

ADRIENNE WOOD, PH.D

adrienne.wood@virginia.edu | emotionbehavior.com
[google scholar](#) | [OSF](#) | [github](#) | [ORCID](#) | [publons](#)

APPOINTMENTS

2019-present University of Virginia, Department of Psychology
Assistant Professor

2018-2019 Dartmouth College, Department of Psychological and Brain Sciences
Postdoctoral Research Associate
Supervisor: Thalia Wheatley

EDUCATION

2018 University of Wisconsin–Madison
PhD in Psychology
Advisor: Paula Niedenthal
Dissertation: “Social reinforcement, appeasement, and punishment: The multiple functions of laughter” [\[full text\]](#)

2012 Colorado College
B.A., Major in Psychology with Distinctions, Minor in Music, *Magna cum laude*

AWARDS, GRANTS, AND FELLOWSHIPS

2024 Association for Psychological Science Rising Star Award

2024 Distinguished Alumni Award for Early Career Achievement, University of Wisconsin Department of Psychology

2022 Outstanding Researcher Award, University of Virginia

2022-2027 University of Virginia Prominence to Preeminence Targeted Initiative Award (\$5,000,000): “PREPARE: An integrative science program in massively interacting networked systems and its applications to pandemic science and response.” (team member)

2022-2027 NSF CAREER Award (\$520,000): “Applying the exploration-exploitation tradeoff to understand how people connect” (PI)

2022-2024 John Templeton Foundation Grant (\$125,000): “Primals & Personality & Social Psychology: The daily movement patterns of people who find the world enticing” (PI)

2019-2021 Neukom CompX Faculty Grant (\$40,000), P.I.s: Kleinbaum, Wheatley, & Wood,

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Title: "Predicting future social network position from the interactions of strangers: An applied computer vision project"

2019-2020	SPSP "Inside the Grant Panel" Research Grant (\$5,000)
2019	Wisconsin Symposium on Emotion Travel Award (\$300)
2019	SPSP Emotion Preconference Best Poster Award
2018	Society for Affective Sciences Best Flash Talk Award
2017-2018	NIH Training Program in Emotion Research (T32) Predoctoral Trainee
2017	Travel award for the Summer Institute in Social and Personality Psychology
2015	Honored Instructor Award, University Housing Academic Initiatives
2013-2016	National Science Foundation Graduate Research Fellowship (\$96,000)
2012	Morgridge Foundation Graduate Student Fellowship (\$19,000)
2012	University Fellowship for final year of dissertation (\$18,900)
2012	Cornelia Manley Sabine Award in Psychology (\$1,000)
2011	Phi Beta Kappa, Beta of Colorado
2011	William Arthur Blakely Memorial Award in Psychology (\$1,000)
2011	Venture Fund grant to support senior thesis research (\$2,500)
2011	Cottonseed and Feed Association Nathan Segal Merit Scholarship (\$2,000)

ARTICLES

**Indicates an undergraduate or graduate student trainee*

Lin, E., Brands, R., Kleinbaum, A., & Wood, A. (under review). Diversity of Experience and Social Network Brokerage.

daSilva, E. & **Wood, A.** (under review). How and why people synchronize: A synthesis of interpersonal synchrony.

*Tsang, S., *Barrentine, K., *Chadha, S., Oishi, S., & **Wood, A.** (under review). Social exploration: How and why people seek new connections. [[OSF preprint](#)]

*Hansen, Z., Martin, J., Niedenthal, P., & **Wood, A.** (under review). Gender Differences in the Form and Function of Naturally Occurring Smiles. [[OSF preprint](#)]

Liu, H., *Tsang, S., **Wood, A.**, & Tong, X. (accepted). Longitudinal Sentiment Analysis with Conversation Textual Data. *Fudan Journal of the Humanities and Social Sciences*.

*Chadha, S., *Ha, T., & **Wood, A.** (2024). Thinking you're different matters more for belonging than being different. *Scientific Reports*. [[OSF preprint](#)]

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- *Tsang, S., *Lipson, J., *Snyder, A., & **Wood, A.** (2024). People constrain their semantic associations when talking to both friends and strangers. *Journal of Experimental Psychology: General* [[OSF preprint](#)]
- Wood, A.** & Coan, J.A. (2023). Beyond nature versus nurture: The emergence of emotion. *Affective Science*.
- Grossman, T. & **Wood, A.** (2023). Variability in the expression and perception of positive affect in human infancy. *Social Cognitive and Affective Neuroscience*.
- *Chadha, S., Kleinbaum, A., & **Wood, A.** (2023). Social Networks are Shaped by Culturally Contingent Assessments of Social Competence. *Nature Scientific Reports*. [[Open access link](#)]
- *Furrer, R., Schloss, K., Lupyan, G., Niedenthal, P., & **Wood, A.** (2023). Red and Blue States: Dichotomized maps mislead and reduce perceived voting influence. *Cognitive Research: Principles and Implications*. [[OSF preprint](#)]
- Wood, A.**, Sievert, S., & Martin, J. (2022). Semantic similarity of social functional smiles and laughter. *Journal of Nonverbal Behavior*. [[OSF preprint](#)]
- Wood, A.**, Templeton, E., *Morrel, J., *Schubert, F., & Wheatley, T. (2022). Tendency to laugh is a stable trait: Findings from a round-robin conversation study. *Philosophical Transactions of the Royal Society B*. [[OSF preprint](#)]
- Wood, A.**, Kleinbaum, A., & Wheatley, T. (2022). Cultural diversity broadens social networks. *Journal of Personality and Social Psychology*. [[OSF preprint](#)]
- Zhao, F., **Wood, A.**, Mutlu, B., & Niedenthal, P. (2022). Faces synchronize when communication through spoken language is prevented. *Emotion*.
- Woodard, K., Plate, R., Morningstar, M., **Wood, A.**, & Pollak, S. (2021). Categorization of vocal emotion cues depends on distributions of input. *Affective Science*.
- Martin, J., **Wood, A.**, Cox, W., Sievert, S., Nowak, R., & Niedenthal, P. (2021). Evidence for distinct facial signals of reward, affiliation, and dominance from both perception and production tasks. *Affective Science*. [[OSF preprint](#)]
- Wood, A.** (2020). Social context influences the acoustic properties of laughter. *Affective Science*. [[OSF preprint](#)]
- Niedenthal, P., Rychlowska, M., Zhao, F., & **Wood, A.** (2019). Historical Migration Patterns Shape Contemporary Cultures of Emotion. *Perspectives on Psychological Science*. [[link](#)]

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- Niedenthal, P.M. & **Wood, A.** (2019). Does emotion influence visual perception? Depends on how you look at it. *Cognition & Emotion*. [\[link\]](#)
- Wood, A.**, Martin, J., Alibali, M., & Niedenthal, P. (2019). A sad thumbs-up: Incongruent gestures and disrupted sensorimotor activity both slow processing of facial expressions. *Cognition and Emotion*. [\[full text\]](#)
- Plate, R.,¹ **Wood, A.**,¹ Woodard, K., & Pollak, S. (2019). Probabilistic learning of emotion categories. *Journal of Experimental Psychology: General*. [\[full text\]](#) **1Equal contributions**
- Niedenthal, P., Rychlowska, M., **Wood, A.**, & Zhao, F. (2018). Heterogeneity of long-history migration predicts smiling, laughter and positive emotion across the globe and within the United States. *PLOS ONE*. [\[full text\]](#)
- Wood, A.** & Niedenthal, P. (2018). Developing a social functional account of laughter. *Social and Personality Psychology Compass*, e12383. [\[full text\]](#)
- Martin, J., Rychlowska, M., **Wood, A.**, & Niedenthal, P. (2017). Smiles as multipurpose social signals. *Trends in Cognitive Sciences*, 21(11), 864-77. [\[full text\]](#)
- Wood, A.**, Martin, J., & Niedenthal, P. (2017). Towards a social functional account of laughter: Acoustic features predict perceptions of reward, affiliation, and dominance. *PLOS ONE*, 12(8), e0183811. [\[full text\]](#)
- Niedenthal, P., Rychlowska, M., & **Wood, A.** (2017). Feelings and contexts: Socioecological influences on the nonverbal expression of emotion. *Current Opinion in Psychology*, 17, 170-5. [\[full text\]](#)
- Wood, A.**, Rychlowska, M., Korb, S., & Niedenthal, P. (2016). Fashioning the face: Sensorimotor simulation contributes to facial expression recognition. *Trends in Cognitive Sciences*, 20(3), 227-240. [\[full text\]](#)
- Korb, S., **Wood, A.**, Rychlowska, M., & Niedenthal, P. (2016). The perils of boxes and arrows: Reply to Gallese & Caruana. *Trends in Cognitive Sciences*, 20, 398-399. [\[full text\]](#)
- Wood, A.**, Rychlowska, M., & Niedenthal, P. (2016). Heterogeneity of long-history migration predicts emotion recognition accuracy. *Emotion*, 16, 413-420. [\[full text\]](#)
- Korb, S., **Wood, A.**, Banks, C., Agoulnik, D., Hadlock, T., & Niedenthal, P. (2016). Asymmetry of facial mimicry and emotion perception in patients with unilateral facial paralysis. *JAMA Facial Plastic Surgery*, 18(3), 222-227. [\[full text\]](#)
- Wood, A.**, Lupyan, G. & Niedenthal, P. (2016). Why do we need emotion words in the first place? Commentary on Lakoff (2015). *Emotion Review*, 8, 274-275. [\[full text\]](#)

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Wood, A., Lupyan, G., Sherrin, S., & Niedenthal, P. (2015). Altering sensorimotor feedback disrupts visual discrimination of facial expressions. *Psychonomic Bulletin & Review*, 23, 1150-1156. [\[full text\]](#)

Wood, A. & Niedenthal, P. (2015). Language limits the experience of emotions: Comment on "The quartet theory of human emotions: An integrative and neurofunctional model" by S. Koelsch et al. *Physics of Life Reviews*, 13, 95-98. [\[link\]](#)

Rychlowska, M., Canadas, E., **Wood, A.**, Krumhuber, E. G., Fischer, A., & Niedenthal, P. M. (2014). Blocking mimicry makes true and false smiles look the same. *PLoS ONE*, 9, e90876. [\[full text\]](#)

MANUSCRIPTS IN PREPARATION

**Indicates an undergraduate or graduate student trainee*

*Austin, M., *Harris, K., *Caluori, N., & **Wood, A.** (in prep). Gossip enforces cooperation in the absence of shared group identity.

*Barrentine, K. & **Wood, A.** (in prep). Having more social ties is good for well-being, but striving for quantity can backfire.

*Tsang, S., *Kaiser, S., Tong, X., & **Wood, A.** (in prep). How emotion contagion changes during friendship formation: A longitudinal conversation study.

CHAPTERS

**Indicates an undergraduate or graduate student trainee*

Niedenthal, P., Neta, M., & **Wood, A.** (in press). Emotion. *Handbook of Social Psychology*.

Wood, A., *Lipson, J., Zhao, F., & Niedenthal, P. (2021). Forms and Functions of Affective Synchrony. In (Eds.) L. Thomas & M. Robinson, *Embodied Psychology: Thinking, Feeling, and Acting*. Springer. [\[OSF preprint\]](#)

Wood, A., Martin, J., & Niedenthal, P. (2017). How and why emotions are embodied. In (Eds.) A. Fox, R. Lapate, A. Shackman, & R. Davidson, *The Nature of Emotion* (2nd ed.). New York: Oxford University Press.

Niedenthal, P., **Wood, A.**, Rychlowska, M., & Korb, S. (2017). Embodied simulation in decoding facial expression. In (Eds.) J. Russell & J. Fernandez-Dols, *The Science of Facial Expression*. Oxford: Oxford University Press.

Niedenthal, P., Korb, S., **Wood, A.**, & Rychlowska, M. (2016). Revisiting the simulation of smiles model: The what, when, and why of mimicking smiles. In Ursula Hess & Agneta Fisher

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(Eds.), *Emotional mimicry in social context*. Cambridge: Cambridge University Press. 44-71. Cambridge: Cambridge University Press.

Niedenthal, P., **Wood, A.**, & Rychlowska, M. (2014). Embodied emotional concepts. In L. Shapiro (Ed.), *The Routledge Handbook of Embodied Cognition*. Oxford: Routledge Philosophy.

WRITING FOR A PUBLIC AUDIENCE

Wood, A. (2023). "Laughter can communicate a lot more than good humor – people use it to smooth social interactions." *The Conversation*. <https://theconversation.com/laughter-can-communicate-a-lot-more-than-good-humor-people-use-it-to-smooth-social-interactions-193279>

Wood, A. (2023). "Experience with cultural diversity." Society for Personality and Social Psychology: Character & Context Blog. <https://spsp.org/news/character-and-context-blog/wood-cultural-diversity-experience-make-new-friends-when-moving>

Wood, A. (2022). "How Our Smiles and Laughter Affect Others." Society for Personality and Social Psychology: Character & Context Blog. <https://spsp.org/news/character-and-context-blog/wood-smile-laughter-affect-others>

Wood, A. (2016). "How Historical Migration Patterns Shape Emotion Expression." Society for Personality and Social Psychology: Character & Context Blog. <http://spsp.org/blog/how-historical-migration-patterns-shape-emotional-expression>

TALKS AND PRESENTATIONS

- 02.2024 Shared Reality Mini-Conference (invited talk)
- 09.2023 California State University Northridge Psychology Department Colloquium (invited talk)
- 08.2023 Academy of Management conference. *Conversational emotion contagion decreases as people become friends* (talk)
- 05.2023 Association for Psychological Science (APS) conference. *How people connect in culturally diverse environments* (invited talk)
- 02.2023 Society for Personality and Social Psychology (SPSP) conference. *Becoming Well-Connected: An Agent-Based Modeling Approach* (talk)
- 11.2022 Page-Barbour Workshop: Origins of the Human Mind, University of Virginia (invited talk)
- 09.2022 Purdue University Social Psychology Brownbag (invited talk)
- 07.2022 University of Virginia Contagion Science Program. *The Social Psychology of Networks*.
- 10.2021 Leiden University Colloquium.

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- 04.2021 Society for Affective Science (SAS) Conference. Special symposium on Positive Emotions.
- 04.2021 Society for Affective Neuroscience (SANS) Conference. *Yes, and: The building blocks of enjoyable conversation* (invited talk)
- 02.2021 Society for Personality and Social Psychology Annual Meeting (SPSP). *Red state, blue state: The polarizing influence of color in political maps* (poster presented by Rémy Furrer*)
- 02.2021 Society for Personality and Social Psychology Annual Meeting (SPSP). *Gender differences in face-to-face social networking and the consequences for long-term social connection* (talk presented by Caitlyn Lee*)
- 02.2020 Society for Personality and Social Psychology Annual Meeting (SPSP), New Orleans. *Developing a computer vision pipeline for tracking people in crowds* (talk)
- 02.2020 Society for Personality and Social Psychology Annual Meeting (SPSP), New Orleans. *Predicting future social network positions from the interactions of strangers* (talk)
- 10.2019 Society for Experimental Social Psychology Conference, Toronto. Culture and context shape the communication and perception of emotion (talk)
- 07.2019 International Society for Research in Emotions (ISRE) Conference, Amsterdam. *The acoustic distinctiveness of natural laughter during rewarding, affiliative, and dominant contexts* (talk)
- 03.2019 Society for Affective Sciences (SAS) Conference, Boston. *Exposure to cultural diversity helps people make new friends: A social network study* (talk)
- 03.2019 Society for Affective Sciences (SAS) Conference, Positive Emotions Preconference, Boston. *Social context modifies the acoustic features of natural laughter* (talk)
- 02.2019 Society for Personality and Social Psychology Annual Meeting (SPSP) Emotion Preconference, Portland, OR. *The acoustic distinctiveness of natural laughter during rewarding, affiliative, and dominant contexts. Received Best Poster Award*
- 10.2018 Dartmouth College Social Brain Seminar. *Social reinforcement, appeasement, and punishment: The multiple functions of laughter.* (invited talk)
- 04.2018 Society for Affective Sciences (SAS) Conference, Los Angeles. *Unsupervised statistical learning shifts facial expression categories in children and adults* (talk)
Received Best Flash Talk Award
- 04.2018 Society for Affective Sciences (SAS) Conference, Los Angeles. *Social functional smiles: Evidence from reverse correlation and machine learning platforms* (talk)
- 03.2018 Society for Personality and Social Psychology (SPSP), Atlanta, GA. *More than mirth: Laughter serves the social functions of reward, affiliation, and dominance* (symposium talk)

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- 02.2018 Human, Animal, and Machine Learning: Experiment and Theory Meeting, University of Wisconsin. *Form follows function: Emotion expressions as adaptive social tools* (talk)
- 10.2017 Social and Developmental Psychology Brown Bag Meeting, University of Wisconsin Psychology Department. *Unsupervised Learning and Emotion Categorization* (talk)
- 07.2017 International Society for Research in Emotions (ISRE) Conference St. Louis, Missouri. *The social functions of laughter: Acoustic features convey reward, affiliation, and dominance* (poster)
- 04.2017 Society for Affective Sciences (SAS) Positive Emotions Preconference, Boston, Massachusetts. *Towards a social functional account of laughter: Distinct acoustic features predict perceptions of reward, affiliation, and dominance* (talk)
- 04.2017 Society for Affective Sciences (SAS), Boston, Massachusetts. *A sad thumbs-up: Slower processing of facial expressions paired with incongruent conventionalized gestures* (poster)
- 02.2017 Cognitive and Cognitive Neuroscience Brown Bag Meeting, University of Wisconsin Psychology Department. *Towards a social functional account of laughter* (talk)
- 09.2016 Social Psychology Brown Bag Meeting, University of Wisconsin Psychology Department. *Facial feedback and the reproducibility movement* (talk)
- 03.2016 Society for Affective Sciences (SAS) Annual Meeting, Chicago, Illinois. *Heterogeneity of long-history migration predicts emotion recognition* (poster)
- 01.2016 Society for Personality and Social Psychology Annual Meeting (SPSP), San Diego, California. *Heterogeneity of long-history migration predicts emotion recognition accuracy* (poster)
- 04.2015 Society for Affective Science (SAS) Annual Meeting, Oakland, California. *The role of facial mimicry in low-level emotion perception* (poster)
- 03.2015 Social Psychology Brown Bag Meeting, University of Wisconsin Psychology Department. *Good and bad evolutionary psychology* (talk)
- 02.2015 Society for Personality and Social Psychology Annual Meeting (SPSP) Embodiment Preconference, Long Beach, California. *Altering sensorimotor feedback disrupts visual perception of facial expressions* (talk)
- 02.2015 Society for Personality and Social Psychology Annual Meeting (SPSP), Long Beach, California. *Altering sensorimotor feedback disrupts visual perception of facial expressions* (poster)
- 04.2014 Society for Affective Science Positive Emotions Preconference, Washington, D.C. *Blocking mimicry makes true and false smiles look the same* (talk)
- 02.2014 Society for Personality and Social Psychology Annual Meeting (SPSP), Austin, Texas. *The relationship between social categories, eye contact, and facial mimicry* (poster)

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- 08.2013 International Society for Research in Emotions (ISRE) Conference, Berkeley, California. *Where do you look and when do you mimic? The relationship between social groups, eye contact, and facial mimicry* (poster)
- 01.2012 Society for Personality and Social Psychology Annual Meeting (SPSP), San Diego, California. *Gratitude and the paradox of valuing happiness* (poster)

COURSES TAUGHT

- Introduction to Social Psychology (PSYC 2600)
- Psychology of Emotion (PSYC 4640)
- Social Dynamics (PSYC 5500)
- Proseminar in Social Psychology (PSYC 7600)

SERVICE TO THE UNIVERSITY OF VIRGINIA

- 2024 Committee for the Interdisciplinary Seed Grant component of the Grand Challenges initiative on Digital Tech & Youth Development
- 2019-present Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion Visibility Subcommittee Chair
- 2019-2024 Human Subjects Committee
- 2022-2023 Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion Recruitment and Graduate Student Well-being Subcommittee
- 2022 Hiring Committee, Social Psychology Associate/Full Position
- 2022 Hiring Committee, Contagion Science postdoctoral fellow
- 2022-present Steering Committee, Department of Psychology

ADVISING COMMITTEES

PRIMARY PHD ADVISOR: Shelly Tsang, Kyle Barrentine, Sareena Chadha

DISTINGUISHED MAJORS PROJECT (HONORS THESIS) ADVISOR: Tiffany Ha, Sophie Melly, Stephanie Kaiser, Jessica Morrel, Ted Schubert, Sareena Chadha, Kayleigh Harris

DISSERTATION COMMITTEES: Jin Bak, Gus Sjobeck, Quinn Hirschi, Ilana Ladis, Andrew Lampi, Yuching Lin

COMPREHENSIVE EXAMS COMMITTEES: Nava Caluori, Shelly Tsang, Ilana Ladis, Maura Austin, Andrew Lampi, Gus Sjobeck, Nauder Namaky, Kyle Barrentine

PREDISSENTATION COMMITTEES: Kyle Barrentine, Jackie Lisnek, Jacob Goldstein-Greenwood, Shelly Tsang, Quinn Hirschi, Maura Austin, Andrew Lampi, Sareena Chadha

SERVICE TO THE FIELD

- 2024-present Consulting Editor, *Emotion*
- 2023-present Programming Committee for the Emotion Preconference at the Society for Personality and Social Psychology
- 2022 NSF Social Psychology Grant Review Panel
- 2020-2023 Programming Committee for the Society for Affective Neuroscience

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2020-present Programming Committee for the Society for Affective Science
2019-2023 Planning Committee for the Society for Affective Science Positive Psychology
Preconference
2019-2021 Social Media Committee for the Society for Affective Science

AD HOC REVIEWING (incomplete list)

National Science Foundation
Binational Science Foundation
Marsden Fund
Psychological Science
Perspectives on Psychological Science
eLife
Journal of Experimental Social Psychology
Emotion
British Journal of Psychology
Motivation and Emotion
Social, Cognitive, & Affective Neuroscience
PLOS ONE
Journal of Cognitive Neuroscience
Evolutionary Behavioral Sciences
Journal of Nonverbal Behavior
Cognitive, Affective, & Behavioral Neuroscience
Scientific Reports - Nature
Emotion Review
Journal of Personality and Social Psychology
Current Biology
Royal Society Open Access
Proceedings of the National Academy of Sciences
iTHRIV grant reviewer