M A T T H E W R . L E I T A O

1.818.919.8752 | mrleitao@me.com | mrleitao.com

Academic Positions

IRTA Post-Doctoral Researcher

October 2024 - Present

National Institute of Health, National Human Genome Research Institute
Social Behavioral Sciences Branch

Education

Ph.D., Psychology

Graduated: July 2024

Concentration: Human Development and Public Policy
Psychology Department - Georgetown University
Research Interest: Human-Technology Interaction and Wellbeing
Dissertation Topic: Trust in Medical AI versus Trust In Doctors

M.P.P., Master of Public Policy

Graduated: May 2021

McCourt School of Public Policy - Georgetown University
Policy Interest: Technology Policy

M.A., General Experimental Psychology

Graduated: May 2019

Psychology Department - California State University, Northridge (CSUN)
Research Interest: Human-Technology Social Interaction

B.A., Psychology

Graduated: June 2015

University of California, Riverside (UCR)

Publications

Logg, J.M.†, **Leitao, MR.†[1],** Ulu, C., (Under Review) The Cost fo Generative AI Collaboration Strategies to the Psychological Experience of Work. https://papers.ssrn.com/sol3/papers.cfm?abstract_id=6926039

Leitao, M.R., Farokhnia, M., Leggio, L., Persky, P., (Under Review) Factors Driving Differences in Experiences and Food Behavior a Virtual Buffet Simulation for a Novel Pharmacological Trial.

Hertendorf, B.N., **Leitao, M.R.**, Peterson, C., Stoeling, D., Persky, S., (Revise and Resubmit). Characterizing Genetic Determinism about Body Weight: Predictors and Implications.

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

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

Leitao, M.R., Parrot, W.G., (In Prep) Anthropomorphism and Medical Decision Making.

Leitao, M.R., Parrot, W.G., (In Prep) Mechanisms of Trust in AI Medical Decision Making.

Berzenski, S.R., Shulze, J., **Leitao, M.R.**, & Ruvalcaba. O., (2025). Motivations for Gaming Scale: A Comparison of Competitive and Noncompetitive Gamers. *Journal of Electronic Gaming and Esports*. Advance online publication. https://doi.org/10.1123/jege.2024-0026.

Leitao, M.R., Proulx, J.D.E., Kushlev, K. (2024). Smartphones undermine social connectedness more in men than women: A mini mega-analysis. *Technology, Mind, & Behavior*. https://doi.org/10.31234/osf.io/92zhj

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*. *11*(2), 111. https://doi.org/10.1037/ppm0000389

[1] † Denotes co-first authorship

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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. 4*, 100133, 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*, *64*(1), 69-77. 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, 36*, 77-82 DOI: https://doi.org/10.1016/j.copsyc.2020.05.001

Fellowships and Grants

"Inside the Grant Panel" Grant 2021
Society of Personality and Social Psychology

Creative Endeavors Grant 2018
California State University, Northridge

Chancellors Research Fellowship June 2014 – June 2015
University of California, Riverside

Honors and Awards

Fellow 2023
Summer Institute of Social & Personality Psychology, Ohio State

Graduate Student Teaching Award 2023
Office of Graduate Student Affairs

Conference Travel Grant 2022
Office of Graduate Research & Fellowships – Georgetown University

Psychology Conference Travel Grant 2020,2021, 2022, 2023
Psychology Department – Georgetown University

Donald Butler Quantitative Research Award 2019
Psychology Department – California State

Graduate Student Travel Grant 2018,2019
California State University, Northridge – Graduate Study Department

Psych Department Travel Award 2018,2019
California State University, Northridge – Psychology Department

Student Research & Travel Funding 2018,2019
California State University, Northridge – Associated Students

Best Reproducible Research 2018
Data Jam - California State University, Northridge

Best Use of External Data 2017
Data Jam - California State University, Northridge

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Judges' Choice 2017

California State University, Northridge

Best Poster 2015

University of California Riverside's Undergraduate Research Symposium

Research Experience

Graduate Researcher May 2019 – July 2023

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

Lab Coordinator August 2018 – August 2019

Graduate Researcher June 2017 – August 2019

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

Graduate Research Assistant January 2018 – August 2019

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

Graduate Research Assistant May 2018 – August 2019

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

Research Assistant January 2014 – August 2017

Lab Manager January 2014 – December 2014

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

Research Assistant August 2013 – April 2014

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

Professional Experience

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^2 - 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^2 students to evaluate a new student summer skills workshop

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Teaching Experience

National Institute of Health University

Introduction to Quarto — Spring 2025

Introduction to R — Spring 2025

Georgetown University

People Analytics – *Guest Lecturer* — Fall 2023

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, Fall 2023

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

Honors Thesis Advisor – *Emma Kikuchi* — Fall 2022 – Spring 2023
Georgetown University

Graduate Student Mentor — Fall 2021 – Spring 2023
Society of Personality and Social Psychology

Chaired Sessions

Leitao, M.R. (2024). *Mechanisms Driving Aversion and Appreciation of AI in the Digital Age*. [Chaired Session]. Society of Personality and Social Psychology, San Diego, CA.

Conference Presentations

Leitao, M.R. (2025). *Factors Driving Differences in VR Food Behavior and Experience During a Novel Pharmacological Trial*. [Symposia Presentation]. Virtual Medicine, Los Angeles, CA.

Leitao, M.R. (2024). *Artificial Intelligence, Humanization, and Health Beliefs.* [Symposia Presentation]. Society of Personality and Social Psychology, San Diego, CA.

Leitao, M.R., Logg, J., Ulu, C. (2023) *The Impact Of Choice On The Utilization Of AI In Decision-Making*. [Symposia Presentation]. INFORMS, Phoenix, AZ.

Leitao, M.R. (2022). *Information, Behavior, and Digital Belief*. [Symposia Presentation]. *Inside the Grant Panel*. Society of Personality and Social Psychology, San Francisco, CA.

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*. [Data Blitz]. Psychology of Technology Institute, Santa Barbara, CA.

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. [Symposia Presentation]. American Psychological Association: Technology Mind and Society Conference, Online.

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Leitao, M.R., & Rutchick A.M. (2019). *Obedience to computerized authority.* [Symposia Presentation]. Western Psychological Association, Pasadena, CA.

Leitao, M.R., & Rutchick A.M. (2018) *The effect of personalization on connection with a robot.* [Symposia Presentation] Western Psychological Association, Portland, OR.

Poster Presentations

Leitao, M.R. (2023). *The Role of Perceived Quantitative Reasoning and Intuition for Trust in Medical AI.* [Poster Presentation] Annual Conference of the Psychology of Technology Institute. Los Angeles, CA.

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 Presentation]. Society of Personality and Social Psychology, Atlanta, GA.

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 Presentation]. Society of Personality and Social Psychology, San Francisco, CA.

Leitao, M.R., Kushlev, K. (2022). *The Effects of Humanizing Health Algorithms on Judgements and Belief.* [Poster Presentation]. Psychology and Technology Preconference. Society of Personality and Social Psychology, San Francisco, CA.

Leitao, M.R., & Kushlev, K., (2021). *Health algorithms, judgement, and behavior.* [Poster Presentation] Association of Psychological Science, Online.

Leitao, M.R., & Kushlev, K (2021). *Screen time in bed predicts better sleep outcomes in college students.* [Poster Presentation]. Society of Personality and Social Psychology, Online.

Slipenkyj, M., **Leitao, M.R.**, Stemile S., Lyons, I.M., Moynihan D., (2020). B*eyond performance and blanket recommendations: The influence of autonomy and country-level development on science attitudes and outcomes.* [Poster Presentation]. Association for Public Policy Analysis & Management, Online.

Leitao, M.R., & Kushlev, K., (2020). *Those on the other side of the tech divide.* [Poster Presentation]. Society of Personality and Social Psychology, New Orleans, LA.

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 Presentation]. Society of Personality and Social Psychology, New Orleans, LA.

Leitao, M.R., & Rutchick, A.M. (2019). A*ll hail our robot overlords: compliance and computerized authority.* [Poster Presentation]. Psychology of Technology Institute, Washington, DC.

Montgomery, R., **Leitao, M.R.**, Rutchick A.M., (2019). T*he inclusion of smartphone in the self (ISS) scale: Closeness with personal mobile devices is associated with poorer well-being.* [Poster Presentation]. Psychology of Technology Institute, Washington, DC.

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 Presentation]. Association of Psychological Science, Washington, DC.

Sanders, K., **Leitao, M.R.**, & Rutchick A.M. (2019). *The effect of technological sophistication and instruction on obedience.* [Poster Presentation]. Western Psychological Association, Pasadena, CA.

Valencia, L., Coronado M., **Leitao, M.R.**, & Rutchick A.M. (2019). *The hex games: Does personalization of machines lead to positivity or polarization.* [Poster Presentation]. Western Psychological Association, Pasadena, CA.

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*. [Poster Presentation]. Technology and Media Preconference of the Society of Personality and Social Psychology, Portland, OR.

Leitao, M.R., & Rutchick, A.M. (2019). A*ll hail our robot overlords: Compliance and computerized authority.* [Poster Presentation]. Society of Personality and Social Psychology, Portland, OR.

Hetzel, S., Montgomery, R., **Leitao, M.R.**, & Rutchick, A.M. (2019). *Function and effects of technology in the natural environments.* [Poster Presentation]. Society of Personality and Social Psychology, Portland, OR.

Corando, M., **Leitao, M.R.**, & Rutchick, A.M. (2019). *The effect of personalization on liking of and connection to robotic toys.* [Poster Presentation]. Society of Personality and Social Psychology, Portland, OR.

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 Presentation]. Society of Personality and Social Psychology, Tech and Media Pre-Conference, Portland, OR.

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.* [Symposia Presentation] American Psychology-Law Society, Portland, OR.

Leitao, M.R., & Rutchick A.M. (2018). E*ffects of personalization of robotic bugs on connection and liking.* [Poster Presentation]. Association for Psychological Science, San Francisco, CA.

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 Presentation]. Western Psychological Association, Portland, OR.

Coronado, M., Rutchick, A.M., **Leitao, M.R.**, & Lugo, Y. (2018). *Personalization increases connection to and liking of machines.* [Poster Presentation]. Western Psychological Association, Portland, OR.

Leitao, M.R., & Rutchick A.M. (2018). *Thin-slice perception of autonomous machines.* [Poster Presentation] Society of Personality and Social Psychology, Atlanta, GA.

Intramural Presentations

Leitao, M.R., & Rutchick, A.M. (2019). *Obedience to computerized authority*. [Conference Presentation]. CSUNsymposium, Northridge, CA.

Leitao, M.R., Larranaga, D, Reyna, K, & Manavi, R. (2018). D*ear Los Angeles, get well soon.* [Conference Presentation]. CSUN DataJam, Northridge, CA.

Leitao, M.R., & Rutchick, A.M. (2018). *Hexbugs and the effects of personalization on connection and liking*. [Conference Presentation]. CSUNsymposium, Northridge, CA.

Leitao, M.R., (2018). *Homo ex machina.* [Colloquia Talk]. Technology, Cognition, and Behavior Colloquium. California State University Northridge, Northridge, CA.

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.* [Conference Presentation]. CSUN DataJam, Northridge, CA.

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.* [Poster Presentation] Undergraduate Research Symposium, University of California, Riverside, Riverside, CA.

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Invited External Speaking

University of Virginia – Department of Psychology October 2023

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

Management Course 2026
Office of Intramural Training and Education - National Institutes of Health

Team Science Workshop 2025
Institute For Research on the Social Sciences – CSU Bolder

Latent Profile Analysis 2023
Pitt Methods – Dr. Sara K. Johnson

Harnessing Social Psychology to Understand and Improve Health 2023
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

Skills

Research Methods: Experimental design; human-subjects research; survey design; behavioral interventions; vignette studies; mixed-methods research; preregistration

Analysis: Statistical modeling; causal inference; longitudinal analysis; multilevel modeling; data cleaning; data management; behavioral data analysis; data visualization; dashboard development

Research: SONA, Qualtrics, Mechanical Turk, Cloud Research, Prolific Academic, FDA Clinical Trial Administration

Data Visualization: Tableau, GGPlot

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Statistics: SPSS, R/R Studio, Stata, MPlus, Jamovi, Jasp, Python

Computer Languages: R, Python, HTML5, JavaScript, Python, SQL

Productivity: Excel, Word, PowerPoint/Keynote, WordPress, Canva, Quarto, Latex

Service

APSSC Campus Representative — Fall 2022 – Spring 2024
Association of Psychological Science

Graduate Student Representative to the Faculty — Fall 2022 – Spring 2023
Georgetown University – Psychology Department

Sona Coordinator — Fall 2021 – Spring 2023
Georgetown University - Psychology Department

Gender Identity & Pronoun Task Force — Fall 2021 – Spring 2022
Georgetown University – Data Governance Task Force

Graduate Student Liaison to Visiting Faculty — Fall 2020 – Spring 2021
Georgetown University - Psychology Department

Graduate Student Representative — Spring 2020 - 2022
Georgetown Psychology Inaugural Diversity, Equity, & Inclusion Committee

Eliminating GRE Requirement Initiative at Georgetown University — Initiative Member (GRE was made optional)

Open Science Initiatives

Current Topics in Psychological Science Journal Club
Cofounder/Administrator — Spring 2022- Summer 2024

Workshops/Events Conducted

- Power Analysis: How to construct a study to find an expected effect — November 2023
- R From Scratch: An introduction into R — April 2023
- An introduction to Open Science — December 2022

Georgetown Initiative for Open Science
Cofounder/Administrator — Spring 2022-Summer 2024

Honor Societies

Psi Chi Psychology Honor Society — Member Since: January 2014
Secretary and Treasurer — August 2014 – June 2015

Delta Epsilon Iota Professional Honor Society — Member Since: January 2014
Vice President — August 2014 – June 2015

Tau Sigma Transfer Student Honor Society — Member Since: January 2014