LORENA SILVA NUNES, M.S.

Curriculum Vitae
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CURRENT POSITIONS

Sept 2025 – Present	**Title:** Laboratory Management Specialist I **Laboratory:** Stigma, Weight, Eating & Lifestyle (SWEL) Lab **Institution:** Rice University **Department:** Psychological Sciences
Sept 2025 – Present	**Title:** Research Specialist I **Laboratory:** Biobehavioral Mechanisms Explaining Disparities (BMED) Lab **Institution:** Rice University **Department:** Psychological Sciences

EDUCATION

Institution:	Worcester Polytechnic Institute (WPI)
Degree(s):	Master of Science (M.S.), May 2025
Major(s):	Neuroscience
GPA:	3.84/4.00
Thesis:	*Psychosocial Moderators of Response to a Mindfulness-Based Stress Reduction Trial for Chronic Low Back Pain: Considerations for Intervention Science and Development*

Institution:	Worcester Polytechnic Institute (WPI)
Degree(s):	Bachelor of Science (B.S.), May 2024 *with distinction*
Major(s):	Psychology
Minors(s):	Biology/Biotechnology
GPA:	3.55/4.00
Thesis:	*Psychophysiological Effects of Social Feedback During Social Media Use*

AWARDS AND HONORS

Spring 2025	Psi Chi Honor Society, Worcester Polytechnic Institute Chapter
Spring 2024	Provost's Major Qualifying Project (MQP) Award in Psychological Science *Recognizing most outstanding senior thesis*
Spring 2024	Dean's List
Fall 2023	Rho Lambda, Worcester Polytechnic Institute Chapter *National Sorority Leadership Recognition Organization*
Fall 2023	Dean's List
Spring 2023	Omicron Delta Kappa (ODK), Worcester Polytechnic Institute Chapter *National Leadership Honor Society*
Fall 2022	Dean's List

SCHOLARSHIPS AND FELLOWSHIPS

2024-2025	Phi Sigma Sigma Educational Grant ($1,500/year)
2023-2025	Federal Work Study ($3,660 over two years)
2023-2024	James A. '93 and Sara O'Neill Family Endowed Scholarship ($4,430/year)
2023-2024	Alumni Association Student Success Scholarship ($6,910/year)
2022-2024	Julia Kasparian Endowed Scholarship ($2,420/year) *Awarded to one female student who demonstrates strong academic performance and promise, while pursuing and/or interested in neuroscience*
2022-2023	WPI Global Scholarship ($5,000) *Awarded for use for completion of research projects abroad*
2020-2024	WPI Chemistry/Biochemistry Merit Scholarship ($29,000/year)

PROFESSIONAL ACTIVITIES

Affiliations	Society for Biopsychosocial Science and Medicine Omicron Delta Kappa Psi Chi

PEER-REVIEWED PUBLICATIONS

Nunes, L.S., Incollingo Rodriguez, A.C., Nephew, B.C., Lopez, R., Gardiner, P., Morone, N., King, J.A. (in press). Psychosocial moderators of response to a Mindfulness-Based Stress Reduction trial for chronic low back pain: considerations for intervention science and development. *Pain Medicine.*

Incollingo Rodriguez, A.C., **Nunes, L.S.**, & Kirschner, M.S. (in press). "Please step on the scale": The experience of being weighed promotes sustained systolic blood pressure levels. *Stigma and Health*. [Second two authors made equal contributions].

Incollingo Rodriguez, A.C., Kirschner, M.S., & **Nunes, L.S**. (2025). To stream or not to stream? Watching TV while eating promotes increased calorie consumption, but using a smartphone does not. *Physiology & Behavior.* [Second two authors made equal contributions].

NON-PEER-REVIEWED SCHOLARLY WORK

Nunes, L.S. (2024). Psychophysiological effects of social feedback during social media use. *Digital WPI.*

Nunes, L.S., Obermaier, J., Ott, S. & Lachaux, I. (2022). Towards a transformative housing model for the city of Cape Town, South Africa. *Digital WPI.* [All authors made equal contributions].

PROFESSIONAL PRESENTATIONS

Nunes, L. S., Horii, R. I., Rogers, M. G., Furman, C. R., Mann, T., James, D., Phelan, S. M., & Standen, E. C. (2026, March). *Intersectionality and Healthcare Stereotype Threat: Evidence from a Nationally Representative Sample of U.S. Adults.* Poster to be presented at the 2026 Annual Meeting of the Society for Biopsychosocial Science and Medicine, Chicago, IL.

Incollingo Rodriguez, A. C., **Nunes, L. S.,** & Kirschner, M. S. (2026, March). *"Please step on the scale": The experience of being weighed increases systolic blood pressure.* Poster presented at the 2026 Annual Meeting of the Society for Biopsychosocial Science and Medicine, Chicago, IL.

Nunes, L.S., Asaolu, R., King, J.A. (2025, May). *Trajectory and Experiences of Women of Color in Science.* Talk presented at Worcester Polytechnic Institute, Worcester, MA.

Nunes, L.S., Incollingo Rodriguez, A.C., Nephew, B.C., King, J.A., & Morone, N. (2025, March). *Heterogeneity of the response to mindfulness interventions for chronic pain.* Poster presented at the 2025 Annual Meeting of the Society for Biopsychosocial Science and Medicine, Seattle, WA.

Nunes, L.S., Kirschner, M.S., & Incollingo Rodriguez, A.C. (2025, March). *To stream or not to stream? Watching TV while eating promotes increased calorie consumption, but using a smartphone does not.* Poster presented at the 2025 Annual Meeting of the Society for Biopsychosocial Science and Medicine, Seattle, WA.

Nunes, L.S., & Lopez, R. (2025, March). *Psychophysiological effects of social feedback during social media use*. Poster presented at the 2025 Annual Meeting of the Society for Biopsychosocial Science and Medicine, Seattle, WA.

Nunes, L.S., Incollingo Rodriguez, A.C. & Nephew, B.C. (2024, December). *Race-based moderation analyses in Aging Successfully dataset.* Talk presented at UH3/UG3 NIH funded grant project monthly meeting, Worcester Polytechnic Institute, Worcester, MA.

Nunes, L.S., & Kirschner, M.S. (2024, August). *How to get involved in research as an undergraduate.* Talk presented at Social Science & Policy Studies department meet and greet, Worcester Polytechnic Institute, Worcester, MA.

Nunes, L.S. (2024, April). *Psychophysiological effects of social feedback during social media use.* Poster presented at the 2024 Undergraduate Research Projects Showcase (URPS), Worcester Polytechnic Institute, Worcester, MA.

Nunes. L.S. (2024, April). *Psychophysiological effects of social feedback during social media use.* Poster presented at 30th Undergraduate Symposium, Assumption University, Worcester, MA.

Nunes, L.S., Kirschner, M.S., & Incollingo Rodriguez, A.C. (2024, March). *Psychological & Cognitive Sciences research opportunities and curriculum.* Talk presented at the 2024 Accepted Students Day, Worcester Polytechnic Institute, Worcester, MA.

Nunes, L.S., Kirschner, M.S., Kouznetsov, S., & Incollingo Rodriguez, A.C. (2023, October). *Psychological & Cognitive Sciences research opportunities and curriculum.* Talk presented at the 2023 Prospective Students Day, Worcester Polytechnic Institute, Worcester, MA.

Nunes, L.S., Crowly, D., McCarthy, G., Obermaier, J., Ott, S., & Truong, S. (2023, September). *Cape Town Interactive Qualifying Projects (IQP) alumni panel*. Talk presented at Worcester Polytechnic Institute, Worcester, MA.

Nunes, L.S., Lachaux, I., Obermaier, J., & Ott, S. (2022, December). *Towards a transformative housing model for the city of Cape Town, South Africa*. Paper presented at Interactive Qualifying Projects (IQP) Showcase, Worcester Polytechnic Institute, Cape Town, SA.

Nunes, L.S., Lachaux, I., Obermaier, J., & Ott, S. (2022, December). *Towards a transformative housing model for the city of Cape Town, South Africa*. Paper presented at Cape Town Museum of Childhood, Cape Town, SA.

RESEARCH EXPERIENCE

2025-Present **Lab Manager: Stigma, Weight, Eating & Lifestyle (SWEL) Lab, Rice University**
Director: Erin C. Standen, Ph.D.
Responsibilities: Recruiting and training research personnel; facilitating communications with collaborators (both in-house and external); conducting professional development workshops; managing all lab operations including IT, administration, website maintenance; executing all aspects of lab studies, including protocol development and IRB preparation, subject recruitment, research staffing and training, data collection and analysis, manuscript preparation, and all other responsibilities regarding lab management and administration.

2025-Present **Research Specialist: Biobehavioral Mechanisms Explaining Disparities (BMED) Lab, Rice University**
Director: Christopher Fagundes, Ph.D.
Responsibilities: Executing data collection for an NIH funded R1 grant project; ensuring compliance with federal regulations; conducting community research in the Houston, Harris County region; training research assistants in study protocol and measures; conducting neuropsychological assessments; collecting biospecimens (i.e. blood samples); subject screening and recruitment; data storage and management.

2024-2025 **Graduate Research Assistant: Jean King Research Lab, Worcester Polytechnic Institute**
Director: Jean A. King, Ph.D., Peterson Family Dean of Arts & Sciences
Responsibilities: Conducting multiple data analyses; drafting grant supplements; conducting literature reviews and preparing manuscripts; participating in lab group meetings.

2023-2025 **Lab Manager: Stigma, Eating & Endocrinology Dynamics (SEED) Lab, Worcester Polytechnic Institute**
Director: Angela C. Incollingo Rodriguez, Ph.D.
Responsibilities: Recruiting and training research personnel; conducting professional development workshops; managing all lab operations including IT, administration, website maintenance; executing all aspects of lab studies, including protocol development and IRB preparation, subject recruitment, research staffing and training, facility compliance for biospecimen collection and shipping, data collection and analysis, manuscript preparation, and all other responsibilities regarding lab management and administration.

2024-2025 **Graduate Research Assistant: Social Neuroscience of Affective Processes (SNAP) Lab, Worcester Polytechnic Institute**
Director: Richard Lopez, Ph.D.
Responsibilities: Executing all aspects of graduate-level research; piloting novel study protocols; participating in lab-group meetings; mentoring undergraduate research assistants; conducting data entry, collection and analyses; co-advising undergraduate senior thesis projects.

2023-2024 **Senior Thesis Researcher: Social Neuroscience of Affective Processes (SNAP) Lab, Worcester Polytechnic Institute**
Director: Richard Lopez, Ph.D.
Responsibilities: Executing all aspects of research projects, including drafting protocol, IRB, coding tasks, participant recruitment, research staffing and training, data collection, entry, cleaning, and analyses; conducting literature reviews and preparing manuscript for degree completion; presenting findings at local symposiums and institutional research showcases.

2022-2023 **Junior Thesis Researcher: Cape Town, South Africa project site, Worcester Polytechnic Institute**
Director: Gbetonmasse Somasse, Ph.D.
Responsibilities: Conducting interviews with multiple stakeholders regarding housing crisis in Cape Town; drafting manuscript and supplemental deliverables; conducting extensive literature review; participating and leading group meetings with advisors; presenting findings at junior thesis projects showcase.

2021-2023 **Research Assistant: Stigma, Eating & Endocrinology Dynamics (SEED) Lab, Worcester Polytechnic Institute**
Director: Angela C. Incollingo Rodriguez, Ph.D.
Responsibilities: Participating in lab-group meetings; completing human-research trainings; attending professional development workshops; participating in protocol development and ideation.

TEACHING EXPERIENCE

Spring 2025 **Teaching Assistant: Health Psychology (PSY 3408), Worcester Polytechnic Institute, Worcester, MA**
Responsibilities: Grading student assignments and discussion responses; facilitating in-class group discussions; organizing course materials for Dr. Angela C. Incollingo Rodriguez.

Fall 2024 **Teaching Assistant: Advanced Psychophysiology (NEU 504/ PSY 4110), Worcester Polytechnic Institute, Worcester, MA**
Responsibilities: Grading student assignments and discussion responses; facilitating in-lab sessions and training students in iWorx materials; facilitating in-class group discussions; advising students with case-study materials; holding weekly office hours to review lecture materials, concepts, and assignments; organizing course materials for Dr. Angela C. Incollingo Rodriguez.

Fall 2024 **Teaching Assistant: Psychology of Social Media (PSY 1800), Worcester Polytechnic Institute, Worcester, MA**
Responsibilities: Preparing and delivering a 50-minute guest lecture on psychophysiology of stress and interactions on social media; facilitating and leading in-class discussions; grading student assignments and discussion responses; facilitating test-review

sessions; holding weekly office hours to review lecture materials, concepts, and assignments; organizing course materials for Dr. Richard Lopez.

2023-2024 **Teaching Assistant: Health Psychology (PSY 2408), Worcester Polytechnic Institute, Worcester, MA**
Responsibilities: Grading student assignments and discussion responses; facilitating in-class group discussions; holding weekly office hours to review lecture materials, concepts, and assignments; organizing course materials for Dr. Angela C. Incollingo Rodriguez.

2023-2024 **Laboratory Instructor: Advanced Psychophysiology (NEU 504), Worcester Polytechnic Institute, Worcester, MA**
Responsibilities: Training students in laboratory protocol using iWorx materials; executing demonstrations; facilitating in-lab discussions; guiding students through laboratory assignment.

Summer 2023 **Community Specialist: Minute Man Arc, Concord, MA**
Responsibilities: Supervising classrooms with up to 10 adults with developmental disabilities at a time; conducting workshops and activities regarding a range of important skills including but not limited to professional manners and behaviors, personal hygiene, goals for growth and development, and financial literacy; facilitating activities that promote physical and mental health such as meditation and relaxation exercises, nature walks, and court games.

OTHER RELEVANT EXPERIENCE

2023-Present **Peer Well-Being Ambassador: Center for Well-Being at Worcester Polytechnic Institute, Worcester, MA**
Responsibilities: Mentoring students in time management and communication skills; conducting destressing workshops; facilitating discussions regarding mental health and well-being topics; participating in staff meetings and facilitating discussions with peers; providing insight and ideas for 'Wellness Day' activities; creating promotional content for Center for Well-Being's social media page.

2023-2024 **Customer Service Manager: Franco's Trattoria, Sudbury, MA**

Responsibilities: Overseeing and facilitating customer service interactions; training customer service personnel; maintaining a clean and organized workspace; overseeing stock orders and maintenance; executing catering orders and deliveries; providing welcoming customer service to guests.

2022-2023 **Philanthropy Chairman: Phi Sigma Sigma, Gamma Iota Chapter, Worcester, MA**
Responsibilities: Planning and executing fundraising events; partnering with local early-education school to provide classroom materials and monetary funds; creating all promotional materials for fundraising events; mentoring and delegating tasks to assistant philanthropy chairmen; attending and participating in executive board meetings; presenting in chapter meetings; attending national philanthropy chairmen training.

RELEVANT SKILLS AND CERTIFICATIONS

Certifications	CITI Human Subjects in Undergraduate Student Projects Certification (exp. March 2026) CITI Human Subjects in Biomedical Research Certification (exp. October 2027) First Aid & CPR Certification (exp. 2028) MoCA certificate to administer and score assessment (exp. Dec 2027)
Research Skills	Literature review Laboratory/study protocol writing & development IRB application writing and submission management Cortisol collection Phlebotomy training Cardiovascular measurement: heart rate, blood pressure, HRV Scientific writing Manuscript preparation
Packages & Programs	SPSS Jamovi R PsychoPy IWorx

	Canva
	Microsoft Office (Excel, Outlook, Word, PowerPoint)
Language Skills	Portuguese – Fluent (reading, writing, speaking)

REFERENCES

Erin S. Standen, Ph.D.
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Rice University
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