Jennifer Slawinski Blessing
Curriculum Vitae

University of Tampa
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Current Positions

- *Assistant Professor,* Department of Psychology, University of Tampa, August 2019 to present

Prior Positions

- *Visiting Assistant Professor,* Department of Psychology, University of Tampa, August 2018 to May 2019
- *Director of Children's Ministry,* St. Andrew's UMC (Brandon, FL), June 2014 to July 2018
- *Adjunct Instructor*, Department of Psychology, University of Tampa, August 2004 to May 2018
- *Visiting Assistant Professor,* Department of Psychology, University of Tampa, August 2012 to May 2013
- *Independent Research Consultant*, Research Consultation Pros, April 2008 to July 2012
- *Post-doctoral Research Associate*, LRDC, University of Pittsburgh, September 2001 to February 2004
- *Learning Researcher*, Children's Museum of Pittsburgh, January 2002 to February 2004
- *Part-time Instructor*, Department of Psychology, Carnegie Mellon University, June 1999 to December 2003
- *Visiting Assistant Professor*, Department of Psychology, Washington & Jefferson College, August 2000 to May 2001
- *Postdoctoral Fellow and Data Manager*, NICHD Study of Early Child Care, Department of Psychology, University of Pittsburgh, July 1999 to May 2000
- *Adjunct Assistant Professor*, Department of Psychology, University of Florida, August 1998 to May 1999

Education

- Ph.D., Developmental Psychology, University of Florida, August 1998
- M. A., Psychology, Wake Forest University, May 1994
- B. A., Psychology, Cum Laude with Honors in Psychology, Wake Forest University, May 1992

Courses Taught

- General Psychology
- Psychology of Child Development
- Cognitive Development
- Social Development
- Adolescent Psychology
- Research Methods & Statistics I
- Research Methods & Statistics II
- Informal Learning

Research Interests

- The use of social media in teaching psychology
- Employing critical thinking in General Psychology courses
- The influence of social factors on STEM reasoning and cognitive development
- Gender differences in STEM interest and STEM careers
- The role of families' informal activities on cognitive development
- The development of social cognition, perspective taking, and theory of mind
- Social and digital media in the context of Vygotskian theory

Grants and Awards

- Dinosaurs!: Family Interactions and Science Talk After a Museum Visit, University of Tampa Undergraduate Research and Inquiry Grant, 2023 [$8,886.23, PI]
- Psychology in Everyday Life, University of Tampa Learning Enrichment Grant, 2021 [$1,500, Supporting Investigator]
- I Think I Know What You Know: Examining Theory of Mind, University of Tampa RISE Grant, 2020 [$6,831, co-PI]
- Impact of LEGO Robotics Enrichment Curriculum on STEAM Interest in Minority Girls in Grades 4 and 5, Research and Application for Social Change Grant Walden University, 2020 [$9,660, co-PI]
- Family Communications, Inc., *Evaluating the workshops on"What do you do with the mad that you feel?"*, $20,000, 2002-2003. (with K. Crowley)
- Cleveland Botanical Gardens, *Evaluating the introduction theatre presentation*, $9,500, 2002-2003. (with K. Crowley)
- University of Florida, College of Liberal Arts and Sciences Gibson Dissertation Fellowship, 1998
- NICHD Predoctoral Traineeship, August 1995 to August 1996
- University of Florida, Grinter Research Fellowship, August 1994 to May 1997

Professional Activities & Affiliations

- Reviewer, Teaching of Psychology Journal
- Member of Society for Research in Child Development, 2019 to present
- Member of APA Division 2: Society for the Teaching of Psychology, 2020 to present
- Member of APA Division 7: Developmental Psychology, 2020 to present
- Reviewer, American Educational Research Journal
- Reviewer, 24th Annual Meeting of the Cognitive Science Society, March, 2002
- Member, Society for Research in Child Development 1993-2000
- Member, Southeastern Psychological Association, 1992-1998
- Member-at-Large, American Psychological Association Science Student Council (APASSC), 1996-1998
- Assistant to the Treasurer, International Association for Cross-Cultural Psychology, August 1992-May 1994

Community Activities & Affiliations

- Member, St. Andrew's UMC Preschool Board, Brandon, FL
- Member, Education Committee, Glazer Children's Museum, Tampa, FL
- Board of Directors Member, FUNducation, Lakewood Ranch, FL

Publications and Presentations at Professional Meetings

Publications

Bjorklund, D. F., Miller, P. H., Coyle, T. R., & **Slawinski, J. L**. (1998). Instructing children to use memory strategies: Evidence of utilization deficiencies in memory training studies. *Developmental Review, 17,* 411-441.

Blessing, J. S. (2023). Busting Myths to Increase Critical Thinking in Psychology Majors. *Teaching of Psychology*, 0(0). https://doi.org/10.1177/00986283231166954

Blessing, S. B. & **Blessing, J. S**. (2010). PsychBusters: A means of fostering critical thinking in the introductory course. *Teaching of Psychology, 37*(3)*,* 178-182.

Blessing, S. B. & **Blessing, J. S.** (2014). Using a movie as a capstone activity for the introductory course. *Teaching of Psychology, 42(1),* 51-55.

Blessing, S. B., **Blessing, J. S**., & Fleck, B. K. B. (2012). Using twitter to reinforce classroom concepts. *Teaching of Psychology, 39(4),* 268-271.

Campbell, S. B., Brownell, C. A., Hungerford, A., Spieker, S. J., Mohan, R., & **Blessing, J. S.** (2004). The course of maternal depressive symptoms and maternal sensitivity as predictors of attachment security at 36 months. *Development and Psychopathology, 16(2), 231-252.*

Miller, P. H., **Blessing, J. S.,** & Schwartz, S. (2006). Gender differences in high school students' views about science. *International Journal of Science Education. 28 (4), 363-381.*

Scherschel, H., & **Blessing, J.** (2022). Student learning outcome icons and student success. In H. Scherschel & D. Rudmann (Eds.) *Teaching tips: A compendium of conference presentations on teaching, 2021-2022*. (p. 153). Society for the Teaching of Psychology. http://teachpsych.org/ebooks/teachingtips7

Presentations

Blessing, J. S. & Scherschel, H. (2023). Success and failures when undergraduates search for online information. Poster presented at the 45th Annual National Institute on the Teaching of Psychology, January 3-6, 2023, in St. Pete Beach, Florida.

Blessing, J. S. & Scherschel, H. (2022). *Sometimes Failure IS an Option: What Null Outcomes in Pedagogical Research Can Teach Us*. Participant Idea Exchange led at the 44th Annual National Institute on the Teaching of Psychology, January 3-6, 2022, in St. Pete Beach, Florida.

Scherschel, H. & **Blessing, J. S.** (2021). *Student Learning Outcomes (SLOs) Icons and Students' Success.* Poster presented at the 20nd Annual Conference on Teaching, October 11-4, 2021, online.

Blessing, J. S. (2020). *Busting Myths to Increase Critical Thinking and Interest in Psychology.* Poster presented at the 42nd Annual National Institute on the Teaching of Psychology, January 3-6, 2020, in St. Pete Beach, Florida.

Blessing, J. S. (2020). *Bringing Theories to Life: Best Practices in Service Learning.* Participant Idea Exchange led at the 42nd Annual National Institute on the Teaching of Psychology, January 3-6, 2020, in St. Pete Beach, Florida.

Blessing, J. S. (2003). *Families as co-learners: Contributions of multiple children in family conversations at museum exhibits.* Poster presented at the Biennial Meetings of the Society for Research in Child Development, Tampa, FL.

Blessing, J. S. & Crowley, K. (October 2002). Informal math and problem-solving in science centers. Association for Science and Technology Centers, Charlotte, NC.

Crowley, K., **Blessing, J. S**., Chung, K., Millwood, K., Uchida, A., Wei, R., Stocks, J., Stubbs, M., & Vogel, C. (April 2002). Signage to seed science talk in public places: Just-in-time explanatory support at the phantom's revenge. American Educational Research Association, New Orleans, LA.

Slawinski, J. L. (1999). *Children's ability to predict and explain the reasoning of a younger child.* Poster presented at the Biennial Meetings of the Society for Research in Child Development, Albuquerque, NM.

Coyle, T. R., & **Slawinski, J. L.** (1997) *Evidence for utilization deficiencies in training studies: A research review.* Poster presented at the Biennial Meetings of the Society for Research in Child Development, Washington, DC.

Slawinski, J. L., Caldwell, L. G., Coyle, T. R., Clark, N. P., & Miller, S. A. (1996). *It looks like a zebra: Children's understanding across four kinds of concepts.* Poster presented at the 14th Biennial Conference on Human Development, Birmingham, AL.

Slawinski, J. L., Ellis, S., & Roberts, M. E. (1996). *Please don't reshelve the books: Applying decimals in an everyday context.* Poster presented at the 14th Biennial Conference on Human Development, Birmingham, AL.

Slawinski, J. L., & Best, D. L. (1995). *Effects of metamemory instructions on children's predictions of recall performance.* Poster presented at the Biennial Meetings of the Society for Research in Child Development, Indianapolis, IN.

Best, D. L., **Slawinski, J. L**., Tchividjian, L. F., Bachrach, P. S., & Ruther, N. M. (1994). *Misattributions about memory performance: A developmental perspective.* Paper presented at the Third Annual Practical Aspects of Memory Conference, College Park, MD.

Slawinski, J. L., & Best, D. L. (1994). *Recognition and recall: Children's understanding and predictions.* Paper presented at the meeting of the Southeastern Psychological Association, New Orleans, LA.

Slawinski, J. L., & Best, D. L. (1994). *Children's overestimations of abilities*. Paper presented at the 13th Biennial Conference on Human Development, Pittsburgh, PA.

Slawinski, J. L., & Best, D. L. (1993). *Children's understanding of forgetting*. Paper presented at the meeting of the Southeastern Psychological Association, Atlanta, GA.

Manuscripts in Progress

Blessing, S. B. & **Blessing, J. S.** (in progress). *I Think I Know What You Know: Examining Theory of Mind*. **ready for submission by June 15, 2023.*

Scherschel, H. & **Blessing, J. S.** (in progress). *College Students' Accuracy and Speed at Using University Websites for Information Gathering.*

Surendra, A. & **Blessing, J. S.** (in progress). *Generational Academic Stress among Immigrant Students.*

Awards

- Outstanding Faculty Advisor Award for the 2021-2022 year, from the UT Advising Committee, received May 2022