

**Chelsea E. Boccagno**

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**Education**

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- 2016 – **Harvard University** (Graduate School of Arts & Sciences), Cambridge, MA  
Graduate Student, Clinical Science  
Advisor: Jill M. Hooley, Ph.D.
- 2010 – 2014 **Vassar College**, Poughkeepsie, NY  
B.A., Psychology, correlate sequence in English Literature (creative writing concentration)  
GPA: **3.83**/4.00; Psychology GPA: **3.86**/4.00

**Honors and Awards**

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- 2014 Phi Beta Kappa, Vassar College
- 2014 Psychology Departmental Honors, Vassar College
- 2014 General Honors, Vassar College
- 2014 Distinction: Independent Thesis, Vassar College
- 2014 Academic Enrichment Fund, Vassar College
- 2014 Asprey Center Research Enhancement Award, Vassar College
- 2013 Psi Chi (*Secretary*, 2013–2014), Vassar College Chapter
- 2012 Psychology Majors' Committee (*Chair*, 2013–2014), Vassar College

**Publications**

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- Doré, B., **Boccagno, C.**, Burr, D., Hubbard, A., Weber, J., Stern, Y., Ochsner, K.N. (in press). Finding positive meaning in negative experiences engages ventral striatal and ventromedial prefrontal reward regions. *Journal of Cognitive Neuroscience*.
- Gilead, M., **Boccagno, C.**, Silverman, M., Hassin, R., Weber, J., Ochsner, K.N. (2016). Self-regulation via neural simulation. *Proceedings of The National Academy of Sciences*.
- Mitamura, C., Leu, J., Campos, B., **Boccagno, C.**, Tugade, M. M. (2014). Traversing affective boundaries: Examining cultural norms for positive emotions. In M. M. Tugade, M. N. Shiota, & L. D. Kirby (Eds.), *Handbook of Positive Emotions*. New York, NY: Guilford Publications.

**Online Scholarly Contributions**

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- Boccagno, C.** (2012). Is screen time ruining our face time? Retrieved from <http://www.gordonschool.org/Customized/uploads/files/Psychology%20in%20the%20N.pdf>

**Poster Presentations**

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- Doré, B., **Boccagno, C.**, Hubbard, A., Burr, D., Long, K., Weber, J., Stern, Y. (2016, April). *Finding positive meaning in negative experiences engages ventral striatal and ventromedial reward regions*. Poster presented at the annual conference of the Social and Affective Neuroscience Society (SANS), New York, NY.
- Boccagno, C.**, Doré, B., Fuster, D., Singh, T., Weber, J., Stanley, B., Miller, J., Mann, J., Ochsner, K. (2016, April). *Hippocampal and prefrontal functional connectivity during memory retrieval correlates with self-distancing reappraisal success in patients with major depressive disorder*. Poster presented at the annual conference of the Social and Affective Neuroscience Society (SANS), New York, NY.

- Boccagno, C.**, Doré, B., Fuster, D., Singh, T., Weber, J., Kotecha, R., Chaudhury, S., Miller, J., Mann, J., Stanley, B., Ochsner, K. (2016, April). *The influence of affective context on brain and behavioral responses to neutral stimuli*. Poster presented at the annual conference of the Cognitive Neuroscience Society (CNS), New York, NY.
- Boccagno, C.**, Gilead, M., Silverman, M., Hassin, R., Weber, J., Ochsner, K. (2016, March). *The neural underpinnings of emotional perspective taking*. Poster presented at the annual conference of the Society for Affective Science (SAS), Chicago, IL.
- Boccagno, C.**, Doré, B., Burr, D., Weber, J., Hubbard, A., Stern, Y., Ochsner, K. (2015, April). *Ability versus motivation in aging: Cognitive and motivational influences on down-regulation of negative affect*. Poster presented at the annual conference of the Social and Affective Neuroscience Society (SANS), Boston, MA.
- Burr, D., Doré, B., **Boccagno, C.**, Weber, J., Hubbard, A., Stern, Y., Ochsner, K. (2015, April). *Addressing the emotion paradox: Older adults show impaired regulation but enhanced bottom-up positive response to negative stimuli*. Poster presented at the annual conference of the Social and Affective Neuroscience Society (SANS), Boston, MA.
- Boccagno, C.**, du Pont, A., Tugade, M. M. (2015, February). *How willing are you to self-disclose?: The roles of mindfulness and positive affect in emotional vulnerability*. Poster presented at the annual conference of the Society for Personality and Social Psychology (SPSP), Long Beach, CA.
- Boccagno, C.**, Rivlin, M., Culligan, C., & Tugade, M.M. (2014, April). *Mindfulness and mind-wandering: The effects of attention and awareness on coping and resiliency*. Poster presented at the annual conference of the Society for Affective Science (SAS), Bethesda, MD.
- Boccagno, C.** (2014, March). *Is it my profile, or yours?: The distinct effects of Facebook features on loneliness perception*. Poster presented at the annual Hunter College Psychology Convention, New York, NY.
- Tugade, M. M., du Pont, A., **Boccagno, C.** (2014, February). *The effects of positive emotion differentiation on coping and problem-solving*. Poster presented at the Emotion Pre-Conference of the Society for Personality and Social Psychology (SPSP), Austin, TX.

### Professional Talks

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- Boccagno, C.** (2014, April). Escaping, Knowing, transcending, or transforming the self?: Self-concept and its role in mindfulness. Vassar College Psychology Research Conference. Poughkeepsie, NY.

### Research Experience

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2014 – Present

**Social, Cognitive, and Affective Neuroscience Laboratory, Columbia University**  
**(P.I.: Kevin Ochsner, Ph.D.; Collaborators: Molecular Imaging and Neuropathology Division [MIND] Clinic at New York State Psychiatric Institute [NYSPI])**

**Lab Manager and Research Assistant.** Examine the neural mechanisms of perspective taking, self-referential processing, and positive and negative cognitive reappraisal across several projects. Populations: healthy undergraduate students (perspective-taking fMRI and psychophysiology experiments), younger (18-35) versus older (65+) healthy adults (aging fMRI study), and individuals suffering from or at hereditary risk for major depressive disorder and suicidal behaviors (clinically oriented study with NYSPI collaborators).

*Research:*

- Launched lab-based project with Professor Kevin Ochsner and Dr. Candace Raio examining the effects of stress (assessed via cortisol collection) on cognitive reappraisal ability
- Assist in the planning and execution of four research projects
- Modify experiment scripts in E-Prime and MATLAB
- Collect and analyze psychophysiological, behavioral, and fMRI data

- Conduct one-hour sessions with NYSPI patients and healthy controls discussing participants' upsetting autobiographical memories (for memory task portion of clinical study)
- Train research assistants on recruitment procedures, MRI operation, data collection, and data analysis; co-mentor undergraduates' senior theses
- Administer and score neuropsychology assessments (e.g., MMSE, Trail Making Test)
- Participate in weekly lab meetings on lab projects, articles, and data analysis techniques
- Participate in weekly meetings with the NYSPI MIND Clinic on recruitment strategies, grant allocations, and treatment process for patients

*Managerial:*

- Manage lab's financial logistics
- Coordinate meetings within the lab and with outside collaborators
- Act as liaison between SCAN Lab and Columbia University IRB
- Order lab supplies and experiment materials

2013 – 2014

**Emotions and Psychophysiology Laboratory, Vassar College**

(P.I.: Michele Tugade, Ph.D.)

**Research Assistant.** Examined the structure and dynamics of emotion regulation, resilience, and mindfulness strategies.

- Designed and supervised implementation of laboratory-based study examining the impact of mindfulness on willingness to self-disclose personal experiences
- Assisted in the design of an experience sampling study assessing the effects of daily positive emotion elicitation on psychological well-being
- Analyzed questionnaire data from several laboratory projects
- Independently composed literature reviews and Vassar IRB proposals
- Prepared and served as lead designer on collaborative research posters
- Recruited participants via website advertisements
- Participated in bi-weekly meetings on the current state of social psychology literature

2013 – 2014

**Independent Senior Thesis, Vassar College**

(Advisors: Michele Tugade, Ph.D. and Randolph Cornelius, Ph.D.)

**Thesis title:** *Escaping, knowing, transcending, or transforming the self?:*

*A transdisciplinary examination on self-concept and its role in mindfulness.*

- Composed a year-long thesis involving a literature review across social psychology, cognitive science, and neuroscience disciplines to illuminate the malleability of the self-concept, as well as the impact of mindfulness on self-concept malleability
- Proposed integrative frameworks on the malleability of the temporal self-concept
- Proposed reconceptualization of mindfulness as an adaptive “escape” from the narrative self

2011 – 2014

**English and Urban Studies Department, Vassar College**

(Professor: Tyrone Simpson, II, Ph.D.)

**Research Assistant.** Assisted in the literature analysis of American nationalism patterns, ghettoization effects, critical race theory, and the politics of confessional storytelling as Dr. Simpson's sole research assistant.

- Composed ideas and gathered materials for professor's written work
- Collected material and publications for classes
- Administered and updated course websites
- Acted as a liaison between Professor Simpson and his students
- Coordinated meetings with scholars of interest from various colleges and universities

- 2013 **Independent Research, Vassar College**  
(Advisor: Randolph Cornelius, Ph.D.)  
**Project Title:** *The differential effects of distinct Facebook features and use on loneliness perception.*
- Designed, conducted, analyzed, and presented a year-long, laboratory-based research study examining the effects of different Facebook features and use (e.g., comment- versus picture-viewing) on perceived loneliness levels
  - Composed formal research paper
- Summer 2013 **Cognitive Neurophysiology Laboratory, Albert Einstein College of Medicine**  
(P.I.: John Foxe, Ph.D.; Primary Mentor: Pierfilippo De Sanctis, Ph.D.)  
**Intern/Research Assistant.** Investigated brainwave entrainment in inhibitory-control audiovisual task performance in healthy young adults, as well as the impact of attentional control on Go/NoGo response-inhibition task performance during active walking in elderly individuals.
- Screened and recruited participants
  - Administered and scored neuropsychological assessments (e.g., MMSE, Trail Making Test)
  - Collected and analyzed EEG data
  - Assisted in MATLAB coding to perform ERP and time-frequency analyses
  - Presented analyses on the role of attention in neutral entrainment and audiovisual processing
  - Participated in weekly seminar lectures on methodologies in cognitive neurophysiology

### Clinical Experience

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- 2013 – 2014 **Psychiatry Department, Mount Sinai St. Luke’s Roosevelt CARES (“Comprehensive Adolescent Rehabilitation and Education Services”)**  
Tracks: Adolescent Alternative Day Program and Comprehensive Addiction Program for Adolescents  
(Supervisor: Jessica Houser, Ph.D.)  
**Patient Assistant (Volunteer).** Assisted psychologists, psychiatrists, and high-school teachers in the maintenance of a continuing day treatment level of care for adolescents (ages 14-19, grades 9-12) who suffer from severe emotional and behavioral difficulties.
- Participated in daily staff meetings on clients’ progress
  - Attended intake evaluation and relapse prevention meetings
  - Supervised and aided clients (e.g., English tutoring; crisis intervention)
  - Utilized Dialectical Behavior Therapy manuals and techniques with clients during group therapy (e.g., mindfulness skills, distress tolerance skills)
  - Screened clients for drug use via weekly urine collection

### Additional Experience and Activities

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- 2012 – 2014 **Projects to Empower and Organize the Psychiatrically Labeled (PEOPLE), Inc.**  
(Supervisor: Steve Miccio, CEO)  
**Intern (2012–2013), Project Assistant (2013–2014).** Assisted a peer-run, mental health nonprofit organization dedicated to promoting a sense of hope, empowerment, and self-determination in individuals with mental health diagnoses.
- Assisted in the design of the *Imagine Dutchess* project: a mission to launch a collaborative mental healthcare model in Dutchess County
  - Created and maintained the database of contacts for the *Imagine Dutchess* project
  - Co-developed a “neighborhood village” website, on which consumers are provided a catalog of wellness services accessible in Dutchess County
  - Generated preliminary collaborative mental healthcare models for local hospitals
  - Designed sets of wellness questionnaires that probe consumer needs
  - Assisted housing coordinator on local visits to Poughkeepsie residents who are placed in supportive housing program
  - Conducted library research on jail diversion protocols for New York judicial systems

2012 – 2014

**Psychology Majors' Committee, Vassar College**  
***Faculty-Student Liaison (2012 – 2013), Chair (2013 – 2014).***

- Pioneered Vassar's first *Psychology Research Conference* (2014), at which psychology, neuroscience, and cognitive science students showcased their research and fieldwork
- Directed bi-weekly team meetings and delegated tasks to committee members
- Selected committee members
- Organized Vassar psychology events (e.g., Graduate School Panel)
- Acted as primary liaison between psychology students and faculty
- Participated in psychology faculty meetings on departmental ideas and decisions

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**Professional Memberships**

2015 – Present	<i>Member, Cognitive Neuroscience Society</i>
2015 – Present	<i>Member, Society of Clinical Child and Adolescent Psychology</i>
2015 – Present	<i>Member, International Society for Self and Identity</i>
2015 – Present	<i>Member, Association for Psychological Science</i>
2015 – Present	<i>Member, Social and Affective Neuroscience Society</i>
2014 – Present	<i>Member, Society for Affective Science</i>
2014 – Present	<i>Member, Society for Personality and Social Psychology</i>
2012 – Present	<i>Student Affiliate, APAGS, American Psychological Association</i>

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**Specialized Skills**

**Research Methodologies**

- Computer: collection and analysis of laboratory-based studies
- Behavioral: collection, organization, and analysis of E-Prime and Ecological Momentary Assessment data
- fMRI: collection, processing, and analysis of functional data
- EEG: collection, processing, and analysis of EEG/ERP recordings
- Psychophysiology: collection, processing, and analysis of heart rate and skin conductance

**Software**

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| • SPSS     | • REDCap   |
| • MATLAB   | • RedOxygen                                      |
| • E-Prime  | • AcqKnowledge                                   |
| • NeuroElf | • Qualtrics                                      |
| • BESA     | • Microsoft Office (Excel, Powerpoint, and Word) |

**Clinical**

- Patient interaction at New York State Psychiatric Institute
- Neuropsychological assessment certification at New York State Neurological Institute
- Dialectical Behavior Therapy training and application at Mount Sinai St. Luke's Roosevelt
- Crisis Intervention training at Mount Sinai St. Luke's Roosevelt
- Drug screen administration at Mount Sinai St. Luke's Roosevelt
- Supportive housing assistance in Dutchess County, New York