

**ELIZABETH A. KENSINGER**

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Department of Psychology and Neuroscience McGuinn Hall Room 300  
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Email: elizabeth.kensinger@bc.edu

*CV updated 1/20/23*

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**EDUCATION**

1998-2003 Massachusetts Institute of Technology, Ph.D., Neuroscience  
*Advisor:* Suzanne Corkin; *Committee:* Helen Barbas, Earl Miller, Anthony Wagner  
*Dissertation title:* Investigations of the cognitive and neural



Robert Waldinger, P.I. (Elizabeth A. Kensinger, co-I.)  
*Social and Neural Underpinnings of Octogenarian Wellbeing*  
National Institute on Aging (R01-AG034554)  
07/15/2009

1999

Elizabeth A. Kensinger (Training grantee)

American Federation for Aging Research, Glenn/AFAR Scholarship for Research in the Biology of Aging

*Working Memory with Aging and Age-*

## Research Awards

- 2022 Mid-Career Research Award, Psychonomic Society
- 2018 Justine & Yves Sergent Award in Cognitive Neuroscience, University of Montreal
- 2011 Young Investigator Award from the Cognitive Neuroscience Society  
*awarded annually to two individuals*
- 2010 F.J. McGuigan Early Career Investigator Prize  
*awarded biennially to one individual by the American Psychological Foundation*
- 2010 Janet Taylor Spence Award for Transformative Early Career Contributions  
*inaugural recipient of this award, given annually to up to five individuals by the Association for Psychological Science*
- 2009 Springer Early Career Achievement Award in Research on Adult Development and Aging  
*awarded annually by the American Psychological Association, Division 20*
- 2008 Distinguished Junior Researcher Award, Boston College
- 2007 elected to International Neuropsychological Symposium  
*one of 38 North American members and 124 members worldwide*
- 2007 elected to Memory Disorders Research Society  
*one of 140 members worldwide*
- 2004 elected to International Society for Behavioral Neuroscience  
*one of 150 members worldwide*
- 2004 Finalist, Donald B. Lindsley Prize in Behavioral Neuroscience - Society for Neuroscience
- 2004 Outstanding Thesis Award Department of Brain and Cognitive Sciences, MIT
- 2001 Nelson Butters Award for Scholarship in Neuropsychology Massachusetts Neuropsychological Society



Fall, 2007: *Course rating (avg. across categories): 4.8 [9 respondents, 100%]  
Instructor rating: 4.8*

Spring, 2010: *Course rating (avg. across categories): 4.7 [11 respondents, 73%]  
Instructor rating: 4.9*

Spring, 2012: *Course rating (avg. across categories): 4.8 [12 respondents, 92%]  
Instructor, overall rating: 4.7*

Spring, 2013: *Course rating (avg. across categories): 4.6 [12 respondents, 84%]  
Instructor, overall rating: 4.5*

Spring, 2016: *Course rating (avg. across categories): 4.6 [13 respondents, 100%]  
Instructor, overall rating: 4.4*

UN245 Memory in the Media (*Freshman topic seminar*)

Fall, 2009: *Course rating (avg. across categories): 4.0 [9 respondents, 75%]  
Instructor rating: 4.3*

Fall, 2010: *Course rating (avg. across categories): 4.4 [9 respondents, 90%]  
Instructor rating: 4.8*

Fall, 2011: *Course rating (avg. across categories): 4.4 [10 respondents, 76%]  
Instructor rating: 4.6*

UN245 Learning about the Brain through its Disorders (*Freshman topic seminar*)

Fall, 2014: *Course, overall rating: 4.1 [10 respondents, 91%]  
Instructor, overall rating: 4.3*

Fall, 2015: *Course, overall rating: 3.8 [9 respondents, 63%]  
Prof. Kensinger rating (avg. across advisor and instructor): 4.1*

*(Freshman topic seminar)*

Fall, 2018: *Course, overall rating: 4.5 [11 respondents, 78%]  
Prof. Kensinger rating (avg. across advisor and instructor): 4.6*

Fall, 2019: *Course, overall: 4.09 [11 respondents, 68.75%]  
Prof. Kensinger rating (avg. across advisor and instructor): 4.27*

Fall, 2020: *Course, overall: 4.62 [13 respondents, 65%]  
Prof. Kensinger rating (avg. across advisor and instructor): 4.61*

Fall, 2021: *Experience, overall: 4.8 [5 respondents, 55.5%]  
Prof. Kensinger rating (avg. across advisor and instructor): 4.9*

Fall, 2022: *In progress*

**DEPARTMENTAL AND UNIVERSITY LEADERSHIP ROLES**

**Boston College, 2014-present**

2022-23      Chairperson of Psychology and Neuroscience Department  
                  Premedical Advising  
                  Premajor Advising  
                  Faculty Fellowship Committee  
                  Faculty Elections Committee  
                  Postdoctoral Advising Committee  
                  Junior Faculty Mentoring  
                  Peer Evaluation of Teaching

2021-22      Chairperson of Psychology and Neuroscience Department

Premedical Advising  
Premajor Advising  
Faculty Fellowship Committee  
Faculty Elections Committee  
Social Media Committee  
Postdoctoral Advising Committee  
Junior Faculty Mentoring  
Peer Evaluation of Teaching

2020-21      Chairperson of Psychology and Neuroscience Department





American Association for the Advancement of Science   American Psychological Association   American  
Society on Aging   Association for Psychological Science (Fellow)   Boston Area Neuroscience Group  
Charles River Association for Memory   Cognitive Neuroscience Society   Eastern Psychological Association  
Faculty for Undergraduate Neuroscience   Gerontological Society of America   Graduate Women in  
Science   International702.7 Trw)



International Society for Behavioral Neuroscience, Hilton Head, SC

- Denis, D., Kim, S. Y., Kark, S. M., Daley, R. T., Kensinger, E. A., & Payne, J. D. (2022). Slow oscillation-spindle coupling is negatively associated with emotional memory formation following stress. *The European journal of neuroscience*, 55(9-10), 2632–2650. <https://doi.org/10.1111/ejn.15132>
- Denis, D., Sanders, K., Kensinger, E. A., & Payne, J. D. (2022). Sleep preferentially consolidates negative aspects of human memory: Well-powered evidence from two large online experiments. *Proceedings of the National Academy of Sciences of the United States of America*, 119(44), e2202657119. <https://doi.org/10.1073/pnas.2202657119>
- + Fields, E. C., Kensinger, E. A., Garcia, S. M., Ford, J. H., & Cunningham, T. J. (2022). With age comes well-being: older age associated with lower stress, negative affect, and depression throughout the COVID-19 pandemic. *Aging & mental health*, 26(10), 2071–2079.



\* Kark, S., & Kensinger EA (2019). Post-encoding Amygdala-Visuosensory Coupling Is Associated with Negative M

+ Gaesser B, DiBiase H, & Kensinger EA (2017). A role for affect in the link between episodic simulation and prosociality. *Memory*, 25(8), 1052-1062.

Kensinger EA and Gutchess AH (2017). Cognitive aging in a social and affective context: Advances over the past 50 years. *Journal of Gerontology: Psychological Sciences*, 72(1), 61-70.

Krendl AC, Zucker H, & Kensinger EA (2017). Examining the effects of emotion regulation on the ERP response to highly negative social stigmas. *Social Neuroscience*, 12(3), 349-360.

+ Madan CR & Kensinger EA (2017). Age-related differences in the structural complexity of subcortical and



- \* Bennion KA, Payne JD, & Kensinger EA (2015). The selective effects of sleep on emotional memory: What mechanisms are responsible? *Translational Issues in Psychological Science, 1*, 79-88.
- \* Kark SM, & Kensinger EA (2015). Effect of emotional valence on retrieval-related recapitulation of encoding activity in the ventral visual stream. *Neuropsychologia, 78*, 221-230.
- Kensinger EA (2015). The future can shape memory for the present. *Trends in Cognitive Sciences, 19(4)*, 179-180.
- Krendl AC, Ambady N, & Kensinger EA (2015). memory encoding and retrieval. *Journal of Applied Research on Memory and Cognition, 4(2)*, 103-109.
- \* Murray BD, Anderson MC, & Kensinger EA (2015). Older adults can suppress unwanted memories when given an appropriate strategy. *Psychology and Aging, 30(1)*, 9-25.
- Payne JD, Kensinger EA, Wamsley E, Spreng RN, Alger S, Gibler K, Schacter DL, & Stickgold R (2015). Napping and the selective consolidation of negative aspects of scenes. *Emotion, 15(2)*, 176-186.

## 2014

- + Allard ES & Kensinger EA (2014). Age-related differences in functional connectivity during cognitive emotion regulation. *Journals of Gerontology, 69*, 852-60.
- + Allard ES & Kensinger EA (2014). Age-related differences in neural recruitment during the use of cognitive reappraisal and selective attention as emotion regulation strategies. *Frontiers in Emotion Science, 5*, 296.
- \* Bennion KA, Mickley Steinmetz KR, Kensinger EA, & Payne JD (2014).

- \* Bennion KA, Ford JH, Murray BD, & Kensinger EA (2013). Oversimplification in the study of emotional memory. *Journal of the International Neuropsychological Society*, 19(9), 953-61.
- Choi, H-Y, Kensinger EA, & Rajaram S (2013). Emotional content enhances true but not false memory for categorized stimuli. *Memory and Cognition*, 41, 403-15.
- \* Holland AC & Kensinger EA (2013). The neural correlates of cognitive reappraisal during emotional autobiographical memory recall. *Journal of Cognitive Neuroscience*, 25, 87-108.
- \* Holland AC & Kensinger EA (2013). An fMRI investigation of the cognitive reappraisal of negative memories. *Neuropsychologia*, 51, 2389-2400.
- \* Mickley Steinmetz KR & Kensinger EA (2013). The emotion-induced memory trade-off: More than an effect of overt attention? *Memory and Cognition*, 41, 69-81.
- \* Murray BD & Kensinger EA (2013). A review of the neural and behavioral consequences for unitizing emotional and neutral information. *Frontiers in Behavioral Neuroscience*, 7, 42.
- \* Murray BD & Kensinger EA (2013). Age-related changes in associative memory for emotional and non-emotional integrative representations. *Psychology and Aging*, 28, 969-983.
- Olson KR, Heberlein AS, Kensinger E, Burrows C, Dweck CS, Spelke ES, & Banaji MR (2013) The role of forgetting in undermining good intentions. *PLoS ONE* 8(11): e79091.
- \* Waring JD, Addis DR, & Kensinger EA (2013). Effects of aging on neural connectivity underlying selective

*Journal of Cognitive Neuroscience*, 23, 1285-1297.

Pierce BH, & Kensinger EA (2011). Effects of emotion on associative recognition: valence and retention interval matter. *Emotion*, 11, 139-144.

Schmidt K, Patnaik P, & Kensinger EA  
context. *Cognition and Emotion*, 25, 229-243.

Steinberger, A., Payne, J.D., & Kensinger EA (2011). The effect of cognitive reappraisal on the emotional memory trade-off. *Cognition and Emotion*, 25, 1237-1245.

Waldinger R, Kensinger EA, & Schultz M (2011). Neural activity, neural connectivity, and the encoding of emotionally-valenced information in older adults: Links with life satisfaction. *Cognitive, Affective, and Behavioral Neuroscience*, 11, 426-436.

\* Waring JD & Kensinger EA (2011). How emotion leads to selective memory: Neuroimaging evidence. *Neuropsychologia*, 49, 1831-1842.

Weierich MR, Kensinger EA, Munnell AH, Sass SA, Dickerson BC, Wright CI, & Barrett LF.

(2011) nBT/F1 11.04 Tf1 0 0 1 118.22 533.35 Tm0 G[(, )] TJ99255.p0000912 0 612 792

**2009**

- Kensinger EA & Choi ES (2009). Hemispheric processing and the visual specificity of emotional memories. *Journal of Experimental Psychology: Learning, Memory, and Cognition*, 35,

Kensinger EA (2007). How negative emotion affects memory accuracy: Behavioral and neuroimaging evidence. *Current Directions in Psychological Science*, 16, 213-218.

Kensinger EA, Garoff-Eaton RJ, & Schacter DL (2007). How negative emotion enhances the visual

Kensinger EA & Schacter DL (2005). Retrieving accurate and distorted memories: Neuroimaging evidence for effects of emotion. *NeuroImage*, 27, 167-177.

**2004**

Kensinger EA (2004). Remembering emotional experiences: The contribution of valence and arousal. *Reviews in the Neurosciences*, 15, 241-251.

Kensinger EA & Corkin S (2004). The effects of emotional content and aging on false memories.

Kensinger EA & Schacter DL (1999). When true memories suppress false memories: Effects of aging. *Cognitive Neuropsychology*, 16, 399-415.

**Supervised Theses Published in Undergraduate Research Journals**

DeRojas J & Kensinger EA (2010). The neural response to phylogenetic and ontogenetic emotional stimuli.

Kensinger EA (2011). Emotion-Memory Interactions in Older Adulthood. In *Memory and Aging: Current Issues and Future Directions* (M. Naveh-Benjamin and N. Ohta, Eds.). New York, NY: Psychology Press.

\* Mickley Steinmetz KR & Kensinger EA  
memory: Relevance to posttraumatic stress disorder. In *Learning and Memory Developments* (L.C. Eklund and A.S. Nyman, Eds.). Hauppauge, NY: Nova Science Publisher, Inc.

\* Mickley Steinmetz KR & Kensinger EA (2010). *How Does Emotion Affect Attention and Memory? Attentional Capture, Tunnel Memory, and the Implications for Posttraumatic Stress Disorder*. Hauppauge, NY: Nova Science Publisher, Inc.

\* Waring JD & Kensinger EA

Hauppauge, NY: Nova Science  
Publisher, Inc.

Kensinger EA (2009). Phases of influence: How emotion modulates the formation and retrieval of declarative memories. In M. Gazzaniga (Ed.) *The Cognitive Neurosciences IV*. Cambridge, MA: MIT Press.

Kensinger EA (2009). Cognition in aging and age-related disease. In L.R. Squire (Ed.) *The New Encyclopedia of Neuroscience*. Oxford: Elsevier Press.

Schacter DL, Gutchess AH, & Kensinger EA (2009). Specificity of memory: Implications for individual and collective remembering. In P. Boyer & J. Wertsch (Eds.), *Memory in Mind and Culture* (pp. 83-111). Cambridge: Cambridge University Press.

Kensinger EA & Corkin S (2008). Amnesia: Point and Counterpoint. In R. Menzel (Ed.), *Learning Theory and Behavior*, Vol. 1 of *Learning and Memory: A Comprehensive Reference*, 4 vols. (J. Byrne Editor). Oxford: Elsevier Press. (pp. 259-286).

Kensinger EA



Kensinger EA

*The Harvard Brain, 26-29.*

**Book Reviews**

Kensinger EA (2007). Human Memory: Once more, with feeling [Review of the book *Memory and Emotion*].  
*Experimental Psychology, 54*, 243-244.

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**LABORATORY MEMBERS**

**Postdoctoral fellows:**

- supported by National Defense Science and Engineering fellowship (2017-18)
- dissertation research supported by APA Dissertation Award (2017-18)
- awarded Boston College Engelhard Pingree Fellowship (2017)

Brendan Murray (2008-13): awarded TEACRS postdoctoral fellowship at Tufts (decl.); research scientist in private sector

- pre-dissertation research funded in part by SigmaXi Grant-in-Aid of research (2011)
- awarded graduate research grant from Boston College Institute on Aging (2012)
- recipient of Dissertation Fellowship from Boston College and APA dissertation award (2012)

Alisha Holland (2007)

Rachel Furlan--Americorps  
Amanda Spak-- Clinical Research Assistant at McLean Hospital  
Erin Welch-- Lab Manager at Duke University

***Class of 2020***

Isabella Turco - Clinical Research Coordinator, Neuroanesthesia Lab, Mass General Hospital  
Rachel VanBoxtel - research assistant, Department of Psychiatry, Brigham and Women's Hospital

***Class of 2019***

Kevin Frederiks Clinical Research Coordinator, McLean Hospital Center for Depression, Anxiety and Stress Research

***Class of 2018***

Briana Smith (co-advised with Sarah Kark) Boston Scientific

***Class of 2017***

Emily Czeisler researcher at Vanda Pharmaceuticals

***Class of 2016***

Elena Pezzino (co-advised with Chris Madan) graduate program in biomedical sciences

***Class of 2015***

Jason Michaels (co-advised with Kelly Bennion) graduate program in statistics at Georgetown

***Class of 2014***

Michelle Blair (co-advised with Eric Allard) intern, Mass. Society for Prevention of Cruelty to Children  
Maria Box (co-advised with Jackie Ford) research intern at UT Southwestern Medical Center  
Alison Crisp (co-advised with Brendan Murray)

***Class of 2013***

Joana Bueno enrolled in nursing school at U. Penn.  
Rachel Newmiller opened private tutoring practice

***Class of 2012***

Sarah Collier performance management analyst in private sector  
Kelly Durham (co-advised with Halle Zucker) research assistant at Massachusetts General Hospital  
Alex Goldowsky (co-advised with Alisha Holland) research assistant at NYU  
James Gregoire post-baccalaureate program in preparation for medical school  
Eunice Lee (co-advised with Anne Krendl) research assistant at Indiana University  
Allie Minogue (co-advised with Eric Allard) internship with advertising agency  
Laura Paige Boston College; Ph.D. student in Psychology at Brandeis U.

***Class of 2011***

teach for America in Philadelphia, PA  
Lauren Skogsholm (co-advised with Katherine Mickley Steinmetz) - post-baccalaureate program at Central Connecticut State

***Class of 2010***

Jillian Burdziak traveled to Japan to teach English  
Jennifer Chen employed by Koszyn & Company  
Andrew Lavenia (co-advised with Alisha Holland)

Pooja Patnaik research assistant in Dr. St

; Ph.D. student in Psychology at