

Mickela Heilicher

CURRICULUM VITAE

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EDUCATION

PhD Candidate	Psychology Community-Engaged Scholarship Minor/Graduate Certificate University of Wisconsin-Madison – Madison, WI Concentration: Mental Health and Incarceration, Community-Engagement Mentor: Dr. Michael Koenigs	August 2022 – present
Master of Science (M.S.)	Psychology University of Wisconsin-Madison – Madison, WI Concentration: Mental Health and Incarceration, Community-Engagement Mentor: Dr. Michael Koenigs	May 2024
Bachelor of Arts (B.A.)	Psychology, Neuroscience Minor University of Puget Sound – Tacoma, WA	August 2014 – May 2018

PROFESSIONAL MEMBERSHIPS

2024-present	Member, Academic Consortium on Criminal Justice Health
2021-2023	Member, American Psychological Association
2025-present	Member, Society for Community Research and Action
2025-present	Research Collective for Justice Involved People

PUBLICATIONS

Heilicher, M., Cohen, T. R., Pereira, K. M. K., Koenigs, M. R. Stigmatizing labels used for individuals impacted by the criminal legal system: A meta-study of academic literature. (submitted)

Rodrik, O., **Heilicher, M.**, Michels, M., Koenigs, M. R. Feasibility and acceptability of group Cognitive Processing Therapy for PTSD in state prisons. (in preparation)

Jung, H., Amini, M., Hunt, B., Murphy, E. Sadil, P., Halchenko, Y., Petre, B., Miao, Z., Kragel, P., Han, X., **Heilicher, M.**, Sun, Michael., Collins, O., Lindquist, M., Wager, T. (2025). A multimodal fMRI dataset unifying naturalistic processes with a rich array of experimental tasks. *Scientific Data*. (accepted, in press)

Tor Wager, Heejung Jung, Maryam Amini, Bethany Hunt, Eilis Murphy, Patrick Sadil, Yaroslav Halchenko, Bogdan Petre, Zizhuang Miao, Philip Kragel, Xiaochun Han, Mickela Heilicher, Michael Sun, Owen Collins, Martin Lindquist, and Tor Wager

Crombie, K. M., Azar, A., Botsford, C., **Heilicher, M.**, Jaeb, M., Gruichich, T. S., Schomaker, C. M., Williams, R., Stowe, Z. N., Dunsmoor, J. E., & Cisler, J. M. (2024). Decoding context memories for threat in large-scale neural networks. *Cerebral Cortex*, 34(2), bhae018. <https://doi.org/10.1093/cercor/bhae018>

Crombie, K. M., Azar, A., Botsford, C., **Heilicher, M.**, Hiser, J., Moughrabi, N., Gruichich, T. S., Schomaker, C. M., & Cisler, J. M. (2023). The influence of aerobic exercise on model-based decision making in women with posttraumatic stress disorder. *Journal of Mood and Anxiety Disorders*, 2, 100015. <https://doi.org/10.1016/j.xjmad.2023.100015>

Hiser, J., **Heilicher, M.**, Botsford, C., Crombie, K.M., Bellani, J., Azar, A., Fonzo, G., Nacewicz, B.M., Cisler, J.M., 2023. Decision-making for concurrent reward and threat is differentially modulated by trauma exposure and PTSD symptom severity. *Behaviour Research and Therapy* 167, 104361. <https://doi.org/10.1016/j.brat.2023.104361>

Crombie, K. M., Azar, A., Botsford, C., **Heilicher, M.**, Moughrabi, N., Gruichich, T. S., Schomaker, C. M., Dunsmoor, J. E., & Cisler, J. M. (2023). Aerobic exercise after extinction learning reduces return of fear and enhances memory of items encoded during extinction learning. *Mental Health and Physical Activity*, 24, 100510. <https://doi.org/10.1016/j.mhpa.2023.100510>

Deming, P., **Heilicher, M.**, & Koenigs, M. (2022). How reliable are amygdala findings in psychopathy? A systematic review of MRI studies. *Neuroscience & Biobehavioral Reviews*, 142, 104875. <https://doi.org/10.1016/j.neubiorev.2022.104875>

Heilicher, M., Crombie, K. M., & Cisler, J. M. (2022). Test-retest reliability of fMRI during an emotion processing task: Investigating the impact of analytical approaches on ICC values. *Frontiers in Neuroimaging*, 1, 859792. <https://doi.org/10.3389/fnimg.2022.859792>

Crombie, K. M., Privratsky, A. A., Schomaker, C. M., **Heilicher, M.**, Ross, M. C., Sartin-Tarm, A., Sellnow, K., Binder, E. B., Andrew James, G., & Cisler, J. M. (2022). The influence of FAAH genetic variation on physiological, cognitive, and neural signatures of fear acquisition and extinction learning in women with PTSD. *NeuroImage: Clinical*, 33, 102922. <https://doi.org/10.1016/j.nicl.2021.102922>

Moughrabi, N., Botsford, C., Gruichich, T. S., Azar, A., **Heilicher, M.**, Hiser, J., Crombie, K. M., Dunsmoor, J. E., Stowe, Z., & Cisler, J. M. (2022). Large-scale neural network computations and multivariate representations during approach-avoidance conflict decision-making. *NeuroImage*, 264, 119709. <https://doi.org/10.1016/j.neuroimage.2022.119709>

Ross, M. C., **Heilicher, M.**, & Cisler, J. M. (2021). Functional imaging correlates of childhood trauma: A qualitative review of past research and emerging trends. *Pharmacology Biochemistry and Behavior*, 211, 173297. <https://doi.org/10.1016/j.pbb.2021.173297>

APPLIED RESEARCH PRODUCTS

Heilicher, M., Branch, T., Grupe, D., Hicks, A., Lawrence, S., Mejchar, D., Michels, M. Oman, T., Reece, K., Sussek, C., Koenigs, M. (2024). Patient centered outcomes research for mental healthcare in the prison setting: A toolkit. (Submission to the Patient Centered Outcomes Research Institute)

Heilicher, M., Branch, T., Grupe, D., Hicks, A., Lawrence, S., Mejchar, D., Michels, M. Oman, T., Reece, K., Sussek, C., Koenigs, M. (2024). Mental healthcare in the prison setting: A summary report and research agenda.

Heilicher, M., Davis, F., Davis, R., Harriston-Green, D., Hicks, A., Koenigs, M. R. (2024). Build Up: Curriculum for a peer-support for reentry.

Heilicher, M. (2025). Developing a trauma-focused workshop: Perspectives from prison security staff. Community-engaged Scholarship Capstone Report.

PRESENTATIONS

(accepted/upcoming) **Heilicher, M.** Making sense of trauma and the carceral experience: An inductive analysis of community-advisory board meetings with formerly incarcerated individuals. Ignite presentation at the 2025 *Society for Community Research and Action* conference – East Lansing, MI.

(accepted/upcoming) Fisher, B., Morgan, K., **Heilicher, M.**, Acevedo, I., Martin, T., Stacy, S. Incorporating Community-Based Research into University Courses. Panel presentation at the 2025 *Society for Community Research and Action* conference – East Lansing, MI.

Heilicher, M. Community engaged approaches to research on mental health and incarceration. Presentation during the monthly meeting of the UW-Madison Research Collective for Justice-Involved Populations, May 2025. Madison, WI.

Heilicher, M. “Next level type stuff”: The role of community engagement in implementing mental health services for currently and formerly incarcerated individuals. Graduate Capstone presentation for the Psychology Department Clinical Area Group, 2025. Madison, WI.

Heilicher, M., Mejchar, D., Hicks, A., Grupe, D. 3. Integrated Lived and Academic Expertise in Research on Mental Health and Incarceration. Panel presentation given at the 2025 *Academic Consortium on Criminal Justice Health* annual conference – Austin, TX.

Heilicher, M., Rodrik, O., Michels, M., Koenigs, M. R. Feasibility and Acceptability of Group Cognitive Processing Therapy in the Prison Setting. Presentation given at the 2024 *Academic Consortium on Criminal Justice Health* annual conference – Phoenix, Arizona.

Poster Presentations

Heilicher, M., Cohen, TR., Pereira, K., Boettcher, E., Koenigs, MR. Stigmatizing labels used for legal system-involved individuals: A meta-study of academic literature from 2013-2022. Poster presentation given at the 2023 *American Psychiatric Association* Annual Meeting – Washington D.C.

Heilicher, M., Crombie KM, Cisler JM. Test-retest reliability of fMRI during an emotion processing task: Investigating the impact of voxel wise and network level ICC values using betas versus contrasts. Poster presentation given at 2022 *American Psychiatric Association Annual Meeting* – Minneapolis, MN

Heilicher, M., (2018, May). *The Antisocial Criminal Brain: The Role of Deficient Inhibitory Systems in Criminal Behavioral in Antisocial Personality Disordered and Psychopathic Individuals*. Poster presented at the University of Puget Sound Psychology Department Senior Capstone Project Symposium.

PANELS

Community Engaged Research – Panelist, Madison, WI April 2024

- Co-facilitated a presentation and panel discussion on community-engaged research during the psychology department’s clinical area group’s weekly lunch and learn seminar

Community Engaged Research for Graduate Students – Panelist, Madison, WI April 2025

- Served on a panel for graduate students to learn and inquire about conducting community-engaged research as a graduate student.

PROFESSIONAL HONORS AND AWARDS

University of Wisconsin-Madison, Psychology Department Travel Award	2025
Excellence in Engaged Scholarship Graduate Student Award (nominee)	2024
University of Wisconsin-Madison, Psychology Department Travel Award	2023
Excellence in Engaged Scholarship Graduate Student Award (nominee)	2025
University of Puget Sound’s Dean’s Scholarship	2018

GRANTS

2020 – 2024	Primary Graduate Student (2022-2024)
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	<p>Clinical Research Coordinator (2021-2022)</p> <p><i>"PTSD Psychotherapy for Prison Inmates: Feasibility and Pilot Study"</i></p> <p>National Institutes of Health (Department of Health and Human Services; Public Health Services)</p> <p>PI: Dr. Mike Koenigs</p>
2019 – 2025	<p>Primary Graduate Student (2022-2024)</p> <p><i>"PTSD Psychotherapy for Prison Inmates: Feasibility and Pilot Study"</i></p> <p>Wisconsin Alumni Research Foundation</p> <p>PI: Dr. Mike Koenigs</p>
2023 – 2025	<p>Primary Graduate Student</p> <p><i>"Development of a peer support program for re-entry"</i></p> <p>The Office of the Vice Chancellor for Research and Graduate Education, in partnership with the University of Wisconsin-Madison Division of Extension and WARF</p> <p>PI: Dr. Mike Koenigs</p>
2023 – 2025	<p>Primary Graduate Student</p> <p><i>"Building capacity for PCOR/CER for mental healthcare in the prison setting"</i></p> <p>Patient-centered Outcomes Research Institute</p> <p>PI: Dr. Mike Koenigs</p>

RESEARCH EXPERIENCE

2022 – present	<p>Graduate Research Assistant</p> <p>Incarceration and Mental Health Lab, UW-Madison</p> <p>Supervisor: Dr. Michael Koenigs</p>
2021 – 2022	<p>Research Specialist</p> <p>Incarceration and Mental Health Lab, UW-Madison</p> <p>Supervisor: Dr. Michael Koenigs</p>
2020 – 2021	<p>Research Specialist</p> <p>NeuroTap Lab, UW-Madison</p> <p>Supervisor: Dr. Josh Cisler</p>
2020 – 2021	<p>Professional Research Assistant/Research Coordinator</p> <p>Cognitive and Affective Neuroscience Lab, CU-Boulder</p> <p>Supervisor: Dr. Torwager</p>
2017 – 2018	<p>Undergraduate Independent Study</p> <p>The University of Puget Sound, Tacoma, WA</p> <p>Supervisor: Dr. David Andresen</p>
2018	<p>Undergraduate Psychology Practicum</p> <p>The Stress and Development Laboratory, Seattle, WA</p> <p>Supervisor: Dr. Kate McLaughlin</p>
2017	<p>Undergraduate Senior Capstone</p> <p>The University of Puget Sound, Tacoma, WA</p> <p>Supervisor: Dr. Carolyn Weisz</p>
2017	<p>Research Assistant</p> <p>Jay Neitz Vision Laboratory, Seattle, WA</p> <p>Supervisor: Dr. Jay Neitz</p>

CLINICAL EXPERIENCE

2025	Cognitive Processing Therapy for PTSD Foundational Training Facilitators: Dr. Candice Monson and Dr. Phil Shnaider
2020 – 2022	Clinical Interviewer, University of Wisconsin Madison Assessment: Clinician-Administered PTSD Scale for DSM-5 (CAPS-5) PTSD Study for Incarcerated Men and Women Influence of aerobic exercise on model-based decision making for Women with PTSD Supervisors: Dr. Michael Koenigs, Dr. Josh Cisler
2017	Assistant to Forensic Psychologist, Tacoma, WA Tasks: reviewing and summarizing medical records; preparing invoices; scoring, analyzing summarizing psychological testing; and proofreading reports Supervisor: Dr. Sarah Heavin
2016	Volunteer, Guild Incorporated, St. Paul, MN Supervisor: Dr. Karen Dickson
2016	Volunteer, Partners in Healing of Minneapolis, Minnetonka, MN Supervisor: Dr. Nancy Foster

TEACHING AND MENTORING EXPERIENCE

Spring 2025	Teaching Assistant, <i>Adult Psychopathology</i> Instructor: Dr. Jeffrey Henriques
2023 – 2024	McNair Scholar Program Mentor <i>“Building Capacity for Improved Mental Healthcare in the Prison Setting”</i> Supervisee: Dajonae Bradley
2023 – present	Qualitative Research Mentor Incarceration and Mental Health Lab, UW-Madison
2016	Community-engaged Research Mentor Incarceration and Mental Health Lab, UW-Madison

PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT AND TRAINING

2021	Introduction to Qualitative Research for the Applied Sciences UW-Madison, Self-paced
2018	Principle of fMRI 1 Coursera Course, Self-paced
2018	Fundamentals of Neuroscience Coursera Course, Self-paced
2018	Data Science: Foundations Using R, the Data Scientist’s Toolbox Coursera Course, Self-paced