



Dena M. Abbott

Department of Educational Psychology
dabbott5@unl.edu

EDUCATIONAL HISTORY

Ph.D. Counseling Psychology (APA-Accredited) August 2017

Texas Woman's University, Denton, Texas

Predoctoral Internship (APA-Accredited)

University of Utah University Counseling Center

M.A. Professional Counseling August 2012

Texas Wesleyan University, Fort Worth, Texas

B.A. Psychology August 2006

Austin College, Sherman, Texas

PROFESSIONAL APPOINTMENTS

Assistant Professor of Counseling Psychology Fall 2020 to present

Field Placement Coordinator

University of Nebraska – Lincoln, Department of Educational Psychology

Advanced Practicum (EDPS 997G)

Practicum in Counselor Supervision & Consultation (EDPS 997E)

Sex-Positivity, Diverse Sexualities, and Professional Psychology (EDPS 986)

Advanced Counseling Psychology I: Theory & Practice (EDPS 976)

Assistant Professor of Counseling Psychology Fall 2017 to Spring 2020

Louisiana Tech University, Department of Psychology & Behavioral Sciences

PROFESSIONAL LICENSURE & CERTIFICATION

Licensed Psychologist (#1017), *Nebraska State Board of Examiners of Psychologists*

Certified Sexuality Educator, *American Association of Sexuality Educators, Counselors, and Therapists*

GRANTS

John Templeton Foundation Under review

Project Leader

Secularization and Religious Abuse:

Promoting Well-Being and Psychological Healing

\$986,282.00

Explaining Atheism, Queens University Belfast June 2022

Co-Principal Investigator

Unbelief Within Marginalized Communities

\$173,410.00

Layman Seed Program Grant, University of Nebraska – Lincoln <i>Principal Investigator</i> Promoting Women’s Sexual Wellness Using Comprehensive, Rights-Based Adult Sexuality Education \$9,900.00	July 2022
Faculty Seed Grant, University of Nebraska – Lincoln <i>Principal Investigator</i> Exploring the Psychological Well-Being of Diverse U.S.-Based Atheists \$10,000.00	December 2020
Living Well Foundation <i>Principal Investigator</i> Affordable Psychological Testing in Lincoln Parish \$19,500.00	November 2019
ARPA, Behavioral Health Education Center of Nebraska <i>Co-Principal Investigator</i> Supervisory and Training Supports for UNL Counseling Psychology \$57,645.00	Not funded
Scholarship of Teaching and Learning Research Grant <i>Co-Principal Investigator</i> Educator Cultural Humility and Student/Faculty Relational Alliance \$2,550.00	Not funded
American Psychological Foundation <i>Principal Investigator</i> Division 17 Counseling Psychology Grant \$1,462.99	Not funded
National Institutes of Health <i>Collaborator</i> R15 Academic Research Enhancement Award (AREA) “Temporal dynamics of suicide risk in LGBT youth online communities” \$404,063	Not funded
Living Well Foundation <i>Principal Investigator</i> “Providing Mental Health Services to LGBT-Identified Community Members of Northeast Louisiana” \$1,800.00	Partially funded

PEER-REVIEWED PUBLICATIONS

1. **Abbott, D. M.**, Nguyen, R.*, Bohmer, C.*, Myers, M. L.*, Boyles, J. A.*, & Mercier, C. M. (2023). The us in uterus: A collaborative autoethnography of psychologists advocating for reproductive justice [Special issue]. *Psychology of Women Quarterly*. Advance online publication. <https://doi.org/10.1177/03616843231166375>
2. **Abbott, D. M.**, & Santiago, H.* (2023). Rural atheists in the United States: A critical grounded theory investigation. *Journal of Counseling Psychology*. Advance online publication. <https://doi.org/10.1037/cou0000671>
3. **Abbott, D. M.**, Vargas, J.*, & Santiago, H.* (2022). Sexuality training for counseling psychologists: A mixed method study of student perspectives. *Journal of Counseling Psychology*, 70(1), 52-66. <https://doi.org/10.1037/cou0000641>
4. **Abbott, D. M.**, & Anaya, E. J.* (2022). "Breaking free": A grounded theory study of atheist women in the United States. *Psychology of Women Quarterly*, 46(4), 501-517. <https://doi.org/10.1177/03616843221115338>
5. Mercier, C.*, **Abbott, D. M.**, & Ternes, M. (2022). Coping matters: An examination of Black Americans' coping with the COVID-19 pandemic [Special issue]. *The Counseling Psychologist*, 50(3), 384-414. <https://doi.org/10.1177/00110000211069598>
6. Yeatts, P., **Abbott, D. M.**, & Mollen, D. (2022). The development and validation of a measure of atheist outness. *Journal of Religion & Health*, 61, 3525-3541. <https://doi.org/10.1007/s10943-021-01465-6>
7. **Abbott, D. M.**, Mollen, D., Boyles, J.*, & Anaya, E. J.* (2021). Hidden in plain sight: Low-income and working-class atheists. *Journal of Counseling Psychology*, 69(1), 37-50. <https://doi.org/10.1037/cou0000562>
8. Mollen, D., & **Abbott, D. M.** (2021). Sexuality as a competency: Advancing training to serve the public. *Training and Education in Professional Psychology*, 16(3), 280-286. <https://doi.org/10.1037/tep0000378>
9. **Abbott, D. M.** (2021). Psychotherapy with the nonreligious: A relational cultural approach. *Professional Psychology: Research and Practice*, 52(5), 470-476. <https://doi.org/10.1037/pro0000392>
10. **Abbott, D. M.**, & Franks, A. S. (2021). Coping with COVID-19: An examination of the role of (non)religiousness/(non)spirituality. *Journal of Religion & Health*. Advance online publication. <https://doi.org/10.1007/s10943-021-01284-9>

11. **Abbott, D. M.**, Mollen, D., Anaya, E.*, Burnes, T., Jones, M.*, & Rukus, V.* (2021). Providing sexuality training for psychologists: The role of predoctoral internship sites. *American Journal of Sexuality Education*, 16 (2), 161-180.
<https://doi.org/10.1080/15546128.2021.1892555>
12. **Abbott, D. M.**, Franks, A., Cook, C., & Mercier, C.* (2021). (Non)religious coping with a natural disaster in a rural U.S. community. *Secularism and Nonreligion*, 10(1), 1-14. <https://doi.org/10.5334/snr.139>
13. **Abbott, D. M.**, Ternes, M., Mercier, C.*, & Monceaux, C.* (2020). Anti-atheist discrimination, outness, and psychological distress among atheists of colour. *Mental Health, Religion, and Culture*, 23(10), 874-887.
<https://doi.org/10.1080/13674676.2020.1858771>
14. Monceaux, C.*, Wilcox, M. M., & **Abbott, D. M.** (2020). The role of moral reasoning and attitudes regarding bisexuality in the development of bisexual counseling competence. *Psychology of Sexual Orientation & Gender Diversity*, 8(4), 472-486.
<https://doi.org/10.1037/sgd0000433>
15. **Abbott, D. M.**, Mollen, D., Mercier, C.*, Anaya, E. J.*, & Rukus, V. A.* (2020). "Isn't atheism a White thing?": Centering the voices of atheists of color. *Journal of Counseling Psychology*, 67(3), 275-287. <https://doi.org/10.1037/cou0000399>
16. Mollen, D., Burnes, T., Lee, S., & **Abbott, D. M.** (2020). Sexuality training in counseling psychology. *Counselling Psychology Quarterly*, 33(3), 375-392.
<https://doi.org/10.1080/09515070.2018.1553146>
17. **Abbott, D. M.**, Pelc, N., & Mercier, C.* (2019). Cultural humility and the teaching of psychology. *Scholarship of Teaching and Learning in Psychology*, 5(2), 169-181.
<https://doi.org/10.1037/stl0000144>
18. Liang, C., **Abbott, D. M.**, Hong, Y., Madadi, M., & White, A. (2019, July 26-31). Clustering help-seeking behaviors in LGBT online communities: A prospective trial. In G. Meiselwitz (Ed.), *Social computing and social media: Design, human behavior, and analytics*, 21st International Conference on Human-Computer Interaction, 11578. Springer.
https://doi.org/10.1007/978-3-030-21902-4_25
19. **Abbott, D. M.**, & Mollen, D. (2018). Atheism as a concealable stigmatized identity: Outness, anticipated stigma, and well-being. *The Counseling Psychologist*, 46(6), 685-707. <https://doi.org/10.1177/0011000018792669>
20. **Abbott, D. M.**, Harris, J. E., & Mollen, D. (2016). The impact of religious commitment on women's sexual self-esteem. *Sexuality and Culture*, 20(4), 1063-1082.
<https://doi.org/10.1007/s12119-016-9374-x>

BOOK CHAPTERS

1. Boyles, J.*, & **Abbott, D. M.** (2022). Consensually non-monogamous families and their children. In M. D. Vaughn, & T. Burnes (Eds.), *Handbook of clinical practice with consensually non-monogamous clients*. Rowman & Littlefield Publishers.
2. Pelc, N., & **Abbott, D. M.** (2018). Sexuality in couples. In J. L. Lebow, A. L. Chambers, & D. C. Breunlin (Eds.), *Encyclopedia of Couple and Family Therapy*. Springer International Publishing.
3. **Abbott, D. M.**, & Mollen, D. (2017). Sexual disorders and gender. In K. Nadal (Ed.), *The SAGE Encyclopedia of Psychology and Gender*. Sage Publications, Inc.
4. **Abbott, D. M.**, Pelc, N., & Mollen, D. (2016). Toward a human rights agenda: Social issues that have shaped psychology in the United States. In W. Woody, R. Miller, & W. Wozniak (Eds.), *Psychological specialties in historical context: Enriching the classroom experience for teachers and students* (pp. 232-254). <http://teachpsych.org/ebooks/>

BOOK REVIEWS

1. Mollen, D., & **Abbott, D. M.** (2018). Book review: Becoming cliterate: Why orgasm equality matters – and how to get it. *Psychology of Women Quarterly*, 42, 251-252. <https://doi.org/10.1177/0361684317751338>

MANUSCRIPTS IN PROGRESS

1. Myers, M. L.*, **Abbott, D. M.**, & Koziol, N. (Preparing for submission). Social class, anti-atheist discrimination, and psychological well-being.
2. **Abbott, D. M.**, & Reichenberg, R. (Preparing for submission). Understanding the psychological health of atheist women using a concealable stigmatized identity framework.
3. **Abbott, D. M.**, & Reichenberg, R. (Preparing for submission). Atheism as a concealable stigmatized identity and psychological well-being among rural U.S. Americans.
4. **Abbott, D. M.**, Bohmer, C.*, Nguyen, R.*, Myers, M. L.*, & Boyles, J. A.* (Data collection). Using adult sexuality education to promote sex-positive attitudes among woman-identified college students.
5. **Abbott, D. M.**, & Brewster, M. E. (Data collection). Unbelief within marginalized communities (7 manuscripts planned).

PROFESSIONAL PRESENTATIONS & CONFERENCE PROCEEDINGS

1. **Abbott, D. M.**, Lim, S.*, & Chin, M. Y. (2023, August 3). Fostering communitarianism and liberation-centered training in health service psychology. In Chin, M. Y. (Chair), *All for Us: Enacting Liberatory and Community-centered Practices in Counseling Psychology* [Symposium]. American Psychological Association Annual Convention, Washington, DC, United States.
2. Mercier, C., & **Abbott, D. M.** (2023, August 3). What's the beef with veg*ns: A qualitative investigation of anti-veg*n stigma. [Poster presentation]. American Psychological Association Annual Convention, Washington, DC, United States.
3. **Abbott, D. M.** (2022, November 18). The importance of sexuality competence for health service psychologists [Training]. Nebraska Internship Consortium in Professional Psychology.
4. **Abbott, D. M.** (2022, August 18). Sex-positive interventions for health service professionals and referrals to sex therapists. [Training] University of Nebraska Lincoln Student Health Center.
5. Vargas, J. E.*, Santiago, H., & **Abbott, D. M.** (2022, August 6). Human sexuality training in counseling psychology: Student perspectives [Poster presentation]. American Psychological Association Annual Convention, Minneapolis, MN.
6. Bohmer, C.*, Myers, M.*, & **Abbott, D. M.** (2022, August 4). Women's pleasure advocacy across (non)religiousness [Poster presentation]. American Psychological Association Annual Convention, Minneapolis, MN.
7. Yeatts, P. E., **Abbott, D. M.**, & Mollen, D. (2022, August 4). Development and evaluation of the atheist identity concealment scale (AICS) [Poster presentation]. American Psychological Association Annual Convention, Minneapolis, MN.
8. **Abbott, D. M.** (2022, May 18). An introduction to sexuality competence for mental health professionals [Invited talk]. SexEd Lectures Series, Online.
9. **Abbott, D. M.** (2022, March 20). Atheists in the U.S.: The role of Christian dominance in psychological well-being [Invited talk]. Freedom From Religion Foundation Cincinnati Metro Chapter, Online.
10. **Abbott, D. M.**, Bohmer, C.*, Myers, M. L.*, & Anaya, E. J.* (2022, February 24). *Sexual and reproductive health equity as liberation* [Symposium]. 39th Annual Winter Roundtable Conference in Psychology and Education, Online.

11. Boyles, J.*, Bohmer, C.*, Ngyuen, R.*, & **Abbott, D. M.** (2022, February 25). *Liberation-centered sexuality education* [Roundtable]. 39th Annual Winter Roundtable Conference in Psychology and Education, Online.
12. **Abbott, D. M.** (2021, November 19). The importance of sexuality competence for health service psychologists [Training]. Nebraska Internship Consortium in Professional Psychology.
13. Bradshaw, L., Dyer, R., Boyles, J.*, & **Abbott, D. M.** (2021, August 12-15). From academia to the public sector: Making sex-positivity more inclusive [Poster presentation]. American Psychological Association Annual Convention, Online.
14. Mercier, C. *, Ternes, M., & **Abbott, D. M.** (2021, August 12-15). The cumulative stress of being Black and now this, too: How Black Americans cope during COVID-19 [Poster presentation]. American Psychological Association Annual Convention, Online.
15. **Abbott, D. M.**, Mollen, D., & Boyles, J.* (2020, August 6-8). The experiences of low-income and working class atheists. In D. M. Abbott (Chair), *Highlighting social class and classism in counseling psychology research* [Symposium]. American Psychological Association Annual Convention, Washington, DC, United States.
16. Mercier, C.*, Monceaux, C.*, **Abbott, D. M.**, & Ternes, M. (2020, August 6-8). *Experienced discrimination, outness, and psychological distress among atheists of color* [Poster presentation]. American Psychological Association Annual Convention, Washington, DC, United States.
17. Mollen, D., **Abbott, D. M.**, Mintz, L., Nummerdor, K., & Dyer, R. (2020, July 14). *Infusing sex-positive in counseling psychology research, training, and practice* [Webinar]. American Psychological Association Division 17's Building a Counseling Psychology of Liberation Webinar Series.
https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=dcVHAkW_orY
18. Anaya, E. J.*, & **Abbott, D. M.** (2020, March 5-8). *The impact of sexual self-esteem on academic performance among college women with sexual victimization* [Poster presentation]. Association for Women in Psychology Annual Convention, Austin, TX, United States.
19. **Abbott, D. M.**, Mollen, D., Mercier, C.*, Anaya, E. J.*, & Rukus, V. A.* (2019, August 8-11). "Isn't atheism a White thing?": Centering the voices of atheists of color. In J. S. Sawyer (Chair), *Atheist research in psychology: Current trends and future directions* [Symposium]. American Psychological Association Annual Convention, Chicago, IL, United States.

20. **Abbott, D. M.**, Mollen, D., Burnes, T., & Lee-Hodges, S. (2019, August 8-11). *Sexuality training in counseling psychology* [Poster presentation]. American Psychological Association Annual Convention, Chicago, IL, United States.
21. Mercier, C.*, & **Abbott, D. M.** (2019, August 8-11). *What's faith got to do with it?: Gendered racism and religious coping* [Poster presentation]. American Psychological Association Annual Convention, Chicago, IL, United States.
22. Monceaux, C.*, Lantz, M. M., & **Abbott, D. M.** (2019, August 8-11). *The relationship between bisexual counseling competence, moral reasoning, and attitudes* [Poster presentation]. American Psychological Association Annual Convention, Chicago, IL, United States.
23. Squyres, E. R.*, & **Abbott, D. M.** (2019, July 26-27). *Fatitudes: Could psychological flexibility mediate the relationship between anti-fat attitudes and psychological distress?* [Paper presentation]. Biannual Conference of the Louisiana-Mississippi Association for Contextual Behavioral Science.
24. **Abbott, D. M.**, Craney, R. S., & Hutchison, A. N. (2018, August 9-12). *#metoo: Sexual harassment in academic settings* [Roundtable discussion]. Division 17's Section for Advancement of Women, American Psychological Association Annual Convention, San Francisco, CA, United States.
25. **Abbott, D. M.** & Pelc, N. (2018, August 9-12). *Cultural humility in psychological research and pedagogy* [Poster presentation]. American Psychological Association Annual Convention, San Francisco, CA, United States.
26. Rodriguez, Y., Datchi, C., Pelc, N., & **Abbott, D. M.** (2018, February 23-24). *Advancing women's careers in academia: Gender, power, and privilege* [Roundtable]. 35th Annual Winter Roundtable on Cultural Psychology and Education, New York, NY, United States.
27. **Abbott, D. M.** (2017, April). *Secular and religious people navigating relationships* [Panel discussion]. Secular Student Alliance, University of Utah, Salt Lake City, UT, United States.
28. **Abbott, D. M.**, & Harris, J. (2015, November). *Becoming a more integrative therapist: An introduction to multitheoretical psychotherapy* [Workshop]. Texas Psychological Association Annual Convention, San Antonio, Texas, United States.
29. **Abbott, D. M.**, & Harris, J. (2015, August 6-9). *The impact of religious commitment on the sexual self-esteem of women* [Poster presentation]. American Psychological Association Annual Convention, Toronto, Ontario, Canada.

30. **Abbott, D. M., & Mollen, D. M.** (2014, June). *Dancing with the elephant: Diversity and oneness – An experiential multicultural awareness training* [Workshop]. The South Central Area Mankind Project USA, Richardson, Texas, United States.

AWARDS

Woman of Courage, Character, and Commitment Award Spring 2023
University of Nebraska Lincoln Women's Center

Division 17 Early Career Psychologist Travel Award August 2019
American Psychological Association Annual Convention
\$500.00

MASTERS THESES

Chair

The Bloodless Period: A Transfeminine Experience Proposed
Rin Nguyen

The Lived Experiences of Religious Trauma Among LGBTQIA+ People In progress
Patrick Meyer

DOCTORAL DISSERTATIONS

Chair

The Intersection of Reproductive Agency and Womxn's Sexual Pleasure: In progress
An Interpretative Phenomenological Study
Carrie Bohmer

The Relationship Between Sex Education and Women's Sexual Liberation Proposed
and Exploration
Jessica Boyles

Perceptions of College Campus Climate Among Queer Female Sexual Proposed
Assault Survivors
Elyxcus Anaya

The Role of Video Game Play, Gender Roles, and Career Decision June 2020
Self-Efficacy in Development of STEM Career Interests and Motivation
Michael Saunders

Committee Member

Caitlin Mercier (*Louisiana Tech University*) May 2022
Greyson Holliday May 2023
Alexander Farquhar-Leicester In progress
Jake Vargas In progress
Merle Huff In progress

Cara White	In progress
Stephanie Lim	In progress
Harper Jones (<i>Outside Rep.; Clinical Psychology</i>)	In progress
Katherine Bogen (<i>Outside Rep.; Clinical Psychology</i>)	In progress

AD-HOC REVIEWING

<i>Journal of Counseling Psychology</i>	<i>Sexuality & Culture</i>
<i>The Counseling Psychologist</i>	<i>Women in Therapy</i>
<i>Psychology of Women Quarterly</i>	<i>Religions</i>
<i>Scholarship of Teaching & Learning in Psychology</i>	<i>Secular Studies</i>
<i>Psychology of Religion and Spirituality</i>	<i>Secularity & Nonreligion</i>

SERVICE TO THE PROFESSION

Chair APA's Division 17, Section for the Advancement of Women	August 2023 to present
Consulting Editor <i>Psychology of Women Quarterly</i>	January 2023 to present
Editorial Board Member <i>The Counseling Psychologist</i>	January 2021 to present
Tri-Chair Task Force for Development of Sex-Positive APA Guidelines	August 2022- present
Mentor <i>Psychology of Women Quarterly</i> Student Advisory Board	Fall 2021 to Spring 2022
Special Interest Group (SIG), Co-Chair Sex Positivity, Division 17	August 2020 to August 2022
Membership Chair APA's Division 17, Section for the Advancement of Women	Sept. 2019 to August 2022
Special Task Group (STG) Member Sex Positivity, Division 17	August 2019 to July 2020
Exhibit Hall Coordinator Association of Women in Psychology 2020 Conference	July 2019 to March 2020
Assistant Newsletter Editor WomanView, Newsletter for APA's Division 17 SAW	Nov. 2016 to Aug. 2019

Program Reviewer National Multicultural Conference & Summit	August 2018
Convention Program Committee American Psychological Association Division 17	Dec. 2017 to Dec. 2020
Convention Program Committee American Psychological Association Division 17 2017 APA Annual Convention	December 2016
Co-Reviewer (with Jeff Harris, Ph.D.) Ivey et al., <i>Essentials of intentional interviewing</i> (3 rd ed.).	April 2014
SERVICE TO THE UNIVERSITY Counseling Psychology Faculty Representative Diversity and Ethnic Minority Affairs Committee Department of Educational Psychology, UNL	2022 to present
Search Committee Member School Psychology Program Department of Educational Psychology, UNL	2022-2023
First Gen Advisory Board Member University of Nebraska - Lincoln	Spring 2022 to present
Diversity Advocate, Search Committee Member Counseling Psychology Program Department of Educational Psychology, UNL	Fall 2021
Scholarship Committee Department of Educational Psychology, UNL	Fall 2020 to present
Clinic Committee Department of Educational Psychology, UNL	Fall 2020 to present
Inclusive Excellence Committee Department of Educational Psychology, UNL	2020-2021
Human Use Committee/Institutional Review Board Louisiana Tech University	July 2018 to May 2020
Trans Student Advocacy Group (TAG) Faculty Advisor Louisiana Tech University	January 2019 to May 2020

Search Committee, Counseling Psychology
Louisiana Tech University

March 2018 to December 2019

Research Committee Member
University of Utah Counseling Center

Aug. 2016 to July 2017

Doctoral Intern Selection Committee
University of Utah Counseling Center

Aug. 2016 to Feb. 2017

CLINICAL EXPERIENCE

Licensed Psychologist
Dr. Dena Abbott Psychological Services & Sexuality Education
Lincoln, NE

June 2022 to present

Licensed Psychologist
Center for Counseling & Psychological Resources
Ruston, LA

April 2019 to Dec. 2019

SPECIALIZED TRAINING

Our Whole Lives, Lifespan Sexuality Education
Facilitator Training

October 2022

Comprehensive Structural Equation Modeling
Stats Camp, Dr. Todd Little

February 2019

Gottman Method Couples Therapy
Level 1

July 2017

Diagnosis & Treatment of Sexual Issues
Dr. Marty Klein

October 2010

PROFESSIONAL AFFILIATIONS

Atheist Research Collaborative
American Psychological Association

2018 to present

2012 to present

Division 17: Society of Counseling Psychology

Division 17's Section for the Advancement of Women

Division 35: Society for the Psychology of Women

Division 44: Society for the Psychology of Sexual Orientation and Gender

American Association of Sexuality Educators, Counselors, and
Therapists

2021 to present

International Society for the Study of Women's Sexual Health

2023 to present