

# MATTHEW R. LEITAO

1.818.919.8752 | mrl118@georgetown.edu | mrleitao.com

## Education

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### Ph.D., Psychology

Expected Graduation: May 2024

Concentration: Human Development and Public Policy

Georgetown University

Faculty Mentor: Dr. Kostadin Kushlev

Research Interest: Human-Technology Interaction and Wellbeing

### M.P.P., Master of Public Policy

Graduated: May 2021

McCourt Georgetown University

Policy Interest: Technology Policy

### M.A., General Experimental Psychology

Graduated: May 2019

California State University, Northridge (CSUN)

Faculty Mentor: Dr. Abraham M. Rutchick

Research Interest: Human-Technology Social Interaction

### B.A., Psychology

Graduated: June 2015

University of California, Riverside (UCR)

## Publications

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Larranaga, D., Doty, T., **Leitao, M.R.**, Rutchick, A.M., Drew, S.A. (In Prep). Raining cats, dogs, and metaphors: Creative language usage of synesthetes and non-synesthetes.

Montgomery, R.M., Torres-Pantoja, S., **Leitao, M.R.**, Rutchick, A.M. (In Prep). Inclusion of smartphone in the self: Associations with Smartphone-related cognition and behavior.

Logg, J.M., Tinsley, C.H., **Leitao, M.R.** (Submitted). Risk Creep: A COVID-19 Longitudinal Field Study.

**Leitao, M.R.**, Kushlev, K. (Under Review). Smartphones Undermine Social Connectedness More in Men Than Women: A Mini Mega-Analysis.

Slipenkyj, M., **Leitao, M.R.**, Steimle, S., Lyons, I.M., & Moynihan, D. (Under Review). Beyond performance and blanket recommendations: The influence of autonomy and country-level development on science attitudes and outcomes.

Rarity, E., **Leitao, M.R.**, Rutchick, A.M. (2022). The effects of wishful identification on perceived personality traits among my little pony fans. *Psychology of Popular Media*. <https://doi.org/10.1037/ppm0000389>

Tibbets, M., Epstein-Shuman, A., **Leitao, M.R.**, Kushlev, K. (2021). A week during COVID-19: Online social interactions predict greater connection and more stress. *Computers in Human Behavior*. DOI: <https://doi.org/10.1016/j.chbr.2021.100133>

Del Cid, D. A., Larranaga, D., **Leitao, M.**, Mosher, R. L., Berzenski, S. R., Gandhi, V., & Drew, S. A. (2020). Exploratory Factor Analysis and Validity of the Virtual Reality Symptom Questionnaire and Computer Use Survey. *Ergonomics*, 1-27. DOI: <https://doi.org/10.1080/00140139.2020.1820083>

Kushlev, K., & **Leitao, M. R.** (2020). The effects of smartphones on well-being: Theoretical integration and research agenda. *Current Opinion in Psychology*. DOI: <https://doi.org/10.1016/j.copsyc.2020.05.001>

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## Fellowships and Grants

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<b>"Inside the Grant Panel" Grant</b>	2021
<i>Society of Personality and Social Psychology</i>	
<b>Creative Endeavors Grant</b>	2018
<i>California State University, Northridge</i>	
<b>Chancellors Research Fellowship</b>	June 2014 – June 2015
<i>University of California, Riverside</i>	

## Honors and Awards

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<b>Fellow</b>	2023
<i>Summer Institute of Social &amp; Personality Psychology, Ohio State</i>	
<b>Graduate Student Teaching Award</b>	2023
<i>Office of Graduate Student Affairs</i>	
<b>Conference Travel Grant</b>	2022
<i>Office of Graduate Research &amp; Fellowships – Georgetown University</i>	
<b>Psychology Conference Travel Grant</b>	2020, 2021, 2022, 2023
<i>Psychology Department – Georgetown University</i>	
<b>Donald Butler Quantitative Research Award</b>	2019
<i>Psychology Department – California State</i>	
<b>Graduate Student Travel Grant</b>	2018, 2019
<i>California State University, Northridge – Graduate Study Department</i>	
<b>Psych Department Travel Award</b>	2018, 2019
<i>California State University, Northridge – Psychology Department</i>	
<b>Student Research &amp; Travel Funding</b>	2018, 2019
<i>California State University, Northridge – Associated Students</i>	
<b>Best Reproducible Research</b>	2018
<i>Data Jam - California State University, Northridge</i>	
<b>Best Use of External Data</b>	2017
<i>Data Jam - California State University, Northridge</i>	
<b>Judges' Choice</b>	2017
<i>California State University, Northridge</i>	
<b>Best Poster</b>	2015
<i>University of California Riverside's Undergraduate Research Symposium</i>	

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## Research Experience

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### Graduate Researcher

May 2019 - Current

*Dr. Kostadin Kushlev – Digital Health and Happiness Lab – Georgetown University*

- Managed a team of 7 research assistants across five separate ongoing projects
- Organized, cleaned, merged, and analyzed longitudinal electronic momentary assessment data
- Wrote and Managed multiple IRBs applications for both new studies and modifications of ongoing research paradigms
- Wrote manuscripts and compiled analyses for future publications

### Lab Coordinator

August 2018 – August 2019

### Graduate Researcher

June 2017 – August 2019

*Dr. Abraham M. Rutchick – Applied Social Psychology Lab – California State University Northridge*

- Designed and built six psychology research studies
- Oversaw and executed the above studies and two additional research studies to completion
- Recorded audio, uploaded visuals, and prepared surveys for use in Qualtrics/Mechanical Turk experiments
- Coordinated, scheduled, and trained 14 Lab Assistants to conduct experiments

### Graduate Research Assistant

January 2018 – August 2019

*Dr. Bradley D. McAuliff – CSUN Psychology Law Research Lab – California State University, Northridge*

- Monitored and maintained technological elements of research studies
- Orchestrated and performed recorded mock interviews with participants
- Edited and spliced footage together for subsequent analysis
- Compiled and cleaned data previous research data for use in future publications and studies

### Graduate Research Assistant

May 2018 – August 2019

*Dr. Stefanie Drew – VISN Lab - California State University, Northridge*

- Quantitatively analyzed language using LIWC
- Reviewed, compiled, and presented research literature and methodology for external grants
- Worked with a team to plan and execute analysis of Virtual Reality symptom data using structural equation modeling

### Research Assistant

January 2014 – August 2017

### Lab Manager

January 2014 – December 2014

*Dr. Megan Robbins – OBSERVE Lab – University of California, Riverside*

- Started and led a continuing study on emotional speech analysis
- Managed 15 research assistants' shifts and group reviews
- Controlled information disbursement to employees about relevant studies
- Trained lab employees on coding logs, general procedures, and projects
- Wrote scripts for Excel Macros and Praat to automate data processing for vocal data

### Research Assistant

August 2013 – April 2014

*Dr. Carolyn Murray – African American Experience Lab - University of California, Riverside*

- Evaluated and transcribed videos on prejudice in the media
- Collected and organized a database of research information for analysis
- Selected video candidates from a database for multicultural comparison of prejudice in the media

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## Professional Experience

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### Institutional Research Fellow

January 2021 – November 2021

*Office of Assessment and Decision Support – Georgetown University*

- Compiled and cleaned longitudinal data concerning student and faculty outcomes and relationships
- Ran initial descriptive and inferential analyses to understand scholastic outcomes for student
- Used multilevel modeling to evaluate longitudinal student outcomes and trajectories

### Data Analyst

May 2018 – August 2019

*Office of Institutional Research – California State University, Northridge*

- Merged, cleaned, and analyzed campus-wide student data of more than 100,000 students to determine academic outcomes based on student traits and choices (e.g., ethnic background, working or not working, types of courses taken)
- Wrote and presented internal reports about research findings to CSUN administration
- Created Tableau worksheets and dashboards for use for and by the university
- Prepared manuscripts based on reports for use in publication

### Graduate Research Assistant

January 2018 – August 2019

*AIMS<sup>2</sup> - Assessment Team – California State University, Northridge*

- Prepared, recorded, and transcribed interviews for qualitative analysis
- Presented research at departmental meeting
- Led focus groups to ascertain the benefit of a new student summer skills workshop
- Created and administered surveys to incoming AIMS<sup>2</sup> students to evaluate a new student summer skills workshop

## Teaching Experience

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### Georgetown University

*Psychology of Technology – Professor of Record*

Fall 2022

*Psychology Research Methods - Recitation Instructor*

Spring 2021, Fall 2021

*Learning Analytics – Guest Lecturer*

Spring 2021

*Introduction to Psychology - Teaching Fellow & Guest Lecturer*

Fall 2020

*Health Psychology - Teaching Fellow & Guest Lecturer*

Spring 2020

### California State University Northridge

*Social Psychology - Graduate Teaching Assistant*

Fall 2017, Fall 2018

*Psychology Research Methods - Graduate Student Tutor*

Fall 2018

### External Lectures

*Psychology Research Methods – Kaplan*

Fall 2022

## Student Mentorship

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*Honors Thesis Advisor – Emma Kikuchi*

Fall 2022 – Spring 2023

*Georgetown University*

*Graduate Student Mentor*

Fall 2021 – Spring 2023

*Society of Personality and Social Psychology*

## Conference Presentations

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- Leitao, M.R.,** Logg, J., Ulu, C. (2023) The Impact Of Choice On The Utilization Of AI In Decision-Making. Talk to be presented at the annual meeting of INFORMS, Phoenix, Arizona.
- Rabil, K., **Leitao, M.R.,** Kushlev, K. (2023) Virtual learning is not associated with lower happiness in college students: The role of in-person interactions with close others. Poster presented at the annual meeting of the Society of Personality and Social Psychology, Atlanta, Georgia.
- Leitao, M.R.,** Proulx, J., Singh, K., Kushlev, K. (2022). The negative effects of phones during in-person interactions are larger for men: A mega-analysis of nine studies. Poster presented at the annual meeting of the Society of Personality and Social Psychology, San Francisco, California.
- Leitao, M.R.,** Kushlev, K. (2022). The Effects of Humanizing Health Algorithms on Judgements and Belief. Poster presented at the Psychology and Technology Preconference at annual meeting of the Society of Personality and Social Psychology, San Francisco, California.
- Leitao, M.R.** (2022). Information, Behavior, and Digital Belief. Talk presented during the "Inside the Grant Panel" symposia at the annual meeting of the Society of Personality and Social Psychology, San Francisco, California.
- Leitao, M.R.,** Proulx, J., Kushlev, K. (2021). Phone interference, well-being, and gender: A mega-analysis on the impact of phone use as moderated by gender. Talk presented at the annual meeting of the Psychology of Technology Institute, Santa Barbara, California.
- Leitao, M.R.,** Proulx, J., Kushlev, K. (2021). Phone interference, well-being, and gender: A mega-analysis on the impact of phone use as moderated by gender. Talk presented at the annual meeting of the American Psychological Association: Technology Mind and Society Conference, Online.
- Leitao, M.R., & Kushlev, K.,** (2021). *Health algorithms, judgement, and behavior*. Poster presented at the annual meeting of Association of Psychological Science, Online.
- Leitao, M.R., & Kushlev, K** (2021). *Screen time in bed predicts better sleep outcomes in college students*. Poster presented at the annual meeting of the Society of Personality and Social Psychology, Online.
- Slipenkyj, M., **Leitao, M.R.,** Stemile S., Lyons, I.M., Moynihan D., (2020) *Beyond performance and blanket recommendations: The influence of autonomy and country-level development on science attitudes and outcomes*. Poster presented at the annual meeting of the Association for Public Policy Analysis & Management, Online.
- Leitao, M.R., & Kushlev, K.,**(2020). *Those on the other side of the tech divide*. Poster presented at the annual meeting of the Society of Personality and Social Psychology, New Orleans, Louisiana.
- Levin, J., **Leitao, M.R.,** Katz, G.S., Parker, A.W., Hetzel, S.N., Khan, H., & Rutchick, A.M. (2020). *Facial and verbal reactions to killing*. Poster presented at the annual meeting of the Society of Personality and Social Psychology, New Orleans, Louisiana.
- Leitao, M.R., & Rutchick, A.M.** (2019) *All hail our robot overlords: compliance and computerized authority*. Poster presented at the annual meeting of the Psychology of Technology Institute, Washington, District of Columbia.
- Montgomery, R., **Leitao, M.R.,** Rutchick A.M., (2019) *The inclusion of smartphone in the self (ISS) scale: Closeness with personal mobile devices is associated with poorer well-being*. Poster presented at the annual meeting of the Psychology of Technology Institute, Washington, District of Columbia.
- Leitao, M.R.,** Larranaga, D., Awad, M.F., Armendariz, J.A., McGinnis, C.A., Drew, S.A., & Hinkel-Lipsker, J.W. (2019) *Hitting the virtual mark: An investigation of training effects in virtual reality*. Poster presented at the annual meeting of the Association of Psychological Science, Washington, District of Columbia.

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- Leitao, M.R.**, & Rutchick A.M. (2019). Obedience to computerized authority. Paper presented at the annual meeting of the Western Psychological Association, Pasadena, California.
- Sanders, K., **Leitao, M.R.**, & Rutchick A.M. (2019). The effect of technological sophistication and instruction on obedience. Poster presented at the annual meeting of the Western Psychological Association, Pasadena, California.
- Valencia, L., Coronado M., **Leitao, M.R.**, & Rutchick A.M. (2019). The hex games: Does personalization of machines lead to positivity or polarization. Poster presented at the annual meeting of the Western Psychological Association, Pasadena, California.
- Montgomery, R., **Leitao, M.R.**, Rutchick, A.M., (2019). *Why tap that app? Smartphone application usage predicted by personality, well-being, and attitudes towards technology*. Presented at the Technology and Media Preconference of the Society of Personality and Social Psychology, Portland, Oregon.
- Leitao, M.R.**, & Rutchick, A.M. (2019) *All hail our robot overlords: Compliance and computerized authority*. Poster presented at the annual meeting of the Society of Personality and Social Psychology, Portland, Oregon.
- Hetzel, S., Montgomery, R., **Leitao, M.R.**, & Rutchick, A.M. (2019) *Function and effects of technology in the natural environments*. Poster presented at the annual meeting of the Society of Personality and Social Psychology, Portland, Oregon.
- Corando, M., **Leitao, M.R.**, & Rutchick, A.M. (2019) *The effect of personalization on liking of and connection to robotic toys*. Poster presented at the annual meeting of the Society of Personality and Social Psychology, Portland, Oregon.
- Montgomery, R., **Leitao, M.R.**, & Rutchick, A. M. (2019) *Why tap that app? Smartphone application usage predicted by personality, well-being, and attitudes toward technology*. Poster presented at the annual meeting of the Society of Personality and Social Psychology Tech and Media Pre-Conference, Portland, Oregon.
- Feldman, N., Saravia, D., **Leitao, M.R.**, Costleigh, C., Ceroni, D., Hawley, N., & McAuliff, B. D. (2019). *The Effects of Refreshing Recollections on Children's Accuracy for Different Question Types Across Repeated Interviews*. Paper presented at the annual meeting of the American Psychology-Law Society, Portland, Oregon.
- Leitao, M.R.**, & Rutchick A.M. (2018) *Effects of personalization of robotic bugs on connection and liking*. Poster presented at the annual meeting of the Association for Psychological Science, San Francisco, California.
- Leitao, M.R.**, & Rutchick A.M. (2018) *The effect of personalization on connection with a robot*. Paper presented at the annual meeting of the Western Psychological Association, Portland, Oregon.
- Kaur, B., McManus, R.M, Esquenazi, R., **Leitao, M.R.**, Melchor, Y., Parker, A.W., Ross B., & Rutchick A.M. (2018). *Dark triad traits, religiosity, political conservatism, and guilt about killing*. Poster presented at the annual meeting of the Western Psychological Association, Portland, Oregon.
- Coronado, M., Rutchick, A.M., **Leitao, M.R.**, & Lugo, Y. (2018). *Personalization increases connection to and liking of machines*. Poster presented at the annual meeting of the Western Psychological Association, Portland, Oregon.
- Leitao, M.R.**, & Rutchick A.M. (2018). *Thin-slice perception of autonomous machines*. Poster presented at the annual meeting of the Society of Personality and Social Psychology, Atlanta, Georgia.

## Intramural Presentations

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- Leitao, M.R.**, & Rutchick, A.M. (2019). *Obedience to computerized authority*. Talk presented at the annual CSUNsymposium, Northridge, California.
- Leitao, M.R.**, Larranaga, D, Reyna, K, & Manavi, R. (2018) *Dear Los Angeles, get well soon*. Talk presented at CSUN DataJam 2018, Northridge, California.

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**Leitao, M.R.**, & Rutchick, A.M. (2018). *Hexbugs and the effects of personalization on connection and liking*. Talk presented at the annual CSUNsymposium, Northridge, California.

**Leitao, M.R.**, (2018). *Homo ex machina*. Talk presented at the monthly Technology, Cognition, and Behavior Colloquium at California State University Northridge

**Leitao, M.R.**, Larranaga, D, Reyna, K, Manavi, R & Awad, J. (2017). *Saving our future through observing our past: A predictive model for positive youth development and outcomes*. Talk presented at CSUN DataJam 2017, Northridge, California.

**Leitao, M. R.**, Karan, A, & Robbins, M (2015). *It's not what you say but how you say it: Vocal tone and emotion among women coping with breast cancer*. University of California, Riverside – Undergraduate Research Symposium, Riverside California.

## Invited External Speaking

Alexandria Film Festival – Speaking on Happiness

June 2023

<https://alexfilmfest.com/news-1/alexandria-gets-happy-at-sold-out-film-event>

## Professional Membership

American Psychological Association (APA)

Association of Psychological Science (APS)

International Society for Developmental Psychology (ISDP)

Society for the Improvement of Psychology (SIPS)

Society for Personality and Social Psychology (SPSP)

Western Psychological Association (WPA)

## Workshops Attended

Latent Profile Analysis

2023

*Pitt Methods – Dr. Sara K. Johnson*

Harnessing Social Psychology to Understand and Improve Health

*SISPP – Dr. Lisa Jaremka & Dr. John Updegraff*

Text Analytics: Uncovering Psychological Insights via Natural Language

2023

*SISPP – Dr. Matthew Rocklage & Dr. Tessa Charlesworth*

Longitudinal Multilevel Modeling

2021

*Pitt Methods - Dr. Aidan Wright*

Ambulatory Assessment

2021

*Pitt Methods - Dr. Aidan Wright*

Summer Psychology Forum

2021

*Society of Personality and Social Psychology - Various*

BrainHack Global DC

2020, 2021

Georgetown University

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## Skills

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**Research:** SONA, Qualtrics, Mechanical Turk, Cloud Research

**Data Visualization:** Tableau, Prezi

**Statistics:** SPSS, R/R Studio, Stata, Jamovi, Jasp

**Computer Languages:** HTML5, JavaScript, Python

**Productivity:** Excel, Word, PowerPoint/Keynote, Photoshop, WordPress

**Others:** LIWC, PRAAT

## Service

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APSSC Campus Representative  
Association of Psychological Science

Fall 2022 - Current

Graduate Student Representative to the Faculty  
*Georgetown University – Psychology Department*

Fall 2022 – Spring 2023

Sona Coordinator  
*Georgetown University - Psychology Department*

Fall 2021 – Spring 2023

Graduate Student Liaison to Visiting Faculty  
*Georgetown University - Psychology Department*

Fall 2020 – Spring 2021

## Diversity, Equity, & Inclusion Initiatives

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Gender Identity & Pronoun Task Force  
*Georgetown University – Data Governance Task Force*

Fall 2021 – Spring 2022

Graduate Student Representative  
*Georgetown Psychology Inaugural Diversity, Equity, & Inclusion Committee*

2020 - 2022

Eliminating GRE Requirement Initiative at Georgetown University

Initiative Member (GRE was made optional)

## Open Science Initiatives

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Current Topics in Psychological Science Journal Club  
*Cofounder/Administrator*

2022-Current

Workshops/Events Conducted

R From Scratch: An introduction into R

April 2023

An introduction to Open Science

December 2022

Georgetown Initiative for Open Science  
*Cofounder/Administrator*

2022-Current

## Honor Societies

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Psi Chi Psychology Honor Society  
*Secretary and Treasurer*

Member Since: January 2014  
August 2014 – June 2015

Delta Epsilon Iota Professional Honor Society  
*Vice President*

Member Since: January 2014  
August 2014 – June 2015

Tau Sigma Transfer Student Honor Society

Member Since: January 2014