

## CURRICULUM VITAE

Brandon Sparks, PhD, FHEA

Kingston Upon Thames, UK

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### Academic Position

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2021-present      Kingston University  
**Senior Lecturer (Assistant Professor) in Forensic Psychology**  
Department of Psychology

### Education

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2018-2022      **PhD (Culture, Health, & Human Development)**  
University of Saskatchewan  
Department of Psychology  
Supervisor: Dr. Mark Olver  
Dissertation title: Swiping away tears: Incels, dating applications, and social supports

2016-2018      **MA (Applied Social Psychology)**  
University of Saskatchewan  
Department of Psychology  
Supervisor: Dr. Steve Wormith  
Thesis title: Evaluating Canadians' attitudes toward juvenile sexual offenders: Toward an understanding of community responses

2009-2013      **BA (Honours)**  
St. Thomas University  
Department of Psychology  
Supervisor: Dr. Mihailo Perunovic  
Thesis title: Agreeableness and relationship quality: A causal study

### Publications

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#### *Peer Reviewed Journal Articles*

**Sparks, B.**, Stephens, S., & Trendell, S. (2023). Image-based sexual abuse: Victim-perpetrator overlap and risk-related correlates of coerced sexting, non-consensual dissemination of intimate images, and cyberflashing. *Computers in Human Behaviour*.

**Sparks, B.**, Zidenberg, A. M., & Olver, M. E. (accepted). An exploratory study of incels' dating app experiences, mental health, and relational well-being. *Journal of Sex Research*. Preprint DOI: [10.13140/RG.2.2.29838.23362](https://doi.org/10.13140/RG.2.2.29838.23362)

**Sparks, B.**, Fido, D., & Vione, K. (2023). Bad parents? Evaluating judgments of infant homicides. *Psychiatry, Psychology, and Law*.

**Sparks, B.**, Zidenberg, A. M., & Olver, M. E. (2023). One is the loneliest number: Involuntary celibacy, mental health, and loneliness. *Current Psychology*, advanced online copy.

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- Sparks, B.**, Zidenberg, A. M., & Olver, M. E. (2023). Involuntary celibacy: A review of incel ideology and experiences with dating, rejection, and associated mental health and emotional sequelae. *Current Psychiatry Reports*, 24, 731-740.
- Sparks, B.** (2022). A snapshot of image based sexual abuse (IBSA): Narrating a way forward. *Sexuality Research & Social Policy*, 19(2), 689-704.
- Zidenberg, A. M., **Sparks, B.**, & Olver, M. (2022). A survey of veterinary medical professionals' knowledge, attitudes, and experiences with animal sexual abuse. *Journal of Applied Animal Welfare Science*. Advance online publication.
- Zidenberg, A. M., Wielinga, F., **Sparks, B.**, & Margeotes, K. (2022). Lost in translation: A quantitative and qualitative comparison of rape myth acceptance. *Psychology, Crime, and Law*, 28(2), 179-197.
- Sparks, B.** (2021). Attitudes toward the punishment of juvenile and adult sexual offenders in Canada: The roles of sentencing goals and criminal justice motivations. *Journal of Child Sexual Abuse*, 30(2), 125-145.
- Sparks, B.**, & Wormith, S. (2021). Assessing attitudes toward juveniles and adults adjudicated for sexual offenses in Canada: Does offender age matter? *Journal of Sexual Aggression*, 27(1), 81-94.
- Zidenberg, A. M., **Sparks, B.**, Harkins, L., & Lidstone, S. K. (2021). Tipping the scales: The effect of gender, rape-myth acceptance and anti-fat attitudes on judgments of sexual coercion scenarios. *Journal of Interpersonal Violence*.
- Kiss, M. J., McDonagh, L. K., **Sparks, B.**, Morrison, T. G., & Hamp, T. (2020). Validating the International Index of Erectile Function (IIEF) with gay men. *Journal of Sex Research*, 58(5), 589-598.
- Sparks, B.**, Wielinga, F., Jung, S., & Olver, M. (2020). Recidivism risk and criminogenic needs of individuals who perpetrated intimate partner sexual violence offenses. *Sexual Offending: Theory, Research, and Prevention*, 15, 1-20.

#### *Book Chapters*

- Sparks, B.**, & Fisico, R. (in press). Dating applications and sexual violence. In C. A. Harper, R. Lievesley, B. Winder, H. Swaby, N. Blagden, & P. Banyard (Eds.), *Sexual crime and the internet*.

#### *Technical Reports*

- Sparks, B.** (2019). *Needs analysis and best practices review for the increased prevention and intervention of child sexual harm in New Brunswick*. Child Sexual Harm Advisory Committee: New Brunswick Department of Justice and Public Safety.

#### **Manuscripts Under Review**

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**Sparks, B.**, & Zidenberg, A. M. (revise and resubmit). Accepting the terms and conditions: An evaluation of a parole-based experiential assignment. *Journal of Criminal Justice Education*. Preprint DOI: [10.13140/RG.2.2.35626.39363](https://doi.org/10.13140/RG.2.2.35626.39363)

Zidenberg, A. M., & **Sparks, B.** (under review). Engaging with extremely online psychology students: Creating a meme “study guide.” *Open Scholarship of Teaching and Learning*. Preprint DOI: [10.13140/RG.2.2.34158.38725](https://doi.org/10.13140/RG.2.2.34158.38725)

### **Manuscripts in Preparation**

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**Sparks, B.**, Rotella, A., Zidenberg, A. M., & Olver, M. *Risky Business: A meta-analysis of risk factors for juvenile gang involvement.*

**Sparks, B.**, & Zidenberg, A. M. *A history of juvenile justice legislation in Canada.*

**Sparks, B.**, & Zidenberg, A. M. *A need for an Emerging Adulthood Criminal Justice Act? An exploration of psychological literature on emerging adulthood and criminal behaviour.*

**Sparks, B.**, Harper, C., & Fido, D. *The role of traditional gender-role beliefs in the response to image-based sexual abuse*

**Sparks, B.**, Zloteanu, M., Zidenberg, A. M., & Olver, M. *Do negative media portrayals of law enforcement officials influence citizen trust?*

**Sparks, B.**, & Zidenberg, A. M. *Life on parole: Student experiences participating in an experiential assessment.*

**Sparks, B.**, Zidenberg, A. M., & Cohen, L. *Student ‘make and take’ quizzes: An effective pedagogical tool?*

**Sparks, B.**, & Zidenberg, A. M., & Maxwell, J. *Dating applications and their relationship with mental and relational health and well-being.*

Zidenberg, A. M., **Sparks, B.**, Curwen, T., & Olver, M. *A meta-analysis of treatments for children with concerning sexual behaviour (CSB).*

### **Conference Presentations and Posters**

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#### *Presentations*

**Sparks, B.**, Maryn, A., & Zidenberg, A. M. (upcoming). *Navigating a dark place: What do incels make of their experiences and how can we help them?* International Association for the Treatment of Sexual Offenders Conference. Trondheim, NO.

Paydas Turan, C., & **Sparks, B.** (2022, July). *Early career researchers roundtable* (co-Chairs). Faculty of Business & Social Sciences Faculty Research Conference. Kingston upon Thames, UK.

**Sparks, B.** (2022, June). *Incels: Murdering misogynists or lonely lads?* British Psychological Society Division of Forensic Psychology Conference. Solihull, UK.

**Sparks, B.**, Zidenberg, A. M., & Olver, M. (2020, September). *Risky business: An updated meta-analysis of risk factors for youth gang involvement.* Canadian Forensic Psychology Virtual Conference. Halifax, NS.

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- Zidenberg, A. M., **Sparks, B.**, & **Raichuk, E.** (2021, October). *Examining depictions of bestiality in Canadian child exploitation materials*. Paper presented at the 40<sup>th</sup> Annual Research and Treatment Conference for the Association for the Treatment of Sexual Abusers, St. Louis, Missouri, USA.
- Jamer, D., Stephens, S., **Sparks, B.**, & Seto, M. C. (2020). *The impact of psychosis on Static-99R scores and recidivism in men who have committed sexual offences*. Canadian Forensic Psychology Virtual Conference. Halifax, NS.
- Sparks, B.** (2020, March). *Punishment of sexual offenders: The roles of sentencing goals and criminal justice motivations*. Assessment & Outcomes for Adults with Sex Offenses. Paper presented at the American Psychology-Law Society Annual Conference. New Orleans, LA.
- Sparks, B.** (2019, November). *Canadian students' responses to juvenile and adult sexual offenders: Attitudes and support for registration*. Community Attitudes Towards Youth and International Perspectives. Paper presented at the Association for the Treatment of Sexual Abusers 38<sup>th</sup> Annual Research and Treatment Conference. Atlanta, GA.
- Sparks, B.**, Patrick, G., Mossiere, A., Jewell, L., & Wormith, S. (2019, June). *Young man's blues: A meta-analysis of risk factors for gang involvement*. In L. Jewell (Chair), Developmental Issues in Crime Prevention: Teach your Children Well. Symposium conducted at the 4th North American Correctional Criminal Justice Psychology Conference held in conjunction with the 80th Annual National Convention of the Canadian Psychological Association, Halifax, NS.
- Sparks, B.** (2019, June). *Responsivity, no longer the forgotten R: Successful examples by gender, IPV treatment, and probation supervision (chair)*. Symposium conducted at the 4th North American Correctional Criminal Justice Psychology Conference held in conjunction with the 80th Annual National Convention of the Canadian Psychological Association, Halifax, NS.
- Sparks, B.**, Wielinga, F., Jung, S., & Olver, M. (2018, October). *Risk and criminogenic needs of intimate partner sexual violence offenders*. In S. Jung (Chair), Intimate Partner Sexual Violence: Definitions, Profile, Criminogenic Needs, and Future Directions. Symposium conducted at the Association for the Treatment of Sexual Abusers 37<sup>th</sup> Annual Research and Treatment Conference, Vancouver, BC.
- Zidenberg, A., **Sparks, B.**, Harkins, L., & Lidstone, S. (2018, October). *Rape myth acceptance: A quantitative and qualitative comparison*. Student data blitz talk given at the 37th Annual Research and Treatment Conference for the Association for the Treatment of Sexual Abusers, Vancouver, BC.

#### Posters

- Zidenberg, A.M., & **Sparks, B.** (2022, October 30). *Engaging with extremely online psychology students: Creating a meme "study guide."* Poster presented at the Society for the Teaching of Psychology's International Twitter Poster Conference (ITPC), Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania, USA.

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**Sparks, B., & Zidenberg, A. M.** (2020, October). *To the left, to the left: Incel experiences on dating apps*. Poster presented at the Association for the Treatment of Sexual Abusers 39<sup>th</sup> Annual Research and Treatment Conference. San Antonio, TX, USA.

**Sparks, B., Zidenberg, A., Harkins, L., & Lidstone, S.** (2019, June). *Does victim size hold any weight on mock jury judgements of a sexual coercion case?* Poster presented at the 4th North American Correctional Criminal Justice Psychology Conference held in conjunction with the 80th Annual National Convention of the Canadian Psychological Association, Halifax, NS.

Zidenberg, A. M., **Sparks, B., Harkins, L., & Lidstone, S.** (2019, June). *Prejudicial attitudes towards weight and sexual violence*. Poster presented at the 4th North American Correctional Criminal Justice Psychology Conference held in conjunction with the 80th Annual National Convention of the Canadian Psychological Association, Halifax, NS.

**Sparks, B., Perunovic, M., & MacLean, J.** (2013, May). *Romantic relationship quality & conscientiousness: The role of self-control and implicit theories of relationships*. Poster presented at the Canadian Psychological Association Annual Convention preconference, Quebec City, PQ.

#### *Podcasts and Webinars*

**Sparks, B.** (2023, June 15). *Cyberflashing: Empty laws and messy research*. Public Policy Exchange.

**Sparks, B.** (2023, March 8). *Let's talk incels*. Let's Talk Forensic Psychology Podcast. <https://youtu.be/2CNv1QTyn5U>

**Sparks, B.** (2022, December 8). *Incels: Psychological considerations to inform clinical practice*. International Forensic Psychiatry Lecture Series. <https://www.forensicpsychiatryinstitute.com/international-forensic-psychiatry-lecture-series/recordings/>

**Sparks, B.** (2022, October 5). *What we know and what we need to know about incels*. Safer Society Press. <https://safersocietypress.org/what-we-know-and-what-we-need-to-know-about-incels/>

## **Supervision Experience**

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### *Graduate Student Supervision*

2022-2023

Sarah Jones  
*Kingston University*

Project title: Judgements of cyberflashing across relational contexts

Saskia Whild  
*Kingston University*

Project title: The effect of offender motivations on judgments of non-consensual dissemination of intimate images

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Androniki Konsola  
*Kingston University*

Project title: Evaluations of deepfaking scenarios as a product of intent

Brooke Davies & Chantelle Morris  
*Kingston University*  
Project titles TBD

### *Undergraduate Student Supervision*

2022-2023

Kajal Nazar, & Dominika Zabielska  
*Kingston University*

Project title: Predictors of support for safe consumption sites

Faye Clarke, Bethaney Harrington, & Isabelle Sheehan  
*Kingston University*

Project title: The effect of labelling on judgments of sexual offenders

2021-2022

Natalia Canas Gomez, Efterpi Fanourgiaki, Sharna McCulloch, Catalina  
Olarescu, & Sina Sommer  
*Kingston University*

Project title: Public responses to media portrayals of violent offenders

2019-2020

Drew Jamer (Co-Supervisor: Dr. Skye Stephens)  
*Saint Mary's University*

Project title: The impact of psychosis on Static-99R scores and recidivism  
in men who have committed sexual offenses

### *Other Supervision*

2022-2023

Natalie Chong  
*AP-LS Mentorship Program*

Project title: A systematic review of technology-facilitated sexual  
violence perpetration

### **Teaching Experience**

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2021-present

PS4005 Introduction to Forensic Psychology  
*Kingston University*

2021-present

PS6011 Introduction to Forensic Psychology  
*Kingston University*

2021-present

PS6016 Investigations and Cyber-Behaviour  
*Kingston University*

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2021-2022	FY3002 Practical Research Skills <i>Kingston University</i>
2020-2021	PSY 230 Criminal Behaviour <i>University of Saskatchewan</i>
2018-2019	PSY 230 Criminal Behaviour <i>University of Saskatchewan</i>
2018-2019	PSY 120 Biological and Cognitive Bases of Psychology <i>University of Saskatchewan</i>

### **Teaching Certificates and Awards**

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2022	Higher Education Academy Fellow
2021	The Practice of University Teaching
2020	Introduction to Teaching Online
2019	Instructional Skills Workshop

### **Teaching Assistant Experience**

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2021	Teaching Assistant, PSY 243 Evolutionary Psychology, Dr Carla Krachun
2021	Teaching Assistant, PSY 120 Biological and Cognitive Bases of Psychology, Dr. Carla Krachun
2021	Teaching Assistant, PSY 230 Criminal Behaviour, Alexandra Zidenberg
2018	Teaching Assistant, PSY 230 Criminal Behaviour, Dr. Stephen Wormith
2018	Teaching Assistant, PSY 230 Criminal Behaviour, Dr. Mark Olver
2017	Teaching Assistant, PSY 235 Research Methods and Design, Dr. Karen Lawson
2017	Teaching Assistant, HLST 110 Introduction to Health Studies, Dr. Ulrich Teucher
2016	Teaching Assistant, PSY 214 Adolescent Development, Dr. Amanda Baldwin
2016	Teaching Assistant, PSY 230 Criminal Behaviour, Dr. Stephen Wormith
2016	Teaching Assistant, PSY 121 Social and Developmental Bases of Psychology, Chris Cooper
2016	Teaching Assistant, PSY 120 Biological and Cognitive Bases of Psychology, Chris Cooper

### **Teaching Workshops**

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2023	Decentering Your Syllabus
2022	Reimagining Learning
2022	Introduction to Teaching and Learning 2

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2021	Internationalization: Inclusive and Responsive Short Teaching Course
2020	The Practice of University Teaching
2020	Introduction to Teaching Philosophy Statements
2020	How to Use Discussion Forums Effectively
2020	Designing Learning for Asynchronous Delivery
2020	How Can I Effectively Use Panopto, WebEx, and Other External Tools?
2020	How Can I Use Quizzes and Surveys for Feedback, Practice, & Grades?
2020	How Do I Organize Course Content to Optimize the Learning Experience?
2020	How Can I Facilitate Students Working Collaboratively in Groups?
2020	I've Used Blackboard. What Does Canvas Have to Offer?
2020	How Do I Create and Facilitate Social Engagement for Learning?
2020	Assessment - Remotely
2020	Introduction to Teaching Online
2020	The Practice of University Teaching
2020	Remote Assessment – Thinking Through Your Final Assessment
2020	Designing Outcome Based Assessment for Your Class
2019	Instructional Skills Workshop
2019	Introduction to Teaching Portfolios
2019	Grading Efficiently: Assignments and Rubrics in Blackboard Learn
2019	Introduction to Two-Stage Testing
2019	Quick Tips to Improve Multiple Choice Questions

## Awards and Recognitions

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2023	LSBS QR Funding (£2,000)	Kingston University
2023	LSBS QR Funding (£2,050)	Kingston University
2022	SPSSI Teaching Resources Award	Society for the Psychological Study of Social Issues
2022	LSBS QR Funding (£842)	Kingston University
2018-2021	Dean's Scholarship (\$66,000)	University of Saskatchewan
2017-2018	CGS SSHRC (\$17,500)	University of Saskatchewan
2016-2017	Graduate Teaching Fellowship (\$17,500)	University of Saskatchewan
2013	CPA Certificate of Excellence for Honours in Psychology	St. Thomas University
2009-2013	Student Leadership Scholarship (\$8,000)	St. Thomas University
2009-2013	Dean's List	St. Thomas University
2009	Entrance Scholarship (\$2,000)	St. Thomas University

## Newsletter and Other Media

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**Sparks, B.** (2019). Incel inside: Understanding involuntary celibates through dating app experiences. *ATSA Forum Newsletter*, XXXI (4).

### **Research Experience**

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|-----------|---|
| 2017-2019 | Research Assistant, Centre for Forensic Behavioural Science and Justice Studies, Dr. Stephen Wormith <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Reviewed literature on various forms of violence</li><li>• Assessed global statistics on the prevalence and characteristics of various forms of violence and their perpetrators and victims</li><li>• Analyzed youth survey data for three First Nations communities</li></ul> |
| 2015-2016 | Research Assistant, Dr. Katherine Starzyk <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Reviewed literature on perspectives of reconciliation</li><li>• Inspected comments left on Indigenous-focused articles on Canadian news websites</li><li>• Used text-analysis software (LIWC) to summarize participant's responses to First Nations' clean water initiatives</li></ul>  |
| 2015-2016 | Research Assistant, Dr. Beverley Fehr <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Reviewed literature and provided summaries of Canadian research in social psychology for undergraduate textbook</li></ul>   |
| 2013-2014 | Assistant Research Supervisor/Consultant, Dr. Dave Korotkov <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Recommended literature and methodological approaches to three honours students, whose work spanned the research domains of humour, bullying, and the Dark Triad</li></ul>   |
| 2013-2014 | Research Assistant, Dr. Mihailo Perunovic & Dr. Elaine Perunovic <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Reviewed literature and designed a study on the Dark Triad and speed dating</li><li>• Reviewed literature and designed a study on the Dark Triad and marital conflict</li><li>• Reviewed literature on social comparison and mothers of preschool-aged children</li></ul>  |
| 2010-2011 | Research Assistant, Dr. Mihailo Perunovic <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Assisted honours student with inputting data and coding qualitative responses</li></ul>   |

### **Professional Service**

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#### *Academic Committees*

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| 2022-present | Society for the Teaching of Psychology-Committee on Associate & Baccalaureate Education "Market-Ready Measures" Workgroup |
| 2022-present | Kingston University Academic Council  |

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- 2021-present Athena Swan Committee Member, Kingston University  
2020-present North American Correctional and Criminal Justice Psychology  
Marketing Committee Member
- Organizing and advertising upcoming conference
- 2018-present Association for the Treatment of Sexual Abusers'  
Public Policy Committee Member
- Public Communications Committee
  - Registration Workgroup

*Reviewer - Journals*

- 2020-present
- Sexual Abuse
  - Journal of Sexual Aggression
  - Behavioral Sciences and the Law
  - Psychology, Crime, and Law
  - Journal of Forensic Psychology Research and Practice
  - Sexual Offending: Theory, Research, and Prevention
  - Psychology and Sexuality
  - International Journal of Law, Crime, and Justice
  - Frontiers in Psychology: Personality and Social Psychology

*Reviewer – Conferences*

- 2023 Association for the Treatment and Prevention of Sexual Abuse  
2023 International Association of Forensic Mental Health Services  
2022 American Psychology Law-Society  
2020 Association for the Treatment and Prevention of Sexual Abuse

*Organizer – Conferences*

- 2023 Association for the Treatment and Prevention of Sexual Abuse

*Government Service*

- 2022-present Police Encounter Panel
- Review police body camera footage to determine whether excessive use of force was applied
- 2017-2018 New Brunswick Department of Justice & Public Safety, Practicum
- Project on the requirements for the implementation of multisystemic therapy for juvenile sexual offenders

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2017

New Brunswick Department of Justice & Public Safety, Internship

- Report on the prevention and reduction of child sexual abuse via a needs analysis and best-practices review

### *Open Science Initiatives*

2022

ReproducibiliTea

Article discussed: *Open Science Saves Lives: Lessons from the COVID-19 Pandemic* (Besançon et al., 2021)

### *Community Support*

2021

RISE Virtual Coaching Event – Lincoln Correctional Center

## **Professional Memberships**

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2023-present

American Psychological Association

2022-present

British Psychological Society

2021-present

Society for the Teaching of Psychology

2020-present

American Psychology-Law Society

2018-present

Association for the Treatment of Sexual Abusers

2013

Canadian Psychological Association

## **Media Appearances**

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2021-02-14

Global News, Saskatchewan

2020-02-14

CTV

2020-02-13

CJME Radio Regina

2020-02-13

CTV News at Noon

2020-02-11

CTV Saskatchewan Morning News

2020-02-11

CBC Regina Radio Morning

2020-02-11

CBC Saskatoon Radio Morning

2020-02-11

Global News, Saskatchewan

2020-02-04

On Campus News

## **Volunteer & Extra-Curricular Activities**

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2017-2018

University of Saskatchewan Case Competition, Team Member

- National placement (top 3) for both 2017 and 2018

2017-2019

Psychology Graduate Student Association, President

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2017-2019	Applied Social Psychology Faculty, Student Representative
2016-2017	Applied Social Psychology Department, Student Representative
2015-2016	Klinic Community Health, Crisis Line Volunteer
2012-2013	St. Thomas Psychology Society, Co-President
2010-2014	City of Fredericton Police Force, Victim Witness Volunteer