

## *Curriculum Vitae*

Angela Matijczak

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### **EDUCATION:**

Virginia Commonwealth University Richmond, VA  
**MSW/PhD, Social Work** Expected May 2024  
 Grade Point Average: 3.9/4.0

University of New Haven West Haven, CT  
**Bachelor of Arts, Psychology – *Clinical/Community Concentration*** August 2013-May 2017  
**Minors:** Sociology  
 Spanish Language – Latin American Studies

Grade Point Average: 3.94/4.0  
 Major GPA: 3.97/4.0

**Honor's Thesis:** The Effect of College Generational Status on Levels of Family Stress  
 Supervisor: Dr. Melissa L. Whitson

### **HONORS AND SCHOLARSHIPS:**

2020 ISAZ Martha Bryan Student Travel Award August 2020  
*International Society for Anthrozoology*

Summa Cum Laude May 2017  
*University of New Haven*

McGough Award: Outstanding Psychology Undergraduate Research May 2017  
*University of New Haven, Department of Psychology*

Dean's List December 2013-May 2017  
*University of New Haven*

Honor's Program Scholarship August 2013-May 2017  
*University of New Haven*

Presidential Scholarship August 2013-May 2017  
*University of New Haven*

SAT Writing Award August 2013-May 2017  
*University of New Haven*

CT Governor's Scholarship Program Grant  
Connecticut Office of Higher Education

August 2013-May 2016

### **RESEARCH EXPERIENCE:**

Children, Families, and Animals Research Group June 2019-Present  
*School of Social Work, Virginia Commonwealth University*

PI: Shelby E. McDonald

- Project Coordinator
  - Facilitate the collaboration between the research team and community partners, including Greater Richmond SCAN (Stop Child Abuse Now), VCU Child Protection Team, Richmond Animal Care and Control, and other organizations within the Richmond Trauma-Informed Community Network.
  - Interview adult and child participants on positive and negative experiences with pets, childhood victimization, and other child psychometric measures
  - Assist with IRB amendments
  - Recruit, screen, and schedule potential participants
  - Utilize SPSS to create and enter data
  - Transcribe interviews with participants
  - Mentor undergraduate students and oversee the daily activities of the research team.

Innovative Interactions Lab May 2016-May 2019  
*Department of Psychology, Yale University* New Haven, CT

PI: Alan E. Kazdin (May 2016-May 2018), Laurie R. Santos (May 2018-May 2019)

- Research Assistant May 2016-May 2017
  - Run experiments and directly interact with participants (both human and canine)
  - Be able to execute each role in the Trier Social Stress Test (modified for use with children)
  - Conduct literature reviews and searches for any necessary background information
  - Use programs such as SPSS and Excel to input and analyze data
  - Code experimental videos of participants using the maternal mind-mindedness coding scheme
- Lab Manager May 2017-May 2019
  - Supervise undergraduate research assistants as they run experiments or work on lab tasks
  - Take leadership over various recruitment efforts to engage more participants
  - Train new interns on lab procedures and policies
  - Submit administrative paperwork for funds used to purchase lab materials and compensate participants
  - Submit IRB renewals and modifications for ongoing studies, both for the university's HSC and IACUC
  - Interview prospective research assistants for future semesters
  - Organized and initiated the setting up of a new, NIH-funded study

**PRESENTATIONS:**

Note: \* denotes the presenting author

- Matijczak, A.\***, Tomlinson, C. A., Murphy J. L., McDonald, S. E. (September, 2020). *Assessment of attachment to pets among LGBTQ+ young adults: Evaluation of the Pet Attachment and Life Impact Scale*. Poster presentation at the International Society for Anthrozoology, Liverpool, England (Virtual).
- Tomlinson, C. A.\*, Murphy, J. L., **Matijczak, A.**, & McDonald, S. E. (September, 2020). *Psychometric testing of the Comfort from Companion Animals Scale in a sample of LGBTQ+ young adults: A graded-response model*. Poster presentation at the International Society for Anthrozoology Conference, Liverpool, England (Virtual).
- Murphy, J. L., **Matijczak, A.\***, Tomlinson, C. A.\*, & McDonald, S. E. (September, 2020). *Minority stress, human-animal interaction, and resilience in LGBTQ+ young adults: Testing a mediation model*. Oral Presentation at the International Society for Anthrozoology Conference, Liverpool, England (Virtual).
- Crossman, M.K., Kazdin, A. E., **Matijczak, A.\***, Dias, H., Santos, L.R. (July, 2019). *The Influence of Interaction with Companion Animals on Mood and Anxiety Following Stress-Exposure*. Oral Presentation at the International Society for Anthrozoology Conference, Orlando, FL, USA.
- Kitt, E.R.\* , Crossman, M.K., **Matijczak, A.**, Burns, G., Kazdin, A.E. (March 2019). *The Effects of a Socially Assistive Robot on Children's Stress*. Poster Presentation at the Society for Research in Child Development, Baltimore, MD, USA.
- Crossman, M.K., Kazdin, A. E., **Matijczak, A.\***, Kitt, E. R., & Santos, L. R. (July, 2018). *The Influence of Interaction with a Dog on Mood, Anxiety, and Arousal in Children*. Oral Presentation at the International Society for Anthrozoology Conference, Sydney, NSW, Australia.
- Crossman, M.K.\* , Kazdin, A.E., **Matijczak, A.** (June 2017). *The Dog Person Scale: Development and Validation*. Presentation at the International Society for Anthrozoology Conference, Davis, CA, USA.
- Matijczak, A.\*** & Whitson, M. L. (February, 2017). *The Effect of College Generational Status on Levels of Family Stress*. Poster presented at the Yale Undergraduate Research Conference, New Haven, CT, USA.

**MANUSCRIPTS:**

- Corona, R., McDonald, S.E., Hitti, S., Avila, M., Trujillo, M.A., Cox, J.R., Velazquez, E., Edgar, K., Hershner, L., Benzel, G.K., **Matijczak, A.**, Gordon, C.A., Ascencio, I., Moreno, O., & Gonzalez, T. (in press). Training Spanish-speaking Latinx adults in Mental Health First Aid: A pilot feasibility trial. *Psi Chi Journal of Psychological Research*.

Kitt, E. R., Crossman, M. K., **Matijczak A.**, Burns, G., & Kazdin, A. E. (revise/resubmit). Evaluating the role of a socially assistive robot in children's mental health care. *Journal of Child and Family Studies*.

**Matijczak, A.**, McDonald, S. E., O'Connor, K. E., George, N., Tomlinson, C. A., Murphy, J. L., Ascione, F. R., & Williams, J. H. (2020). Do animal cruelty exposure and positive engagement with pets moderate associations between children's exposure to intimate partner violence and externalizing behavior problems? *Child and Adolescent Social Work Journal*, 1-13. <https://doi.org/10.1007/s10560-020-00702-3>

Hawkins, R. D., McDonald, S. E., O'Connor, K., **Matijczak, A.**, Ascione, F. R., & Williams, J. H. (2019). Exposure to intimate partner violence and internalizing symptoms: the moderating effects of positive relationships with pets and animal cruelty exposure. *Child Abuse & Neglect*, 98, 104166.

Crossman, M.K., Kazdin, A. E., **Matijczak, A.**, Kitt, E. R., & Santos, L. R. (2018). The Influence of Interactions with Dogs on Affect, Anxiety, and Arousal in Children. *Journal of Clinical Child and Adolescent Psychology*. 49(4), 535-548. <https://doi.org/10.1080/15374416.2018.1520119>

### **BOOK CHAPTERS:**

Tomlinson, C. A., Matijczak, A., McDonald, S. E., Gee, N. R. (in press). The role of human-animal interaction in child and adolescent health and development. In R. Corona (Ed.), *The encyclopedia of child and adolescent health*. Elsevier.

### **TECHNOLOGY AND OTHER RELEVANT SKILLS:**

- Facial Action Coding System (FACS) - Certification
  - A comprehensive tool for objectively measuring facial movement; required to pass an online exam in order to achieve certification
- Mind-Mindedness Coding Scheme
  - A method of identifying language used by a mother that focuses on the child's internal states
- Trier Social Stress Test (modified for use with children) (TSST-C)
  - A common and reliable method to inducing moderate psychosocial stress
- Inquisit 5 Lab
  - Running pre-made psychology experiments
  - Creating an experiment using computer script
  - Saving and exporting data into SPSS
- Polar V800 Heart Rate Monitors
  - Instructing participants how to accurately wear the monitor
  - Start and stop heart rate measurements
  - Download data from Polar website

- SPSS
  - Inputting data
  - Writing syntax
  - Conducting analyses
- Microsoft Excel
  - Inputting data
  - Utilizing formulas
  - Exporting to SPSS for analysis

### **WORK EXPERIENCE:**

- Seymour Animal Shelter (Volunteer) August 2010-May 2019  
 Seymour, CT
- Volunteer
    - Work with the staff to ensure that all animals are comfortable and healthy
    - Take on a leadership position when training new volunteers on shelter procedures
- CVS Pharmacy (Paid) May 2015-May 2018  
 West Haven, CT
- Pharmacy Technician
    - Supervisor: Alyssa Applebaum, Pharmacy Manager
    - Prioritize the most important tasks that need to be done to ensure that everything is completed by its promised time
    - Interact with and dispense medication to patients with various physical and mental illnesses and disorders
    - Routinely perform trainings to stay up to date on any new changes in the pharmaceutical field
    - Work towards finding solutions to insurance rejections of prescriptions

### **PROFESSIONAL SOCIETY AFFILIATIONS:**

- International Society for Anthrozoology (ISAZ) June 2017-Present
- An international organization for the scientific and scholarly study of human-animal interactions.
- Psi Chi April 2016-Present
- An international honor society for those involved in the field of psychology. Requirements for membership include earning a cumulative GPA over 3.0 and being in the top 35% of your class.
- Alpha Lambda Delta Honor Society February 2014-May 2017  
*University of New Haven*
- A national honor society for first-year students
- Psychology Club – University of New Haven September 2013-May 2017  
*University of New Haven*
- Position: Executive Assistant May 2016-May 2017

- Raises awareness for mental disorders and discusses many topics within the field of psychology

Honor's Program  
*University of New Haven*

September 2013-May 2017