

# SEAN CHANDLER RIFE, PHD

Assistant Professor of Psychology, Murray State University

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## ACADEMIC APPOINTMENTS

### **Murray State University, Murray, KY**

Assistant Professor of Psychology (2014-present)

### **Institute for Humane Studies at George Mason University, Arlington, VA**

Adjunct Program Officer, Psychology (2015-present)

## EDUCATION

### **Kent State University, Kent, Ohio**

Ph.D. in Experimental/Social Psychology (2014)

Minor emphasis in Quantitative Methods

### **East Tennessee State University, Johnson City, Tennessee**

M.A. in Experimental Psychology (2008)

M.A. in Sociology (2009)

### **North Georgia College and State University, Dahlonega, Georgia**

B.S. in Psychology, minor in Sociology (2005)

### **Gainesville State College, Gainesville, Georgia**

A.A. in Psychology (2003)

## EMPLOYMENT AND ASSISTANTSHIPS

### **Co-Founder, Verum Analytics, LLC (2017)**

### **Kent State University, Kent, OH**

Graduate Teaching Fellow (2011-2014)

Predoctoral Assistantship (2009-2011)

### **East Tennessee State University, Johnson City, TN**

Research Assistant, Department of Sociology and Anthropology (2008-2009)

Coordinator, Social Issues and Relationships Laboratory (2006-2008)

Predoctoral Fellow (2006-2009)

### **Rife IT Services (2003-2009)**

Sole proprietor of IT consulting firm

### **Sunbelt Surveys / Political Connections, LLC, Cumming, GA (2000)**

Data collection and analytics assistant

## RESEARCH INTERESTS

My work centers on technology and society, and has two foci. First, I examine the intersection of technology and relationships, and the role social media use plays in influencing psychosocial outcomes in dyadic and extra-dyadic processes. Specifically, I am interested in social support processes as they occur in different venues (online, through social network services, and in more traditional contexts), and how individual-level and situational factors influence support seeking behavior.

Second, I examine moral expression over social media, and motivations for online activism. I am particularly interested in the application of personality theory to the

study of moral messaging as expressed in an online context.

Additionally, I am a strong advocate of the open science movement and methodological reform in the psychological sciences. I am actively involved in multiple replication efforts, and pre-register all my research (and encourage my students to do likewise).

## PUBLICATIONS

**Rife, S.C.** (2017). Four Datasets Derived from an Archive of Personal Homepages (1995–2009). *Data*, 2(2), 19.

Hackathorn, J., Ashdown, B. K., & **Rife, S.C.** (2017). From fear and guilt: negative perceptions of Ashley Madison users. *Psychology & Sexuality*, 8(1-2), 41-54.

Hackathorn, J., Ashdown, B. K., & **Rife, S.C.** (2016). Statistics that Stick: Embedding Humor in Statistics Related Teaching Materials. *Society for Teaching of Psychology: Instructional Resource Awards (OTRP)*.

**Rife, S.C.**, Kerns, K.A., & Updegraff, J.A. (2016) Seeking emotional and instrumental support in response to social and achievement stressors: a multi-venue analysis. *Personal Relationships*, 23(2), 364-379.

Hackathorn, J., Ashdown, B., & **Rife, S.C.** (2016). The Sacred Bed: Sex Guilt Mediates Religiosity and Satisfaction for Unmarried People. *Sexuality & Culture*, 20(1), 153-172.

**Rife, S.C.**, Cate, K.L., Kosinski, M., & Stillwell, D. (2016). Participant recruitment and data collection through Facebook: the role of personality factors. *International Journal of Social Research Methodology*, 19(1), 69-83.

Deitz, M.F., Williams, S., **Rife, S.C.**, & Cantrell, P. (2015). Examining Cultural, Social, and Self-Related Aspects of Stigma in Relation to Sexual Assault and Trauma Symptoms. *Violence Against Women*, 21(5), 598-615.

Hutson, S.P., Han, P.K., Hamilton, J.D., **Rife, S.C.**, Al-Rahawan, M.M., Moser, R.P., Duty, S.P., Anand, S., & Alter, B.P. (2013). The use of Hematopoietic Stem Cell Transplantation in Fanconi Anemia Patients: a Survey of Decision-Making Among Families in the United States And Canada. *Health Expectations*, 18(5), 929-941.

**Rife, S.C.** (2012). Is there a Natural Right to Healthcare? *Human Affairs*, 22(4), 613-622.

## PRESENTATIONS

Underlined surnames  
indicate student authors

**Rife, S.C.** (2017, July). The R-factor: harnessing crowdsourcing and machine learning to improve science. Lightning talk presented at the annual meeting of the Society for the Improvement of the Psychological Sciences, Charlottesville, VA.

Harris, H. & **Rife, S.C.** (2017, March). *Predictors of Dating Application Use: A Preliminary Study*. Poster session presented at the annual meeting of the Southeastern Psychological Association, Atlanta, GA.

Roberts, A., Chamberlain, P., & **Rife, S.C.** (2017, March). *The Intersection of Tumblr Fandoms and Social Justice Activism*. Poster session presented at the annual

meeting of the Southeastern Psychological Association, Atlanta, GA.

Sherman, S., Wann, D., Rife, S.C. (2017, March). *Romance in the Stands*. Poster session presented at the annual meeting of the Southeastern Psychological Association, Atlanta, GA.

Bernier, R., Owens, M., & Rife, S.C. (2017, March). *Right in the Feels: Fandom's Implications in the Digital Age*. Poster session presented at the annual meeting of the Southeastern Psychological Association, Atlanta, GA.

Rife, S.C., Kosinski, M., & Stillwell, D. (2017, January). *An examination of Moral Foundations Theory using Facebook status updates*. Paper presented at the annual meeting of the Society for Personality and Social Psychology, San Antonio, TX.

Sherman, S., Ross, K., & Rife, S.C. (2017). *Are self-criticism and Imposter Phenomenon separate constructs?* Poster session presented at the annual meeting of the Society for Personality and Social Psychology, San Antonio, TX.

Hackathorn, J., Vazquez Brown, M, Joyce, A.W., Cushen, P., **Rife, S.C.**, Karlsson, M., Anderson, P., & Bordieri, M. (2016, October). *How do I learn what I don't know? Students' preference and use of study guides*. Poster presented at Society for the Teaching of Psychology's Annual Conference on Teaching, Decatur, GA.

Hackathorn, J., Ashdown, B. K., **Rife, S.C.**, & Daniels, J. (2016, July). *Anger and demonization: Perceptions of Ashley Madison users*. Presented at the International Association for Relationship Research (IARR) annual conference, Toronto, ON.

Roberts, A. & Rife, S.C. (March, 2016). *The prevalence of sexism in online venues: a comparative analysis*. Poster session presented at the annual meeting of the Southeastern Psychological Association, New Orleans, LA.

Wild, M. & Rife, S.C. (March, 2016). *It's Only Weird If You're Ugly: Online Flirtation and Physical Attractiveness*. Poster session presented at the annual meeting of the Southeastern Psychological Association, New Orleans, LA.

Daniels, J. & Rife, S.C. (March, 2016). *A shifting of standards: Evidence against the sexual double standard*. Poster session presented at the annual meeting of the Southeastern Psychological Association, New Orleans, LA.

Crittendon, D., Rife, S.C., & Hackathorn, J. (March, 2016). *Whiskey Tango Foxtrot: The impact of militaristic video games on nationalistic attitudes and violence*. Poster session presented at the annual meeting of the Southeastern Psychological Association, New Orleans, LA.

**Rife, S.C., Kosinski, M., & Stillwell, D.** (2016, January). *"I hate this heat:" a test of the heat-aggression hypothesis using 10 million Facebook status updates*. Poster session presented at the annual meeting of the Society for Personality and Social Psychology, San Diego, CA.

Taylor, L.A. & Rife, S.C. (2016, January). *"I'm sorry, what did you just say?!" : an examination of how personality traits impact self-disclosure on social media sites*. Poster session presented at the annual meeting of the Society for

Personality and Social Psychology, San Diego, CA.

- Smith, E. D., Cushen, P. J., Erbacher, M. K., Bordieri, M., Daniels, J., Hackathorn, J., Watson Joyce, A., & Rife, S.C. (2016, January). *The longitudinal impact of student-created study guides on academic entitlement*. Presentation given at the Society of Teaching Psychology Preconference at the meeting of the Society for Personality and Social Psychology, San Diego, CA.
- Hackathorn, J., Rife, S.C., Watson, A.J., Smith, E.D., Cushen, P.J., Bordieri, M. (2015, October). "Your notes are your study guide": An examination of study guide efficacy. Poster presented at the Annual Conference on Teaching, Atlanta, GA.
- Rife, S.C., Hackathorn, J., Stillwell, D., & Kosinski, M. (2015, March). *Personal expression in electronic media: a linguistic analysis of home pages and social media*. Poster session presented at the annual meeting of the Southeastern Psychological Association, Hilton Head, SC.
- Rife, S.C., Cate, K.L., Kosinski, M., & Stillwell, D. (2014, March) *Research in the Social Technology Era: New Opportunities and Methodologies*. Talk given at the 60th Annual Meeting of the Southeastern Psychological Association. Nashville, TN.
- Rife, S.C., Kerns, K.A., & Updegraff, J.A. (2014, February). *Support seeking in response to stress: Person-level moderators, contextual factors, and the role of online venues*. Poster session presented at the annual meeting of the Society for Personality and Social Psychology, Austin, TX.
- Rife, S.C., Kerns, K.A., & Updegraff, J.A. (2013, October). *Rejection sensitivity and social support seeking in-person and over the Internet*. Poster session presented at the International Association for Relationship Research New Scholars Pre-Conference, Louisville, KY.
- Rife, S.C., Mickelson, K.D., Kosinski, M., & Stillwell, D. (2012, July). *Facebook Networks and Local Population Parameters*. Poster session presented at the biennial meeting of the International Association for Relationship Research, Chicago, IL.
- Rife, S.C. & Mickelson, K.D. (2012, July). *Stress and Support Seeking in a Sample of Low-Income Women*. Talk given at the biennial meeting of the International Association for Relationship Research, Chicago, IL.
- Hamilton, J.G., Han, P. K.J., Hutson, S.P., Rife, S.C., Kobrin, S.C., Moser, R.P., & Alter, B.P. (2012). *Responses to ambiguity are not universal: The moderating role of need for cognitive closure*. Symposium; abstract published in *Annals of Behavioral Medicine*, 43, S167.
- Hamilton, J.G., Han, P.K., Hutson, S.P., Rife, S.C., Moser, R.P., & Alter, B.P. (2011, April). *Worry Mediates the Relationship between Perceived Ambiguity and Decision-Making Difficulty about Stem Cell Transplantation in Fanconi Anemia*. Poster session presented at the annual meeting of the Society of Behavioral Medicine, Washington, D.C.
- Rife, S.C. & Williams, S.L. (2008, June). *Sexual Assault, Perceived Stigma, and Religiosity: Implications for Help-Seeking*. Poster session presented at the annual meeting of the Society for the Psychological Study of Social Issues,

Chicago, IL.

- Cate, K.L., Strickland, S.E., **Rife, S.C.**, Cini, C.J. (2008, March). *Affirmations and test performance*. Poster session presented at the annual meeting of the Southeastern Psychological Association, Charlotte, NC.
- Cate, K.L., Strickland, S.E., **Rife, S.C.**, Cini, C.J. (2008, March). *Gender, religion, and perception: A study of attributions*. Poster session presented at the annual meeting of the Southeastern Psychological Association, Charlotte, NC.
- Williams, S.L. & **Rife, S.C.** (2008, February). *Perceived Stigma and Control: A Mediation Model*. Poster session presented at the annual meeting of the Society for Personality and Social Psychology, Albuquerque, NM.
- Strickland, S.E., **Rife, S.C.** & Cini, C.J. (2007, April). *Testosterone and Risky Behaviors in College Students*. Poster session presented at the Georgia Undergraduate Research in Psychology conference, Kennesaw, GA.
- Cate, K.L., **Rife, S.C.**, Strickland, S.E., & Cini, C.J. (2007, February). *Testosterone level and sexual behavior*. Poster session presented at the annual meeting of the Southeastern Psychological Association, New Orleans, LA.
- Cate, K.L., **Rife, S.C.**, Cini, C.J., & Strickland, S.E. (2007, February). *Testosterone level and group membership: Military and religion*. Poster session presented at the annual meeting of the Southeastern Psychological Association, New Orleans, LA.
- Williams, S.L. & **Rife, S.C.** (2006, November). *Perceived Stigma: Explaining Common Effects of Abuse*. Poster session presented at the annual meeting of the Society of Southeastern Social Psychologists, Knoxville, TN.
- Rife, S.C.**, (2006, April). *The impact of intoxication on allocation of responsibility for rape across substance and gender*. Poster session presented at the Georgia Undergraduate Research in Psychology conference, Kennesaw, GA.
- Rife, S.C.**, Robertson, C.L., & McDonald, P. (2004, April). *Intoxication: An "excuse" for date rape?* Poster session presented at the annual meeting of the Southeastern Psychological Association, Nashville, TN.
- Grabitz, P., Lazebnik, Y., Nicholson, J., & **Rife, S.C.** (2017). Science with no fiction: measuring the veracity of scientific reports by citation analysis. bioRxiv, 172940.
- Rife, S.C.**, Kosinski, M., & Stillwell, D. (2017). Higher temperatures and negative emotionality: data from 12 million Facebook status postings. Manuscript in preparation.
- Settler, K. & **Rife, S.C.** (2016). The impact of social media postings on personnel evaluation. Manuscript in preparation.
- Harris, H. & **Rife, S.C.** (2016). Personality predictors of dating app use. Manuscript in preparation.

**PREPRINTS & WORKING PAPERS**

Underlined surnames indicate student authors

**INVITED TALKS &**

- Rife, S.C.** (October, 2017). *The Impact of Social Technology: Knowns and Unknowns*.

**SYMPOSIA**

Invited talk for the 8th annual Dr. Loman C. Trover Symposium, Plugged In: The Digital Age of Healthcare, Baptist Health, Madisonville, KY.

**Rife, S.C.** (October, 2016). *Science 2.0: Research in a post-replication crisis era*. Presentation for professional development seminar, Murray State University Department of Psychology, Murray, KY.

**Rife, S.C.** (February, 2016). *Using Lyceum Survey for online data collection*. Presentation for professional development seminar, Murray State University Department of Psychology, Murray, KY.

**Rife, S.C.** (February, 2016). *Why people reject science and reason (and a few things we can do about it)*. Invited talk for the Murray State Student Organization for Reason and Science, Murray, KY.

Hackathorn, J., **Rife, S.C.**, & Gilbert, T. (2014, November). *The in's & out's of sex: Modern society's view on sex, sexual relationships, and booty calls*. Invited presentation for the White College Speaker Series, Murray, KY.

The state of civil liberties in 2014. Invited symposium for Richmond College, Murray, KY.

Research in the Social Technology Era: New Opportunities and Methodologies (2014, March). *60<sup>th</sup> Annual Meeting of the Southeastern Psychological Association*. Nashville, TN.

Institute for Humane Studies / Liberty Fund. (2011, November). *Property Rights and Freedom*. Washington, DC.

**Rife, S.C.** (2010, December). *Techniques for computer-based interviewing*. Meeting of the Kent State University / Northeastern Ohio Universities Colleges of Medicine and Pharmacy Community Mental Health Initiative, Kent, OH.

**Rife, S.C.** (2008, September). *Using Checkbox Internet survey software for data collection in telephone interviews*. Presentation for professional development seminar, East Tennessee State University Department of Sociology and Anthropology, Johnson City, TN.

Institute for Humane Studies / Liberty Fund. (2007, November). *Sociology and the Liberal Tradition*. Washington, DC.

**TEACHING**

*Teaching interests include quantitative methods, research methods, social psychology, and personality psychology.*

**Murray State University, Murray, KY**

- Instructor: Social Bases of Behavior (PSY 621)
- Instructor: Topical Seminar in Research Design and Analysis: Structural Equation Modeling (PSY 655)
- Instructor: Correlational Research Design and Statistics (PSY 651)
- Instructor: Univariate Research Design and Statistics (PSY 652)
- Instructor: Honors Seminar in Psychology (HON 180)
- Instructor: General Psychology (PSY 180)
- Instructor: Principles and Methods of Statistical Analysis (PSY 300)

**SUPERVISED  
RESEARCH PROJECTS****Kent State University, Kent, OH**

- Instructor: Research Methods (PSYC 31574)
- Instructor: Honors General Psychology (PSYC 11762)
- Instructor: Social Psychology (PSYC 41532)
- Instructor: Writing in Psychology (PSYC 41990)
- Instructor: Personality (PSYC 41282)
- Teaching Assistant: Graduate Quantitative Methods I and II (PSYC61651/61654)

**East Tennessee State University, Johnson City, TN**

- Instructor: Social Statistics (SOAA 3350)
- Instructor: Research Methods Writing Lab (PSYC 3201)

**Tusculum College Upward Bound Summer Preparatory Program (2008-2009)**

- Instructor: Introductory Psychology

**Graduate Students**

- Wilke, M. (2017; Thesis)
- Roberts, A. (2016-2017; Directed Individual Study; Thesis)
- Ross, K. (2016; Directed Individual Study)
- Smith, S. (2016; Thesis)
- Daniels, J. (2015; Thesis)
- Rackers, M. (2015; Thesis)

**Undergraduate Students**

- Lambert, Q. (Fall, 2016; Directed Individual Study)
- Hayden, S. (Fall, 2016; Directed Individual Study)
- Lewis, E. (Spring, 2016; Directed Individual Study)
- Harris, H. (Spring, 2016; Directed Individual Study)
- Bernier, R. (Spring, 2016; Directed Individual Study)
- Settler, K. (Fall, 2015; Directed Individual Study)
- Wild, M. (Fall, 2015; Directed Individual Study)
- Crittendon, D. (Fall, 2015; Directed Individual Study)
- Taylor, L. (Spring, 2015; Directed Individual Study)
- Roberts, A. (Spring, 2015; Directed Individual Study)

**HONORS & AWARDS**

East Tennessee State University School of Graduate Studies and Graduate Council  
Outstanding Thesis in Education & Social Science (2009)

Psi Chi (National Honors Society in Psychology)

Pi Gamma Mu (National Honors Society in Social Sciences)

Alpha Kappa Delta (National Honors Society in Sociology)

**GRANTS**

Society for the Teaching of Psychology, Instructional Resource Awards. 2015.

Co-Investigator, *Examining the Racial Climate and its Effect on Student Persistence and Success*. Tennessee Board of Regents, Geier Diversity Research Grant. 2008-2009.

**RESEARCH  
EXPERIENCE****Kent State University, Kent, OH**

- Project Director, *Women's Health Experiences and Daily Living* study (2009-2011)
- Project Director, *SNF: Daily Experiences and Social Media Use* (2012-2014)

**East Tennessee State University, Johnson City, TN**

- Project Director, *Examining the Racial Climate and its Effect on Student Persistence and Success* (2008-2009)
- Primary Investigator, *Sexual Assault, Perceived Stigma, and Religiosity* (2007-2008)
- Project Director, *Daily Health in College Students* (2007-2008)

**STATISTICAL &  
TECHNICAL SKILLS**

Training and experience with SPSS, Stata, R, SAS, EQS, and HLM analytics packages. Proficient in high-level programming and scripting languages, including Python, php, VisualBasic, Autolt, HTML/CSS. Experience with relational and document-oriented databases (MongoDB and MySQL).

Experience with advanced statistical techniques, including multiple regression, non-parametric techniques, computer-intensive methods hierarchical linear modeling, structural equation modeling

Software solutions of use to the research community:

- *statcheck on the web* – a web implementation of statcheck (tool for detecting errors in statistical reporting)
- *psyLex* – an implementation of the Linguistic Inquiry Word Count (LIWC) in Python and R.
- *Snowbank* – a virtual machine implementation of the R snowfall library, designed to make parallel processing across multiple workstations easier and more accessible.
- *Specto* – an auto screen capture utility for Windows. Useful for logging user activity, particularly in the context of participant interviews.
- *spooner* – a free e-mail-based document distribution service for scholarly journal articles, used to make published articles available on academic websites while maintaining compliance with journal copyright agreements.
- *Ephemerix* (in progress) – a participant management system for daily diary studies. Controls access to surveys and executes automated reminders via phone, e-mail, and text messages.
- *GGT 100* – laboratory experiment software designed for gambling studies, confidence estimations, and bet placement.

**PROFESSIONAL  
MEMBERSHIPS**

Founding Member, Society for the Improvement of the Psychological Sciences

Society for the Teaching of Psychology

Southeastern Psychological Association

Society for Personality and Social Psychology

International Association for Relationship Research



**SERVICE**

Ambassador, Center for Open Science

Member, Steering Committee, PsyArXiv: A Preprint Service for the Psychological Sciences

Ad-hoc reviewer:

- Cyberpsychology, Behavior and Social Networking
- Emerging Adulthood
- International Journal of Social Research Methodology
- Cyberpsychology: Journal of Psychosocial Research on Cyberspace

Member, College of Reviewers of the International Journal of Social Research Methodology (2015-present).

Faculty Advisor, Murray State University Psychology Club (2014-present).

Member, LimeSurvey development team (2012-present).

President, East Tennessee State University Society for Intellectual Diversity (2008-2009).

President, North Georgia College and State University Psi Chi (2005).