

Julia L. Self

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Education

- 2023- MSc. Comparative Cognition & Behaviour**
University of Alberta, Department of Psychology
- 2023 BSc. Honors**
University of Alberta, Department of Psychology
- First-class Honors with a Research Certificate in Science
 - **Honors Thesis:** Sex-differences in nest building are reflected in memory for a physical cognition task

Research Funding

- 2023/24 Canada Graduate Scholarships - Masters (CGS-M)**
Natural Sciences and Engineering Research Council of Canada (NSERC)
\$17500 CAD
- 2023/24 Walter H. Johns Graduate Fellowship**
University of Alberta Faculty of Graduate Studies and Research
\$7100 CAD
- 2022 URI Undergraduate Researcher Stipend**
University of Alberta Undergraduate Research Initiative (URI)
\$6000 CAD

Scholarships & Awards

- 2025 Teaching Assistant Award**
Canadian Council of Canadian Departments of Psychology
\$50 CAD
- 2025 Best Graduate Student Talk**
32nd International Conference on Comparative Cognition
\$300 USD
- 2025 Alberta Graduate Excellence Scholarship (AGES)**
Government of Alberta
\$12000 CAD
- 2024 Best Graduate Student Poster**
17th Annual Joseph R. Royce Conference*, Edmonton, Canada
*Annual research conference hosted by the University of Alberta, Department of Psychology
\$50 CAD
- 2024 Graduate Students' Association Academic Travel Grant**
University of Alberta Graduate Students' Association, Edmonton, Canada
\$220 CAD
- 2023 Certificate of Academic Excellence – Honours Thesis**
Canadian Psychological Association

*Awarded annually to the three highest ranked undergraduate theses

- 2023 Graduate Recruitment Scholarship**
University of Alberta Faculty of Graduate Studies and Research, Edmonton, Canada
\$5000 CAD
- 2023 Clare Patershuk Travel Award**
University of Alberta Department of Psychology, Edmonton, Canada
\$750 CAD
- 2022 Undergraduate Leadership Award**
University of Alberta Department of Psychology, Edmonton, Canada
\$1000 CAD
- 2022 Green and Gold Leadership and Professional Development Grant**
University of Alberta
\$400 CAD
*Funded my participation and learning at the 2nd Annual World Diversity in Leadership Conference in Edmonton, Canada
- 2022 Outreach Grant**
Animal Behavior Society
\$1000 USD
*Awarded collectively to the Animal Cognition Research Group for our team's outreach work

Peer-reviewed Publications

Published

Self, J.L., Togunov, R.R., Edwards, M.A., Derocher, A.E. (2025). Influence of wind on movement behaviour in Arctic grizzly bears. *Behavioural Processes*, 227, 105177. <https://doi.org/10.1016/j.beproc.2025.105177>

Camacho-Alpizar, A., Hewitt, J., Poole, C., Eckersley, T., Whittaker, B.A., **Self, J.L.** & Guillette, L.M. (2024). The repeatability of behavioural laterality during nest building in zebra finches. *Animal Cognition*, 27(76). <https://doi.org/10.1007/s10071-024-01916-z>

Accepted

Lambert, C.T., Whittaker, B.A., Neil, B.N., Poole, C., **Self, J.L.**, Camacho-Alpizar, A., Blunk, S., Guillette, L.M. (In press). No sex-differences in learning trap-gaps problems in zebra finches. *Ecology and Evolution*. Manuscript ID: ECE-2025-05-01306.R1

In review

Self, J.L., Camacho-Alpizar, A., Binwal, P., Mir, U., Stanescu, S., Whittaker, B.A., Guillette, L.M. (In review). Conformity and individual preference shape nest material culture in zebra finches (*Taeniopygia guttata*). *PLOS One*. Manuscript ID: PONE-D-25-40902.

Lambert, C.T.*, **Self, J.L.***, Poole, C., Gerle, N., Kooner, H., Guillette, L.M. (In review). Sex-specific nest-building behaviours are not related to sex-differences in learning and memory. *Frontiers in Comparative Psychology*. Manuscript ID: 1471241

*These authors contributed equally

Lambert, C.T., Whittaker, B.A., Neil, B.N., Poole, C., **Self, J.L.**, Camacho-Alpizar, A., Blunk, S., Guillette, L.M. (In review). No sex-differences in learning trap-gaps problems in zebra finches. *Ecology and Evolution*. Manuscript ID: ECE-2025-05-01306.R1

Conference Posters

- 2024** Baldwin, A.*, Neil, B., **Self, J.L.**, C., De Guzman, E., Whittaker, B.A. & Guillette, L.M. Who's the boss? Females' impact on males' nest-building behaviour in zebra finches. *WISEST Celebration of Research*, Edmonton, Canada.

*Supervised student

- 2024 **Self, J.L.**, Poole, C., Lambert, C.T., & Guillet, L.M. Memory in nest building. *The Canadian Society for Brain, Behaviour, and Cognitive Sciences Annual Meeting*, Edmonton, Canada
- 2024 **Self, J.L.**, Poole, C., Lambert, C.T., & Guillet, L.M. Memory in nest building. *17th Annual Joseph R. Royce Conference*, Edmonton, Canada
- 2023 Abdelhamed, M.*, **Self, J.L.**, C., Lambert, C.T., & Guillet, L.M. Sex differences in nest-building ecology and learning in zebra finches. *WISEST Celebration of Research*, Edmonton, Canada.
*Supervised student
- 2023 **Self, J.L.**, Poole, C., Lambert, C.T., & Guillet, L.M. Do sex-differences in nest building relate to memory for material properties? *The 30th International Conference on Comparative Cognition*, Melbourne, USA

Conference Talks

- 2025 **Self, J.L.**, Camacho-Alpizar A., Binwal P., Mir U., Stanescu S., Whittaker B.A., & Guillet L.M. Conformity and individual bias shape nest-building decisions. *38th International Ethological Congress: Behaviour 2025*. Kolkata, India.
- 2025 **Self, J.L.**, Camacho-Alpizar A., Binwal P., Mir U., Stanescu S., Whittaker B.A., & Guillet L.M. Conformity in nest-building decisions. *32nd International Conference on Comparative Cognition*. Albuquerque, USA.
- 2024 Lambert, C.T., Poole, C., Whittaker, B.A., Camacho-Alpizar, A., **Self, J.L.**, Blunk, S.C., & Guillet, L.M. Zebra finches (*Taenopygia guttata*) learn, but do not generalize, a physical shape-frame matching problem. *The 31st International Conference on Comparative Cognition*, Albuquerque, USA
- 2023 Lambert, C.T., **Self, J.L.**, Poole, C., Gerle, N., Kooner, H., & Guillet, L.M. Sex-differences in nest-building behaviour and physical cognition of zebra finches. *Animal Behaviour Society Conference*, Portland, USA
- 2023 Lambert, C.T., Poole, C., **Self, J.L.**, Gerle, N., Kooner, H., & Guillet, L.M. Do sex differences in behaviour relate to performance on a physical cognition task in zebra finches? *The 30th International Conference on Comparative Cognition*, Melbourne, USA

Academic Service

- 2024 **Joseph R. Royce Conference* Planning Committee**
University of Alberta Department of Psychology, Edmonton, Canada
- 2023/24 **Graduate Student's Association – Department Representative (alternate)**
University of Alberta Department of Psychology, Edmonton, Canada
- 2023 **Undergraduate Honors Working Group – Undergraduate Representative**
University of Alberta Department of Psychology, Edmonton, Canada
- Mar 2023 **Research Proposal Reviewer**
University of Alberta, Undergraduate Research Initiative
- Jul 2022 **Eureka Undergraduate Research Symposium Adjudicator**
University of Alberta, Undergraduate Research Initiative
- 2022 **Journal Reviewer (3 Manuscripts)**
Current Zoology, Animal Cognition
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Year(s)	Name	Position	Institute
2025	Mylie Holmes	WiSEST student (High School)	Jasper Jr./Sr. High School
2025	Tanishka Vadia	WiSEST student (High School)	Lloydminster Comprehensive Highschool
2024	Avery Baldwin	WiSEST student (High School)	Harry Ainlay High School (AB, Canada)
2024	Isabella De Guzman	WiSEST student (High School)	Vegreville Composite High School (AB, Canada)
2023-24	Umama Mir ¹	Independent study student (UG)	University of Alberta
2024	Hiba Zahid ^T	Lab volunteer (UG)	University of Alberta
2024	Simran Gill ^T	Lab volunteer (UG)	University of Alberta
2023	Maryam Abdelhamed ¹	WiSEST student (High School)	Queen Elizabeth High School (AB, Canada)
2022-24	Stefan Stanescu ¹ <i>Progressed to MSc at McGill</i>	Independent study student (UG)	University of Alberta
2022-23	Nicole Gerle ¹	Independent study student (UG)	University of Alberta
2023	Harleen Kooner ²	Independent study student (UG)	University of Alberta
2022	Ka Lam (Karen) Yeung ^T	MITACS intern (UG)	University of Hong Kong (Hong Kong)
2022	Anna Nevoit ² <i>Progressed to BSc at University of Guelph, Awarded President's Scholarship</i>	WiSEST student (High School)	Miles Macdonell Collegiate (MA, Canada)
2022	Deborah Yun ² <i>Progressed to BSc at University of Alberta</i>	WiSEST student (High School)	Edson High School (AB, Canada)

¹ **Primary Supervisor:** Listed as primary supervisor, conducted grading and/or assessment. Fulfilled duties of Secondary Supervisor/ Research Mentor.

² **Secondary Supervisor/ Research Mentor:** Taught practical and academic skills (experimental design, data collection and analyses, writing/presentation skills), gave feedback on assessed work, provided regular (weekly) support and resources, and responsible for student/project progression. Fulfilled duties of Trainer.

^T **Trainer:** Trained and assessed practical skill competency.

Outreach

- 2024 U of A Getaway Lab Tour**
 Prepared and led a tour of the Animal Cognition Research Group laboratory as a part of a recruitment event for the University of Alberta (*U of A Getaway*).
- 2023/4 Skype-a-Scientist**
- Grade 9 class, Missouri, USA, 2024
 - Grade 1 class, Washington State, USA, 2023
- 2023 WISEST Summer Research Program Laboratory Tour and Q&A Session**
 Prepared and led a tour of the Animal Cognition Research Group laboratory for 5 WISEST (Women in Scholarship Engineering, Science, and Technology) Summer Research students. Showed sample experimental trial videos, nests that birds had constructed in the laboratory, and held a 30 minute Q&A.
- 2023 Wild Birds Unlimited Outreach Event**
 Prepared and led an interactive 3-hour outreach session on the research happening at The Animal Cognition Research Group at the University of Alberta. Event included an outreach video, book raffle, and an interactive area where participants could view and interact with items from our experiments.

Invited talks

- 2024 Sex differences in behaviour, but not learning or memory in zebra finches**
University of Alberta Science Animal Support Services, Edmonton, Canada
- 2024 FREN 454/545: Birds of the world curriculum translation presentation**
University of Alberta Department of Modern Languages and Cultural Studies, Edmonton,
Canada

Teaching Assistantships

Fall 2025

PSYCH 300/309: Honors Seminar I

PSYCH 381: Principles of Learning

Winter 2025

PSYCH 239: Abnormal Psychology

PSYCH 223: Developmental Psychology

Fall 2024

PSYCH 381: Principles of Learning

Fall 2023

PSYCH 104: Basic Psychological Processes

Training & Certifications

- 2024 Supervisory Health, Safety & Environment Training**
University of Alberta
- 2024 Indigenous Canada Course**
University of Alberta Faculty of Native Studies
- 2021 Bias in Peer Review**
Canadian Institutes of Health Research
- 2021 Gender Based Analysis Plus (GBA+)**
Women and Gender Equality Canada
- 2021 Course on Research Ethics (TCPS 2: CORE)**
Government of Canada Panel on Research Ethics
- 2021 Animal Ethics Part 1 & 2**
University of Alberta