

**Kirstin Clephane, M.A.**  
[kirstinclephane@gmail.com](mailto:kirstinclephane@gmail.com)

## **EDUCATION**

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**Doctor of Philosophy**, Neuroscience & Behavior 2027 (expected)  
University of Nebraska – Lincoln

**Master of Arts**, Neuroscience & Behavior 2023  
University of Nebraska - Lincoln  
*Masters Project*: Evolutionary Models of Parental Investment in Reproductive Effort (EMPIRE)  
Advisor: Tierney Lorenz, Ph.D.

**Bachelor of Science**, Psychology (Thesis Honors) 2019  
Clinical Science Certificate  
Indiana University – Bloomington  
*Honors Thesis*: Stress, intimacy, and distractibility during the first year postpartum  
Advisor: Julia Heiman, Ph.D.

## **PEER REVIEWED MANUSCRIPTS**

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**Clephane K**, Wilson MC, Heiman JR, Craig AN, Lorenz T. (2022). Sexual violence history predicts changes in vaginal immune parameters during sexual arousal. *Brain, Behavior, and Immunity*. doi: 10.1016/j.bbi.2022.06.005. PMID: 35697156.

**Clephane K**, O'Loughlin JI, Bodnar TS, Wilson MC, Stariha JT, Craig AN, Weinberg J, Brotto LA, Lorenz TK. (2022). Lack of Evidence for a Relationship Between Salivary CRP and Women's Sexual Desire: An Investigation Across Clinical and Healthy Samples. *Journal of Sexual Medicine*, 19(5), 745-760. doi: 10.1016/j.jsxm.2022.02.007. PMID: 35296386; PMCID: PMC9064911.

**Clephane K**, Lorenz TK. (2021). Putative Mental, Physical, and Social Mechanisms of Hormonal Influences on Postpartum Sexuality. *Current Sexual Health Reports*, 1-13. doi: 10.1007/s11930-021-00321-8. PMID: 35707497; PMCID: PMC9191849.

**Clephane K**, Wilson MC, Craig AN, Heiman JR, Lorenz TK. (2021). Inflammation Predicts Sexual Arousability in Healthy Women. *Comprehensive Psychoneuroendocrinology*, 8, 10086. doi: 10.1016/j.cpne.2021.100086. PMID: 35669911; PMCID: PMC9165647.

**Clephane K**, Sartin-Tarm A, Lorenz TK. (2020). Four Additional Questions for the Preparation Hypothesis. *Archives of Sex Behavior*, 1-6. doi: 10.1007/s10508-020-01798-5. PMID: 32681459.

Sartin-Tarm, A., **Clephane, K.L.**, & Lorenz, T.K., (2020). Formal and informal sources of sexual information predict women's sexual self-schema development. *The Canadian Journal of Human Sexuality*. 30(1), 1-14.

## **MANUSCRIPTS IN PREPARATION**

**Clephane, K. L.,** & Lorenz, T.K., (2024). Illness symptoms during pregnancy impact offspring development and parental behavior during the postpartum period. Manuscript in preparation.

## **PAPER PRESENTATIONS & SYMPOSIUM TALKS**

1. **Clephane, K. L.,** & Lorenz, T.K., (2024, Feb). *Basic Science and New Technologies in FSD*. Vaginal Research podium presented at the annual meeting of the International Society for the Study of Women's Sexual Health (ISSWSH) in Long Beach, California, USA.
2. **Clephane, K.,** Fitzpatrick, E.T., Tavares, I.M., de Pierrepont, C., & Dawson, S.J., (2022, Nov). *From Bump to Baby: Couples' Sexual Well-being during the Transition to Parenthood*. Symposium presented at the annual meeting of the Society of the Scientific Study of Sexuality (SSSS) in Vancouver, British Columbia, Canada.
3. Jawed-Wessel, S., **Clephane, K.L.,** Mark, K.P., & Lorenz, T.K., (2020, Apr). *Sexual Desire and Pleasure across the Pregnancy-Postpartum-Parenting Transition*. Symposium accepted for presentation at the annual meeting of the Association for Psychological Science (APS) in Chicago, IL. (Conference cancelled due to COVID-19 pandemic).

## **POSTER PRESENTATIONS**

1. **Clephane, K.,** Checkalski, O. R., Gervias, S. J., & Lorenz, T.K., (2023, Aug). *Which parts do you want to see naked? Motivations for sending specific features of the body in nudes women send to men*. Poster presented the annual meeting for the International Academy of Sex Research (IASR) in Montreal, Québec, Canada.
2. **Clephane, K.,** Brock, R., Phillips, E., Calkins, F., & Lorenz, T.K., (2022, Jul). *Evolutionary Models of Parental Investment in Reproduction*. Poster presented at the annual meeting for the International Academy of Sex Research (ISAR) in Reykjavik, Iceland.
3. **Clephane, K.L.,** & Lorenz, T.K., (2022, Mar). *Desire for Solitary Sexual Activity Predicts Discordance Between How Young Women Self-identify and Their Reported Attractions*. Poster presented at the annual meeting for the International Society for the Study of Women's Sexual Health (ISSWSH) in Dallas, TX.
4. **Clephane, K.L.,** Sartin-Tarm, A., Wilson, M.C., & Lorenz, T.K., (2020, Feb). *Different forms of mental health treatments are associated with different patterns of post-trauma sexual functioning in women: An exploratory study*. Poster presented at the annual meeting for the International Society for the Study of Women's Sexual Health (ISSWSH) in Orlando, FL.
5. **Clephane, K.L.,** Wilson, M.C., & Lorenz, T.K., (2019, Jul). *Sexual function after unwanted sexual activity: Impact of PTSD and symptom severity*. Poster presented at the annual meeting of International Academy of Sex Research (IASR) in Mexico City, Mexico.

6. **Clephane, K.L.**, Craig, A.N., & Heiman, J. R. (2019, Jul). *Stress, intimacy, and distractibility during the first postpartum year*. Poster presented at the annual meeting of International Academy of Sex Research (IASR) in Mexico City, Mexico.
7. **Clephane, K.L.**, Craig, A. N., & Heiman, J. R. (2018, Apr). *Stress, Intimacy, and Distractibility: A Progress Report*. Poster presented at the Hutton Honors College Research Symposium and Poster Fair in Bloomington IN.
8. **Clephane, K.L.**, Craig, A. N., & Heiman, J. R. (2018, May). *Stress, Intimacy, and Distractibility: A Progress Report*. Poster presented at the annual Midwest Undergraduate Cognitive Science Conference in Bloomington IN.
9. Lorenz, T. K., Wilson, M. C., Craig, A., **Clephane, K.**, Hall, E., & Heiman, J. R. (2018, Jul). *Sexual arousal may influence vaginal immune responses*. Poster presented at the annual meeting of International Academy of Sex Research in Madrid, Spain.
10. **Clephane, K. L.**, Craig, A. N., & Heiman, J. R. (2017). *Examining Distractibility from Sexual Stimuli as a Mediator of Stress and Partner Intimacy: A Progress Report*. Poster presented at the annual Indiana University Undergraduate Research Conference in Indianapolis, IN.

## **PREREGISTRATIONS AND OTHER SCHOLARLY PRODUCTS**

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| Vaginal Testosterone Absorbance after Sexual Arousal<br><i>AsPredicted</i>                      | 2024 |
| EMPIRE<br><i>AsPredicted</i>  | 2022 |
| <a href="#">Vaginal Pulse Amplitude Data Cleaning Protocol</a><br><i>Open Science Framework</i> | 2021 |

## **ACADEMIC HONORS, AWARDS, AND SCHOLARSHIPS**

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| <b>Honorable Mention for Graduate Research Fellowship Program</b><br>National Science Foundation     | 2023                  |
| <b>RAC/Warden Conference Travel Grant</b><br>Psychology Department, University of Nebraska - Lincoln | Fall 2022             |
| <b>Othmer Fellowship</b><br>University of Nebraska – Lincoln   | August 2021 - present |
| <b>Phi Beta Kappa</b><br>Academic Honors Society   | May 2018 – present    |
| <b>Executive Deans List</b><br>Indiana University  | Fall 2015 – May 2019  |

**Undergraduate Research Grant** 2017  
Hutton Honors College, Indiana University

**Larry Blatt Internship Funding** 2017  
Indiana University

**Student Scholarship** 2015 – 2016  
Hutton Foundation, Indiana University

**Andrew P. Winzenread Scholarship** 2015 – 2016  
Indiana State Police

## **GRANT WRITING TRAINING & EXPERIENCE**

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Grant Reviewer 2020  
UCARE Awards, University of Nebraska – Lincoln  
- Reviewed applications submitted on behalf of undergraduate student researchers

Proposal Writing Seminar 2020  
Cognitive Neuroscience of Development and Aging Center  
- Attended a seminar on grant proposal development and finding funding opportunities for interdisciplinary work

## **RESEARCH FUNDING**

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*Graduate Research Fellowship Program* Submission Oct 2022  
Source: National Science Foundation  
Role: Graduate Student Fellow (under mentorship of Dr. Tierney Lorenz)  
Title: Validation and standardization of hair cortisol assay methods for hard-to-reach populations

*Scholars in Women's Sexual Health Research Grant Program* 2023 - 2024  
Source: International Society for the Study of Women's Sexual Health  
Role: Student PI (under mentorship of Dr. Tierney Lorenz)  
Title: Modeling fluid dynamics of androgen absorption during vaginal arousal  
Direct costs awarded: \$4,060

*Graduate Research Fellowship Program* Submission Oct 2020  
Source: National Science Foundation  
Role: Graduate Student Fellow (under mentorship of Dr. Tierney Lorenz)  
Title: Stress and Inflammation during Pregnancy Influences Postpartum Behavior

*Undergraduate Research Grant* 2017  
Source: Hutton Honors College, Indiana University - Bloomington  
Role: Student PI (under mentorship of Dr. Julia Heiman)  
Title: Sex, Relationships, and Stress  
Direct costs awarded: \$1000

## **PROFESSIONAL AND VOLUNTEER SERVICE**

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| Ad-hoc Reviewer  | 2019 – 2022 |
| - Archives of Sexual Behavior (4 reviews as primary reviewer of record)  |             |
| - Family Process (3 reviews as primary reviewer of record)   |             |
| Scholar Recruiter, <i>Sex Salon</i> , Indiana University   | 2019        |
| Symposium Moderator, <i>Hutton Honors College Research Symposium and Poster Fair</i> , Indiana University          | 2018        |
| National Talkline Advocate, <i>All-Options Pregnancy Resource Center</i> , Bloomington, IN                         | 2018 – 2019 |
| Intern, <i>All-Options Pregnancy Resource Center</i> , Bloomington, IN   | 2018        |
| Director of Membership, <i>Raising Awareness of Interactions in Sexual Encounters (RAISE)</i> , Indiana University | 2016 – 2019 |
| Peer Counselor, <i>Crimson CORPS</i> , Indiana University  | 2016 – 2018 |
| Academic Committee, Psychology Club, Indiana University  | 2015 – 2017 |
| Volunteer, Philanthropy Club, Bedford North Lawrence High School   | 2015 – 2016 |
| Founder/President, Riley Dance Marathon, Bedford North Lawrence High School  | 2014 – 2015 |
| President of Youth Board, Bertha's Mission   | 2014 – 2015 |

## **TEACHING AND MENTORING**

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**Evolutionary Models of Parental Investment in Reproduction.** Lecture at Cognition and Biopsych in Nebraska (CABIN). University of Nebraska – Lincoln, May 2022.

**Sex across the Lifespan.** Invited guest lecture in Dr. Debby Herbenick's Human Sexuality. Indiana University, November 2018.

Undergraduate Teaching Assistant, *Psychological and Brain Sciences Dept.* Indiana University 2017 – 2018

- Career Planning with Dr. Cynthia Patton:
  - Responsibilities included grading quiz and essay submissions online as well as communicating with students about the course
- Introduction to Psychology with Dr. Mason Burns:
  - Responsibilities included writing test and quiz questions from class material as well as relaying student concerns to the instructor on class format.
  - Clarified class material during out-of-class meetings and edited written assignments

- Abnormal Psychology with Dr. Lorenzo Lorenzo-Luaces:
  - Created questions from class material for tests as well as relaying class design feedback to the instructor

Psychological and Brain Sciences Department Peer Tutor,  
Indiana University

2016 – 2017

## RESEARCH EXPERIENCE

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Graduate Research Assistant, *Women's Immune and Sexual Health Lab*

Aug 2021 – present

University of Nebraska – Lincoln

Principal Investigator: Tierney Lorenz, Ph.D.

- Developing a master's equivalent research project focusing on inflammation during pregnancy and its association with postpartum sexual behaviors
- Managing an independent project focused on vaginal androgen reabsorption during sexual arousal

Laboratory Manager, *Women's Immune and Sexual Health Lab*

June 2019 – June 2021

University of Nebraska – Lincoln

Principal Investigator: Tierney Lorenz, Ph.D.

- Collected, processed, and analyzed vaginal photoplethysmography (vaginal blood flow) and heartrate variability (physiologic stress) data using specialized programs such as AcqKnowledge, BioPac, and Kubios
- **Collected, aliquoted, and analyzed biological samples (saliva, blood, and vaginal fluid) for hormones and inflammation markers**
- Supervised undergraduate research assistants: interviewing, training, and evaluating performance
- Managed Institutional Review Board protocols for 6 distinct projects
- Coordinated recruitment, scheduling, and running of study visits using SONA, Qualtrics, and Microsoft Excel
- Conducted and scored clinical psychological assessments

Research Assistant, *Sexual Psychophysiology Laboratory*

2015 – 2019

Indiana University

Principal Investigator: Julia R. Heiman, Ph.D.

- **Independently developed and completed a study focusing on postpartum stress, sexuality, and attention in human participants and using an auditory oddball task to examine distraction from sexual stimuli**
- Conducted study sessions and enzyme-linked immunosorbent assays (ELISAs) for a study of adult women using biological samples (blood, saliva, and vaginal fluid) and vaginal photoplethysmography
- Supervised, mentored and trained fellow undergraduate students in laboratory protocols and research methods

Research Intern, *Liberos LLC*

2017

Principal Investigator: Nicole Prause, Ph.D.

- Orgasmic Mediation Study: Contacted potential participants, maintained study schedule, prepared EEG headsets, sterilized equipment, and assisted with participant sessions
- Designed online advertisements (Canva), created additional reference pages on the Liberos LLC website (WordPress), and troubleshoot website accessibility errors
- Troubleshoot MATLAB scripts used in EEG data collection
- Designed infographics and superfly wearable advertisements/buttons

Transcriptionist, Bisexual Parent Study 2016

Indiana University

Principal Investigators: Jessamyn Bowling, Ph.D. & Elizabeth Bartelt, MPH

- Transcribed two interviews for analyses

## **PROFESSIONAL AFFILIATIONS**

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**International Academy for Sex Researchers (IASR)** 2023

Student Member

**Society for the Scientific Study of Sexuality (SSSS)** 2023

Student Member

**International Society for the Study of Women's Sexual Health (ISSWSH)** 2023

Student Member