

Melissa Lynn Maffeo, Ph.D.

Wake Forest University | 1834 Wake Forest Rd | Winston-Salem, NC 27109
masicaml@wfu.edu | 336.758.4648

PROFESSIONAL EXPERIENCE

2021-present	Associate Teaching Professor, Wake Forest University Department of Psychology
2017-2021	Assistant Teaching Professor, Wake Forest University Department of Psychology
2015-2017	Visiting Assistant Professor, Wake Forest University Department of Psychology
2012-2015	Postdoctoral Fellow, Wake Forest Medical Center, Department of Physiology & Pharmacology

EDUCATION

Florida State University, Tallahassee, Florida

Doctor of Philosophy in Neuroscience, March 2012

Dissertation: *Proteomic analysis of deafferentation-induced changes in the chick cochlear nucleus*

Advisor: Richard Hyson, Ph.D.

Florida State University, Tallahassee, Florida

Master of Science in Psychobiology, March 2008

Thesis: *Nicotine exposure during adolescence regulates behavioral responsiveness to mood-eliciting stimuli in adulthood.*

Advisor: Carlos Bolanos, Ph.D.

University of Massachusetts, Boston, Massachusetts

Bachelor of Arts with Honors in Psychology, Cum Laude, May 2005

TEACHING EXPERIENCE

Courses Taught:

Seminar in Animal Behavior | Wake Forest University

Seminar in Physiological Psychology | Wake Forest University

Introduction to Psychology | Wake Forest University

First Year Seminar: Alcohol: History, Use, and Misuse | Wake Forest University

How the Brain Learns | Wake Forest University

Science of the Supernatural | Wake Forest University

Biopsychology (*online and face-to-face*) | Wake Forest University

Psychopharmacology | Wake Forest University
Brain and Behavior | Florida State University
Sensation and Perception Lab instructor | Florida State University

Special teaching assignments:

Instructor, WFU Lifelong Learning Program (Summer 2023 & Summer 2026): The Lifelong Learning Program is a WFU program that gives members of the Winston-Salem community educational opportunities through Wake Forest. I lead a 6-week course on The Science of the Supernatural to approximately 20 community members.

Resident Professor at the WFU Worrell House, London, England (Spring 2023): I was in residence at the WFU Worrell House in London, England during the Spring 2023 semester, where I taught PSY243: Biopsychology and PSY322: Psychopharmacology to 12 WFU undergraduate students. European, especially United Kingdom, culture was infused into the curricula of both courses for a full immersive experience.

Faculty Learning Community facilitator (Summer 2020): Participated in an intensive 'boot camp' for the learning of online pedagogy. This was in response to the COVID-19 pandemic and the rapid shift to virtual instruction. Following the summer intensive, I developed and guided a faculty learning community of 15 peers, based on what I had learned.

Co-Academic Leader to the WFU Summer Immersion Pre-College Program Psychology Institute (2017-present)

College Teaching Preparation Certificate, Professional Development Center, Wake Forest University 2016

AWARDS AND HONORS

John R. Jombock Faculty-Student Engagement Award, Department of Psychology, WFU 2025

Teaching Professionals Award for Excellence in Teaching, Wake Forest University 2021

Innovative Teaching Award, Wake Forest University 2019

Early Career Psychologist Poster Award, 3rd place, STP-ACT 2018

T32 Fellowship Trainee, Wake Forest Baptist Health, 2012-2015

Graziadei Travel Award, Florida State University 2007

Robinson Neuroscience Achievement Award 2007

Robinson Neuroscience Achievement Award 2006

Travel funding awarded from the WFU Office of the Dean of the College, Office of the Provost, and Center for Advancement of Teaching 2017-present)

FUNDING

Hale-Orser Fund for Faculty Student Engagement, 2025 (PSY 334 and BIO 323; with Sarah Westick)	\$960.00
STP Conference Speaker Grant, 2023 (Neuroscience Teaching Conference)	\$1500.00
The Program for Leadership and Character, Wake Forest University, 2023 (Neuroscience Teaching Conference)	\$3000.00
STP Small Partnership Grant, 2022 (Neuroscience Teaching Conference)	\$2500.00
Mellon Grant, Wake Forest University, 2022 (Neuroscience Teaching Conference)	\$7000.00
STP Conference Speaker Grant, 2022 (Neuroscience Teaching Conference)	\$1500.00
Inclusion Grant, University of Utah Valley, 2021 (Neuroscience Teaching Conference)	\$300.00

SERVICE

Professional Service

Co-chair for the “Combatting Teacher Burnout” Presidential Task Force; Society for the Teaching of Psychology (2025)
Director, Division 2 Programming, American Psychological Association convention (2022-2025)
Interim Director, Division 2 Programming, American Psychological Association convention (2021-22)
Co-founder and Co-director for the Neuroscience Teaching Conference (2020-present)
Coordinator for Marketing and Recruitment, Society for the Teaching of Psychology’s Annual Conference on Teaching (2019-2022)
Ad-hoc reviewer for the peer-reviewed journals *Neuroscience Letters*; *Alcohol and Alcoholism*

College / University Service

Alcohol and Other Drug Coalition (2025-present)
Committee on the Faculty (2024-2027)
Faculty Representative of the College to the Academic Committee of the Board of Trustees (2023-25)
First Year Seminar Committee (2023-2026; Co-chair 2024-25; Chair 2025-2026)
Committee for Academic Planning (2021-2025; Co-chair 2023-2024)
Member of the internal review committee for the Department for the Study of Religions (2023)
Project Wake book club facilitator (2021-22)
Faculty Fellow to the Maya Angelou Residence Hall (2019-2022)
Faculty Adviser to Best Buddies (student org; 2017-present)
Faculty Adviser to the Equestrian Club (student org; 2024-present)

Member of the internal review committee for the Interdisciplinary Writing Program (2021)
WFU Teaching and Learning Collaborative/Division IV Faculty Liaison (2017-2019)

Department / Program Service

Associate Director, WFU Program in Neuroscience (2026-2028)
Co-Developer, WFU Program in Neuroscience (2025-2026)
Psi Chi Faculty Adviser (2021-present)
Teaching Mentoring Committee (2016-present; Chair 2018-2025)
Undergraduate Studies Committee (2016-present)
Curriculum Committee
Diversity Committee (2017-2021)
Neuroscience Major Development Committee (2017-2025)
SONA/Subject pool coordinator (2016-2019)

Master's Thesis committee member

Lindsay Wilson (Psychology 2023)
Allison Carney (Psychology, 2020)
Aparna Sivakumar (Neuroscience, 2020)
Mary Finger (Neuroscience, 2019)
Zachary Pierce-Messick (Psychology, 2019)
Hannah Carlson (Psychology, 2017)
Everett Altherr (Psychology, 2016)

PROFESSIONAL MEMBERSHIP

Society for the Teaching of Psychology, 2018-present
Wake Forest University Postdoctoral Association 2012-2015, Co-president 2015
Faculty for Undergraduate Neuroscience, 2014-present
Research Society on Alcohol, 2013-2015
Society for Neuroscience 2006-2017
Psi Chi, University of Massachusetts, Boston 2004-present

PUBLICATIONS & PRESENTATIONS

Academic books

Landrum, E; Malavanti, K; **Maffeo, M** (in preparation) *Teaching craft: Teaching the art and science of psychology*. Routledge.

Malavanti, K and **Maffeo, M** (Eds.) (in preparation) *Supporting teaching-focused faculty at research-intensive institutions*. Society for the Teaching of Psychology.

Maffeo, M (in press) *The Science of the Supernatural: Critical thinking for the mind and brain*. Cambridge University Press. DOI 10.1017/9781009322348

Book chapters

Lack, K; **Maffeo, M** (in preparation). Interdisciplinary Neuroscience Curricula: Integrating the Humanities and Liberal Arts in Program Design and Assessment. In *The Oxford Handbook of Undergraduate Neuroscience Education*, Oxford University Press.

Maffeo, M (in preparation). Brain, Mind and Behavior, in Martin-Hard, B. (Ed.) *Integrative Psychology: People in Perspective* (3rd ed.) W.W. Norton and Company.

Malavanti, K; **Maffeo, M**; Thakkar, V; Witherby, A (in press). Best practices for the teaching of undergraduate neuroscience. In Richmond, A. & Dunn, D. (Eds.) *The Oxford Handbook of Undergraduate Psychology Education*, (2nd ed.). Oxford University Press.

Bettencourt, K and **Maffeo, M** (in press) So you think you saw a ghost: Exploring core concepts in psychology through paranormal examples. In Totton, R. & Sanderson, C. (Eds.) *Teaching Introduction to Psychology*. Edward Elgar Publishing.

Maffeo, M. (2021) Surviving the zombie apocalypse and teaching biopsychology online: Intentional course design for developing learner agency. In Cerniak, J; Wong, M; Rosen, L (Eds.) *Teaching Psychology Online*. Society for the Teaching of Psychology.

Invited, non-refereed articles

Masicampo, M (2020) Zombie brains and metacognition: How to use the undead to help students increase learner agency. Excellence in Teaching Essay, Society for the Teaching of Psychology.

Godwin, DW; **Masicampo, M** (2015) Mind like a sponge: Evolutionary paths to the brain. *The Biochemist* 37 (5) 12-15.

Podcast appearances

Maffeo, M (Guest; April 27, 2025) *Episode 095: Lucy's consolidation is broken or she gets blackout drunk everyday! 50 First Dates*. In A. Swan (host) CinemaPsych Podcast. Podbean.
<https://cinemapsychpod.swanpsych.com/2025/04/07/episode-095-lucys-consolidation-is-broken-or-she-gets-blackout-drunk-everyday-50-first-dates-2004-with-melissa-maffeo/>

Maffeo, M (Guest; March 11, 2025) *Episode 220: Melissa Maffeo: Classroom innovations, academic life, the supernatural, and neuroscience*. In E. Landrum and G. Neufeld (hosts) PsychSessions: Conversations about teaching n' stuff. <https://psychsessions.org/2025/03/11/e220-melissa-maffeo-classroom-innovations-academic-life-the-supernatural-and-neuroscience/>

Maffeo, M (Guest; March 25, 2024) *Episode 078: Drugs are bad, mmmkay? Requiem for a Dream*. In A. Swan (host) CinemaPsych Podcast. Podbean. <https://cinemapsychpod.swanpsych.com/2024/03/25/episode-078-drugs-are-bad-mmkay-requiem-for-a-dream-2000-with-melissa-maffeo/>

Invited talks

Diversifying neuroscience courses doesn't have to be all-or-nothing: Simple suggestions to increase students' feelings of belonging. (Virtual) University of Essex, Department of Psychology. July 20th 2021

Science of the Supernatural: What studying ghosts can tell us about our brains. (Virtual) Student Neuroscience Association, Georgia Tech. November 2nd, 2023

Conference talks

Elevating pedagogy: Teaching-focused career paths at research-intensive universities (with Chan, V; DeMoya, S; Malavanti, K; Pilegard, C; Scudder, S; Wood, S;). The Society for Neuroscience, November 2025, San Diego, CA

Best practices for the teaching of undergraduate neuroscience (with K Malavanti; Thakkar, V; and Witherby, A). The Society for the Teaching of Psychology's Annual Conference on Teaching, October 2025, Minneapolis, MN.

Building neuroscience curricula with an eye towards experiential learning (with Lack, K; Stottlemeyer, E; McQuail, J, McGaughy, J). The International Behavioral Neuroscience Society, June 2025, Tromsø, Norway (symposium co-chair)

Supporting teaching-focused faculty in higher ed (with Malavanti, K). The Society for the Teaching of Psychology's Annual Conference on Teaching, October 2024, Louisville, KY

So, you want to solve a murder? Unlocking the mysteries of the mind by designing murder mysteries in the classroom (with Lack, K; Ragan, C). The Neuroscience Teaching Conference, July 2024, Winston-Salem, NC

Neuroscience is everywhere! Reflections on study abroad in London. The Neuroscience Teaching Conference, July 2023, Winston-Salem, NC

We're all in this together: Critical conversations about combatting academic burnout. The Society for the Teaching of Psychology's Annual Conference on Teaching, October 2022, Pittsburgh, PA

Supernatural...or psychology? (with C. Ragan) The Society for the Teaching of Psychology's Annual Conference on Teaching, October 2020, Virtual Presentation).

In order to cure, you must first understand: An interactive analysis of the zombie brain. Teaching Slam; National Institute for the Teaching of Psychology, January 2019, St. Petersburg, FL.

WFU Campus talks

Critical Thinking: Self-regulation of belief (with Fleeson, W). WFU Psychology Seminar in Self-Regulation, October 2021

Becoming a model teacher. Workshop given at the WFU Teaching and Learning Collaborative, March 2019

Teaching traps, course refreshers, and other notes from NITOP. WFU Psychology Seminar in Self-Regulation January 2019

Wake the zombie: Teaching biopsychology through games. WFU Psychology Seminar in Self-Regulation April 2018

Promoting good study habits for deeper learning. WFU Teaching and Learning Collaborative, April 2018

Alcohol withdrawal and seizure: What is it and how can we treat it? WFU Psychology Seminar in Self-Regulation October 2015

Refereed research papers

Masicampo, M; Shan, H; Xu, V; Speagle, M; Godwin, DW (2018) Selective blockade of T-Type Ca²⁺ channels is protective against alcohol-withdrawal induced seizure and mortality. *Alcohol and Alcoholism* 53 (5)526-531.

Riegle, M; **Masicampo, M**; Shan, H; Xu, V; Godwin, DW (2015) Ethosuximide reduces mortality and seizure severity in response to PTZ treatment during ethanol withdrawal. *Alcohol and Alcoholism* 50 (5)501-508

Riegle, M; **Masicampo, M**; Caulder, E, Godwin, D.W (2014) Ethosuximide reduces electrographical and behavioral correlates of alcohol withdrawal seizure in DBA/2J mice. *Alcohol* 48 (5)445-53

Iniguez, S; Warren, B; Parise, E; Alcantara, L; Schuh, B; **Maffeo, M**; Manojlovic, Z; Bolanos-Guzman, C. (2009) Nicotine Exposure During Adolescence Induces a Depression-like State in Adulthood. *Neuropsychopharmacology* 34 (6) 1609-24.

Bolaños, C; Wiley, M; **Maffeo, M**; Powers, K; Kinka, D; Grausam, K; Henderson, R. (2008). Antidepressant treatment can normalize adult behavioral deficits induced by early-life exposure to methylphenidate. *Biological psychiatry* 1;63 (3) 309-316.

Conference posters

Masicampo, M.L. Wake the Zombie: Using the zombie apocalypse to promote engagement and reflection in Biopsychology. STP Annual Conference on Teaching 2018, Phoenix, AZ

** Recipient of the STP Early Career Psychologist 3rd Place poster award*

Godwin, D.W., **Masicampo, M.L**, Bass, C.E., Klorig, D.C. Optokindling: Kindling, high frequency oscillations and interictal spikes in an optogenetic model of seizure. Western North Carolina Chapter of the Society for Neuroscience, 2014, Winston-Salem, NC.

Masicampo, M*; Riegle, M*; Carter, E; Weiner, J; Godwin, DW. A role for T-type calcium channels in alcohol withdrawal-induced anxiety. Western North Carolina Chapter of the Society for Neuroscience, 2014, Winston-Salem, NC. *These authors contributed equally

Masicampo, M*; Riegler, M*; Carter, E; Weiner, J; Godwin, D.W. A role for T-type calcium channels in alcohol withdrawal-induced anxiety. Society for Neuroscience, 2014, Washington, D.C. *These authors contributed equally

Shan, H.Q., Riegler, M.A., **Masicampo, M.L.**, Molina, D.P., Godwin, D.W. Enhanced function of native T-type Calcium Channels in DBA/2J mice undergoing alcohol withdrawal. Society for Neuroscience, 2014, Washington, D.C.

Godwin, D.W., **Masicampo, M.L.**, Bass, C.E., Klorig, D.C. Optokindling: Kindling, high frequency oscillations and interictal spikes in an optogenetic model of seizure. Society for Neuroscience, 2014, Washington, D.C.

Klorig, D.C., Alberto, G., **Masicampo, M.L.**, Godwin, D.W. Optogenetic induction of fast-gamma and sharp-wave ripples in vivo. Society for Neuroscience, 2014, Washington, D.C.

Masicampo, M*; Riegler, M*; Shan, H; Godwin, D.W. Ethosuximide, a T-type calcium channel antagonist, reduces behavioral correlates of tonic/clonic seizure during alcohol withdrawal. Research Society on Alcoholism, 2014, Bellevue, WA. *These authors contributed equally

J.D. Day-Brown; D.C. Klorig; **M.L. Masicampo**; D.W. Godwin. Multi-sensory components of conditioned fear development. Western North Carolina Chapter of the Society for Neuroscience, 2012, Winston-Salem, NC.

Masicampo, M.L.; Terry, D.E; Hyson, R.L. Proteomics analysis of deafferentation-induced changes in the chick cochlear nucleus. Society for Neuroscience 2010, San Diego, CA

Maffeo, M; Kinka, D; Bolanos, C. Nicotine exposure during adolescence regulates behavioral responsiveness to mood-eliciting stimuli in adulthood. Society for Neuroscience 2007, San Diego, CA.

Maffeo, M; Krishnan, V; Russo, S; Russel, D; Berton, O; Neve, R; Nestler, E; Bolanos, C. Viral mediated expression of insulin receptor substrate-2 (IRS2) in the VTA modulates behavioral responses to natural reward and other mood related stimuli. The Society for Neuroscience 2006, Atlanta, GA.

Gobrogge, K; **Maffeo, M**; Young, K; Carzoli, K; Holloway, T. Sensory Systems in the developing brain; An innovative approach to public education of brain awareness. Society for Neuroscience 2006, Atlanta, GA.

S.T. Cunningham and **M. Maffeo**. Effects of nucleus accumbens dopamine depletion on the motivational behavior of male rats. National Conference of Undergraduate Research, April 2005, Roanoke, VA.

A.E. Pollack, J.F. Chen, K. Gonzales, **M. Maffeo**, A. Bossou Hunkali, L. Thomas. Role of A2a Adenosine Receptors on the Induction and Expression of Dopamine Mediated Sensitization in 6-Hydroxydopamine Lesioned Rats. Society for Neuroscience, October 2004, San Diego, CA. *Poster only*.