

GRACE M. WETZEL

Rutgers University, Psychology Department
53 Avenue E.
Piscataway, NJ 08854
E-mail: grace.wetzel@rutgers.edu
Pronouns: she/her
www.gracewetzel.com/

EDUCATION

- Ph.D. **Ph.D. Social Psychology**, 2020-2025
(*expected*) Rutgers University, New Brunswick, NJ
Health Concentration; Graduate Certificate in Women's, Gender, & Sexuality Studies
Advisor: Diana T. Sanchez, Ph.D.
- M.S. **M.S. Social Psychology**, 2023
Rutgers University, New Brunswick, NJ
Master's Thesis: Challenging biological justifications for the orgasm gap: Implications for immutability beliefs and orgasm pursuit
Advisor: Diana T. Sanchez, Ph.D.
- B.S. **B.S. (*Summa Cum Laude*) Honors in Psychology**, 2019
St. Lawrence University, Canton, NY
Gender & Sexuality Studies Minor; Biology Minor
Undergraduate Honors Thesis: Men's implicit objectification of women and its connection to sexual aggression
Advisor: Mark Oakes, Ph.D.

RESEARCH GRANTS

- 2022 Graduate Research Fellowship, *National Science Foundation*, \$138,000
Clara Mayo Grant, *Society for the Psychological Study of Social Issues*, \$500

PEER REVIEWED PUBLICATIONS

* Denotes undergraduate mentee

Dickman, K. *, **Wetzel, G. M.**, & Sanchez, D. T. (2024). The role of partner gender: How expectations for clitoral stimulation and orgasm shape orgasm goal pursuit for heterosexual, lesbian, and bisexual women. *Social Psychological and Personality Science*, 1-12. <https://doi.org/10.1177/19485506241235235>
Views/Downloads: 297. Altmetric Attention Score: 212 (Top 5%). View the full article [here](#).

Wetzel, G. M., Cultice, R. A., Cipollina, R., & Sanchez, D. T. (2024). Masculinity and condom use: Using a rejection sensitivity framework to understand women's condom negotiation in mixed-gender sexual encounters. *Sex Roles*. <https://doi.org/10.1007/s11199-024-01452-7>
Views/Downloads: 240. Altmetric Attention Score: 10. View the full article [here](#).

Wetzel, G. M., Sanchez, D. T., Gesselman, A. N., Adams, O. R., Campbell, J. T., & Garcia, J. R. (2024). Exploring the orgasm gap across racial/ethnic groups: A descriptive analysis. *The Journal of Sex Research*. <https://doi.org/10.1080/00224499.2024.2308044>
Views/Downloads: 531. Altmetric Attention Score: 52 (Top 10%). View the full article [here](#).

Wetzel, G. M. & Sanchez, D. T. (2023). “What’s something you’ve heard about sex, but are unsure if it’s true?”: Assessing middle and high school students’ sex education questions. *Journal of Adolescent Health*, 74(2), 327-339. <https://doi.org/10.1016/j.jadohealth.2023.08.028>
View the full article [here](#).

Wetzel, G. M., Sanchez, D. T., & Cole, S. (2023). Feasibility cues during a sexual encounter impact the strength of heterosexual women’s orgasm goal pursuit. *The Journal of Sex Research*, 61(2), 196-215. <https://doi.org/10.1080/00224499.2023.2168599>
Views/Downloads: 450. Altmetric Attention Score: 99 (Top 5%). Citations: 3. View the full article [here](#).

Wetzel, G. M. & Sanchez, D. T. (2022). Heterosexual young adults’ experience with and perceptions of the orgasm gap: A mixed methods approach. *Psychology of Women Quarterly*, 46(2), 131-146. <https://doi.org/10.1177/03616843221076410>
Views/Downloads: 3,176. Altmetric Attention Score: 180 (Top 2%). Citations: 16. View the full article [here](#).

Wetzel, G. M., Cultice, R. A., & Sanchez, D. T. (2022). Orgasm frequency predicts desire and expectation for orgasm: Assessing the orgasm gap within mixed-sex couples. *Sex Roles*, 86, 456-470. <https://doi.org/10.1007/s11199-022-01280-7>
Views/Downloads: 3,427. Altmetric Attention Score: 252 (Top 2%). Citations: 12. View the full article [here](#).

MANUSCRIPTS UNDER REVIEW

Wetzel, G. M. & Sanchez, D. T. Using biological explanations for the orgasm gap to investigate the disproportionate essentialization of gender disparities in the sexuality domain.

MANUSCRIPTS IN PREPARATION

Wetzel, G. M., Svensson, H., Sanchez, D. T., & Cole, S. Devaluing orgasm: Investigating the impact of couples’ assessment of the importance of women’s orgasm when frequency is low.

Wetzel, G. M., Wolfer, C., Carmichael, C., & Sanchez, D. T. Sexual scripts shape women’s orgasm expectations during sex with men versus women: The role of clitoral stimulation and perceived partner’s orgasm pursuit.

Conley, T. D., **Wetzel, G. M.,** Cultice, R. A. & Piemonte, J. L. Bisexuality provides a natural experiment to ascertain whether sexuality gender differences are attributable to the person vs. partner.

BOOK CHAPTERS

Wetzel, G. M. & Sanchez, D. T. (2024). Equity and gender roles in marriage: Are we finally equal? In M. Hojjat & A. Moyer (Eds.). *Modern Relationships: Romance, Friendship, and Family in the 21st Century*.

CONFERENCE PRESENTATIONS

* Denotes undergraduate mentee

ORAL PRESENTATIONS

Wetzel, G. M., & Sanchez, D. T. (2024, March). *Assessing middle and high school students' sex education questions*. Single paper talk presented for the annual meeting of the Eastern Psychological Association (EPA), Philadelphia, PA.

Wetzel, G. M., Dickman, K.*, & Sanchez, D. T. (2024, February). *The role of partner gender: How sexual expectations shape orgasm pursuit for heterosexual, lesbian, and bisexual women*. Single presenter talk presented at the Sexuality Pre-Conference for the annual meeting of the Society for Personality and Social Psychology (SPSP), San Diego, CA.

Becker, H.*, **Wetzel, G. M.,** & Sanchez, D. T. (2024, February). *Women's sex education experiences and their implications for sexual outcomes in young adulthood*. Undergraduate research spotlight presented virtually at the annual meeting of the Society for Personality and Social Psychology (SPSP), San Diego, CA.

Wetzel, G. M., Sanchez, D. T., & Cole, S. (2023, February). *Is orgasm worth pursuing? The role of feasibility cues in shaping heterosexual women's motivation to pursue orgasm*. Data blitz presented at the Sexuality Pre-Conference for the annual meeting of the Society for Personality and Social Psychology (SPSP), Atlanta, GA.

Dickman, K.*, **Wetzel, G. M.,** & Sanchez, D. T. (2023, February). *Using expectancy-value theory to predict the strength of orgasm goal pursuit for heterosexual and lesbian women*. Undergraduate research spotlight presented virtually at the annual meeting of the Society for Personality and Social Psychology (SPSP), Atlanta, GA.

Pauwels, H.*, **Wetzel, G. M.,** & Sanchez, D. T. (2023, February). *Women's orgasms as a masculinity achievement for men: The role of vaginal penetration versus clitoral stimulation*. Undergraduate research spotlight presented virtually at the annual meeting of the Society for Personality and Social Psychology (SPSP), Atlanta, GA.

Wetzel, G. M., Cultice, R. A., & Sanchez, D. T. (2021, November). *Women's orgasm frequency predicts women's desire and expectation for orgasm: Assessing the "orgasm gap" within dyadic mixed-sex couples*. Oral presentation given at the annual meeting of the Society for the Scientific Study of Sexuality (SSSS), Puerto Rico.

Wetzel, G. M., Cultice, R. A., & Sanchez, D. T. (2021, February). *Stress, loneliness, and COVID threat severity as predictors of sexual well-being during the COVID-19 pandemic*. Data blitz presented virtually at the Sexuality Pre-Conference for the annual meeting of the Society for Personality and Social Psychology (SPSP).

POSTER PRESENTATIONS

Wetzel, G. M. & Sanchez, D. T. (2024, February). *"What's something you've heard about sex, but are unsure if it's true?": Assessing middle and high school students' sex education questions*. Poster presented in-person at the annual meeting of the Society for Personality and Social Psychology (SPSP), San Diego, CA.

Wetzel, G. M., Sanchez, D. T., & Cole, S. (2023, February). *Goal pursuit and women's orgasm: The role of feasibility cues in shaping women's motivation to pursue orgasm*. Poster presented in-person at the annual meeting of the Society for Personality and Social Psychology (SPSP), Atlanta, GA.

Wetzel, G. M., Sanchez, D. T., & Cole, S. (2022, November). *Feasibility cues during a sexual encounter impact the strength of women's orgasm goal pursuit*. Poster presented virtually at the annual meeting of the Society for the Scientific Study of Sexuality (SSSS).

Wetzel, G. M. & Sanchez, D. T. (2022, February). *Can the orgasm gap be fixed? The relationship between sexism, sexuality lay beliefs, and attitudes towards the orgasm gap*. Poster presented virtually at the annual meeting of the Society for Personality and Social Psychology (SPSP).

Wetzel, G. M. & Sanchez, D. T. (2021, August). *College students' experience with and perceptions of the "orgasm gap" in new and familiar contexts*. Poster presented virtually at the annual meeting of the American Psychological Association (APA).

Wetzel, G. M. (2019, March). *I'd like to thank the academy – for racial bias?: Racial bias in the judgment of rap music*. Poster presented at the annual meeting of the Eastern Psychological Association (EPA), New York, NY.

Wetzel, G. M. (2018, September). *I'd like to thank the academy – for racial bias?: Racial bias in the judgment of music*. Poster presented at the meeting of the New York Six Liberal Arts Consortium (NY6), Canton, NY.

Wetzel, G. M. & Collins, E. (2017, January). *Cattle for conservation: 'Bomas' for improved savannah ecosystems*. Poster presented at the annual meeting of the Society for Integrative & Comparative Biology (SICB), New Orleans, LA.

AWARDS AND HONORS

2024	Travel Funding Award, School of Graduate Studies, Rutgers University, \$1,000 Outstanding Student Research Award, Society for Personality and Social Psychology (SPSP), \$100
2023	Diversity Graduate Registration Stipend, Society for Personality and Social Psychology (SPSP), \$181 Innovation Fund Grant for Diversifying Psychology Day, Rutgers University Division of Diversity, Inclusion, and Community Engagement, \$1,000 Outstanding Master's Student Award, School of Graduate Studies, Rutgers University Graduate Funding Award, Social Psychology Area, Rutgers University, \$130 Travel Funding Award, School of Graduate Studies, Rutgers University, \$850
2022	Research Excellence Award, Social Psychology Area, Rutgers University, \$200 Diversity, Equity, & Inclusion Excellence Award, Social Psychology Area, Rutgers University, \$200 Service Excellence Award, Social Psychology Area, Rutgers University, \$200 Graduate Funding Award, Social Psychology Area, Rutgers University, \$250 Travel Funding Award, School of Graduate Studies, Rutgers University, \$395
2021	Human Sexuality Summer Intensive Financial Aid Award, Kinsey Institute, \$500
2019	Phi Beta Kappa Honor Society Daniel F. Sullivan Leadership Award, St. Lawrence University

	James H. L. Roach Outstanding Senior Major Award, Psychology Department, St. Lawrence University, \$100
2018	Student Research Funding, Academic Affairs, St. Lawrence University, \$600 Student Research Funding, Psychology Department, St. Lawrence University, \$400 Student Research Stipend, St. Lawrence University Fellowship, \$3,500 Research Funding, St. Lawrence University Fellowship, \$600 Psi Chi Psychology Honor Society
2017	Omicron Delta Kappa Leadership Honor Society
2016	Outstanding First Year Student Award, St. Lawrence University
2015 - 2019	Momentum Scholarship, St. Lawrence University, \$140,000

INVITED TALKS & GUEST LECTURES

Wetzel, G. M. (2024, April). *How Sexual Expectations Shape Orgasm Pursuit for Bisexual Women: The Role of Partner Gender*. Research talk presented at Rutgers University's Psychology Department Data Blitz, New Brunswick, NJ.

Wetzel, G. M. (2024, April). *Understanding the Orgasm Gap*. Research talk presented at Rutgers University's Social Area Colloquium Series, New Brunswick, NJ.

Wetzel, G. M. (2024, March). *Assessing middle and high school students' sex education questions*. Lecture presented virtually for the Sex Ed Lecture Series.

Wetzel, G. M. (2023, December). *The Orgasm Gap: Implications for Sexual Health Educators*. Training presented virtually at the Cliteracy Conference, hosted by Kiss & Tell Magazine.

Wetzel, G. M. (2023, November). *The Orgasm Gap: Moving towards Orgasm Equity*. Event hosted by Planned Parenthood Generation Action, Keystone College, La Plume, PA.

Wetzel, G. M. (2023, November). *Assessing middle and high school students' sex education questions*. Research talk presented at Rutgers University's Social Area Colloquium Series, New Brunswick, NJ.

Wetzel, G. M. (2023, May). *The Orgasm Gap & Sex Education*. Training presented virtually at Planned Parenthood Hudson Peconic, Inc., Smithtown, NY.

Wetzel, G. M. (2023, February). *Tool School: Introduction to Qualitative Coding*. Workshop presented virtually at Rutgers University's Social Area Colloquium Series, New Brunswick, NJ.

Wetzel, G. M. (2022, April). *Feasibility cues during a sexual encounter impact women's orgasm goal pursuit*. Research talk presented virtually at Rutgers University's Social Area Colloquium Series, New Brunswick, NJ.

Wetzel, G. M. (2021, November). *The Orgasm Gap: Scientific Research and Societal Implications*. Guest lecture presented virtually at the University of Connecticut, Stamford, CT.

Wetzel, G. M. (2021, October). *Sexual Communication and the Orgasm Gap*. Guest lecture presented virtually at California State University, Fullerton, CA.

Wetzel, G. M. (2021, July). *Reproductive Health Paint Night: Discussion on Orgasm Equality*. Event hosted virtually by Planned Parenthood Hudson Peconic, Smithtown, NY.

Wetzel, G. M. (2020, March). *Sexual & Orgasm Equity*. Guest lecture presented virtually at St. Lawrence University, Canton, NY.

Wetzel, G. M. (2019, April). *Men's implicit objectification of women and its connection to sexual aggression*. Research talk presented at the Festival of Science, Scholarship, & Creativity at St. Lawrence University, Canton, NY.

Wetzel, G. M. (2018, April). *Let's Talk about Sex: The Reality of the Sexual Pleasure Disparity*. Talk presented at TEDxStLawrenceU event at St. Lawrence University, Canton, NY.

TEACHING EXPERIENCE

Course Instructor, Rutgers University, Psychology Department

Summer 2022 *Psychology of Sex and Gender* (Teacher Rating: 5.0/5.0; In-person instruction)

Summer 2021 *Psychology of Sex and Gender* (Teacher Rating: 5.0/5.0; Synchronous virtual instruction)

Recitation Instructor, Rutgers University, Psychology Department

Fall 2020 *Quantitative Methods in Psychology*

Teaching Assistant, Rutgers University, Psychology Department

Fall 2020 – Spring 2022 *Social Psychology* (3x)

General Psychology (2x)

Abnormal Psychology

Organizational & Personnel Psychology

Teaching Assistant, St. Lawrence University, Psychology Department

Spring 2019 *Research Methods in Psychology*

Fall 2018 *Social Psychology*

Fall 2017 *Research Methods in Psychology*

MENTORING EXPERIENCE

Honors Thesis Advisor, Rutgers University, Psychology Department

2023-24 Hailey Becker, *Aresty Undergraduate Research Funding*, \$800

2022-23 Kate Dickman, *Aresty Undergraduate Research Funding*, \$633

- Winner of the Alice and Walter Philips Award for Outstanding Undergraduate Thesis
- Recipient of the Henry Rutgers Scholar Award, \$1,000

Harrison Pauwels, *Aresty Undergraduate Research Funding*, \$866

- Recipient of the Henry Rutgers Scholar Award, \$1,000

Independent Research Advisor, Rutgers University, Psychology Department

2023 Hailey Becker, *Cooper Summer Undergraduate Research Fellowship*, \$4,000

2022 Kate Dickman, *Cooper Summer Undergraduate Research Fellowship*, \$4,000

Harrison Pauwels, *Cooper Summer Undergraduate Research Fellowship*, \$4,000

PROFESSIONAL APPOINTMENTS

August 2021 – January 2023	Lab Manager Close Relationships, Identity, & Stigma Lab Rutgers University
July 2019 – June 2020	Community Sexual Health Educator Education & Training Department Planned Parenthood Hudson Peconic, Inc.

DIVERSITY, EQUITY, & INCLUSION

Fall 2023 – present	Bisexual+ Graduate Student Support, Rutgers School of Graduate Studies <i>Affinity Group Founder and Facilitator</i>
Fall 2022 – present	Rutgers Diversifying Psychology Day <i>Co-Founder and Co-Organizer</i> <i>Committee Chair</i> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Received the IDEA Innovation Fund Grant, Rutgers University, \$1,000
Fall 2021 – present	Social Area Graduate Student Diversity & Climate Committee <i>Co-Chair</i>
Spring 2021 – present	Bi+ the Way Peer Support Group, Pride Center of New Jersey <i>Support Group Facilitator</i>
Fall 2021 – Fall 2022	Psychology Department Faculty Diversity & Climate Committee <i>Graduate Student Representative</i>
Fall 2020 – present	Social Area Graduate Student Diversity & Climate Committee <i>Member</i>

SERVICE

Fall 2020 – present	<i>Ad Hoc Reviewer</i> The Journal of Sex Research (JSR) Social Psychological and Personality Science (SPPS) Psychology of Women Quarterly (PWQ) Journal of Sex & Marital Therapy Sex Roles
Spring 2022 – 2024	<i>Graduate Student Liaison</i> Recruitment Weekend, Psychology Department, Rutgers University
Fall 2021 – Spring 2022	<i>President</i> Psychology Department Social/Health Area Graduate Student Organization, Rutgers University

Fall 2021 – Spring 2022 *Graduate Student Representative*
 Social Area, Psychology Department, Rutgers University

TRAININGS

Sexuality Subject Area

2021 Human Sexuality Summer Intensive Program, *Kinsey Institute, Indiana University*
 Pleasure, Desire, & Orgasm Master Class, *Everyone Deserves Sex Ed (EDSE)*

Statistical/Methodological

2023 Dyadic Longitudinal Data Analysis, *Pittsburgh Summer Methodology Series*
 2020 Data Science: R Basics, *HarvardX, Harvard University*

Teaching/Mentorship

2023 Equity Fundamentals Workshop, *Tyler Clementi Center for Diversity Education and Bias Prevention, Rutgers University*
 2021 Designing Your Own Course (Course), *Teaching Assistant Project (TAP), Rutgers University*
 Introduction to College Teaching (Course), *TAP, Rutgers University*
 Teaching a Summer Course (Workshop), *TAP, Rutgers University*
 Effective Mentoring of Undergrads (Workshop), *School of Graduate Studies, Rutgers University*
 2020 Designing Online Tests and Assignments (Workshop), *TAP, Rutgers University*
 Developing a Teaching Portfolio (Workshop), *TAP, Rutgers University*

PROFESSIONAL MEMBERSHIPS

American Psychological Association (APA)
 Society for Personality and Social Psychology (SPSP)
 Society for the Scientific Study of Sexuality (SSSS)
 Society for the Psychological Study of Social Issues (SPSSI)

MEDIA APPEARANCES

Wetzel, G. M., Blue, E., Mislá, J., & Curious Fox (Producer). (2022, November). *Curious Fox: Closing the Orgasm Gap with Grace Wetzel* [Audio Podcast].

<https://open.spotify.com/episode/2buGL4u1acboG98Gh26pio?si=7bf1ea32204c49f0>

Wetzel, G. M., Marley, L., & The News Movement (Producer). (2022, September). *The News Movement: The Orgasm Gap*.

Wetzel, G. M., Suwinyattichaiorn, T., & luvbites.co (Producer). (2021, October). *Luvbites by Dr. Tara: Orgasm with Grace* [Audio Podcast].

<https://open.spotify.com/episode/7lnF7xTXSZIhysHFqa2rkg?si=694dd38dc0214a67>

Wetzel, G. M., LaMagna, L., & Planned Parenthood Hudson Peconic (Producer). (Uploaded 2020, 14 May). *Facebook Live Chat with a Sex Educator: Orgasm Gap* [Facebook Live Video].

<https://www.facebook.com/PlannedParenthoodHudsonPeconic/videos/529144814424686>

Wetzel, G. M. & Gershoni, A. (Producer). (Uploaded 2019, 14 July). *Beyond Consent* [SoundCloud Audio Podcast].

Wetzel, G. M. & TEDxStLawrenceU (Producer). (Uploaded 2018, 2 April). *Let's Talk about Sex: The Reality of the Sexual Pleasure Disparity* [Online Video].

https://www.ted.com/talks/grace_wetzel_let_s_talk_about_sex_the_reality_of_the_sexual_pleasure_disparity?language=en

[Over 7.8 million views to date]

POPULAR PRESS ARTICLES

My empirical research has been reported or cited in 70+ popular press articles, and has been featured on Late Night with Seth Meyers, Gay Times, and other media outlets.

Highlighted Articles

NBC News (2024, April). New research helps explain why lesbians report more orgasms than straight women. <https://www.nbcnews.com/feature/nbc-out/new-research-helps-explain-lesbians-report-orgasms-straight-women-rcna146661>

Everyday Health (2024, March). Women and orgasm: Facts about the female climax. <https://www.everydayhealth.com/sexual-health/the-female-orgasm.aspx>

Psychology Today (2024, March). The impact of race and ethnicity on orgasm. <https://www.psychologytoday.com/za/blog/extraordinary-relationships/202402/the-impact-of-race-and-ethnicity-on-orgasm>

Rutgers (2023, December). Measuring the pain-pleasure gap in sexual education. <https://www.rutgers.edu/news/measuring-pain-pleasure-gap-sexual-education>

New York Post (2023, March). Women have time for sex – but often not orgasms: Rutgers study. <https://nypost.com/2023/03/09/women-have-time-for-sex-but-often-not-orgasms-rutgers-study/>

Daily Mail (2023, March). What an anti-climax! Women pursue orgasms less during one-night stands - while men expect to ejaculate every time, study finds. <https://www.dailymail.co.uk/sciencetech/article-11839209/What-anti-climax-Women-pursue-orgasms-one-night-stands.html>

Futurity (2023, March). Women forgo orgasm when guy seems selfish in bed. https://www.futurity.org/women-orgasm-gap-2886822-2/?utm_source=rss&utm_medium=rss&utm_campaign=women-orgasm-gap-2886822-2

News Wise (2023, March). The Big O: What shapes a woman's pursuit of pleasure? <https://www.newswise.com/articles/the-big-o-what-shapes-a-woman-s-pursuit-of-pleasure>

Science, Translated (2023, February). The Orgasm Gap: What is it and how can we overcome it? <https://sciencetranslated.org/the-orgasm-gap-what-is-it-and-how-can-we-overcome-it/>

Psychology Today (2022, November). Erectile Disorder and Masculinity Myths. <https://www.psychologytoday.com/us/blog/sex-esteem/202211/erectile-disorder-and-masculinity-myths>

U.S. News & World Report (2022, April). Orgasm's key role in women's sexual satisfaction. <https://www.usnews.com/news/health-news/articles/2022-04-13/orgasms-key-role-in-womens-sexual-satisfaction>

Daily Mail (2022, April). What an anti-climax! 'Orgasm gap' between the sexes means women have come to expect less pleasure in bed, study finds. <https://www.dailymail.co.uk/sciencetech/article-10699637/Women-climax-bed-come-expect-pleasure-study-finds.html>

ScienMag (2022, April). Orgasm gap impacts how much women want one, Rutgers study finds. <https://scienmag.com/orgasm-gap-impacts-how-much-women-want-one-rutgers-study-finds/>

Body and Soul (2022, April). Well, this is depressing: New study suggests that the less women orgasm in bed, the less they want to. <https://www.bodyandsoul.com.au/relationships/well-this-is-depressing-new-study-suggests-that-the-less-women-orgasm-in-bed-the-less-they-want-to/news-story/5096d830c1d291beaaa8b85f95067d53>