**Julia Thomas, M.S.**

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EDUCATION

**Ph.D. Candidate, Clinical Psychology,** Illinois Institute of Technology, Chicago, IL

Rehabilitation track

*Expected Graduation: 2022*

**Master of Science in Research,** Illinois Institute of Technology, Chicago, IL 2019

*Thesis title:* *The impact of knowledge, self-efficacy, and stigma on STI testing intention among college students*

**Honors Bachelor of Arts, Psychology & Spanish,** Saint Louis University, St. Louis, MO 2014

*Summa Cum Laude*

Semester abroad: Ecuador (Spring 2012)

SUPERVISED CLINICAL EXPERIENCE

**TBI/Polytrauma Clinic Psychology Extern,** Edward Hines, Jr. VA Hospital 2020 – present

Hines, IL

*Supervisor:* Rene Pichler-Mowry, PhD, HSPP

* Providing psychotherapy services using evidence-based treatments (e.g., cognitive processing therapy, prolonged exposure) to veterans who have a history of TBI

**Pediatric Neuropsychology Extern,** AMITA Health Center for Pediatric Brain 2019 – 2020

Hoffman Estates, IL

*Supervisors:* Amy Davis, PhD, ABPP; Nicole Cruz, PhD, ABPP; Esther Chin, PhD

* Administered and interpreted neuropsychological batteries for children and adolescents with a variety of concerns including ADHD, autism spectrum disorder, psychiatric, and complex medical problems
* Conducted clinical interviews with patients and parents/guardians
* Conceptualized and wrote integrative assessment reports
* Provided feedback to patients and families
* Collaborating with colleagues to write paper on pediatric concussion and PVT performance

**Adult Neuropsychology Extern,** NorthShore University Health System 2018 – 2019

Evanston, IL

*Supervisors:* Jerry Sweet, PhD, ABPP; Leslie Guidotti Breting, PhD, ABPP; Elizabeth Geary, PhD, ABPP

* Administered and interpreted neuropsychological batteries for adults with a variety of clinical concerns, including WADA testing for epilepsy cases
* Assisted neuropsychologists to write assessment reports and provide feedback to clients
* Presented two posters in collaboration with supervisors at AACN annual conference

**Psychotherapy Extern,** Euclid Outpatient Counseling Center, MacNeal Hospital 2017 – 2018

Berwyn, IL

*Supervisors:* David Schnee, LCPC; Lauren Neaman, PsyD

* Provided outpatient psychotherapy services to diverse adult population, including aftercare services following psychiatric hospitalization

**Supervisor/Examiner,** Chicago Public Schools Center for Research and Service 2016 – 2020

Chicago, IL

*Supervisor:* Cynthia Langley, PsyD

* Supervised administration of tests by graduate-level trainees for both 1:1 testing and group testing
* Administered test battery used to determine eligibility for the Chicago Public Schools’ Selective Enrollment Program for children ages 4-12

ADDITIONAL CLINICAL EXPERIENCE

**Data Coordinator,** Department of Performance Improvement and Risk Management 2016 – 2017

Hartgrove Behavioral Health System

Chicago, IL

*Supervisor:* LeJuan Robinson

* Paid work monitoring trends of patient safety incident data
* Audited charts to ensure compliance of Medicare, Medicaid, The Joint Commission’s Hospital Based Inpatient Psychiatric Services (HBIPS) standards
* Educated staff on proper documentation to ensure compliance
* Monitored physician compliance for ongoing professional practice evaluation (OPPE)
* Compiled, analyzed and reported audit findings to the Director of Performance Improvement and to other departments in the facility
* Investigation of risk incidents and patient complaints

**Program Specialist,** Hartgrove Behavioral Health System 2016

Chicago, IL

*Supervisor:* LeJuan Robinson

* Full-time, paid work as supervisor on acute adolescent unit
* Oversaw the implementation of program structure and activities as shift leader
* Practiced de-escalation techniques and ensure safety of patients and staff in crisis situations
* Facilitated communication between mental health specialists and the remainder of the treatment team

**Mental Health Specialist,** Hartgrove Behavioral Health System 2014 – 2017

Chicago, IL

*Supervisor:* LeJuan Robinson

* Full-time, paid work providing emotional support and care to children, adolescents, and adults at in-patient setting
* Assisted clinical team in safety observations and crisis situations
* Facilitated program activities and led therapy groups daily
* Communicated with therapists, doctors, and family members to meet goals of patient treatment plan
* Served as 1:1 translator (Spanish) for patients

RESEARCH EXPERIENCE

**Research Assistant,** Illinois Institute of Technology 2016 – present

Disability and Community Engagement Lab

Chicago, IL

*Adviser:* Nicole Ditchman, PhD, CRC, LCPC

* Writing papers and presenting data on various aspects of rehabilitation, including employment, quality of life, and sense of community for individuals with brain injury
* Conducted community-based participatory research focus groups for individuals with multiple sclerosis, a grant-funded project

**Project Coordinator, ASSET Program** 2018 – present

Illinois Institute of Technology

Chicago, IL

*Advisers:* Nicole Ditchman, PhD, CRC, LCPC; Eun-Jeong Lee, PhD

* Collaborating with research team at IIT and Michigan State University to conduct 4-year intervention study to assess the effectiveness of the ASSET program, a social and employment skills training program for young adults with autism spectrum disorder
* Funded by the Department of Defense
* Conducting screening assessments for potential participants, including ADOS-2 administration
* Coordinating program logistics with teachers, families, and participants in the Chicagoland area
* Conducting fidelity checks to monitor program implementation
* Collaborating with colleagues to write and publish findings

**Neuropsychology Technician, REGARDS Study** 2019 – present

University of Alabama at Birmingham

Birmingham, AL

*Advisers:* George Howard, PhD; Jennifer Manly, PhD; David Rhodes, MPH

* Administering cognitive and motor battery to participants in the Reasons for Geographic and Racial Differences in Stroke (REGARDS) Study, an ongoing national cohort study funded by the National Institutes of Health (NIH)
* Collecting data at participants’ homes throughout the Chicagoland area

**Research Assistant, Cross-Cultural Human Development Lab** 2014 – 2015

Saint Louis University

St. Louis, MO

*Adviser:* Katelyn Poelker, PhD

* Transcribed and coded data from interviews between the researcher and St. Louis high school students regarding experiences of gratitude and envy
* Transcribed and coded data from interviews conducted in Spanish between the researcher and Guatemalan high school students

**Research Assistant, Violence and Traumatic Stress Lab** 2012 – 2014

Saint Louis University

St. Louis, MO

*Adviser:* Terri L. Weaver, PhD

* Recruited participants for “PTSD, Injury, and Pain from Intimate Partner Violence: Psychophysiological Assessment” study
* Completed data analyses using AcqKnowledge software
* Developed and implemented comparative sub-study to understand the psychological effects of scars on victims of intimate partner violence using survey and psychophysiological data via Qualtrics and AcqKnowledge
* Trained new research assistants

**Co-Investigator,** Senior Capstone Project 2012 – 2013

Saint Louis University

St. Louis, MO

*Adviser:* Kristin Kiddoo, PhD

* Designed and implemented an experimental capstone project: Empathy, Age and Attribution of Responsibility
* Recruited 50+ participants for participation
* Presented findings at the Saint Louis University Psychology Department’s Spring Symposium

PUBLICATIONS

Lee, E.-J, Ditchman, N., **Thomas, J**., & Tsen, J. (2019). Microaggressions experienced by people with multiple sclerosis in the workplace: An exploratory study using Sue's taxonomy. *Rehabilitation Psychology, 64,* 179-193.

MANUSCRIPTS UNDER REVIEW

**Thomas, J.,** Ditchman, N., & Beedle. R. B. (Submitted). The impact of knowledge, self-efficacy, and stigma on STI testing intention among college students.

CONFERENCE PRESENTATIONS

Smith, A., **Thomas, J.,** Friedhoff, C., & Chin, E. (2020, October). *The relationship between performance on the Test of Memory Malingering (TOMM) Trial 1 and neurocognitive, emotional, and behavioral functioning in a pediatric concussion population*. Poster to be presented virtually at the 40th Annual Conference of the National Academy of Neuropsychology.

Ditchman, N., Lee, E.-J., Boyd, A., **Thomas, J.,** & Tsen, J. (2020, October). *Promoting employment-related social skills for youth with autism*. Workshop to be conducted at the 16th Annual Illinois Statewide Transition Planning Conference, Peoria, Illinois.

**Thomas, J.,** Duff, C., Johnson, K., & Ditchman, N. (2020, April). *Predictors of self-determination among adults with brain injury*. **Paper accepted to be presented at 92nd Annual Meeting of the Midwestern Psychological Association, Chicago, Illinois (Conference cancelled).**

**Thomas, J.,** Schiave, E., Duff, C., & Ditchman, N. (2020, February). *The impact of environmental barriers on employment in individuals with brain injury*. Poster presented at Rehabilitation Psychology 2020 Conference, San Diego, California.

**Thomas, J.** (2019, August). *Predictors of sexually transmitted infection testing intention among college students*. Poster presented at 127th Annual Convention of the American Psychological Association, Chicago, Illinois.

Haak, C., Ditchman, N., **Thomas, J**., Schiave, E., Johnson, K., & Rafajko, S. (2019, August). *Sense of community and engagement outcomes of transition-age individuals with disabilities.* Poster presented at 127th Annual Convention of the American Psychological Association, Chicago, Illinois.

**Thomas, J.,** Johnson, K., Klipfel, K., Guidotti Breting, L., Sweet, J., & Geary, E. (2019, June). *Investigating sustained visual attention as a moderator of age and learning*. Poster presented at 17th Annual Meeting of the American Academy of Clinical Neuropsychology, Chicago, Illinois.

Johnson, K., **Thomas, J.,** Klipfel, K., Guidotti Breting, L., Sweet, J., & Geary, E. (2019, June). *Examining attention as a moderator of verbal and visual encoding*. Poster presented at 17th Annual Meeting of the American Academy of Clinical Neuropsychology, Chicago, Illinois.

**Thomas, J.** (2019, April). ***Gender differences in knowledge of sexually transmitted infections.* Paper presented at 91st Annual Meeting of the Midwestern Psychological Association, Chicago, Illinois.**

**Thomas, J**. (2019, March). *Sexually transmitted infection testing intention predicted by knowledge, self-efficacy, and label avoidance: A path analysis.* Poster presented at the 40th Annual Meeting and Scientific Sessions of the Society of Behavioral Medicine, Washington, DC.

Moller, A. C., **Thomas, J**., Fominaya, A., & Kornfield, R. (2019, March). *Leading the narrative on gun violence in higher education: Developing & sharing cross-disciplinary curricula for SBM educators*. Poster presented at the 40th Annual Meeting and Scientific Sessions of the Society of Behavioral Medicine, Washington, DC.

Tsen, J., **Thomas, J.,** Ditchman, N., & Lee, E.-J. (2018, August). *Microaggressions experienced by people with multiple sclerosis in the workplace.* Poster presented at the 126th Annual Convention of the American Psychological Association, San Francisco, California.

**Thomas, J.,** Rafajko, S., Johnson, K., & Ditchman, N. (2018, April). *E****mployment and quality of life among adults with brain injury.* Paper presented at 90th Annual Meeting of the Midwestern Psychological Association, Chicago, Illinois.**

Poelker, K.E., Gibbons, J.L., Elizondo Quintanilla, I.L., Maxwell, C, & **Thomas, J**.  (2015, February). *La gratitud y la envidia: ‘When I need it the most, my friends support me’ and ‘when I saw her with the shoes, I felt angry.’* Paper presented at Society for Cross-Cultural Research Annual Symposium, Albuquerque, New Mexico.

Weaver, T. L., Buchanan, T., Griffin, M. G., Bosch, J., Weber, S., Thelemaque, T., Murray, T., **Thomas, J.,** & Whitman, S. (2014, July). *Trauma-related body image distress: Exploring the psychological impact of an appearance-related physical injury associated with interpersonal violence*. Paper presented at the 6th Annual Appearance Matters Conference, Bristol, United Kingdom.

**Thomas, J.** (2014, April). *La dolarización ecuatoriana y su impacto en la identidad nacional* (The dollarization of Ecuador and its effect on national identity). Paper presented at Saint Louis University’s 2014 French and Spanish Undergraduate Student Symposium, St. Louis, MO.

Weaver, T. L., Buchanan, T. W., Griffin, M. G., Weber, S., Riebel, J., Bosch, J., Murray, T. Pelletier, T., Boswell J., Perez, E., **Thomas, J.,** & Whitman, S. (2013, November). *Residual injury, PTSD and body image distress following intimate partner violence: Psychophysiological assessment for comparative cues*. Poster presented at the 29th Annual Meeting of the International Society of Traumatic Stress Studies, Philadelphia, PA.

Uvalic, Z., **Thomas, J.,** & Dyer, P. (2013, April). *In their shoes: Empathy, age, and attribution of responsibility.* Poster presented at Saint Louis University Psychology Department’s Spring Symposium, St. Louis, MO.

TEACHING EXPERIENCE

**Teaching Assistant,** Illinois Institute of Technology 2017 – 2019

Chicago, IL

*Course Instructor:* Nicole Ditchman, PhD, CRC, LCPC

* Assisted with material preparation, grading, and feedback for master’s level rehabilitation counseling courses:
  + Adult Career Development and Vocational Behavior
  + Assessment in Rehabilitation and Mental Health Counseling
  + Human Growth and Career Development
* Other teaching and research duties as assigned

CAMPUS INVOLVEMENT

**Chair, Student Wellness Committee** 2020 – present

IIT Department of Psychology

Chicago, IL

* Created Wellness Committee to better serve graduate students within the clinical psychology program
* Recruited students and developed leadership team
* Conducted student wellness survey and student focus groups to disseminate findings
* Developing student wellness repository for local, low-cost resources and providers related to student wellness
* Facilitating student focus groups to dialogue about student wellness

**President, Colloquium Committee** 2019 – 2020

IIT Department of Psychology

Chicago, IL

* Served as president from 2019-2020; active member since 2017
* Established committee as a formal student organization to secure on-campus funding
* Facilitated workshops and lectures of interest related to graduate clinical psychology
* Created repository of student e-learning resources for students amid COVID-19 crisis

**Student Member, APA Division 22 (Rehabilitation Psychology) Chapter** 2019 – present

IIT Department of Psychology

Chicago, IL

* Assist in facilitation of Division 22 events on campus, such as pre-internship meetings

HONORS AND AWARDS

American Rehabilitation Counseling Association (ARCA) Research Award (collaborative) 2020

Psychology Student Research Award, IIT Department of Psychology 2018

Hartgrove Behavioral Health System, Employee of the Month 2015

American Airlines Global Ticket Award (study abroad scholarship) 2011

Honors Program, Saint Louis University 2010 – 2014

Presidential Scholarship Finalist, Saint Louis University 2010 – 2014

PROFESSIONAL AFFILIATIONS

* American Academy of Clinical Neuropsychology
* American Psychological Association
  + *Division Memberships:* Society for Clinical Neuropsychology (40), Rehabilitation Psychology (22)
* Midwestern Psychological Association

REFERENCES

**Nicole Ditchman, Ph.D.,** CRC, LCPC • Associate Professor of Psychology, Illinois Institute of Technology • 3424 S. State St., Chicago, IL 60616 • (312) 567-3500 • [nditchma@iit.edu](mailto:nditchma@iit.edu)

**Leslie Guidotti Breting, Ph.D.,** **ABPP-CN** • Clinical Neuropsychologist, NorthShore University Health System • 909 Davis St., Evanston, IL 60201 • (847) 425-6402 • [lguidottibreting@northshore.org](mailto:lguidottibreting@northshore.org)

**Nicole Cruz, Ph.D., ABPP-CN** • Pediatric Neuropsychologist, AMITA Health Center for Pediatric Brain • 1555 Barrington Rd, First Floor, Hoffman Estates, IL 60169 • (224) 299-5359 • [Nicole.cruz@amitahealth.org](mailto:Nicole.cruz@amitahealth.org)