

Sarah K. Johnson
CUR Board Director Statement of Qualifications

I come from a very small (< 3,000) primarily liberal arts PUI with a fast-growing number of graduate programs. Many institutions like mine are expanding graduate programs to stay viable in the current higher education climate. We face tensions in research oversight as programs originally designed to promote and support UR face pressure to expand to include graduate students. We must defend the need to stay UR-focused or develop creative ways to bring the two together. As the economy stresses small PUIs further, more members will turn to CUR for help in navigating this issue, as well as addressing novel issues in the context of both independent UR and CUREs, such as supporting remote research opportunities and handling AI in the context of research ethics and integrity. I personally can represent the interests of members from multiple roles within the institution as a teacher of all undergraduate levels (including CUREs), a personal research mentor to students, a director of a UR program, and a leader in other service related to UR (e.g., UR club faculty advisor, on the board for research ethics in human participant research, coordinating institutional scholarship and creative activity celebrations).

Within CUR, I represent the Psychology Division, but my background reflects training in neuroscience, an inherently interdisciplinary field, and my teaching has incorporated concepts and research from the humanities (e.g., the psychology of creativity and music; first-year writing), as well as the natural and social sciences. I am accustomed to working collaboratively in teaching and service with my colleagues from other disciplines. As director of my institution's intensive summer research program, I have worked successfully to increase the representation of non-science research and scholarship and creative activity in our summer cohort, as well as increasing the stipend to promote more equitable access to this opportunity. As chair of CUR's NCUR oversight committee (NOC), I have engaged in conversations about guiding and showcasing student research from across disciplines. CUR is *uniquely poised* to support the needs of UR in higher education because of its ability to promote conversations across fields and types of institution. Moreover, with our relatively new representation structure, it is incumbent on members of the Board to bring perspectives from more than just their own division. I am well qualified to participate in conversations on the Board that reflect the interests of CUR members and their students from across all disciplines in higher education. This cross-discipline focus is part of a success statement in the diversity portion of CUR's current strategic plan.

In terms of promoting diversity within CUR and in UR more broadly, I have been participating in programs geared towards this goal for many years. I have been an active part of diversity initiatives on my own campus, including receiving a DEI Foundations Certificate and being an invited speaker on "Bias in Communication from a Cognitive Psychology Perspective" for our Center for Inclusive Excellence Friday Forum in April, 2024. In CUR, I helped guide serious discussions on the NOC re: how to best promote diversity and inclusion for NCUR given state restrictions on travel to other states. I participated in similar conversations in relation to other CUR conferences and programs as a member of the Board. These conversations remain crucial in light of our current strategic diversity goal of being a "welcoming community that... engages individual participants across the U.S. and the world." This is not likely to change as we re-envision our strategic plans for the future, and such goals have only gotten more challenging to navigate given the restrictions placed on many of our institutional and individual members. In addition to focusing on our outward facing programs, such as conferences and in-person workshops, we need to continue to look more deeply at diversity and inclusion within CUR. My own current research focuses on the implicit memory associations underlying stereotypes, and I am passionate about helping CUR to identify and address biases and barriers in our membership and leadership.

In addition, having served as a member of the newly developed Board finance sub-committee, I have knowledge about CUR's financial assets and limitations. As we enter into a new moment of strategic planning, I believe I have a strong depth and range of knowledge to offer valuable contributions to this effort. In pursuing the goal of enhancing CUR's visibility and highlighting CUR as the *premier UR-focused* organization in our country (and in some ways beyond), I bring a relevant history of knowledge about CUR as a whole, and NCUR in particular, to the Board. Just as we promote SPUR as the premiere journal for publishing UR scholarship, we should promote NCUR as the premiere multidisciplinary UR conference, further framing CUR's leadership in UR.

Finally, as Board member, I would be strongly committed to increasing communication across constituencies (between the Board and divisions, as well as across divisions), which I perceive to be a strong need and desire from our members, and representative of the collaborative leadership ideal that CUR has always aspired to.

Sarah K. Johnson
Curriculum Vitae (abbrev.)
November 2024

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EDUCATION

- Ph.D., Temple University, January, 2002
- B.A. with Honors in Psychology, Bucknell University, June, 1996

RECENT PROFESSIONAL POSITIONS

- 2013 – present Associate Professor, Department of Psychology/Neuroscience Program,
Moravian College
- 2014 – 2017 Chair, Department of Psychology, Moravian College
- 2006 – 2013 Assistant Professor, Department of Psychology/Neuroscience Program,
Moravian College

UNDERGRADUATE RESEARCH MENTORSHIP

Independent research advising from 2007-2024

Independent study students (aka research assistants): 36 students
Summer SOAR research fellows: 15 students
Honors project students: 11 students

Course-based research mentorship from 2008-2024

Psychology research methods course: ~250 individual student experiment projects
Cognitive psychology course: ~70 group experiment projects

Student research presentations

My students have presented their research at Moravian's Scholarship and Creative Arts day, the LVAIC regional undergraduate research conferences in Psychology and Neuroscience, NCUR, and three disciplinary conferences: Association for Psychological Science, Psychonomics, and the Eastern Psychological Association. I also sponsored a student participant in CUR's inaugural Scholars Transforming Through Research (STR) research advocacy program (2022-2023).

LEADERSHIP/SERVICE TO UNDERGRADUATE RESEARCH (UR) INITIATIVES

Council for Undergraduate Research (CUR) positions/participation

Board of Directors, 2021-2024; Executive Board Finance sub-committee (2023-2024)
Psychology Division Council member (2024-present)
Psychology Division Councilor (2013-present; Vice-chair, 2015-2020)
National Conference on Undergraduate Research (NCUR) Oversight Committee, Member (2014-2017), Chair (2017-2021)
Executive Officer search committee, member (2018-2019)
Student Programs Task Force, member (2018-2020)

CUR Dialogical Group, Best Practices for Student Learning in UR Events (2018-2020)

Positions serving Moravian University

Coordinator, Moravian University Student Scholarship and Creative Endeavors Week, April 2025

Student Opportunities for Academic Research (SOAR), Director (January, 2016-present)

Undergraduate Research and Creative Activities Club, Faculty advisor (2018-present)

Academic Standards Committee (2012-2014, 2018-2021; 2020, Co-chair)

Institutional Review Board, Member (2006-2009, 2010-2016), Chair (2014-2016), Executive Board (2019-2024)

Undergraduate Research Overload Task Force (2017)

Honors Committee, Member (2006-2009, 2011-2016, 2023-2024), Executive committee (2011-2016)

Positions beyond Moravian University

National Science Foundation, Division for Biological Infrastructure, Research Experiences for Undergraduates grant proposal reviewer (2019-2020)

Landmark Conference Summer Research Symposium, co-organizer (July, 2016)

LVAIC Undergraduate Psychology Conference, organizer (April, 2010 & April, 2016)

GRANTS

2024 (pending) National Science Foundation (NSF) Scholarships in Science, Technology, Engineering, and Mathematics Program (S-STEM): *Hometown Engagement via Research and Investigation for Transformative And Generational Excellence (HERITAGE)*; co-PI, \$1,999,993

SELECT PUBLICATIONS & PRESENTATIONS (student co-authors*; CUR-related^)

Zaremba, S. & Johnson, S. K. *Gender-Science Attitudes in Children after Reading Circles Focused on Female Scientists*. Poster presented at the Annual Convention of the American Psychological Association, Seattle, WA, August 8-10, 2024. **Selected for IMPACT session: Flash Talks on Belonging and Inclusivity**

Zaremba, S. & Johnson, S. K. *Shifting Explicit Gender Attitudes about Science in Children through a Book Circles Program*. Poster presented at the Eastern Psychological Association Annual Meeting, Philadelphia, PA, February 29 – March 2, 2024.

^Johnson, S. K. *Fostering Collaboration: Working in Teams for Course-Based and Independent Undergraduate Research*. Invited speaker at the Annual National Institute on the Teaching of Psychology, Bonita Springs, FL, January 3-6, 2024.

Zaremba, S. & Johnson, S. K. *Bridging Connections: Student Perceptions of Cross-Course Collaborative Projects*. Poster presented at the Eastern Psychological Association Annual Meeting, New York, NY, March 3-5, 2022.

^Gunnell, C. Y., Sell, A., Barton, L., Johnson, S. K., Galli, D. *Learning from Presenting: Self-Perceived Learning Gains from Presenting Scholarly Research*. Presentation for the CUR Biennial Conference, June 27-30, 2020. [virtual conference]

*Hunter, R., *Yautz, C., *DeFranco, S., & Johnson, S. K. *Perceptions of Sexual Assault*. Proposed poster for the Undergraduate Poster Session of the Eastern Psychological Association Annual Meeting, New York, NY, February 28-March 2, 2018.

^Altman, J., Buddie, A., Johnson, S., & Schmolesky, M. *Navigating Institutional Review Boards for Collaborative Research*. Panel presentation for the CUR Biennial Conference, Arlington, VA, July 1-3, 2018.

Johnson, S. K., *Adolt, E., *DeFranco, S., *Pateman, S., & *Trout, A. *Sex and Athleticism: Exploring Gender Stereotypes through Priming*. Poster presented at the Eastern Psychological Association Annual Meeting, Philadelphia, PA, March 1-3, 2018.

^Buddie, A. M., & Johnson, S.K. *Assessing Undergraduate Researchers' Conference Experiences: What Do Students Learn?* Panel presentation at the CUR Biennial Conference, Tampa, FL, June 26-28, 2016.

^Johnson, S.K., Chiang, T-M., Sexton-Radek, K., Bates, S., & Couch, L. L. *Institution Review Board 101 - What You Need to Know from Insiders*. Panel presentation at the CUR Biennial Conference, Tampa, FL, June 26-28, 2016.

Johnson, S. K., & Gotthard, G. H. (December, 2013). Using Science to Teach Science: Applying the Scientific Method in Teaching Physiological Psychology. In Dunn, D. S. (Ed.), *The Oxford Handbook of Undergraduate Psychology Education*. London: Oxford University Press. DOI: 10.1093/oxfordhb/9780199933815.013.029

Johnson, S. K., & *Chiarella, T. L. *The Recollective Quality of Memories Following Strategic Category Exemplar Generation*. Poster presented at the Psychonomic Society Conference, Seattle, WA, November 2-5, 2011.

Johnson, S. K., & *Hanna, R. *Validating Subjective Cluster Coding in Verbal Fluency using Response Times*. Poster presented at the International Neuropsychological Society Conference, Boston, MA, February 2-5, 2011.

Johnson, S. K., *Schilling, C. R., & *Agnor, A. *Retrieval Practice Affects Semantically Similar but Not Lexically Similar Items*. Paper presented at the Eastern Psychological Association Conference, New York, NY, March 4-7, 2010.

*Schilling, C. J., & Johnson, S. K. *Semantic But Not Lexical Inter-Item Similarity Results in Retrieval-Induced Forgetting*. Poster presented at the American Psychological Society Conference, Chicago, IL, May 2008.