoebe Zhao           | Honours Thesis<br>McGill University  | The effect of gaze cues on temporal order judgements                          |
| 2023 | Alice Zhang           | Honours Thesis<br>McGill University  | The impact of neutral and emotional gaze cues on time duration perception     |
| 2023 | Zijiao (Claire) Wei   | Honours Thesis<br>McGill University  | The effect of photo editing on perceived attractiveness and sociability       |
| 2022 | Victoria Fratino      | Honours Thesis<br>McGill University  | The Effects of Perceived Pupil Size on the Cone of Direct Gaze                |
| 2022 | Nada Khalil           | Honours Project<br>McGill University | Do Both Gaze Direction and Mental Content Drive Eye Movements in Gaze Cuing?  |

|      |                     |                                           |                                                                                              |
|------|---------------------|-------------------------------------------|----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| 2022 | India Audet         | Honours Thesis<br>McGill University       | Context reduces the negative impact of masks on inferring emotions                           |
| 2021 | Ethan Mendell       | Honours Thesis<br>McGill University       | Face masks impact emotion recognition accuracy                                               |
| 2021 | Sabrina Provencher  | Honours Project,<br>McGill University     | Individual differences in emotion recognition for masked faces                               |
| 2021 | Julie-Ann Di Blasio | Honours Project,<br>McGill University     | The role of mentalizing and directionality in social attention                               |
| 2019 | Alicia Morgan       | Honours Thesis,<br>University of Waterloo | The effects of task demands on the emotional modulation of gaze-cuing at short and long SOAs |
| 2017 | Payal Patel         | Honours Thesis,<br>University of Waterloo | Modulation of social attention by facial expressions                                         |

### **Interviews about Teaching**

- 05/2019 CUT Award recipient takes instruction in critical thinking to the next level  
[Interview](#) with the Centre for Teaching Evidence, University of Waterloo
- 07/2020 Graduate Student Profile – Sarah McCrackin  
[Interview](#) with the Arts Graduate Recruitment Office, University of Waterloo

### **Mentorship Programs**

- 09/2016-08/2020 **Big Sibling-Little Sibling Mentorship Program**, *University of Waterloo*
- 01/2013-04/2013 **Integrative Psychology, Neuroscience, and Behavior Peer Mentorship Program**, *McMaster University*

### **Teaching Assistantships**

- 01/2020-04/2020 **Social Cognitive Development (Psych 363/470)**, *University of Waterloo*
- 01/2019-04/2019 **Online: Introductory Psychology (Psych 101)**, *University of Waterloo*
- 09/2017-12/2017 **Online: Introductory Psychology (Psych 101)**, *University of Waterloo*
- 05/2015-08/2015 **Perception (Psych 306)**, *University of Waterloo*
- 01/2017-04/2017 **Online: Introductory Psychology (Psych 101)**, *University of Waterloo*
- 09/2016-12/2016 **Human Neuropsychology (Psych 307)**, *University of Waterloo*
- 01/2016-04/2016 **Cognitive Processes (Psych 207)**, *University of Waterloo*

09/2015-12/2015      **Research Methods (Psych 291), University of Waterloo**

05/2015-08/2015      **Online: Introductory Psychology (Psych 101), University of Waterloo**

01/2015-04/2015      **Online: Introductory Psychology (Psych 101), University of Waterloo**

09/2014-12/2014      **Introductory Psychology (Psych 101), University of Waterloo**

## **PROFFESIONAL AND PUBLIC SERVICE**

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### **Professional service:**

#### **Article Editor**

SAGE Open – 02/2020; 04/2020; 06/2020

#### **Ad-hoc Reviewer**

Cognition – 06/2025  
 Quarterly Journal of Experimental Psychology – 06/2020, 05/2021, 06/2023, 04/2024  
 Journal of Experimental Psychopathology – 03/2024, 05/2024  
 Scientific Reports – 12/2019, 03/2020, 10/2023  
 Psychophysiology – 02/2022, 07/2023, 10/2023  
 Biological Psychology – 10/2021, 02/2022, 08/2024  
 Cortex – 02/2024, 05/2024  
 Cognition and Emotion – 12/2023, 05/2024  
 Asian Journal of Social Psychology – 03/2024  
 Journal of Genetic Psychology – 11/2023  
 Journal of Personality and Social Psychology – 06/2023  
 Cognitive Research: Principles and Implications – 07/2022  
 British Journal of Psychology – 07/2022  
 Frontiers in Psychology – 02/2022  
 Acta Psychologica – 04/2022  
 Cognitive Processing – 03/2022  
 Frontiers in Neuroscience – 07/2022  
 Social Psychology – 06/2021, 10/2021  
 Emotion – 07/2021, 11/2022, 07/2023  
 Journal of Cognitive Psychology – 07/2021, 01/2022, 12/2023  
 Cognitive, Affective, and Behavioral Neuroscience – 03/2020; 08/2020  
 Interaction Studies – 08/2020  
 Interactive Learning Environments – 06/2020  
 International Journal of Psychophysiology – 06/2020  
 Advances in Cognitive Psychology – 01/2020  
 Attention, Perception and Psychophysics – 11/2020  
 SAGE Open – 01/2020, 12/2021  
 Psychology, Health, Medicine – 09/2019; 11/2019; 01/2020; 04/2024  
 Journal of Psychological Research – 11/2019  
 Visual Cognition – 11/2018; 10/2020; 11/2020; 03/2021; 1/2023, 7/2023, 11/2023  
 Attention, Perception & Psychophysics – 11/2020  
 Journal of Experimental Psychology: Human Perception and Performance – 11/2020

#### **Grant Reviewer:**

National Research Council of Canada Postdoctoral Fellowship (PDF) Program – 10/2023, 06/2024

**Conference Reviewer:**

Cognitive Sciences Society – 01/2020; 03/2021

**Public Service:**

|                 |                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                        |
|-----------------|--------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| 04/2025         | <b>McGill Undergraduate Psychology Poster Session Judge</b><br>McGill University                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                       |
| 07/2021-08/2023 | <b>NSERC CREATE Poster Session Judge</b><br>Natural Sciences and Engineering Research Council of Canada (NSERC) CREATE Symposium in Nonlinear Dynamics                                                                                                                                                                                                 |
| 01/2023         | <b>Ontario High School Ethics Bowl (OEB) Judge</b><br>University of Toronto                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                            |
| 08/2017-08/2020 | <b>Accessible Article Writer</b><br>CurioCity<br>-Wrote an <a href="#">article</a> on face and object processing to explain face perception to teens:<br><b>S. McCrackin</b> (March, 2018) Calling all face experts...yes that means you!<br>-Created a research profile in order to help teens better understand how psychology research is conducted |
| 05/2017-06/2019 | <b>Let's Talk Science Demonstration Facilitator</b><br>University of Waterloo Let's Talk Science Branch                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                |
| 03/2015-03/2016 | <b>Science Fair Judge</b><br>Centennial Public School                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                  |
| 11/2015         | <b>Waterloo Unlimited Poster Day</b><br>Waterloo Unlimited Enrichment Program                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                          |
| 10/2014-05/2015 | <b>Reading Instructor</b><br>Westmount Public School                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                   |
| 10/2014         | <b>Science Demonstration Planner</b><br>Habitat for Humanity                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                           |

**PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT**

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**Research:**

|         |                                                                                                                                            |
|---------|--------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| 09/2022 | <b>Attention: An Interdisciplinary Workshop</b> , <i>London School of Economics</i>                                                        |
| 01/2022 | <b>Fundamentals of Intellectual Property Workshop</b> , <i>NSERC Create Network</i>                                                        |
| 01/2022 | <b>Psychology Meets Biology in COVID-19: What We Know and Why It Matters for Public Health</b> , <i>American Psychological Association</i> |
| 07/2021 | <b>Guide to Data Analysis and Data Visualization in R Workshop</b> , <i>Rotman Research Institute</i>                                      |

|         |                                                                                             |
|---------|---------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| 07/2021 | <b>Introduction to Python Workshop</b> , <i>Rotman Research Institute</i>                   |
| 06/2021 | <b>Summer school in Non-linear Dynamics</b> , <i>NSERC Create Network</i>                   |
| 03/2021 | <b>Neuroimaging at Rotman 101: Intro to MRI Workshop</b> , <i>Rotman Research Institute</i> |
| 03/2021 | <b>WebMorph Methods in Face Research Workshop</b> , <i>University of Glasgow</i>            |
| 03/2021 | <b>Making Your Work Open Access Workshop</b> , <i>McGill University</i>                     |
| 06/2015 | <b>Introduction to Programming in Matlab Course</b> , <i>Vanderbilt University</i>          |
| 04/2016 | <b>Brock and SHARCNet EEG Analysis Workshop</b> , <i>Brock University</i>                   |

### **Teaching**

|                 |                                                                                                                                                   |
|-----------------|---------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| 03/2021         | <b>Tips for Teaching Remotely Workshop</b> , <i>McGill University</i>                                                                             |
| 09/2016-9/2018  | <b>Certificate in University Teaching Program</b> , <i>Centre for Teaching Excellence, University of Waterloo</i>                                 |
| 11/2017         | <b>Methods to Reduce Mistake Anxiety in Instructional Lab Components Workshop</b> , <i>Centre for Teaching Excellence, University of Waterloo</i> |
| 11/2017         | <b>How Can TAs &amp; Instructors Support Student Mental Health? Workshop</b> , <i>Centre for Teaching Excellence, University of Waterloo</i>      |
| 09/2015-09/2016 | <b>Fundamentals of University Teaching Certification</b> , <i>Centre for Teaching Excellence, University of Waterloo</i>                          |

### **EVENT ORGANIZATION**

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|                  |                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                              |
|------------------|----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| 06/2021          | <b>CSBBCS Annual Conference Meeting Volunteer and Moderator</b> , <i>McGill University</i>                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                   |
| 06/2019          | <b>CSBBCS Annual Conference Meeting Volunteer</b> , <i>University of Waterloo</i>                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                            |
| 09/2016- 09/2018 | <b>Big Sibling-Little Sibling Mentorship Program Event Organizer</b> , <i>University of Waterloo</i>                                                                                                                                                                                                                                         |
| 04/2018          | <b>Teaching and Learning Conference Symposium Organizer</b><br><i>University of Waterloo Teaching and Learning Conference</i> ,<br>- Fernandes, M., Duncan, T., Marty-Dugas, J., Mugon, J., <b>McCrackin, S</b> (April 2018).<br>Boredom, doodling, effortful concentration and smartphones in the classroom –<br>distractors or motivators? |
| 12/2013          | <b>Tackling Depression, Focus on YOUTH Seminar Volunteer</b><br><i>St. Joseph's Healthcare Hamilton</i>                                                                                                                                                                                                                                      |

## REFERENCES

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**Dr. Jelena Ristic**

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