

Willis Benjamin Klein, B.Sc.

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Education

Doctor of Philosophy in Experimental Psychology (Expected Winter 2027), McGill University
Supervisor: [Dr. Jennifer Bartz](#)

Honours Bachelor of Science (2020), University of Toronto

Major: Psychology, Cognitive Science | Minor: Philosophy | Graduated with High Distinction

Research Interests

Gaslighting, Prediction Error Minimization, Attachment, Shared Reality, Epistemic Trust, Self-Concept Clarity, Interception, Oxytocin, Social Cognition.

Experience

Internships

Doctoral Internship Program, Predictive Success (2025)

Micro-Exp, Lyft Urban Solutions (2025)

Teaching Experience

- Fall 2025 - Modern Psychology in Historical Perspective (PSYC403) - Teaching Assistant
- Summer 2025 - Statistics for Experimental Design (PSYC305) - Teaching Assistant
- Winter 2025 - Introduction to Psychological Statistics - Teaching Assistant
- Fall 2024 - Social Psychology (PSYC215) - Teaching Assistant
- Winter 2024 - Social Psychology (PSYC215) - Teaching Assistant
- Fall 2023 - Interpersonal Relationships (PSYC474) - Teaching Assistant
- Winter 2023 - Social Psychology (PSYC215) - Teaching Assistant
- Fall 2022 - Social Psychology (PSYC215) - Teaching Assistant
- Summer 2022 - Human Cognition and the Brain (PSYC311) - Teaching Assistant
- Winter 2022 - Social Psychology (PSYC215) - Teaching Assistant

- Fall 2021 - Introduction to Psychology (PSYC100) - Teaching Assistant

Guest Lectures

- Fall 2025 - Interpersonal Relationships (PSYC474): Epistemic Trust and Gaslighting
- Fall 2024 - Interpersonal Relationships (PSYC474): Epistemic Trust and Gaslighting
- Fall 2023 - Interpersonal Relationships (PSYC474): Epistemic Trust and Gaslighting

Publications

Peer-Reviewed Articles

- **Klein, W.**, Gregory, A. J., Krol, S. A., & Bartz, J. A. (2025). Self-concept clarity and interoceptive updating in the rubber-hand illusion: A double replication study. *Canadian Journal of Experimental Psychology*.
- **Klein, W.**, Wood, S., & Bartz, J. A. (2025). A theoretical framework for studying the phenomenon of gaslighting. *Personality and Social Psychology Review*.
- Bartz, J. A., **Klein, W.**, & Gregory, A. J. (2025). Effects of Oxytocin on Agency in Anxiously Attached Individuals, a Replication and Extension. *Social Cognitive And Affective Neuroscience*.
- **Klein, W.**, Li, S., & Wood, S. (2023). A qualitative analysis of gaslighting in romantic relationships. *Personal Relationships*, 30(4), 1316-1340.

Works Submitted and In Progress

- **Klein, W.**, Dupertuys, J., Phillipe, F., & Bartz, J.A. (IN PREP). No News Is Good News—Or Bad: Avoidant Attachment and the Flat Response to Relationship Cues, An Active Inference Account of Attachment Stability and Change
- **Klein, W.**, Forget, A., Wood, S., Bartz, J.A. (UNDER REVIEW). A Historical Review of Gaslighting Tracing Changing Conceptualizations Within Psychiatry and Psychology. *Clinical Psychology Review*
- Shemirani, M., **Klein, W.**, Nitschke, J.P., Krol, S. A., Sheldon, S., & Bartz, J. A. (UNDER REVIEW). Attachment, oxytocin, & maternal recollections: Further evidence for the social salience hypothesis. *Emotion*

Presentations

Invited Talks

- Klein, W. (2025). Contemporary Mechanistic Models of Gaslighting: Epistemic Trust and Prediction Error Minimization. ShaRed network [Keynote Talk]
- **Klein, W.**, Bartz, J. A., & Gregory, A. J. (2024). A replication and extension of the effects of oxytocin on agency and communion for anxiously and avoidantly attached individuals. *Canadian Psychological Association National Convention* [Conference Talk]

Poster Sessions

- **Klein, W.**, Feffer, M., Gregory, A. J., Nitschke, J. P., & Bartz, J. A. (2024). Effects of Chronic Stress on Empathic Accuracy. *Canadian Psychological Association National Convention*
- **Klein, W.**, Bartz, J. A., & Gregory, A. J. (2024). The effect of self-concept clarity and oxytocin on embodiment of the rubber hand: A replication and extension. *Society for Personality and Social Psychology*
- **Klein, W.**, & Bartz, J.A. (2023). A Historical Review of Gaslighting: Tracing Changing Conceptualizations Within Psychology and Psychiatry. *Canadian Psychological Association National Convention*
- **Klein, W.**, & Bartz, J.A. (2023). Oxytocin Reduces Bodily Agency in Anxiously Attached Individuals. *Society for Personality and Social Psychology*
- **Klein, W.**, Bartz, J.A., Li, S., & Wood, S. (2022). Construct Clarification: Gaslighting in Romantic Relationships. *International Association of Relationship Research Main Conference*
- **Klein, W.**, Bartz, J.A., & Wood, S. (2022). Gaslighting in Romantic Relationships. *Society for Personality and Social Psychology*

Professional Service

Peer Reviewer for: Journal of Social and Personal Relationships, Violence Against Women, Journal of Family Violence, Canadian Journal of Undergraduate Research

Honours and Awards

- Fonds de Recherche Québec – Société et culture. Bourses de doctorat en recherche (2025). \$83,334

- McGill University. Donald O. Hebb Fellowship (2024). \$7,948
- McGill University. Grad Excellence Award (2024). \$9,070
- McGill University. Dr. Stewart (2023). \$5,545
- McGill University. Grad Excellence Award (2023). \$9,811
- McGill University. Grad Excellence Award (2022). \$6,181
- McGill University. Grad Excellence Award (2021). \$5,731

Skills

R Programming Language, JASP, JAMOVI, Qualtrics, PsychoPy, Microsoft Office, descriptive statistics, inferential statistics, multi-variate statistics, experimental design