[KarallynFitisone@uky.edu](mailto:KarallynFitisone@uky.edu)

**EDUCATION**

**PhD in Experimental Psychology** Expected graduation 2028

University of Kentucky; Lexington, Kentucky

**MS in Experimental Psychology**

University of Kentucky; Lexington, Kentucky Expected graduation 2025

Current CGPA: 4.0

**BS in Psychology,** *summa cum laude* December 2021

Southern Utah University (SUU); Cedar City, Utah

CGPA: 4.0

**AA in Liberal Arts,** *summa cum laude* December 2019

American Samoa Community College (ASCC); Mapusaga, American Samoa

CGPA: 4.0

**HONORS AND AWARDS**

**Lipman Research Grant Recipient**  2024

**1st Place Psychology Department Research Symposium,** *SUU* 2021

**2nd Place Psychology Department Research Symposium,** *SUU* 2021

**Runner-Up Outstanding Student of Psychology,** *SUU* 2021

**Valedictorian Award** *(Highest GPA)***,** Pacific Islanders Student Association, *SUU* 2021

**Merit-Based: Non-Resident Transfer Founders Scholarship,** *SUU* 2019 – 2021

**Selected Build-Exito Scholar,** *NIH Initiative via Portland State University* 2019

**1st Place Essay Writing Contest**, ASCC 2019

**Highest Achieving Student,** Phi Theta Kappa, *ASCC*  2019

**Highest Achieving Student,** Political Science Club, *ASCC*  2019

**Merit-Based: American Samoa Government Scholarship**, *ASCC* 2018 – 2021

**MANUSCRIPTS/PUBLICATIONS**

1. **Fitisone**, K., Fields, C., & Keller, P. (submitted). Parent and Grandparent Problem Drinking are Related to Exposure to Family Conflict: Potential Implications for Attachment Representations
2. Maynard, C., **Fitisone, K.**, & Keller, P. (submitted). Associations Between Nonmedical Use of Prescription Stimulants, Problem Drinking, and Impulsivity Among College Students.
3. Hill. C. A., Fields, C., **Fitisone, K.**, & Keller, P. (submitted). Parental Socialization of Emotion and Academic Motivation in College Students: The Role of Emotion Regulation.
4. **Fitisone**, K. & Johnson-Pynn, J. (under revision for invited resubmission). Developmental Assets: Profile of Youth in American Samoa.
5. **Fitisone, K.,** Rawn, K., & Keller, P. (in progress). Associations Between Drinking Motives and Problem Drinking are Moderated by Skin Conductance Level.
6. **Fitisone**, K. (2022) Who in the World Am I? Exploring the relationship among National Identity, Social Support, and Wellness. *Southern Utah University Undergraduate Psychology Journal.*

**RESEARCH PRESENTATIONS**

1. **Fitisone, K.,** Fields, C., & Keller, P. (Submitted 2025, May) *Parental Problem Drinking and Parent Emotion Regulation in Response to Child Misbehavior.* Society for Research on Child Development, Minneapolis, Minnesota.
2. **Fitisone, K.**, Fields, C., & Keller, P. (Submitted 2025, May) *Sipping of Alcohol in Young Children: Results of a National Survey.* Society for Research on Child Development, Minneapolis, Minnesota.
3. Fields, C**., Fitisone, K.**,& Keller, P. (Submitted 2025, May) Associations Between Parent and Child Antisocial Behavior: Aggression in Family Relationships as a Mechanism of Risk. Society for Research on Child Development, Minneapolis, Minnesota.
4. Fields, C**. Fitisone, K**., & Keller, P. (Submitted 2025, May) Family Aggression as an Intervening Variable in Associations Between Parent and Child Antisocial Behavior Society for Research on Child Development, Minneapolis, Minnesota.
5. **Fitisone, K.,** Fields, C., Lamp, A., Lee, O., Liem, S., & Peggy K. (Submitted 2025, February). *The Role of Impulsivity in Associations Between Sleep Quality and Problem Drinking: Mediator or Moderator?* Substance Use Research Event, Lexington, Kentucky.
6. Fields, C., **Fitisone, K.,** Ferriell, D., Freeland S., Jeongho K., & Keller, P. (Submitted 2025, February). *Difficulties in Emotion Regulation as a Mechanism Through Which Parenting is Related to Problem Drinking in Young Adults.* Substance Use Research Event, Lexington, Kentucky.
7. Fields, C., **Fitisone, K.,** Harris, C., Martin, A.,& Keller, P. (Submitted 2025, February). *The Role of Parental Problem Drinking in Moderating the Impact of Interparental Conflict on Emotional Security.* Substance Use Research Event, Lexington, Kentucky.
8. Loeffler, D.N., Pope, N.D., Adesiyan, R., Akomolafe, E., Dillman, H., Fields, C., **Fitisone, K.,** Mountain, D., Rooks, D., Shahrjooihaghighi, E., & Willis-Nichols, R. (2024, October). *Natural disaster and organizational responses: Rural service provider experiences in Kentucky’s 2022 flood-affected counties*. Council on Social Work Education 70th Annual Program Meeting. Kansas City, MO.
9. Pope, N.D., Loeffler, D.N. Adesiyan, R., Akomolafe, E., Dillman, H., Fields, C., **Fitisone, K.,** Mountain, D., Rooks, D., Shahrjooihaghighi, E., & Willis-Nichols, R. (2024, October). *Engaging students as co-researchers: Implications for experiential and anti-oppressive teaching and pedagogy.* Council on Social Work Education 70th Annual Program Meeting. Kansas City, MO.
10. Kim, M., Fields, C.,**Fitisone, K.,** Matusz, D., McAweeney, K.,Sidney, P.,& Tanaka, K. (2024, June). *Demystifying the undergraduate psychology experience: Supporting the career transition for psychology majors.* Unconference session accepted for presentation at the 2024 Annual Meeting of the Society for the Improvement of Psychological Science, Nairobi, Kenya.
11. Fields, C., Matusz, D., McAweeney, K., **Fitisone, K.,** Kim, M., Sidney, P., & Tanaka, K. (2024, June). *Demystifying the undergraduate psychology experience: Supporting the career transition for psychology majors.* Unconference session presented at the 2024 Annual Meeting of the Society for the Improvement of Psychological Science, online post-event.
12. Keller, P., Rawn, K., **Fitisone, K.,** Fields, C., Ferrielle, D., & Seals, M. (2024, April). *Associations Between Mother Problem Drinking and Children’s Emotional Security are Moderated by Respiratory Sinus Arrhythmia.* Substance Use Research Event, Lexington, Kentucky.
13. **Fitisone**, K.**,** Fields, C., Connelly, C., Martin, A., Pennington, M., & Keller, P. (2024, April). *Parent and Grandparent Problem Drinking are Related to Exposure to Family Conflict: Potential Implications for Attachment Representations.* Substance Use Research Event, Lexington, Kentucky.
14. **Fitisone**, **K.**, Maynard, C., Liem, S., Kim, J., & Keller, P. (2024, April). *Associations Between Nonmedical Use of Prescription Stimulants, Problem Drinking, and Impulsivity Among College Students.* Substance Use Research Event, Lexington, Kentucky.
15. Adesiyan, R., Akomolafe, E., Dillman, H., Fields, C., **Fitisone, K.,** Mountain, D., Shahrjooihaghighi, E., &Willis-Nicholas, R. (March, 2024). *Scholarship of Teaching and Learning in Action: Example from a Qualitative Research Course.* The Kentucky Association of Social Work Educators, Lexington, Kentucky.
16. Johnson-Pynn, J. S., Tarabieh, K., El Gindi, T., Mansour, Y., Tutwiler, R., **Fitisone, K**., & Dix, K. (June, 2022) From One Desert to Another: *A Comparison of Environmental Attitudes of Egyptians and Utahns.* Annual Society of Cross-Cultural Research Meeting, San Diego, California.
17. **Fitisone**, K. & Johnson-Pynn, J.S (2021). *Developmental Assets: Profile of Youth in American Samoa.* 
    1. Presented at the SUU Psychology Department Research Symposium in Cedar City, Utah (2021).
    2. Presented at the Rocky Mountain Psychological Association Conference in Salt Lake City, Utah (2022).
    3. Presented at the American Samoa Island-Wide Youth Mental Health Summit in Mapusaga, American Samoa (2023).
18. **Fitisone**, K. & Johnson-Pynn, J.S (2021). *The Impact of Bee Conservation Field Work on Volunteers’ Experiences in Nature.*
    1. Presented at the SUU Psychology Department Research Symposium in Cedar City, Utah (2021).
    2. Presented in the Environmental Psychology Symposium at the Rocky Mountain Psychological Association Conference in Salt Lake City, Utah (2022).
19. **Fitisone**, K. (2021) *Who in the World Am I? Exploring the relationship among National Identity, Social Support, and Wellness*. Poster presentation at the Southern Utah University Psychology Department Research Symposium in Cedar City, Utah.

**RESEARCH EXPERIENCE**

**Family Alcohol Survey,** University of Kentucky Lexington, KY

*Principal Investigator*  Summer 2024

*Supervisor:* Peggy Keller Ph.D., University of Kentucky

* Funded by the Lipman Alcohol Research Grant
* Longer Title: "How Early Do Parents Introduce Children to Alcohol? A Study of the Phenomenon of Child Sipping and Its Correlates."
* This study aims to (1) provide data on the prevalence of sipping or tasting alcohol from infancy through age 10 years in the United States and the contexts (e.g., family gatherings, at meals, etc.); (2) Test associations between parental alcohol consumption/problem drinking and risk for early sipping of alcohol; and (3) Determine whether child sipping is associated with the dual process model (Wills et al., 2011; 2013) pathways to adolescent substance use.

**Families and Feelings project,** University of Kentucky Lexington, KY

*Project Director*  Feb 2024 - Present

*Supervisor:* Peggy Keller Ph.D., Professor of Psychology

* Online survey of undergraduates aimed to identify key features of self-regulation that contribute to the intergenerational transmission of substance use. Based on the Dual Process Model of Substance Use.
* Responsible for all survey related tasks including but not limited to the compilation of measures, compilation of scoring document, SPSS syntax, Qualtrics survey entry, survey quality, overseeing credit granting, timeslots for participation, survey correspondence, and assistance with the IRB application.

**Domestic Violence – Cultural Assessment Project,**  Lexington, KY

American Samoa Alliance Against Domestic and Sexual Violence Sept 2022 – July 2023

*Primary Investigator*

*Supervisor:* Jennifer Tofaeono, Executive Director of ASADSV

* The purpose of this project was to improve understanding of cultural considerations to inform best practices for service providers in American Samoa when working with survivors and victims of domestic violence from different ethnic minority groups within the territory.
* This project is supported by grant #2301ASSDVC awarded by the Office of Family Violence Prevention and Services, FVPSA program, U.S. Department of Health and Human Services.
* Data collection, management, and analysis from different ethnic minority groups (40) in American Samoa (Fijian, Tongan, Filipino) to help inform culturally relevant care for domestic violence victims in respective communities and from (15) service providers in American Samoa (across Community, Institution/Organization, Health Care, Social Services, School, Criminal Justice Sectors)
* Tasked with overseeing all project objectives and deliverables were met. These included recruitment of service providers, participants from respective ethnic groups, and translators, dissemination of information, acting as point of contact, writing reports, tracking and ensuring compensation for participants, and creation of all project documents: utilizing Qualtrics, Canva, and Powerpoint.

**Rural Grant Project,** Nuuuli, AS

American Samoa Alliance Against Domestic and Sexual Violence Sept 2022 – July 2023

*Project Specialist*

*Supervisor:* Jennifer Tofaeono, Executive Director of ASADSV

* The purpose of this project was to improve understanding on fa’afafine experiences of violence (Samoa’s indigenous third gender population) and how service providers respond to fa’afafine victims of domestic and sexual violence.
* This project is supported by grant #2020-WR-AX-0072 awarded by the Office of Violence Against Women, U.S. Department of Justice.
* Recruitment, Interviewing, and Data Management from (30) American Samoa Service Providers (across Community, Institution/Organization, Health Care, Social Services, School, Criminal Justice Sectors)
* Helped to inform outcomes of project: training Curriculum for Service Providers to serve fa’afafine victims of violence
* Assistance in written report *r*egardingassessment of service provision to non-cisgendered patients/clients (fa’afafine).
* Working closely with project evaluator for thematic analysis of data using Dedoose software
* Additional job responsibilities: article writing, public awareness: flyers, informational powerpoint slides, video creation, and other media efforts.

**Undergraduate Course Project**, Southern Utah University Cedar City, UT

*Primary Investigator*  Sept 2021- Dec 2021

*Instructor*: Michael Steele, Ph.D.

* Evaluating the Reliability and Validity of the Student Self-Efficacy Scale, Academic Success Inventory for College Students, and Modified Academic Burnout Scale.
* In charge of performing literature reviews, gathering surveying instruments, data collection, management, and analyses, all recruitment efforts, correspondence regarding the study, and in presenting the findings.

**Johnson-Pynn Lab,** Southern Utah University Cedar City, UT

*Research Assistant* June 2021- Dec 2021

*Supervisor:* Julie Johnson-Pynn Ph.D.

* Part of the editing process for a publication:
  + Johnson, R., Johnson-Pynn, J. S., Drescher, C. F., & Kleru, S. (2021). Evolving pathways to positive youth development among Maasai adolescents. *International Perspectives in Psychology.*
* Summer Internship / Research Assistant for Earthwatch Organization Project
  + Administered Surveys
  + Conducted Interviews (Photovoice/Discussion)
  + Data management & analyses of Quantitative and Qualitative data
* Developmental Assets: Profile of Youth in American Samoa in collaboration with the Search Institute

**RESEARCH SUPPORT**

* Fitisone, K. (PI). *How Early Do Parents Introduce Children to Alcohol?* 2024  
  *A Study of the Phenomenon of Child Sipping and Its Correlates.*
  + Lipman Alcohol Research Grant, University of Kentucky. $9,600.
  + Project Mentor: Peggy Keller, Ph.D.
* Research Award from UK Psych DEPT $500 2024

**REVIEWING EXPERIENCE**

* Journal of Family Relations Manuscript Reviewer 2024

**GRANT EXPERIENCE**

* (submitted, October, 2024) National Science Foundation Graduate Research Fellowship Program (NSF-GRFP), titled: **"Family Socialization of Alcohol Use from Early Childhood to Adolescence."**
* (submitted, November, 2024) White-paper submission to the Department of Defense Minerva Grant, titled: “Coping with Climate Change in American Samoa: Family, Substance Use, and the *fa’aSamoa*”

**TEACHING EXPERIENCE**

**Cognitive Processes,** University of Kentucky **Lexington, KY**

*Teaching Assistant* Spring 2025 Semester

*Supervisor:* Martin A. Knoll, Ph.D

* Work closely with students (N=9)
* Monitor the quality/completion of 12 in person lab modules to help students successfully learn
  + As a TA I will help to facilitate discussion of articles, demonstrations, complete worksheets, and review elements of APA style. I also work with groups throughout the semester and provide feedback for group research projects and presentations. I also help to oversee students’ completion of Cengage experiments.
* Overall purpose of the lab is to provide opportunities for for individualized experience with research equipment and methodology in cognitive psychology.

**Experimental Psychology Lab,** University of Kentucky Lexington, KY

*Teaching Assistant* Fall 2024 Semester

*Supervisor*: Martin A. Knoll, Ph.D.

* Independently manage 2 sections of lab (N=25 per section) for Experimental Psychology
* Monitor the quality/completion of 12 in person lab modules (worksheets/workdays) to help students learning outcomes
  + During labs students participate in discussions pertinent to course material, complete worksheets, and review elements of APA/scientific writing style. Students also had the opportunity to work in groups for a final research project and presentation.
  + At each level of the scaffolded project, extensive feedback was provided to groups
* Application of scientific methods to psychological research. Special emphasis is placed on the critical evaluation of contemporary research in experimental psychology. Particular attention is focused on the design, execution, and written report of laboratory research.

**General Psychology Lab,** University of Kentucky Lexington, KY

*Teaching Assistant* Summer 2024 Semester

*Supervisor*: Martin A. Knoll, Ph.D.

* Condensed accelerated summer online course
* Monitor the quality/completion of 10 online lab modules to help students learning outcomes:
  + Articulate the ways in which the discipline of psychology constitutes a scientific approach to understanding human behavior.
  + Identify conventional research outlets in psychology.
  + Use electronic resources to locate information.
  + Articulate and apply conventional criteria for evaluating source credibility.
  + Demonstrate a basic understanding of (simple) scientific research articles.
* Curate prompts to generate discussion with undergraduates on varied psychological topics and phenomena
* Providing feedback on assignments, and correspondence with students through offered office hours and via email.

**General Psychology Lab,** University of Kentucky Lexington, KY

*Teaching Assistant* Spring 2024 Semester

*Supervisor*: Ray Archer, Ph.D.

* Serving as TA for 130+ students across 2 sections
* Curated studying materials (Quizziz/CANVA), located and compiled supplementary materials and resources for students to master material.
* Organized and held studying sessions to help students prepare for course exams.
* Assisting the primary instructor in proctoring, grading, providing feedback on assignments, and correspondence with students through offered office hours and via email.

**General Psychology,** Eastern Kentucky University Lexington, KY

*Developmental Psychology Guest Lecturer* Oct 2023

*Supervisor:* Rachel Farr, Ph.D. & Mia Radevski, M.S.

* Served as a guest lecturer and presented a full developmental psychology lecture in a general psychology course at Eastern Kentucky University to a class of 25+ students. Additionally, I was tasked with creating quiz questions to gage student understanding.

**Developmental Psychology,** University of Kentucky Lexington, KY

*Teaching Assistant* Fall 2023 Semester

*Supervisor:* Matthew Kim, Ph.D.

* Served as TA for 200+ students in a developmental psychology course.
* Tasked with grading twice weekly assignments and providing feedback on projects and writing assignments.
* Responsible for correspondence with students through offered office hours and via email.

**General Psychology,** SUU Cedar City, UT

*Teaching Assistant*Fall 2021 Semester

*Supervisor:* Julie Johnson-Pynn, Ph.D

* Assisted students with overseeing group activities and projects
* Organized & hosted study sessions in preparation for exams
* In charge of maintenance for course Canvas shell
* Curated course feedback surveys for students to make comments, voice concerns, or suggestions related to the course
* Organized campus resource presentations for classes (Library Resources / SONA)

**Research Design/ Research Design Lab**, SUU Cedar City, UT

*Teaching Assistant*Fall 2021 Semester *Supervisor:* Julie Johnson-Pynn, Ph.D.

* Assisted a class of 26 with the IRB process, navigating Qualtrics / SONA, and with analyzing their data in SPSS.
* Assisted the class in understanding the 7th edition of the APA manual / directing them to campus resources for additional guidance on several assignments
* Organized & hosted study sessions in preparation for exams
* In charge of maintenance for course Canvas shell
* Curated course feedback surveys for students to make comments, voice concerns, or suggestions related to the course
* Organized campus resource presentations for classes (Library Resources / SONA)
* Helped edit course materials

**Senior Independent Research/ Senior Independent Research Lab**, SUU Cedar City, UT

*Teaching Assistant*Fall 2021 Semester

*Supervisor:* Julie Johnson-Pynn, Ph.D.

* Assisted senior students in understanding the 7th edition of the APA manual / directing them to campus resources for additional guidance.
* Provided feedback on submitted assignments and assisted in grading responsibilities.

**PROFESSIONAL AFFILIATIONS**

**APA,** American Psychological Association Sep, 2024

Graduate Student Member

**APAGS,** American Psychological Association of Graduate Students Sep, 2024

**Psi Chi,** *The International Honor Society in Psychology* 2021 – Present

**Phi Theta Kappa Honor Society,** 2019 – Present

*American Samoa Community College Chapter*

**PROFESSIONAL CERTIFICATIONS**

**Office of Research Integrity (ORI)**

* *Responsible Conduct of Research & Scholarly Activity (RCR)* July 2023

**Collaborative Institutional Training Initiative (CITI)**

* *Belmont Report and Its Principles Optional Module* July 2023
* *Research with Children Elective Module*  July 2023
* *Cultural Competence in Research Elective Module* July 2023
* *Social and Behavioral Certification* July 2023
* *Student Researchers Certification* Jan 2021

**EXTRA CURRICULAR ACTIVITIES / VOLUNTEER WORK**

**Neuroscientists Interested in Drug Abuse,** University of Kentucky Lexington, KY

*Member* Fall 2023 - Present

* Granted the opportunity to sit in on UK faculty or invited speakers’ presentations on research related to drug use and abuse.

**American Samoa Island Wide Youth Mental Health Summit** Mapusaga, AS

*Committee Member/Volunteer* Sept. 2022

* Tasked with assisting in the organization and structure of the summit.
* Tasked with acting as a facilitator for both youth and general public mental health summits.

**American Samoa Department of Education – Mental Health Outreach**

*Outreach Presenter, 11/22 - 12/22, 03/23 - 05/23*

* Tasked with going to various villages in American Samoa for outreach regarding mental health as an effort to reduce stigma around mental health and reduce suicide among youth throughout the territory.
* This was done in partnership with local church members and leaders.

**American Samoa Alliance Against Domestic and Sexual Violence** Nuuuli, AS

*Organization Partner* Sept. 2022 - Present

* Attending various events in American Samoa, often volunteering time to present to the public or youth specifically on issues regarding domestic and sexual violence.

**Departmental Contributions,** SUU Cedar City, UT

*Undergraduate Student of Psychology* Fall 2021

* Assisted in finding materials (articles) for the new PsyD program at SUU
* Created flier guides for the SUU Psychology department for instructions regarding the production and printing of Symposium/Conference Posters

**Psi Chi Chapter**, SUU Cedar City, UT

*Psi Chi Volunteer* Fall 2021

* Volunteer time to mentor younger students majoring in psychology in maximizing opportunities for professional development.

**Pacific Islanders Student Association,** SUU Lexington, KY

*Member* Spring 2020 – Fall 2021

* Volunteer time and talents to support local pacific islander events or showcases throughout the state of Utah.

**Phi Theta Kappa Honor Society,** ASCC Mapusaga, AS

*Member* Fall 2019

* Volunteer time for fundraising for local hospital and hospice occupants.

**Political Science Club,** ASCC Mapusaga, AS

*Member* Spring 2019 – Fall 2019

* Engaging in community through service via clean ups and in discussions with local politicians about legislation and civil responsibilities.

**Health Occupations Students of America,** ASCC Mapusaga, AS

*Chapter President* Fall 2019

* Responsible for coordination, organization, and execution of all events including mental health awareness efforts and outreach (schoolwide and island wide).
* Networking and partnering with health services and allied health organizations throughout the territory for presentations to students for opportunities for shadowing, interning, demonstration, training, or inquiring.

**ADDITIONAL RESPONSIBILITIES**

**Developmental, Social, Health Ph.D. Program,** University of KentuckyLexington, KY

*Graduate Student*Fall 2023 - Present

*Supervisor:* Peggy Keller, Ph.D.

* Active member of the program by attending job talks, teaching lunches, department colloquiums, weekly professional development presentations, other department-hosted events and volunteering (panels, proctoring).

**Keller Lab,** University of KentuckyLexington, KY

*Graduate Student - Lab – Co-Manager* Fall 2023-Present

*Supervisor:* Peggy Keller, Ph.D.

* Share responsibility for recruiting and managing PSY 394 and 395 undergraduate students (10) who join the lab for a grade or for credit.
* Responsible for creation and maintenance of the Keller Lab website. Facilitate weekly meetings over the semester to discuss relevant information and involve students in conferences, publications, internships, data cleaning, trainings, certifications, research endeavors, data collection, data entry, lab duties, graduate school application processes, assisting with letters of support, and other professional development opportunities.
* We are ultimately invested in the success of our undergraduate lab members.

**TECHNICAL SKILLS/OTHER**

* **Statistical/Data software:** SPSS, R Studio, Dedoose, G\*Power
* **Survey/Database creation software:** Qualtrics XM, SurveyMonkey, Prolific, Descript
* **Reference management software:** Zotaro
* **Microsoft software:** Word, Excel, Teams, and PowerPoint
* **Psychophysiological software:** Mindware: BioLab, EDA (scl), HRV (RSA)
* **Other software:** Canva, Zoom, OneDrive, Google Drive, and Drop Box

**National Conferences Frequented by the Keller Lab**

* Society for Research on Adolescence (SRA)
* Society for Research on Child Development (SRCD)