

Scott Benson

Objective

To fill gaps in knowledge of how individual differences help to maintain the structure of animal social groups, particularly where populations depend on within and between-species behavioral differences to adapt to changing environments.

Education

DOCTORAL PROGRAM | UNIVERSITY OF TENNESSEE

- Major: Experimental Psychology
- Graduated Summer 2024

BACHELORS | FALL 2013 | MIDDLE TENNESSEE STATE UNIVERSITY

- Major: Psychology
- Minors: Behavioral Research, Information Systems

Dissertation

“Behavioral Diversity in Mixed-Species Flocks” – How do behaviorally and species diverse flocks distribute foraging solutions to the group, and which personality types are most likely to learn from or demonstrate new behaviors to their flockmates?

Publications

Freeberg TM, Benson SA, & Burghardt GM (2024) Minimizing observer bias in behavioral studies revisited: improvement, but a long way to go. *Ethology*.

Benson SA, Kelly JR, Kullberg C, Krama T, Vrublevska J, Krams I, & Freeberg TM (2022) Graded-risk sensitivity in northern European mixed-species flocks of tit and nuthatch species. *Ethology*.

Kelly JR and Benson SA (2020) Inconsistent Ethical Regulation of Larval Zebrafish in Research. *Lab Animal*.

Freeberg TM, Coppinger BA, and Benson SA (2019) Signal Reliability. *Encyclopedia of Evolutionary Psychological Science*.

Brinthaup TM, Benson SA, Kang M and Moore ZD (2015) Assessing the accuracy of self-reported self-talk. *Front. Psychol*.

Presentations

Benson, S. (2024, June). *Asocial testing of social species: stress-testing the ecological validity of our animal behavior assays*. Study presented at the Animal Behavior Society Conference “ABS2024.” London, ON.

Benson, S. (2024, March). *Asocial testing of social species: stress-testing the ecological validity of our animal behavior assays*. Study presented at the Center for the Integrative Study of Animal Behavior Conference “ABC2024.” Bloomington, IN.

Benson, S. (2022, July). *Boldness Syndromes in Mixed-Species Flocks of Songbirds*. Study

presented at the Animal Behavior Society Conference “ABS2022.” San Jose, Costa Rica.

Benson, S., & Brinthaup, T. M. (2014, March). *Developing and Implementing a URECA Project: Behavioral Validation of the Self-Talk Scale*. Poster presented at the MTSU College of Behavioral and Health Sciences Scholars Day Event. Murfreesboro, TN.

Benson, S., Strachan, T., and Driver, J. (2013, April). *The Mediating Effects of Abstract Reasoning Ability on Mathematics Anxiety when Measuring Mathematical Performance*. Study presented at the Middle Tennessee Psychology Association Conference. Murfreesboro, TN.

Grants and Awards

STUDENT FACULTY RESEARCH AWARD (UTK) | 2022-2023

EURECA GRANT FOR UNDERGRADUATE RESEARCH | 2013-2014

RUTH HINDMAN FOUNDATION SCHOLAR | 2010-2011

Teaching Experience

INSTRUCTOR

- Visiting Professor at Roger Williams University: 2024-2025 Academic Year
- Instructor of Research Methods in Psychology at University of Tennessee: Summer 2020 to Present
 - Both online and in-person experience
 - Synchronous and Asynchronous sections
 - Flipped classroom and traditional lecture pedagogy experience
- Adjunct Professor at Tennessee Wesleyan University
 - Cognitive Psychology Fall 2022
 - Intro Psychology Fall 2022
- Associate-level Certification from the Center for the Integration of Research, Teaching, and Learning (CIRTL)

TEACHING ASSISTANT

- Graduate student teaching assistant in Research Methods, Animal Communication, Intro to Psychology, Psychology of Motivation.
- Departmental tutor (psychology).

DIGITAL MARKETING TUTOR & CONSULTANT

- One-on-one instruction with business owners, CEO's, upper management, and marketing team members for a ~2month course in Social Media Marketing using my own adaptive curriculum. (2014-2015)

Outreach

YOUTH MENTOR

- Boys and Girls Club & The Richard L. Bean Juvenile Detention Center 2019-2020