

## **Sydney Michelle Loewen**

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### **Education**

Graduate Student in Health Psychology, PhD expected 2015, University of California Merced, Merced, CA; studying Health Psychology; GPA 3.83

B.S., 2009, University of California Merced, Merced, CA; major in Biological Sciences, minor in Psychology; GPA 3.376

### **Research Interests**

My main research interest is in how adolescents make decisions related to their sexual health. This includes examining perceptions of sexual risks (e.g. sexually transmitted infections) and uncovering gender and ethnic differences in negotiating safe-sex behaviors.

### **Honors and Awards**

- Psychological Sciences Summer and Research/Travel Support Fellowship, University of California, Merced, Summer 2014, Reward amount: \$4,105
- Psychological Sciences Summer and Research/Travel Support Fellowship, University of California, Merced, Summer 2013, Reward amount: \$7,070
- Center of Excellence on Health Disparities Graduate Research Training Program, University of California, Merced, 2011-2012, Reward amount: \$16,706.52
- Deans Honor List: Spring 2007, Fall 2007, Fall 2008

### **Manuscripts in Preparation**

1. Loewen, S. M. & Song, A. V. (in prep.). Perceptions of sexually transmitted diseases (STDs) and unintended pregnancy: Changes in prevalence estimates across anchored reference points.
2. Loewen, S. M. & Song, A. V. (in prep.). Perceptions of contracting sexually transmitted infections (STIs) among low and high risk sexual behavior individuals are related to testing intentions.

### **Conference Presentations**



1. Mendiola, J., **Loewen, S. M.**, Alexander, C. B., McClure, S., & Song, A. V. (2014, February). *Condom use in romantic and casual relationships: Adolescent's perception of risk and worry over sexually transmitted infections*. Poster presented at the 15th annual meeting of the Society for Personality and Social Psychology, Austin, TX.
2. **Loewen, S. M.**, Butler, M., & Song, A. V. (2013, March). *Perceptions of contracting sexually transmitted infections (STIs) among low and high risk sexual behavior individuals are related to testing intentions*. Poster to be presented at the 34<sup>th</sup> Annual meeting and scientific sessions of the Society of Behavioral Medicine, San Francisco, CA.
3. Clifton, J. P., **Loewen, S. M.**, Depaoli, S., & Song, A. V. (2013, March). *Characterizing smoking cessation maintenance among former smokers: A latent class analysis*. Poster to be presented at the 34<sup>th</sup> Annual meeting and scientific sessions of the Society of Behavioral Medicine, San Francisco, CA.
4. **Loewen, S. M.**, Huang, J., Butler, M., & Song, A. V. (2012, April). *Perceptions of sex-related consequences: Prevalence estimates across reference points*. Poster presented at the 92<sup>nd</sup> annual meeting of the Western Psychological Association, San Francisco, CA.
5. **Loewen, S. M.** & Song, A. V. (2012, January). *Perceptions of sexually transmitted diseases (STDs) and unintended pregnancy: Changes in prevalence estimates across anchored reference points*. Poster presented at the 13<sup>th</sup> annual meeting of the Society for Personality and Social Psychology, San Diego, CA.

### Experience

*Research Assistant*, Alliance for Community Research and Development, Merced CA

Under Dr. Stergios Roussos, June 2009-August 2010

Collected, organized, and analyzed community data, prepared grants and performed program evaluation support

*Research Assistant*, Natural Sciences, University of California Merced

Under Dr. Monica Medina, Fall 2006—Fall 2007

Performed genetic analysis on coral symbionts to study the effects of coral bleaching

### Instrumentation Experience

- DNA extraction
- Media preparation
- Gel electrophoresis
- Hemacytometry
- RFLP analysis
- Nanodrop
- Polymerase Chain Reaction (PCR)
- Microscopy



## **Memberships**

- Society of Behavioral Medicine (SBM), 2013
- Western Psychological Association (WPA), 2012
- Society for Personality and Social Psychology (SPSP), 2011-2012
- Graduate Student Representative, Junior Health Psychology Hiring Committee, University of California, Merced, 2012
- American Cancer Society/Relay for Life, Survivor Chair, 2010

## **Co-Curricular Activities**

- Tutor, Natural Sciences, University of California Merced, Spring 2009; assisted students in Anatomy
- Volunteer, Valley Crisis Center, Merced CA, August 2008, provided office support

## **Research Projects**

- 2010-present    Perceptions of sexually transmitted diseases (STDs) and unintended pregnancy: Changes in prevalence estimates across anchored reference points
- 2012-present    Race/Ethnicity, Socioeconomic Status, and Smoking-Related Health Disparities Meta-Analysis
- 2012-present    Perceptions of contracting sexually transmitted infections (STIs) among low and high risk sexual behavior individuals are related to testing intentions

## **Graduate Coursework**

Research Design and Methodology (A)  
Health Behavior Decisions (A-)  
Advanced Psychological Statistics I (A)  
Health Psychology (A-)  
Advanced Psychological Statistics II (A)  
Special Topics Study Course: Dual Processing (A-)  
Professional Seminar I (A-)  
Linear Structural Modeling (A)  
Health Disparities (A-)  
Professional Seminar II (A)  
Health Services/Public Health (A-)  
Longitudinal Data Analysis (B+)

