

BENJAMIN ZUBALY

Department of Psychology, University of Michigan

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EDUCATION

- 2025- UNIVERSITY OF MICHIGAN
Ph.D. in Psychology (Social Area)
Advisors: Joshua Ackerman and Shinobu Kitayama
- 2020–2024 TRINITY WESTERN UNIVERSITY
B.A. (Honours) in Psychology with Great Distinction

RESEARCH INTERESTS

Social psychology, evolutionary psychology, cultural evolution

PEER-REVIEWED PUBLICATIONS

5. Arbeau, K. J., Steeves, K., **Zubaly, B.**, Thorpe, C., & Todd, H. (2026). Drawings of the Self During COVID-19 Reveal Lived Experiences of the Pandemic. *Journal of Medical Humanities*. [\[DOI\]](#) [\[PDF\]](#)
4. Acem, E., Aczel, B., Albayrak-Aydemir, N., Brown, N., Dudda, L., Elsherif, M., Gjoneska, B., Kowal, M., Krishna, A., Miłkoś, S., Paruzel-Czachura, M., Patel, J., Pypno-Blajda, K., Scharlau, I., Verheyen, S., **Zubaly, B.** (2025). Why I declare a conflict of interest and you should not. *Theory and Society*. [All authors contributed equally and are listed alphabetically.] [\[DOI\]](#) [\[PDF\]](#)
3. Palmer-Hague, J., Stobbart, J., **Zubaly, B.** (2025). Women’s intrasexual competitiveness, but not fertility, predicts greater competitive behavior toward attractive women across the menstrual cycle. *Evolution and Human Behavior*, 46(6), 106760. [\[DOI\]](#) [\[PDF\]](#)
2. **Zubaly, B.**, Arbeau, K., & Palmer-Hague, J. (2025). Sociosexual attitudes mediate the relationship between behavioral immune system reactivity and religiosity. *Evolutionary Behavioral Sciences*. [\[DOI\]](#) [\[PDF\]](#)
1. **Zubaly, B.**, Palmer-Hague, J. (2025). Fathers’ facial dominance predicts first-born sons in parent dyads. *Adaptive Human Behavior and Physiology*, 11(1), 1. [\[DOI\]](#) [\[PDF\]](#)

AWARDS AND HONORS

Grants and Funding

- 2026 Brickman Summer Research Prize, Social Area, University of Michigan (\$2,000)
- 2026 Evolution and Human Adaptation Program Research Award, EHAP, University of Michigan (\$1,000)
- 2026 Rackham Conference Travel Award, University of Michigan (\$900)
- 2024 Undergraduate Student Research Award (USRA), Trinity Western University (\$10,500 CAD)
- 2022 Undergraduate Student Research Award (USRA), Trinity Western University (\$10,500 CAD)

Honors and Scholarships

2026	ICPSR Summer Program in Quantitative Methods Scholarship, Department of Psychology, University of Michigan
2023–2024	Scholar Athlete of the Year Award, Trinity Western University
2023	American Enterprise Institute Summer Honors Program Scholar
2021–2024	President’s Scholarship, Trinity Western University
2020–2024	Dean’s List Honoree, Trinity Western University
2020–2024	U SPORTS Academic All-Canadian Award
2020–2024	Spartan Athletic Scholarship, Trinity Western University
2020–2021	Provost’s Scholarship, Trinity Western University
2020–2021	Dr. Riggs Leadership Scholarship, Salvation Army Ray and Joan Kroc Center

MEDIA COVERAGE

- Dolan, E. (2025). Religiosity may function as a mating strategy shaped by disease avoidance psychology. *PsyPost*. [PsyPost article](#)
- Dolan, E. (2025). Fathers with more dominant-looking faces are more likely to have sons. *PsyPost*. [PsyPost article](#)

PUBLIC SCHOLARSHIP

- Zubaly, B. (2025). Why Understanding Friendship Requires Evolutionary Psychology: Social Behavior is Fundamental to Survival and Reproduction. *Ayers Psychology and Evolution Lab Blog*. [Ayers Lab Blog article](#)

CONFERENCE PRESENTATIONS

6. **Zubaly, B.**, Palmer-Hague, J., Stobbart, J. (2026). Women’s intrasexual competitiveness, but not fertility, predicts greater competitive behavior toward attractive women across the menstrual cycle. Poster presented at SPSP in Chicago, IL.
5. Arbeau, K., Thorpe, C., **Zubaly, B.**, Steeves, K. (2025). Drawing of the self during COVID-19 reveal lived experiences of the pandemic. Poster presented at the 86th Annual Canadian Psychological Association (CPA) National Convention in St. Johns, NL by KA.
4. **Zubaly, B.**, Arbeau, K., Palmer-Hague, J. (2025). Religiosity and the behavioral immune system. Poster presented at SPSP in Denver, CO, USA and the Trinity Western CREATE Conference in Langley, BC.
3. **Zubaly, B.**, Palmer-Hague, J. (2024). Does parental dominance influence offspring sex? Poster presented virtually at the Northeastern Evolutionary Psychology Society Conference in Niagara Falls, NY.
2. **Zubaly, B.**, Friesen, K., Fitchner, J., Venema, C., Moran-Linares, D., Arbeau, K. (2023). Disgust and religious behavior: Testing an adaptive hypothesis of religiosity. Poster presented at the Trinity Western University CREATE Conference in Langley, BC.
1. **Zubaly, B.** (2022). Why get involved in research at TWU? Virtual talk at the Trinity Western University CREATE Conference in Langley, BC, Canada.

TEACHING

2026	GRADUATE STUDENT INSTRUCTOR Department of Psychology, University of Michigan Winter 2026: Introduction to Social Psychology	Rating 4.9/5.0
2024	STATISTICS TUTOR Trinity Western University	
2023	UNDERGRADUATE TEACHING ASSISTANT Department of Psychology, Trinity Western University Introduction to Psychology	
2021	WRITING TUTOR Writing Centre, Trinity Western University Learning Commons	

SERVICE

2026	EHAP Evolution in the Public Eye (EPE) Award Committee
2024–2025	Senator, Trinity Western University Student Association
2024	Reviewer, Student Research Awards, Association for Psychological Science
2024	Reviewer, Student Grant Competition, Association for Psychological Science
2023–2024	Junior Senator, Trinity Western University Student Association
2022–2023	President, Psi Chi Honor Society, Trinity Western University Chapter
2022–2023	Social Sciences Representative, Trinity Western University Student Association

RESEARCH AND PROFESSIONAL EXPERIENCE

2025	RESEARCH ASSISTANT Ayers Psychology and Evolution (APE) Lab, Boise State University Lab Director: Jessica Ayers, Ph.D.
2025	BEHAVIOR TECHNICIAN Maraca Learning, Boise, ID
2023–2025	RESEARCH ASSISTANT Health Psychology Lab, Trinity Western University Lab Director: Kelly Arbeau, Ph.D.
2023	PROOFREADER Dr. Kelly Arbeau, Associate Professor of Psychology, Langley, BC
2021–2025	RESEARCH ASSISTANT Social Neuroendocrinology Lab, Trinity Western University Lab Director: Jaime Palmer-Hague, Ph.D.
2021	BEHAVIOR TECHNICIAN Focused Behavior Solutions, Spokane, WA

ADVANCED TRAINING

2026 Multilevel Models I, ICPSR, University of Michigan, Dr. Mark Manning

AFFILIATIONS

2025- Evolution and Human Adaptation Program, University of Michigan
 2024- Student Member, Cultural Evolution Society
 2024- Student Member, Society for Personality and Social Psychology
 2024- Student Member, Society for the Improvement of Psychological Science
 2023- Student Member, Association for Psychological Science
 2023- Student Member, Human Behavior and Evolution Society
 2023–2024 Student Affiliate, American Psychological Association
 2022–2024 Member, Psi Chi Honor Society, Trinity Western University Chapter