

# Anna Grace C. Coates, MSc

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Department of Psychology  
The University of Texas at Austin  
107 East Dean Keeton St  
Austin, TX., 78702  
annagracecc@utexas.edu

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## EDUCATION

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### THE UNIVERSITY OF TEXAS AT AUSTIN, DOCTOR OF PHILOSOPHY, AUGUST OF 2024

AUSTIN, TEXAS

- Degree: Doctor of Philosophy in Clinical Psychology
  - Advisor: Cindy Meston, Ph.D.
  - Lab Affiliation: The Female Sexual Psychophysiology Laboratory
  - Degree anticipated: May of 2031

### UNIVERSITY OF KENT, MASTER'S OF SCIENCE, SEPTEMBER OF 2022

CANTERBURY, KENT, U.K.

- Degree: Master's of Science in Forensic Psychology
  - Classification: Distinction
- Dissertation Supervisor: Caoilte Ó Ciardha, Ph.D.
  - Dissertation: *The Impact of Nature vs. Nurture Explanations of Pedophilia on Help-Seeking Behaviour*

### ANDERSON UNIVERSITY, BACHELOR'S OF SCIENCE, MAY OF 2020

ANDERSON, S.C.

- Degree: B.S. Psychology (Honors Scholar) with Concentrations in Research and Clinical Studies
  - Classification: Summa cum laude
- Thesis Supervisor: Patty J. Slaughter, Ph.D.
  - Thesis: *Out of Body or Against the Body: A Review of Dissociation and Non-Suicidal Self-Injury Following Trauma*

### SKILLS AND ABILITIES

Excellent written and verbal communication; ability to synthesize large quantities of general and technical information; designing and running quantitative and qualitative research studies; explaining difficult concepts in an understandable way; diligent worth ethic with a detailed and organized approach; empathetic nature and active listening

### RESEARCH INTERESTS

Sexual behavior/ interests, sexual violence, sexual offender rehabilitation, non-suicidal self-injury, dissociation, suicide, personality disorders, Dialectical Behavior Therapy

**HONORS & Awards:** Presidential Scholar; Gamma Beta Phi Honor's Society; Honors Program; Dean's List; Professional Development Award

## PUBLICATIONS

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1. **Coates, A.G.**, & Meston, C. M. (2026). Sexual shame: A narrative review. *Sexual Medicine Reviews*, 14(1), 1-17. <https://doi.org/10.1093/sxmrev/qeag005>
2. **Coates, A. G. C.**, Knott, H., Collins, D., Parrish, L., McQuillin, S. D., & Weist, M.D. (2024). The South Carolina Behavioral Health Academy. *Communiqué*, 53(3), 31-33.
3. Wang, Y., Arief, B., Franqueria, V. N. L., **Coates, A. G.**, & Ó Ciardha, C. (2023). Investigating the availability of child sexual abuse material in dark web market: Evidence gathered and lessons

learned. *Proceedings of the European Interdisciplinary Cybersecurity Conference*, 59-64.  
<https://doi.org/10.1145/3590777.3590812>.

## TALKS AND PRESENTATIONS

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(\* indicates that I was the presenter, <sup>1</sup> indicates I was a research mentor for the student)

**Coates, A. G.\***, Abdalla, S., Zerbib, T., Lanners, A., & Meston, C. (2026, February). *The Influence of Purity Culture on Sexual Shame Following Sexual Trauma*. Oral presentation. International Society for Women's Sexual Health. Long Beach, CA, United States.

**Coates, A.G.\***, Abdalla, S., Zerbib, T. E., Lanners, A. B., & Meston, C. M. (2025, October). *The Weight of Purity: The Impact of Religious Beliefs and Sexual Shame in NSE Survivors' Sexual Wellbeing*. Poster presentation. Canadian Sex Research Forum, Vancouver, BC, Canada.

Abdalla, S.<sup>1</sup>, Metcalfe, K. B., **Coates, A. G.**, & Meston, C. M. (2026, February). *Anxiety, Depression, and the Decision to Disclose: How Psychopathology Relates to Disclosure After Nonconsensual Sexual Experiences*. Oral presentation. International Society for Women's Sexual Health. Long Beach, CA, United States.

**Coates, A.G.\***, Metcalfe, K. B., Ensign, A., & Meston, C. M. (2025, February). Being Pure and Being Ashamed: The Role of Purity Culture in Sexual Wellbeing. Discussed E-poster presentation. International Society for Women's Sexual Health, Atlanta, GA, United States. <https://doi.org/10.1093/jsxmed/qdaf068.049>

**Coates, A. G.\***, Harrod, S., & Parrish, L. (2024, April). *The Opioid Epidemic: How We Got Here and What We Can Do To Support Our Youth*. Oral presentation. Southeastern School Behavioral Health Conference, Myrtle Beach, SC.

Wang, Y., Arief, B., Franquiera, V.N.L., **Coates, A.G.**, & Ó Ciardha, C. (2023, June). Investigating the availability of child sexual abuse materials in dark web markets: Evidence gathered and lessons learned. Oral presentation. European Interdisciplinary Cybersecurity Conference, Stavanger, Norway.  
<https://doi.org/10.1145/3590777.359081>

**Coates, A.G.\*** & Ó Ciardha, C. (2022, February). *Was I born or was I made this way? Beliefs about what causes a sexual interest in children and openness towards help-seeking*. Scheduled oral presentation at the University of Kent's Master's Showcase, Canterbury, Kent, England. Showcase canceled due to ongoing union strikes.

**Clark, A.G.\*** (2020, April). *Dissociation and non-suicidal self-injury as coping mechanisms following trauma*. Poster presentation scheduled at Anderson University's Senior Showcase, Anderson, SC, United States. Showcase canceled due to COVID-19 pandemic.

**Clark, A.G.\***, Goodwin, E., Strasinger, C., Franklin, R. G., Jr., & Nation, T. (2020, February). *The brain in nature: Neural correlates and mechanisms related to experiencing nature*. Oral presentation. South Carolina Independent Colleges and Universities' Symposium, Rock Hill, SC, United States.

**Clark, A. G.\*** & Franklin, R. G., Jr. (2018, October). *Religion of rituals: The relationship between obsessive-compulsive tendencies and extrinsic and intrinsic religiosity*. Poster presentation. Society for Southeastern Social Psychologist's Conference, Raleigh, NC, United States. Best Undergraduate Poster Award Finalist.

**Clark, A. G.\*** & Franklin, R. G., Jr. (2018, April). *Religion of rituals: The relationship between obsessive-compulsive tendencies and extrinsic and intrinsic religiosity*. Oral presentation. Anderson University's Senior Showcase, Anderson, SC, United States.

**Clark, A. G.\***, Phillips, J., & Franklin, Jr., R. G (2018, April). *Emotions and typeface: How the nature of font alters perceived emotionality of messages*. Oral presentation. Anderson University's Senior Showcase, Anderson, SC, United States.

## RESEARCH EXPERIENCE

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### DOCTORAL RESEARCHER AT THE UNIVERSITY OF TEXAS AT AUSTIN | AUGUST OF 2024 - PRESENT

- Conducting research on the intersection of sexual abuse, religiosity/spirituality, and sexual wellbeing in survivors
- Working with advanced statistical methods, including General Additive Models, mediation analysis, and confounder adjustment
- Responsible for data collection, cleaning, and analysis, including developing and running R scripts for dataset management and complex analyses
- Assisting in lab meetings and contributing to the lab's ongoing projects on human sexuality and sexual wellbeing

### RESEARCH ASSOCIATE AT THE UNIVERSITY OF SOUTH CAROLINA | JANUARY OF 2023-MAY OF 2024

- Supervisor: Dr. Mark Weist
  - Created, edited, and reviewed free statewide courses on enhancing the mental health and wellbeing of students, faculty, and families within the school setting through the implementation of the Multi-Tiered System of Supports (MTSS); courses have been taken by over 1,000 school-based professionals to date.
    - Courses include: "The Opioid and Fentanyl Epidemic"; "Enhancing School-Family Engagement"; "Mental Health Literacy".
  - Performed data collection in elementary schools, including tasks such as communicating study protocol and opt-out procedures to participants at an age-appropriate level and delivering survey questions in a professional manner.
  - Managed the School Behavioral Health Academy's social media platforms by creating content campaigns, posts, and schedules; reviewed analytics from all social media platforms; increased engagement by 63% on Instagram and 480.2% on Facebook as of October, 2023.
  - Managed the Southeastern School Behavioral Health Conference's Instagram (increased engagement by 50% as of October, 2023) as well as Continuing Education Units dissemination; disseminated over 700 multidisciplinary credits to professionals across the country.
  - Contributed to annual reports; team lead on article creation and dissemination.

### RESEARCH ASSISTANT AT THE UNIVERSITY OF KENT | MAY OF 2022 - DECEMBER OF 2022

- Principal Investigator: Dr. Caoilte Ó Ciardha
  - Conducted a systematic review of literature related to the Dark Web and the distribution of child sexual exploitation material; produced a list of terms used to find, sell, and trade this material on the Dark Web for a web-crawler to use with the goal of better understanding this illegal and harmful behavior; list shared with researchers and legal agencies to prevent future child exploitation.
- Principal Investigator: Dr. Emma Alleyne
  - Conducted a systematic review of literature related to the legal harm/killing of animals (e.g., slaughterhouse, euthanasia) and its impact on workers in those settings; writing a paper on findings with the intent to publish.

- Volunteer for Dr. Theresa Gannon
  - Contacted and connected Dr. Gannon with international colleagues regarding interdisciplinary efforts.
  - Created and manipulated a preliminary dataset involving geographical coordinates, weather, wind speed, fire, and its related damage in SPSS as a test set for statistical risk analysis.

#### **RESEARCH ASSISTANT AT ANDERSON UNIVERSITY | JANUARY OF 2017 - MAY OF 2020**

- The Brain in Nature: Neural Correlates and Mechanisms Related to Experiencing Nature
  - Principal Investigator: Dr. Robert Franklin, Jr., & Dr. Travis Nation
    - August of 2019 to May of 2020
  - Responsible for designing and running trials; collecting measures of heart rate, blood pressure, EEG recordings and salivary samples for cortisol levels; analyzing data using ELISA and RStudio.
- *Title:* Emotions and Typeface: How the Nature of Font Alters Perceived Emotionality of Messages
  - *Principal Investigator:* Anna Grace Coates | *Supervisor:* Dr. Robert Franklin, Jr.
    - August - May of 2019
  - Responsible for stimuli creation; designing and conducting research trials; data analysis
- *Title:* Religion of Rituals: The Relationship Between Obsessive-Compulsive Tendencies and Extrinsic and Intrinsic Religiosity
  - Principal Investigator: Anna Grace Coates | Supervisor: Dr. Robert Franklin Jr.
    - August of 2018-May of 2019
  - Designed and conducted a research project correlating obsessive-compulsive tendencies and extrinsic and intrinsic religiosity.

#### **RESEARCH ASSISTANT IN THE BEHAVIORAL SCIENCES LAB AT ANDERSON UNIVERSITY | AUGUST-DECEMBER OF 2018**

- Conducted and monitored a variety of research studies; organized researcher's timelines and schedules; compiled online measures and surveys for easier access; created an online resource for graduate programs; aided professors in grading and editing.

## **CLINICAL EXPERIENCE**

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- **UNIVERSITY OF TEXAS AT AUSTIN PSYCHOLOGY TRAINING CLINIC BEGINNER PRACTICUM | AUGUST OF 2025-MAY OF 2026 | AUSTIN, TX**
- *Supervisors:* Dr. Talya Leibowicz & Dr. Jasper Smits
  - Conduct intake sessions and develop diagnosis using assessment and diagnostic tools (e.g., SCID-CV, SCID-PID, MMPI-3); deliver feedback and prepare clinical integrated reports.
  - Provide individual psychotherapy to adults presenting with mood (e.g., PDD, MDD), anxiety (e.g., Panic Disorder, GAD), and trauma-related (e.g., PTSD) concerns with evidence-based approaches (e.g., CBT, ACT, DBT).
  - Conduct ongoing case conceptualization, treatment planning, documentation; participate in weekly supervision.
- **ASSESSMENT TRAINEE IN THE PSYCHOLOGY CLINIC, THE UNIVERSITY OF TEXAS AT AUSTIN | AUGUST OF 2024-MAY OF 2025 | AUSTIN, TEXAS**
- *Supervisors:* Andreeana Haley, PhD and Catherine Panzeralla, PhD
  - Conducted clinical interviews and administer various psychological assessments.
  - Administered, scored, and interpreted WAIS-IV, DRS-2, D-KEFS, CVLT-3, MMPI-3, SCID-RV.
  - Wrote psychodiagnostic reports

- **CLINICAL PSYCHOLOGY INTERN | PATRICK B. HARRIS PSYCHIATRIC HOSPITAL | AUGUST - DECEMBER OF 2019, ANDERSON, SC**
  - Observed psychological testing and assessments and went over scoring and results (including the Rorschach, HCR-20 Assessing Risk for Violence, MoCA, Personality Assessment Inventory, MMPI, Mini-Mental State Exam among others); discussed patient's diagnosis and treatment; observed cognitive-behavioral group therapy sessions and treatment teams with patients and clinicians; completed 100 hours.

## TEACHING EXPERIENCE

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### TEACHING ASSISTANT AT THE UNIVERSITY OF TEXAS AT AUSTIN | AUGUST - DECEMBER OF 2024, AUSTIN, TX

- *August of 2025-Present:* Assisted Dr. Cindy Meston in Human Sexuality (PSY 30)
  - Curated and maintained Canvas page; developed test questions; held office hours; assisted students with course expectation and materials.
    - Lead TA for Spring 2026
- *August of 2024-July of 2025:* Assisted Dr. Kirtsen Bradbury in the Introduction to Clinical Psychology (PSY 364)
  - Corresponded with students, graded student materials, and managed Canvas

### HONORS TUTOR | ANDERSON UNIVERSITY | MAY OF 2018 – MAY OF 2020, ANDERSON, SC

- Created and administered study guides for midterms and finals in every Honors course as needed; met with individual students to critically analyze theses, projects, and presentations; explained difficult concepts and connected themes throughout a variety of different courses.

### WRITING TUTOR | ANDERSON UNIVERSITY | MAY OF 2018 – JANUARY OF 2020, ANDERSON, SC

- Mentored students through the writing process; edited and reviewed theses and dissertations; explained nuances of the English language in understandable ways; wrote and published an APA formatting guide.

## PROFESSIONAL CONTRIBUTIONS

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**Ad-Hoc Reviewer** - Journal of Sexual Medicine (2025), Journal of Sex and Marital Therapy (2024)

## COMMUNITY INVOLVEMENT

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### *Pathways to Healing* | August of 2022-August of 2024

- Responded to hotline calls from survivors of sexual assault; accompany survivors to the hospital for forensic nurse exams; spread awareness through tabling events.

### *The Lucy Faithfull Foundation/Stop It Now!* | December of 2021-September of 2022

- Responded to anonymous emails from individuals in need of support over sexual urges, behaviors and offenses with resources, empathy, and steps forward to help them live an offense-free lifestyle; responded to emails from concerned family members, partners, or friends to give clarification about their loved ones' behavior, provide support, and help them readjust.

### *Academic Peer Mentor* | September of 2021-September of 2022

- Mentored 3-5 undergraduate psychology students as they navigated their studies, social lives, and future plans; provided specific feedback on studying, time management, and self-care.

### *Fellows Program* | August of 2020-May of 2021

- A highly selective nationwide leadership program designed to develop and equip recent college graduates to serve their cities through their vocation; participated in academic classes, professional

seminars, volunteerism, leadership experience, and mentoring focused on professional and personal development.

***Student Government Association | Senator and Senior Class Speaker | August of 2017-May of 2020***

- Processed club and funding requests; advocated on behalf of the student body in the Senate; represented the senior class in 2020; spoke as the Senior Class Speaker at the Class of 2020's Graduation Ceremony.

***Recycling Initiative as Campus Improvement Chairwoman | August of 2017-May of 2020***

- Volunteered to lead a committee within SGA focusing on campus needs and student requests; created and led a recycling initiative to spread awareness of recycling on campus; increased recycling options and availability across campus.

***It's a Girl Thing! Bringing STEM Awareness to Girls in Middle School | January-May of 2019***

- Gave presentations at McCants Middle School on women scientists; led groups of middle school girls through experiments and discussions.

## **ADDITIONAL EXPERIENCE**

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**RECRUITER | TURAS GROUP | AUGUST OF 2020 - AUGUST OF 2021, GREENVILLE, SC**

- Recruited for restaurants and sports training facilities; conducted interviews and application assessments; worked with a variety of managers and needs; built long-lasting relationships between industry chains and employees.