

PAYTON K. ROBINSON

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Education

Ph.D. Psychological and Brain Sciences Anticipated 2028

Indiana University, Bloomington, IN

M.S. Neuroscience and Behavior GPA: 3.84

Purdue University, West Lafayette, IN May 2025

B.A. Psychology GPA: 3.44

Purdue University Fort Wayne, Fort Wayne, IN June 2022

Research Interest

I am interested in the mechanisms for learning and memory of fear and how behavioral responding differs based on modification of the memory via stimulus manipulation.

Publications

Bonanno, G. R., Hoxha, E. M., **Robinson, P. K.**, Ferrara, N. C., & Trask, S. (2023). *Fear reduced through unconditional stimulus deflation is behaviorally distinct from extinction and differentially engages the amygdala*. Biological Psychiatry: Global Open Science. [🔗](#)

Met Hoxha, E., **Robinson, P. K.**, Greer, K. M., Trask, S. (2024). *Generalization and discrimination of inhibitory avoidance differentially engage anterior and posterior retrosplenial subregions*. Frontiers in Behavioral Neuroscience, 18, 1327858. [🔗](#)

Robinson, P. K., Met Hoxha, E., Williams, D., Kinzig, K. P., Trask, S. (2024). *Fear extinction is impaired in aged rats*. GeroScience.

Brooks, J. B., **Robinson, P. K.**, Warner, S., Hadler, P., Trask, S. (2025) *Stress-enhanced fear learning can be reduced with unconditional stimulus deflation with constraints*. Behavioural Brain Research.

Robinson, P. K., Jarome, T., Trask, S. (2025) *Age, but not sex, determines the degree of age-related memory impairment in rats*. Learning and Memory.

Robinson, P. K., Trask, S. (2025) *Context controls the ability of unconditional stimulus deflation to mitigate fear relapse*. Brain Research.

Robinson, P. K., Trask, S. (2026) *Unconditional stimulus deflation is stimulus specific*. Learning and Behavior.

Bae, Y., **Robinson, P. K.,** Trask, S. (2026) **Fear conditioning with five footshocks is sufficient to produce stress-enhanced fear learning in rats but does not produce physiological characteristics of stress**

Submitted Manuscripts:

Met Hoxha, E., **Robinson, P. K.,** Greer, K. M., Trask, S. (submitted) *Prior stress exacerbates inhibitory avoidance learning in female, but not male, rats*. Journal of Neuroscience Research. In review.

Conference Presentations

INVITED TALKS

Roobinson, P. K. (September 2026). Stress-enhanced fear learning is readily generalized to safe contexts in adolescence. Center for Studies in Behavioral Neurobiology, Pavlovian Satellite Meeting, Concordia University, Montreal, QC, Canada

POSTERS

Robinson, P. K., Met Hoxha, E., Trask, S. (2023, June). *Normal aging impairs extinction learning*. [Poster presentation]. Big Ten Neuroscience Annual Conference, Indiana University, Indianapolis, IN, United States.

Williams, D., **Robinson, P.K.,** Met Hoxha, E., Trask, S. (2023, July). *The effect of normal aging on extinction learning*. [Poster]. SROP Undergraduate Summer Research Presentations, Purdue University, West Lafayette, IN, United States.

Robinson, P. K., Met Hoxha, E., Williams, D., Kinzig, K. P., Trask, S. (2023, August). *Extinction learning is impaired by normal aging*. [Poster presentation]. BRIDGE Summer Graduate Program, Purdue University, West Lafayette, IN, United States

Robinson, P. K., Met Hoxha, E., Williams, D., Kinzig, K. P., Trask, S. (2023, August). *Extinction learning is impaired by normal aging*. [Oral presentation]. BRIDGE Summer Graduate Program, Purdue University, West Lafayette, IN, United States

Robinson, P. K., Met Hoxha, E., Williams, D., Kinzig, K. P., Trask, S. (2023, September). *Extinction learning is impaired by normal aging*. [Poster presentation]. Greater Indiana Society for Neuroscience, Purdue University, West Lafayette, IN, United States

Robinson, P. K., Met Hoxha, E., Williams, D., Kinzig, K. P., Trask, S. (2023, September). *Extinction learning is impaired by normal aging*. [Poster presentation]. Pavlovian Society Annual Meeting, Austin, TX, United States

Abramenko A. P., Nygren, R., May, A., Murrell, C., **Robinson, P.K.**, Met Hoxha, E., Mackey, A.P., Trask, S., Robinson-Drummer, P.A. (2023, September). *Preliminary evidence suggesting early decline in associative recognition learning following early-life stress*. [Poster presentation]. Pavlovian Society Annual Meeting, Austin, TX, United States

Bonanno, G.R., Met Hoxha, E., **Robinson, P. K.**, Trask, S., Swithers, S.E. (2023, September). *Impaired contextual fear extinction and UCS deflation in aged rats*. [Poster presentation]. Pavlovian Society Annual Meeting, Austin, TX, United States

Robinson, P. K., Met Hoxha, E., Williams, D., Kinzig, K. P., Trask, S. (2023, November). *Extinction learning is impaired by normal aging*. [Poster presentation]. College of Health and Human Sciences Fall Research Day, Purdue University, West Lafayette, IN, United States

Brooks, J. B., **Robinson, P. K.**, Warner, S., Halder, P., Trask, S. (2024 September). *Stress-Enhanced Fear Learning Can Be Reduced Through Unconditional Stimulus Deflation*. [Poster presentation]. Pavlovian Society Annual Meeting, Indianapolis, IN, United States

Warner, S., Brooks, J. B., **Robinson, P. K.**, Trask, S. (2024 September). *Prior stress exacerbates avoidance learning in female rats and this learning is resistant to extinction*. [Poster presentation]. Pavlovian Society Annual Meeting, Indianapolis, IN, United States

Robinson, P. K., Trask, S. (2024 September). *Age, but not sex, determines the degree of age-related memory impairment in rats*. [Poster presentation]. Pavlovian Society Annual Meeting, Indianapolis, IN, United States

Robinson, P. K., Trask, S. (2025 September). *Examining a role for unconditional stimulus deflation in delay fear*. [Poster presentation]. Pavlovian Society Annual Meeting, Sydney, Australia

Robinson, P. K., Bae, Y., Trask, S. (2026 September). *Without a trace: the inability to acquire trace fear in adolescence*. [Poster presentation]. Pavlovian Society Annual Meeting, Montreal, QC, Canada

PAPERS

Robinson, P. K., Trask, S. (2025 March). *Preventing Cued fear relapse using unconditional Stimulus Deflation Depends on Deflation Context*. [Paper presentation]. Eastern Psychological Association, New York, NY, United States.

Professional Experience

Teaching Assistant

Purdue University, Psy20100 Intro to Statistics (~32 students) Spring 2025

Indiana University, Neuroscience (~80 students) Fall 2025

Guest Speaker

Valparaiso High School October 2025

Graduate Mentor

- Jaden Brooks
- Destine Williams
- Paulina Lang
- Victoria Patellos
- Alex Abramenko
- Ryan Nygren
- Isra Badar

Research Assistant

Purdue University, PI: Sydney Trask, Neuroscience and Behavior

Fall 2023-Fall 2024

Laboratory Assistant (PI: Sydney Trask, Neuroscience and Behavior)

Purdue University, West Lafayette, IN

September 2022-June 2023

- Assist in retrieval of brain tissue processes
- Run behavioral experiments
- Order and locate lab supplies
- Conduct slicing and dissection of brain tissue

Laboratory Assistant (PI: Nadia Brashier, Cognitive Psychology)

Purdue University, West Lafayette, IN

September 2022- June 2023

- Contact and recruit human participants for studies
- Run participants
- Assist and analyze fMRI data
- Research previous relevant literature

Patient Care Assistant

Sycamore Springs, Lafayette, IN

August 2022- February 2023

- Complete 15-minute cue safety checks
- Direct PCA group therapy and goal review groups
- Accompany patients for outside breaks
- Assist nurses with medical incidents and med-pass

Mental Health Technician

Parkview Behavioral Health, Fort Wayne, IN

June 2021- January 2022

- Offers direct care to patients admitted into the inpatient psychiatric facility
- Assists nurses with vitals, ensures safety and well-being
- Create rapport to provide individualized care
- Transport patients to and from meals, appointments, and therapy
- De-escalate situations/crises that can lead to hurt, harm, or danger to any patients or staff

Undergraduate Teaching Assistant

Purdue University Fort Wayne, Fort Wayne IN

- Recommended by professors for academic excellence.
- Assist psychology professor with grading assignments and communicating with students.

- Provides advice and helpful resources for academic success.
- Attends a Teaching Assistant class to get resources and tips for better assistance.
- Taught one half of a class period.

Fellowships, Awards and Honors

FELLOWSHIPS AND AWARDS

3 rd Century Fellow	\$5,000
Harlan Scholar	\$5,000
Outstanding Graduate Woman in Learning Award	\$400
Pavlovian Society Conference Travel Award	\$1,000
Purdue Institute for Integrative Neuroscience Travel Grant Award	\$100
Purdue Institute for Integrative Neuroscience Travel Grant Award	\$300
Ross Fellowship Recipient	\$135,000
BRIDGE Scholar	\$4,000
Purdue Fort Wayne Scholarship	\$32,000
Purdue Fort Wayne Track and Field Scholarship	\$24,000
Academic Honors Scholarship	\$1,200

HONORS

International Behavioral Neuroscience Society Member	December 2023
National Society for Leadership and Service Nominee	February 2020-May 2022
Psi Chi Invitee	October 2019-May 2022

Volunteer Work and Activities

Board Member of e-STEAM	August 2024-Present
VHS AP Psych Guest Speaker	October 2025
Guest Speaker at Williams Elementary STEM Night	November 2024
Guest Speaker at Williams Elementary	May 2024
Graduate Mentor for Psychological Sciences Mentorship Program	August 2023- May 2024
Purdue University-Fort Wayne Women's Track and Field	August 2019- May 2022
Being Well Project Volunteer	November 2021

Skills

Human Related

Technical: Secondary MRI Operator

Clinical: Crisis Intervention, Essentials of
Aggression Management, CPR

Rodent Related

Stereotaxic surgery, Rodent handling, Tissue
slicing and collection (Cryostat operation),
Leica Microscopy (Immunofluorescence),
Image Analysis (ImageJ, SPSS)