

KEEGAN WHITACRE
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EDUCATION

University of Florida

B.S., Psychology, 2025
Minors, Anthropology, Business Administration, 2025
GPA | 3.90

RESEARCH & PROFESSIONAL EXPERIENCE

Affective Science Lab, Department of Psychology, The Ohio State University Advisor: Dr. Kristen Lindquist

Lab Manager and Research Associate | August 2025 – Present

Life Story Lab, Department of Psychology, University of Florida Advisor: Dr. Susan Bluck

Research Assistant | December 2023 – Present

Stressful Life Events in Dignity Therapy Project | January 2024 – July 2024

- Standardized coding protocols and created Excel systems to streamline transcript data access
- Coded >140 transcripts for stressful life events; achieved interrater reliability ($\kappa=0.81$)
- Co-developed comprehensive coding manual and adapted Holmes and Rahe SRSS for research use

Meaning Making in Dignity Therapy Project | August 2024 – April 2025

- Collaborated on project development for meaning-making using Dignity Therapy dataset ($n=202$)
- Developed specific aims and abstract for conference poster on childhood meaning-making
- Independently double-coded transcripts and conducted analyses in R

Meaning and Stress in Early Life Project | February 2025 – November 2025

- Co-developed original study design on early life stress and meaning-making in Dignity Therapy narratives ($n=200+$)
- Discovered significant findings that revived the project and advanced it to full analysis stage
- Led statistical modeling in R (regression, clustering, latent profile analysis) to identify resilience profiles and generate publication-ready results

Cognition and Decision Modeling Lab, Department of Psychology, University of Florida Advisor: Dr. Peter Kvam

Research Assistant | August 2023 – March 2024

Timed Decision-Making Project | August 2023 – March 2024

- Guided participants through study participation including informed consent, survey completion on a computer, structured, debriefing, and compensation
- Supervised walkthrough of eye-tracking software use in study participants
- Quantitatively analyzed data using R and other coding languages

CLINICAL & VOLUNTEER EXPERIENCE

Alachua County Crisis Center | May 2024 – Present

Hotline Operator

- Completed 80+ hours of training, including 988 Suicide Hotline certification
- Provided crisis intervention and de-escalation on a 24-hour hotline
- Coordinated with law enforcement and inpatient facilities for emergency response

Care Team Associate

- Selected after 100+ hours on hotline for Mobile Response Team
- Delivered on-site risk assessment, safety planning, and de-escalation with law enforcement and medical personnel
- Ensured trauma-informed, culturally sensitive care and linkage to long-term services

American Foundation for Suicide Prevention | July 2025 – Present

Education Committee

- Serve on the Education Committee to expand suicide prevention and mental health literacy in schools and community organizations
- Contribute to curriculum review and program planning for evidence-based education initiatives
- Deliver community presentations and talks on suicide prevention and mental health awareness in partnership with AFSP

POSTERS & PRESENTATIONS

Keegan Whitacre, Kiana Cogdill-Richardson, MS, Susan Bluck, PhD, (2025) *Dignity Therapy for Older Cancer Patients: The Role of Early Life Stressors* [Poster Presentation], UF Cancer Center Research Showcase, Gainesville, FL

Keegan Whitacre, Kiana Cogdill-Richardson, MS, Susan Bluck, PhD, (2025) *Dignity Therapy for Older Adults: Revisiting Early Life Stressors* [Poster Presentation], Institute for Learning in Retirement/University of Florida Aging Science Awards, Gainesville, FL

- Awarded *Outstanding Undergraduate Student Poster Award*

Keegan Whitacre, Kiana Cogdill-Richardson, MS, Susan Bluck, PhD, (2025) *Dignity Therapy for Older Adults: Revisiting Early Life Stressors* [Poster Presentation], PGSO Undergraduate Poster Forum, Gainesville, FL

INVITED TALKS

Keegan Whitacre (June 2025). *Dignity Therapy*. Invited speaker, Medical/Health Psychology Seminar, University of Florida Clinical and Health Psychology Department (via Zoom).

RESEARCH & TECHNICAL SKILLS

- **Research Methods & Analysis:** Narrative and qualitative methods, content analysis, survey design, regression modeling, ANOVA/MANOVA, clustering, latent profile analysis, psychometric scale adaptation

- **Software & Programming:** R (data wrangling, visualization, statistical modeling), Python (data analysis, AI integration), SPSS, Microsoft Excel (Certified Specialist), C++
- **Certifications & Training:** HIPAA Privacy & Research, IRB, FERPA, Cultural Competency, 988 Suicide & Crisis Lifeline certification

HONORS AND AWARDS

- Dean's List | 2021 – 2025
- Benacquisto Scholarship | 2021 – 2025
- National Merit Scholarship | 2021 – 2025
- *Outstanding Undergraduate Student Poster Award*, Institute for Learning in Retirement/University of Florida Aging Science Awards (2025)