Zachary Melton
Telephone: 757-470-9903
Email: zmelto2@uic.edu

Education

- 2018-Present: PhD student in Social Psychology at the University of Illinois-Chicago.
- 2015-2018: Masters of Arts degree in Social Psychology at the University of Illinois-Chicago. Cumulative GPA: 4.0
- 2011-2015: Bachelor of Arts degree in Psychology and Government with Distinction, University of Virginia. Cumulative GPA: 3.612.

Experience

- February 2019-Present: Social Psychology PhD student in the Music, Action, and Dynamics (MAD) Lab.
    - Focus: How synchrony in identity-relevant contexts affects behavior
    - Skills acquired: ability to quantify synchrony through motion capture, ability to conduct time-series and recurrence quantification analyses.
- August 2016- February 2019: Research consultant for CivilPolitcs.org.
    - Skills acquired: ability to coordinate between several partner organizations, ability to deliver statistical assessments of political civility interventions and communicate the results to non-experts, hands on experience conducting qualitative interventions to increase intellectual humility/decrease political hostility.
- August 2015-Februrary 2019: Social Psychology PhD student in the Social Ecology, Ideology, and Conflict (SIC) Lab.
    - Skills acquired: ability to learn advanced coding and analytic techniques on the fly to produce deliverables, ability to conduct original research, knowledge of text analytic techniques, experience with Streaming APIs and more advanced programming techniques, experience managing a team of research assistants.
- September 2014-May 2015: Distinguished Major in the Oishi Lab specifically working with Thomas Talhelm at the University of Virginia.
    - Skills acquired: ability to run an independent research project, experience in data mining and programming, efficiency in meeting deadlines.
- January 2013-May 2014: Research Assistant in the Implicit Social Cognition Lab working directly with Matt Motyl and Jon Haidt at the University of Virginia.
    - Skills acquired: ability to moderate and contribute to civil political discussions, strength with video recording software, experience coding nonverbal behavior, experience transcribing political discussions between participants and confederates, experience with text analysis, ability to coordinate others in order to reach a deadline, experience with the analysis and interpretation of data.
- July 2013: Research Assistant in the Social Cognition and Behavior Lab for Sophie Trawalter at the University of Virginia.
    - Skills acquired: ability to code data, expertise of Google Documents and other collaborative software used in order to achieve a common goal.

Publications

Melton, Z., & Motyl, M. (2018). Segregation and belief polarization as boundary conditions for when fusion leads to self-sacrifice. *Behavioral and Brain Sciences, 41*, E211. doi:10.1017/S0140525X1800170X

Frimer, J. A., Brandt, M. J., **Melton, Z.,** & Motyl, M. (2018). Extremists on the left and right use angry, negative language. *Personality and Social Psychology Bulletin*, 0146167218809705.

Skitka, L.J., Mueller. A.B., Wei, K.Y., **Melton, Z.J.** (invited revision). The Gender Gap: Who is (and is not) Included on Graduate Level Syllabi in Social/Personality Psychology.

Melton, Z.J. and Demos, A. (In prep). *Synchrony as Social Information: How Synchrony in Musical Context Binds People Together.*

Washburn, A. N., Hanson, B. E., Motyl, M., Skitka, L. J., Yantis, C., Wong, K. M., Sun, J., Prims, J.P., Mueller, A.B., **Melton, Z.J.,** & Carsel, T. S. (2018). Why Do Some Psychology Researchers Resist Adopting Proposed Reforms to Research Practices? A Description of Researchers' Rationales. *Advances in Methods and Practices in Psychological Science*, 2515245918757427.

Motyl, M., Demos, A. P., Carsel, T. S., Hanson, B. E., **Melton, Z. J**., Mueller, A. B., Prims, J. P., Sun, J., Washburn, A. N., Wong, K. M., Yantis, C. A., & Skitka, L. J. (2016). The state of social and personality science: Rotten to the core, not so bad, getting better, or getting worse? *Journal of Personality and Social Psychology,* 113(1), 34.

Prims, J. P., **Melton, Z. J.**, & Motyl, M. (2017). Tweeting Morals in the 2016 Election. Why Irrational Politics Appeals: Understanding the Allure of Trump, 171-189.

Awards
- Class of 2011 Valedictorian of Floyd E. Kellam High School.
- Member of the Distinguished Majors Program in the University of Virginia Psychology Department 2014-2015.
- Dr. T. Ross Kazakis Memorial Scholarship, 2017.
- Best Graduate Poster Winner at the University of Illinois-Chicago Cross Program Conference for *Where We Live Affects What We Feel about Political Candidates*, 2018.
- Department of Graduate Studies Travel Award, Spring 2019.

Research Presentations
- **Melton, Z.J**., Talhelm, T. (2014). *The Expression of Analytic Thought Through Language in Residentially Mobile Areas.* Talk given at the L. Starling Reid Undergraduate Research Conference
- **Melton, Z.J.** (2015). *Linguistic Analysis Made Easier with TACIT*. Talk given at the University of Illinois-Chicago.
- **Melton, Z.J.** (2016). *Emotional Expression in Ideological Misfits.* Talk given at the University of Illinois-Chicago.
- **Melton, Z.J.** (2016). *Misfit Malaise: Ideological Misfit Decreases Happiness*. Talk given at the University of Illinois-Chicago.

- **Melton, Z.J.** and Motyl, M. (2016). *Absence Makes the Heart Grow Hostile: Ideological Enclavement Increases Political Hostility.* Poster presented at the Society for Personality and Social Psychology Conference.
- **Melton, Z.J.** (2017). *When the Going Gets Tough, the Tough Get Tweeting: How (And for Whom) Language Changed Leading up to the 2016 Election*. Talk given at the University of Illinois-Chicago.
- **Melton, Z.J.** and Motyl, M. (2018). *Where We Live Affects What We Feel about Political Candidates*. Poster presented at the Society for Personality and Social Psychology Conference and the University of Illinois-Chicago Cross Program Conference.
- **Melton, Z.J.** and Motyl, M. (2019). *Do Ideological Misfits Find Fit Online? One Explanation for Selective Exposure*. Poster presented at the Society for Personality and Social Psychology. Given as a talk at the University of Illinois-Chicago brownbag lunch, the University of Illinois-Chicago Cross Program Conference, and the Heterodox Psychology Conference at Chapman University.
- **Melton, Z.J.** and Demos, A. (2020). *Synchrony as Social Information: How Synchrony in Musical Context Binds People Together.* Poster presented at the Society for Personality and Social Psychology..

Additional Qualifications: Programming, Writing, and Data Analysis

- Advanced proficiency in the programming language R, R-studio.
- Advanced proficiency in using predictive modeling (i.e. regression, multi-level modeling, time series analyses) to address both academic and industry oriented questions.
- Experience with the programming language Python.
- Experience using Jupyter notebooks for sharing/recording code.
- Experience with SQL databases.
- Data mining, cleaning, and preprocessing experience using R-studio.
- Experience working with Twitter API interface.
- Expertise using advanced text analytic and machine learning techniques (i.e. support vector machines, latent semantic analysis, latent dirichlet allocation) to draw inferences from user generated text
- Strong professional writing, data analysis, and research consulting background obtained through PhD coursework and publishing academic articles.
- Experience with Microsoft Office.
- Experience with the statistical software SPSS.