

CURRICULUM VITAE

ALAYNA E. SHOENFELT

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RESEARCH INTERESTS

- ❖ Adult Lifespan Development and Aging
- ❖ Social Coordination and Face-to-Face Communication
- ❖ Social Decision Making
- ❖ Susceptibility to Deception, Financial Fraud, and Cyberattacks
- ❖ Novel Eye-tracking Methods

EDUCATION

Ph.D., Psychology, University of Florida *Expected 2026*
Department of Psychology, Gainesville, FL
Cumulative GPA, 4.0
Dual Specialization: Developmental Psychology and Behavioral & Cognitive Neuroscience
Dissertation: *The Role of Eye-gaze in Trust-related Decision Making in Aging*

M.S., Psychology, University of Florida December 2023
Department of Psychology, Gainesville, FL
Cumulative GPA, 4.0
Dual Specialization: Developmental Psychology and Behavioral & Cognitive Neuroscience
Master's Thesis: *Effects of Chronic Intranasal Oxytocin Administration on Face Processing in Aging: An Eye Tracking Study*

B.A., Honors in Psychology, Indiana University of Pennsylvania December 2020
Department of Psychology, Indiana, PA
Cumulative GPA, 4.0
Minor in Biomedical Science
Honors Thesis: *The Influence of a Potential Human Pheromone on Anxiety and Emotion Detection*

PEER REVIEWED PUBLICATIONS

Shoenfelt, A., Isaacowitz, D. M., & Ebner, N. C. (2025). Eye Tracking in Aging: Challenges, Best Practices, and Novel Frontiers. [Special Issue] *ACM Trans. Appl. Percept.*
<https://doi.org/10.1145/3733834>

Pehlivanoglu, D., **Shoenfelt, A.**, Hakim, Z., Heemskerk, A., Zhen, J., Huentelman, M., Grilli, M.D., Wilson, R.C., Turner, G., Spreng, R.N., & Ebner, N.C. (2024). Phishing vulnerability compounded by older age, APOE4 genotype, and lower cognition. *PNAS Nexus*.
<https://doi.org/10.1093/pnasnexus/pgae296>

Shoenfelt, A., Pehlivanoglu, D., Lin, T., Ziaei, M., Feifel, D., & Ebner, N.C. (2024). Effects of chronic intranasal oxytocin on visual attention to faces vs natural scenes in older adults. *Psychoneuroendocrinology*, 164, 107018. <https://doi.org/10.1016/j.psyneuen.2024.107018>

Horta, M., **Shoenfelt, A.**, Lighthall, N. R., Perez, E., Frazier, I., Heemskerk, A., Lin, T., Wilson, R.C., & Ebner, N. C. (2024). Age-group differences in trust-related decision-making and learning. [Special Issue] *Scientific Reports*. <https://doi.org/10.1038/s41598-023-50500-x>

Ebner, N. C., Pehlivanoglu, D., & Shoenfelt, A. (2023). Financial fraud and deception in aging. *Advances in Geriatric Medicine and Research*, 5(3). <https://doi.org/10.20900/agmr20230007>

SUBMITTED MANUSCRIPTS & PREPRINTS

Shoenfelt, A., Chadwick, R.E., Lin, T., Park, S., Ayub Barres, T., & Ebner, N.C. (submitted March 2026). Eye see your intentions: Adult lifespan differences in motivational cue perception. [Special Issue]. *Psychology and Aging*.

Perez, E., **Shoenfelt, A.,** Lighthall, N.R., Frazier, I., El-Shafie, D., Lin, T., & Ebner, N.C. (under review). The Social Iowa Gambling Task (S-IGT): A novel paradigm for investigating social learning and decision making. <https://doi.org/10.31234/osf.io/s5xq9>

GRANTS

Pilot Research Grant: Scientific Research Network on January 2025 – December 2025
Decision Neuroscience & Aging (SRNDNA) (NIH 1R24AG076847-03)

Project Title: *Age-Related Deception Detection Deficits in Face-to-Face Dyadic Interactions: A Mechanistic Analysis*

PI: Alayna Shoenfelt, M.S.

Co-PIs: Kylie Wright, M.S. & Natalie Ebner, Ph.D.

Total Award: \$24,000

National Institute on Aging T32 Fellowship

August 2023 – August 2025

Training Program: Research Training in Non-Pharmacological Interventions for Cognition in Aging, MCI, and Alzheimer's Disease (T32AG020499)

Mentor: Dr. Natalie Ebner

Director: Dr. Michael Marsiske

HONORS AND AWARDS

Cognitive Aging and Memory Center Travel Award January 2026
Award: \$1500

CLAS Travel Award December 2025
Award: \$400

Department of Psychology Travel Award December 2025
Award: \$750

Trish Ring Research Award May 2025 – May 2026
Award: \$3000
Project: *Age-Related Deception Detection Deficits in Face-to-Face Dyadic Interactions*

Gerber Developmental Psychology Research Award March 2025
Award: \$2000

Jaquelin Goldman Dissertation Fellowship August 2025 – August 2026
Award: 12-month stipend support

Jaquelin Goldman Research Award January 2025 – August 2025
Award: \$5000

Project: *Age-Related Deception Detection Deficits in Face-to-Face Dyadic Interactions*

Department of Psychology Travel Award Award: \$750	December 2024
Cluff Aging Research Award Award: \$1,250	March 2024
Department of Psychology Travel Award Award: \$750	March 2024
Jaquelin Goldman Research Award Award: \$5000 Project: <i>An Eye Towards Aging: Gaze Perception of Naturalistic and Computer-Generated Faces Across the Lifespan</i>	December 2023 – August 2024
Graduate Student Council Travel Award Award: \$350	December 2023
Department of Psychology Travel Award Award: \$750	December 2023
Jaquelin Goldman Spring Scholarship Award: \$6000	May 2023 – August 2023
Jaquelin Goldman Research Award Award: \$5000 Project: <i>A Neural Network Approach to Understanding Fake News Detection Across the Adult Lifespan</i>	December 2022 – August 2023
Sallie P. Ashe Travel Award Award: \$500	December 2022
Department of Psychology Travel Award Award: \$750	November 2022
Jaquelin Goldman Spring Scholarship Award: \$6000	May 2022 – August 2022
Jaquelin Goldman Research Award Award: \$4997 Project: <i>Oxytocin and Aging Study</i>	December 2021 – August 2022
Graduate Student Council Travel Award Award: \$350	December 2021
Sallie P. Ashe Travel Award Award: \$500	December 2021
Department of Psychology Travel Award Award: \$600	November 2021

Undergraduate Summer Opportunity for Applying Research

June - August 2020

Award: \$2000

Project: *Beliefs and Knowledge Regarding Covid-19*

Research Experience for Summer Scholars

June - August 2019

Award: \$1500

Project: *The Effects of Systemic Dopamine Administration on the Behavior of Orange Head Cockroaches (Eublaberus Posticus)*

PRESENTATIONS

*Denotes an undergraduate mentee

Ayub Barres, T.*, **Shoenfelt, A.**, Chadwick, R. E., Lin, T., Park, S., Ebner, N.C. (April 2026). *Eye see your intentions: Adult lifespan differences in motivational cue perception*. Poster at the Psychology Graduate Student Organization Undergraduate Research Forum, Gainesville, FL, USA

Chadwick, R. E.*, **Shoenfelt, A.**, Lin, T., Park, S., Ayub Barres, T., Ebner, N.C. (April 2026). *Eye See Your Intentions: Adult Lifespan Differences in Motivational Cue Perception*. Poster at the Cognitive Aging and Memory Research Day, Gainesville, FL, USA

Lyons, P.*, **Shoenfelt, A.**, Faulkner, R., Chadwick, R., Wright K., Ebner, N. C. (April 2026). *Truth bias in dynamic face-to-face deception detection in aging and the role of personality traits*. Poster at the Center for Aging and Memory Research Day, Gainesville, FL, USA.

Shoenfelt, A., Chadwick, R., Lyons, P., Faulkner, R., Wright, K., & Ebner, N.C. (April, 2026). *A dual eye-tracking approach for investigating effects of dynamic eye-gaze behavior on face-to-face deception detection in older adults*. Poster at the Cognitive Aging and Memory Center Research Day in Gainesville, FL, USA.

Chadwick, R. E.*, **Shoenfelt, A.**, Lin, T., Park, S., Ayub Barres, T., Ebner, N.C. (March 2026). *Eye see your intentions: Adult lifespan differences in motivational cue perception*. Poster at the Institute of Learning in Retirement, Gainesville, FL, USA

Shoenfelt, A., Chadwick, R., Lyons, P., Faulkner, R., Wright, K., & Ebner, N.C. (March, 2026). *Effects of dynamic eye-gaze behavior on face-to-face deception detection in older adults: A dual eye-tracking approach*. Spotlight Poster at the Society for Affective Science Conference in Pittsburgh, PA, USA.

Ebner, N. C., **Shoenfelt, A.**, Chadwick, R., Wright, K., Faulkner, R., & Lyons, P. (February, 2026). *Dynamic eye-gaze behavior in naturalistic face-to-face deception detection: Leveraging novel dual eye-tracking methodology in older adults*. Talk at the annual meeting of the International Society for Behavioral Neuroscience, Auckland, New Zealand.

Shoenfelt, A., Pehlivanoglu, D., Lin, T., Ziaei, M., Feifel, D., & Ebner, N. C. (May, 2024). *Effects of chronic intranasal oxytocin on visual attention to faces vs natural scenes in older adults*. Poster at the 14th World Congress on Neurohypophysial Hormones, Atlanta, GA, USA.

Shoenfelt, A., Pehlivanoglu, D., Lin, T., Ziaei, M., Feifel, D., & Ebner, N. C. (April, 2024). *Chronic*

intranasal oxytocin effects on visual attention to social vs nonsocial stimuli in older adults Poster at the Social & Affective Neuroscience Society Conference, Toronto, ON, CA

Shoenfelt, A., Pehlivanoglu, D., Lin, T., Feifel, D., & Ebner, N. C. (November, 2023). *Effects of chronic intranasal oxytocin on visual attention to social vs nonsocial stimuli in older adults*. Poster at the Society for Social Neuroscience Conference (virtual).

Pehlivanoglu, D., **Shoenfelt, A.**, Horta, M., Lin, T., Woods, A., Feifel, D., & Ebner, N. C. (November, 2023). *Temporal Dynamics of Oxytocin in Aging: Putting the Tri-Phasic Model into Test*. Talk at the Society for Social Neuroscience (virtual).

Warren, R.*, El-Shafie, D., **Shoenfelt, A.**, Heemskerk, A., Lin, T., Ebner, N.C., (November, 2023). *State-trait anxiety moderates age effects on theory of mind*. Poster at the Fall Undergraduate Research Symposium at the University of Florida in Gainesville, FL, USA.

Kantor, M.*, **Shoenfelt, A.**, Pehlivanoglu, D., Heemskerk, A., Hakim, Z., Grilli, M., Huentelman, M., Turner, G., Spreng, N., & Ebner, N.C. (April, 2023). *Susceptibility to Online Deception in Aging*. Poster at the Undergraduate Research Symposium at the University of Florida in Gainesville, FL, USA.

Kantor, M.*, **Shoenfelt, A.**, Pehlivanoglu, D., Heemskerk, A., Hakim, Z., Grilli, M., Huentelman, M., Turner, G., Spreng, N., & Ebner, N.C. (April, 2023). *Susceptibility to Online Deception in Aging*. Poster at the PGSO Undergraduate Research Forum at the University of Florida in Gainesville, FL, USA.

Horta, M. H., **Shoenfelt, A.**, Perez, E., Frazier, I., Heemskerk, A., Lin, T., Lighthall, N. R., & Ebner, N. C. (February, 2023). *Age differences in trust-related decision-making*. North Central Florida Society for Neuroscience Annual Chapter Conference, Gainesville, FL, USA.

Shoenfelt, A.E., Pehlivanoglu, D., Lin, T., Krol, K., Perkeybile, A., Connelly, J., & Ebner, N. C. (February, 2023). *Associations Between Oxytocin Receptor Gene Methylation and Emotional Face Processing in Older Adults*. Poster at the Dallas Aging and Cognition conference in Dallas, TX, USA.

Horta, H., **Shoenfelt, A.E.**, Perez, E., Frazier, I., Heemskerk, A., Lin, T., Lighthall, N.R., Ebner, N.C. (February, 2023) *Age differences in trust-related decision-making and learning*. Talk at the Dallas Aging and Cognition Conference, Dallas, TX, USA.

Pehlivanoglu, D., **Shoenfelt, A.E.**, Heemskerk, A., Hakim, Z., Zhen, J., Huentelman, M., Grilli, M. D., Wilson, R. C., Turner, G., Spreng, R. N., & Ebner, N. C. (February, 2023). *Phishing in-the-Lab and in-the-Wild: Older age, APOE4 and Cognitive Status Predict Particular Susceptibility to Online Scams*. Talk at the Dallas Aging and Cognition Conference, Dallas, TX, USA.

Shoenfelt, A., Pehlivanoglu, D., Heemskerk, A., Hakim, Z., Grilli, M., Huentelman, M., & Ebner, N.C. (2022, February). *Susceptibility to Email Phishing in Older Adults and Individuals at Particular Risk for Alzheimer's Disease*. Poster accepted for the Dallas Aging and Cognition Conference in Dallas, TX (cancelled due to COVID-19).

Shoenfelt, A., Pehlivanoglu, D., Heemskerk, A., Hakim, Z., Grilli, M., Huentelman, M., & Ebner, N.C. (2022, January). *Susceptibility to Email Phishing in Older Adults and Individuals at Particular Risk*

for Alzheimer's Disease. Poster presented at the 12th Annual North Central Florida Chapter of the Society for Neuroscience Conference in Gainesville, FL.

Shoenfelt, A., & Perillo, J. (2020, October). *Investigating Covid-19 Beliefs and Consequences*. Invited poster presentation at the Natural Sciences and Mathematics Advancement Council Meeting held virtually in Indiana, PA.

Shoenfelt, A., & Perillo, J. (2020, August). *Beliefs and Knowledge Regarding Covid-19*. Paper presented virtually at the annual Indiana University of Pennsylvania Undergraduate Summer Opportunities for Applying Research symposium, Indiana, PA.

Fouts, A., **Shoenfelt, A.**, Wright, S., & Perillo, J.* (2020, May). *Conspiracy beliefs about Covid-19: An investigation of predictors and consequences*. Paper presented at the semi-annual Indiana University of Pennsylvania's Psychology Department Colloquium, Indiana, PA.

*co-presented by the first three authors, listed alphabetically

Shoenfelt, A., & Farrell, W. (2019, August). *The effects of systemic dopamine administration on the behavior of Orange Head Cockroaches (Eublaberus Posticus)*. Poster presented at the annual Indiana University of Pennsylvania Research Experience for Summer Scholars symposium in Indiana, PA.

WORKSHOPS ATTENDED

Dyadic Longitudinal Data Analysis Spring 2025
SMaRT Workshops, Drs. Kate Thorson and Amie Gordon

Practicum AI Summer 2023
University of Florida, Dr. Matthew Gitzendanner

Dynamic Models of Decision-Making, Fall 2022
University of Florida, Dr. Peter Kvam

TEACHING EXPERIENCE

Role: Instructor, University of Florida Fall 2024
Course: General Psychology (PSY2012)

Role: Teaching Assistant, University of Florida Spring 2022
Course: Developmental Psychology (DEP3053)
Instructor: Dr. Marina Klimenko

Role: Guest lecturer, University of Florida Fall 2021
Lecture: Emotional Development
Course: Developmental Psychology (DEP3053)
Instructor: Dr. Shani Kerr

Role: Guest lecturer, University of Florida Fall 2021
Lecture: Social Development
Course: Developmental Psychology (DEP3053)
Instructor: Dr. Shani Kerr

Role: Teaching Assistant, University of Florida Fall 2021
Course: Developmental Psychology (DEP3053)

Instructor: Dr. Shani Kerr

Role: Peer Mentor, Indiana University of Pennsylvania
Course: Research Design and Analysis I (PSYC 290)

Fall 2019

Instructor: Dr. Krys Kaniasty

MENTORSHIP EXPERIENCE

Mentee: Reese Chadwick Spring 2024 - Current
Program: Senior Thesis
Project: Age-related Differences in the Integration of Face Cues and its Impact on Trustworthiness Evaluations
PI: Natalie Ebner, Ph.D.

Mentee: Maya Kantor Fall 2022 - Current
Program: CLAS University Scholars Program
Project: Linking APOE4 Carrier Status and Loneliness to Financial Fraud in Aging Populations
PI: Natalie Ebner, Ph.D.

MEDIA APPEARANCES

Perez, E., **Shoenfelt, A.**, Horta, M., Ebner, N.C., & Lighthall, N.R. (2024, January 22) Facing wolves in sheep's clothing: How younger and older adults differ in trust-related decision-making and learning. *Behind the Paper by Springer Nature*. <https://communities.springernature.com/posts/facing-wolves-in-sheep-s-clothing-how-younger-and-older-adults-differ-in-trust-related-decision-making-and-learning>

SERVICE

Journal reviews:

ACM Transactions on Applied Perception (invited reviewer) 2024
Journal of Gerontology: Psychological Sciences (reviewer in training) 2024
The International Journal of Psychophysiology (reviewer in training) 2023
Psychology and Aging (reviewer in training) 2022
Quarterly Journal of Experimental Psychology (reviewer in training) 2022

Volunteer and Organizational Service:

Role: Lead Graduate Student Organizer 2024
Program: Jacquelin Goldman & Trish Calvert Ring Speaker Series: Dr. Derek Isaacowitz

Role: Reviewer 2023
Program: UF Journal of Undergraduate Research

Role: Volunteer 2022
Program: Brain Awareness Week, North Central Florida Chapter of the Society for Neuroscience

SKILLS

- Eye-tracking data extraction/processing using SR Research and Pupil Labs systems
- EEG/ERP data processing in EEGLAB and ERPLAB in MATLAB
- Behavioral coding in Mangold INTERACT
- Adobe Photoshop
- Survey design and data collection in Qualtrics, REDCAP, Prolific
- Microsoft Excel, Word, PowerPoint

Updated 04/13/2026

- R/Rstudio, STATA, MATLAB, Jamovi, SPSS