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Curriculum Vitae

ANTHONY H. AHRENS
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Education

Ph.D., Psychology, 1986, Stanford University
B.A. Psychology, Mathematical Methods in the Social Sciences, 1981, Northwestern University

Professional Experience

1993-present Associate Professor, Department of Psychology, American University
(Department Chair, 1996-2000)
1987-1993 Assistant Professor, Department of Psychology, American University
1986-1987 Postdoctoral Scholar, Department of Psychology, University of Wisconsin

Honors and Awards

National Science Foundation Graduate Fellowship, Stanford University, 1982-1985
National Institutes of Health Individual Research Service Award, 1986-1987
American University Research Grant, College of Arts and Sciences, 1987-1988
National Institute of Mental Health, R03 MH47003-02 "Mood, Recall, and Changes in Attributional Style." 1992-1995
American University Mellon Grant, College of Arts and Sciences, 1995, 2005
National Cancer Institute, 5 R21 CA91829-02 "Applying Self-Regulatory Focus Theory to Cigarette Smoking Cessation," Co-Investigator (David Haaga, PI) 2002-2004
American University, University Faculty Award for Outstanding Service to the University Community, 2007
Best Reviewer Award, *Journal of Happiness Studies*, 2008-2009

Refereed Publications

- Ahrens, A. H. (1987). Theories of depression: The role of goals and the self-evaluation process. *Cognitive Therapy and Research, 11*, 665-680.
- Alloy, L. B., & Ahrens, A. H. (1987). Depression and pessimism for the future: Biased use of statistically relevant information in predictions for self versus others. *Journal of Personality and Social Psychology, 52*, 366-378.
- Ahrens, A. H., Zeiss, A. M., & Kanfer, R. (1988). Depressive deficits in interpersonal standards, self-efficacy, and social comparison. *Cognitive Therapy and Research, 12*, 53-67.
- Ahrens, A. H., & Abramson, L. Y. (1991). Changes in personal standards and dysphoria: A longitudinal approach. *Cognitive Therapy and Research, 15*, 47-68.
- Ahrens, A. H. (1991). Dysphoria and social comparison: Combining information regarding others' performances. *Journal of Social and Clinical Psychology, 10*, 190-205.
- Wiseman, C.V., Gray, J.J., Mosimann, J.E., & Ahrens, A.H. (1992). Cultural expectations of thinness in women: An update. *International Journal of Eating Disorders, 11*, 85-89.
- Dixon, J. F. & Ahrens, A. H. (1992). Stress and attributional style as predictors of self-reported depression in children. *Cognitive Therapy and Research, 16*, 623-634.
- Ahrens, A. H., & Haaga, D. A. F. (1993). The specificity of attributional style and expectations to positive and negative affectivity, depression, and anxiety. *Cognitive Therapy and Research, 17*, 83-98.
- Haaga, D. A. F., McDermut, W., & Ahrens, A. H. (1993). Discriminant validity of the Inventory to Diagnose Depression. *Journal of Personality Assessment, 60*, 285-289.
- Perez-Bouchard, L., Johnson, J. L., & Ahrens, A. H. (1993). Attributional style in children of substance abusers. *American Journal of Drug and Alcohol Abuse, 19*, 475-489.
- Edelman, R. E., Ahrens, A. H., & Haaga, D. A. F. (1994). Inferences about the self, attributions, and overgeneralization as predictors of recovery from dysphoria. *Cognitive Therapy and Research, 18*, 551-566.
- Haaga, D. A. F., Ahrens, A. H., Schulman, P., Seligman, M. E. P., DeRubeis, R. J., & Minarik, M. (1995). Metatraits and cognitive assessment: Application to attributional style and depressive symptoms. *Cognitive Therapy and Research, 19*, 121-142.

- Cook, J. M., Ahrens, A. H., & Pearson, J. L. (1995). Attributions and depression in Alzheimer's Disease caregivers. *Journal of Clinical Geropsychology, 1*, 119-132.
- Drexler, L. P., Ahrens, A. H., & Haaga, D. A. F. (1995). The affective consequences of self-handicapping. *Journal of Social Behavior and Personality, 10*, 861-870.
- Minarik, M. L. , & Ahrens, A. H. (1996). Relations of eating behavior, depressive symptoms, and anxiety to the dimensions of perfectionism. *Cognitive Therapy and Research, 20*, 157-171.
- Cook, J. M., Ahrens, A. H., & Pearson, J. (1996). Hopelessness: A mediator or moderator of depression in Alzheimer Disease caregivers? *Journal of Mental Health and Aging, 2*, 5-16.
- Williams, K. E., Chambless, D. L., & Ahrens, A. H. (1997). Are emotions frightening? An extension of the fear of fear construct. *Behavior Research and Therapy, 35*, 239-248.
- Cook, J. M., Pearson, J., & Ahrens, A. H. (1997). General and specific events and depressive symptoms in Alzheimer's Disease caregivers. *American Journal of Alzheimer's Disease, 12*, 32-34.
- Berg, C. Z., Shapiro, N., Chambless, D. L., & Ahrens, A. H. (1998). Are emotions frightening? II: An analogue study of fear of emotion, interpersonal conflict, and panic onset. *Behavior Research and Therapy, 36*, 3-15.
- Chamberlain, J. M., Haaga, D. A. F., Thorndike, F. P., & Ahrens, A. H. (2004). Metatraits and assessment of attributional style. *Journal of Psychology: Interdisciplinary and Applied, 138*, 521-531.
- Sypeck, M. F., Gray, J. J., & Ahrens, A. H. (2004). No longer just a pretty face: Fashion magazines' depictions of ideal female beauty from 1959-1999. *International Journal of Eating Disorders, 36*, 342-347.
- Sypeck, M. F., Gray, J. J., Etu, S. F., Ahrens, A. H., Mosiman, J. E., & Wiseman, C. V., (2006). Cultural representations of thinness in women, redux: Playboy magazine's depiction of women from 1979 to 1999. *Body Image, 3*, 229-235.
- Friedman-Wheeler, D. G., Ahrens, A. H., Haaga, D. A. F., McIntosh, E., & Thorndike, F. P. (2007). Depressive symptoms, depression proneness, and outcome expectancies for cigarette smoking. *Cognitive Therapy and Research, 31*, 547-557.
- Friedman-Wheeler, D. G., Haaga, D. A. F., Gunthert, K. C., Ahrens, A. H., & McIntosh, E. (2008). Depression, neuroticism and expectancies for engagement and disengagement coping among cigarette smokers. *Cognitive Therapy and Research, 32*, 105-115.

Haaga, D. A. F., Friedman-Wheeler, D. G., McIntosh, E., & Ahrens, A. H. (2008). Assessment of individual differences in regulatory focus among cigarette smokers. *Journal of Psychopathology and Behavioral Assessment, 30*, 220-228.

Invited Publications and Papers

Haaga, D. A. F., & Ahrens, A. H. (1992). A disagreement about the benefits of agreement-seeking. *Psychological Inquiry, 3*, 244-247.

Book Chapters

Ahrens, A. H., & Alloy, L. B. (1997). Social comparison processes in depression. In B. Buunk & R. Gibbons (Eds.), *Health, coping, and well-being: Perspectives from social comparison theory*. (pp. 389-410). Mahwah, NJ: Lawrence Erlbaum.

Refereed Professional Presentations

Ahrens, A. H., & Zeiss, A. M. Judgments of control: Multiple measures. Presented at the Western Psychological Association convention, San Francisco, CA, April, 1983.

Alloy, L. B., Ahrens, A. H., & Kayne, N. Depression, causal schemata, and predictions for self and others. Presented at Psychonomics Society convention, San Antonio, Texas, November, 1984.

Ahrens, A. H., & Zeiss, A. M. Depressive deficits in interpersonal standards, self-efficacy, and social comparison. Presented at the Western Psychological Association convention, San Jose, CA, April, 1985.

Ahrens, A. H. Use of social comparison information in mild depression. Presented at the Midwestern Psychological Association convention, Chicago, IL, May, 1987.

Ahrens, A. H., & Abramson, L.Y. Changes in personal standards and dysphoria: A longitudinal approach. Presented at the Midwestern Psychological Association convention, Chicago, IL, April, 1988.

Alloy, L. B., Ahrens, A. H., & Albright, J. S. Depression and self-prediction: The role of attributional style and comparison others. Presented at the Eastern Psychological Association convention, Buffalo, NY, April, 1988.

Ahrens, A. H., & Abramson, L. Y. A longitudinal approach to changes in standards and dysphoria. Presented at the Eastern Psychological Association convention, Boston, MA, April, 1989.

- Perez-Bouchard, L., Johnson, J., & Ahrens, A. H. Attributional style in children of substance abusers. Presented at the Midwestern Psychological Association convention, Chicago, IL, May, 1991.
- Dixon, J. F., & Ahrens, A. H. Attributions, stress, and depression in children. Presented at the Midwestern Psychological Association, Chicago, IL, May, 1991.
- Kronheim, S., & Ahrens, A. H. Individual and group differences in minority influence. Presented at the American Psychological Society Convention, Washington, DC, June, 1991.
- Dixon, J. F., & Ahrens, A. H. Vulnerability factors in self-reported childhood depression: A test of hopelessness theory. Presented at the American Psychological Association convention, San Francisco, CA, August, 1991.
- Ahrens, A. H., & Haaga, D. A. F. Specificity of attributions to depression, anxiety, and positive and negative affect. Presented at the Midwestern Psychological Association convention, Chicago, IL, May, 1992.
- Minarik, M. L., & Ahrens, A. H. Personal standards, symptoms of depression, positive affect, and negative affect. Presented at the Eastern Psychological Association convention, Arlington, VA, April, 1993.
- Ahrens, A. H., Pury, C., Edwards, A., & Abramson, L. Y. Effects of thought on the attributional style of those high and low in depression symptoms. Presented at the Midwestern Psychological Association convention, Chicago, IL, May, 1994.
- Cook, J. M., Pearson, J. L., & Ahrens, A. H. Hopelessness as a predictor of depressive symptomatology in Alzheimer Disease Caregivers. Presented at the Gerontological Society of America convention, Atlanta, GA, November, 1994.
- Ahrens, A. H., Pury, C., Edwards, A., & Abramson, L. Y. Effects of recall on the attributional style of mildly depressed and nondepressed individuals. Presented at the Association for the Advancement of Behavior Therapy convention, Washington, DC, November, 1995.
- Smith, R. & Ahrens, A. H. Experiencing negative affect: The role of self-discrepancies and linking goal attainment to happiness. Presented at the Eastern Psychological Association convention, Washington, DC, April 1997.
- Parker, S., Ahrens, A. H., Davis, A., Goewey, S., Thompson, T. H., & Walbolt, L. The American University's M.A. program in psychology: Who and what is it for? Graduate Education Symposium presented at the Eastern Psychological Association convention, Washington, DC, April 1997.

Ahrens, A. H. (Discussant). Self-regulation, affect, and depression. Symposium presented at the American Psychological Association convention, Chicago, IL, August, 1997.

Schmerl, L., Ahrens, A. H., & Walco, G. Attachment style and illusions of vulnerability in survivors of pediatric cancer. Presented at the Society for Personality and Social Psychology convention, Nashville, TN, February 2000.

Wesch, S. L., & Ahrens, A. H. Moderators of the perfectionism-depression connection: When is it bad to want to be good? Presented at the Society for Personality and Social Psychology convention, Savannah, GA, February 2002.

Story, A. & Ahrens, A. H. Approach and avoidance motivation and perceptions of health risks. Presented at the Society for Personality and Social Psychology convention, Los Angeles, CA, February 2003.

Ahrens, A. H., McIntosh, E., & Joseph, N. Gratitude blends, gratitude levels, and narcissism. Presented at the Society for Personality and Social Psychology convention, Los Angeles, CA, February 2003.

Ahrens, A. H., Sexton, J., Armellino, V., Kane, J. Q., & DeBoard, R. L. The relation of fear of emotion to self-concordance. Presented at the Eastern Psychological Association convention, Baltimore, MD, March 2003.

Story, A. & Ahrens, A. H. Avoidance motivation and health optimism: Roles of defensiveness and action. Presented at the Society for Personality and Social Psychology convention, Austin, TX, January 2004

DeBoard, R. & Ahrens, A. H. Can body-scan mindfulness meditation decrease the enhancement effect associated with thought suppression? Presented at the Eastern Psychological Association convention, Washington, DC, April 2004

Gurel, O., & Ahrens, A. H. The role of relational-interdependent self-construal in the link between motivational goals and affect. Presented at the Second European Conference on Positive Psychology, Verbania, Italy, July 2004

Ahrens, A. H., Kyrimis, M., & Gunthert, K. C. Fear of emotion and affective reactivity to daily stress. Presented at the Association for the Advancement of Behavior Therapy convention, New Orleans, LA, November 2004

Friedman-Wheeler, D. G., Werner, K. E., Jefferson, A., Haaga, D. A. F., Ahrens, A. H., & McIntosh, E. Depression and expectancies for the effectiveness of specific negative affect regulation strategies among cigarette smokers. Presented at the Association for the Advancement of Behavior Therapy convention, New Orleans, LA, November 2004

Gurel, O. & Ahrens, A. H. Fear of emotion and perception of emotions in sad, angry, and happy faces. Presented at the Association for the Advancement of Behavior Therapy convention, Washington, DC, November 2005

Kyrimis, M., Ahrens, A. H., & Baldassari, J. An examination of the relationships among mindfulness, emotional acceptance, self-compassion, forgiveness, and self-judgment. Presented at the Association for Behavioral and Cognitive Therapies convention, Chicago, IL, November 2006

Gurel, O., & Ahrens, A. H. Gratitude and interdependence of self-construal. Presented at the Society for Personality and Social Psychology convention, Memphis, TN, January 2007

McIntosh, E., & Ahrens, A. H. Empathy moderates the effects of gratitude inductions. Presented at the Society for Personality and Social Psychology convention, Memphis, TN, January 2007

McIntosh, E., Ahrens, A. H., Friedman-Wheeler, D. G., & Haaga, D. A. Impact of manipulating regulatory focus on memory for approach and avoidance strategies in smokers. Presented at the Association for Behavioral and Cognitive Therapies convention, Philadelphia, PA, November 2007

Bretz, A. A., Ahrens, A. H., Tull, M., & Gratz, K. The moderating role of nonjudgmental acceptance in the relationship between implicit theories of emotion and fear of emotion. Presented at the Association for Behavioral and Cognitive Therapies convention, Orlando, FL, November 2008

Friedman-Wheeler, D. G., Haaga, D. A. F., McIntosh, E., Ahrens, A. H. Assessment of individual differences in regulatory focus among cigarette smokers. Presented at the Western Psychological Association convention, Portland, OR, April 2009.

Invited Professional Presentations

Ahrens, A. H. Self-evaluation and negative affect. Presented to the Department of Psychology, University of Maryland, College Park, April, 1988.

Ahrens, A. H., & Abramson, L. Y. Changes in personal standards and dysphoria. Presented at the International Conference on Motivation and Emotion (Nags Head Conference), Highland Beach, FL, May, 1991.

Ahrens, A. H. Specificity of thoughts to positive and negative affect, depression, and anxiety. Presented at the International Conference on Affect and Cognition (Nags Head Conference), Highland Beach, FL, June, 1992.

- Ahrens, A. H. The relation of mood and thoughts to the depression-attribution relationship. Presented at the International Conference on Affect and Cognition (Nags Head Conference), Highland Beach, FL, May 1994.
- Ahrens, A. H. Adventures in depression research. Presented to the Department of Psychology, University of Maryland, College Park, April, 1995.
- Ahrens, A. H. Linking, depression, and perfectionism. Presented at the International Conference on Affect and Cognition (Nags Head Conference), Highland Beach, FL, May 1996.
- Ahrens, A. H. On the relationship(s) between depression and standard setting. Invited colloquium, Shippensburg University, February 1997.
- Ahrens, A. H. Self-worth contingency, personal standards, and depressive symptoms. Invited paper, Eastern Psychological Association convention, Washington, DC, April 1997.
- Ahrens, A. H. Self-evaluation and affect. Presented at the International Conference on Motivation and Emotion (Nags Head Conference), Highland Beach, FL, June 1997.
- Ahrens, A. H. Linking, self-discrepancies, and death. Presented at the International Conference on Motivation and Emotion (Nags Head Conference), Highland Beach, FL, June 1998.
- Ahrens, A. H. Linking, self-worth contingency, and mindfulness. Presented at the International Conference on Affect and Cognition (Nags Head Conference). Highland Beach, FL, May 1999.
- Ahrens, A. H. Social psychological views on the effects of meditation on depression. Presented at the International Conference on Research Opportunities with the Art of Living Foundation. Highland Beach, FL, November 1999.
- Ahrens, A. H. Linking, fear of emotion, gratitude, and wonder. Presented at the International Conference on Positive Psychologies (Nags Head Conference). Highland Beach, FL, June 2000.
- Ahrens, A. H. Gratitude and fear of emotion. Presented at the Conference on Emotion and Judgment in Persons and Groups (Nags Head Conference). Highland Beach, FL, May 2003.

Teaching Experience (all at American University)

Introductory Survey of Psychology
Psychology: Understanding Human Behavior
Social Psychology
Social Psychological Approaches to Clinical Psychology
Judgment and Decision Making
Positive Psychology (Honors Colloquium)
Advanced Social Psychology

Supervision of Theses and Dissertations (Completed): 1987-2009

Ph.D. Chair: 18, Committee Member: 30
M.A. Chair: 18, Committee Member: 25

Service Activity

Professional Service:

Grant Reviews

Special Emphasis Grant Application Panel Member, NIH Center for Scientific Review,
2002
Grant Application Panel Member, NIMH, Minority Research Infrastructure Support
Programs (R24), 2003
Temporary Member, Adult Psychopathology and Disorders of Aging Study Section,
NIH, 2005
Temporary Member, Adult Psychopathology and Disorders of Aging Study Section,
NIH, 2006
Review for Michael Smith Foundation for Health Research, 2007, 2008

Editorial Service

Member of the Editorial Board for:

Personality and Social Psychology Bulletin, 1992-1994
Cognitive Therapy and Research, 1993-1996
Journal of Happiness Studies, 2008-

Occasional Reviewer for:

Behavior Therapy
Cognition and Emotion
Cognitive Therapy and Research
European Journal of Social Psychology
Holocaust and Genocide Studies
International Journal of Testing
Journal of Abnormal Psychology
Journal of Consulting and Clinical Psychology

Journal of Happiness Studies
Journal of Personality and Social Psychology
Journal of Research in Personality
Journal of Social and Clinical Psychology
Personality and Social Psychology Bulletin
Psychology of Aging
Psychological Science
Social Cognition

Other Professional Service

Guest of Honor, Georgetown University Honors Student Poster Session, 2009

University and College Service

Board of Trustees, Member, 2006-2007
Board of Trustees, Trusteeship Committee, 2006-2007
Board of Trustees, Faculty Representative 2005-2006
Faculty Senate, at-large representative 2002-2007 (Vice Chair 2004-2005; Chair 2005-2006; Past Chair 2006-2007)
Faculty Senate Ad Hoc Committee on Governance (Co-Chair) 2005-2006
University Senate, Member 1997-2002
University Senate Nominations Committee, 2001
University Senate Committee on Undergraduate Admissions, Scholarships, and Financial Aid, Chair, 2000-2001
University Senate Executive Committee, 1998
University Senate Graduate Studies Committee, 1997-2001
University Senate Physical Plant Committee, 1988-1990
Search Committee, Provost, 2007-2008
Search Committee, Dean, College of Arts and Sciences, 2008-2009
Search Committee, Athletic Director, 2006-2007
Search Committee for Serials Librarian, 1996
University Budget Committee 2006-2007
Middle States Review Steering Committee, 2002-2004
Middle States Review Faculty Task Force, co-chair 2002-2004
Middle States Periodic Review Committee, member 2009
University Council, 2002-2004, 2005-2006
Faculty Advisory Committee for Athletics, member 2007
Workshop on Freshman Seminars for University College, discussion leader 2004
University Sexual Harassment Planning Committee, 1999-2000
University Chair's Group, Executive Committee, 1997-2000
University Enrollment Planning Committee, 1994
Faculty Mentor, 1998, 1999
CAS Educational Planning Committee, Curriculum Committee, 2002
CAS Educational Planning Committee, Steering Committee, 1996
CAS Educational Planning Committee, 1988-1989, 2006-2007
Dean's Advisory Group on Administrative Course Releases, 1999-2000

Dean's Committee on Strategic Planning, 1996
Ann Ferren Teaching Conference, presentation on mid-semester slumps, 2009
Panelist, "The Role of the Board of Trustees in University Governance," Southeast Asian Ministers of Education Organization Delegation visit to American U., April 2008
CAS Mellon Colloquium, presentation on Happiness, May 2007
Ann Ferren Teaching Conference, presentation on undergraduate research, 2003
Panelist, "Liberal Arts in a World of Specialization" for Partnership Day, June 1997
Advisor to Women's Volleyball Team, 1991-present
Guest Coach for Women's Basketball Team, 2007, 2008
Faculty Advisor, American Circus Club, 2006-2007
Faculty Advisor, Women's Softball Club, 2005
Faculty Advisor, Catholic Choir and Ensemble, 2004-present
Faculty Advisor, Catholic Student Association, 1998-2002, 2004-present
Mock Interviewer for Truman Award Finalists, February 2009
McNair Scholar Committee, 2000
University Premedical Advising Committee, 1989-1991
Fulbright Committee, 1990-93

Departmental Service:

Department Chair, 1996-2000
Executive Committee, 2000-2001, 2006-2007, 2008
Merit Pay Committee, 1993-94, 2002, 2003, 2004, 2009 (Chair, 2002-2004)
Graduate Curriculum Committee, 1990-1994 (Chair, 1992-1994), 2004- 2005 (Chair)
Rank and Tenure Committee, 1987-1990, 1991-1992, 1993-1994, 2000-2001, 2002-present
Undergraduate Curriculum Committee, 1987-1988
Human Subjects Committee, 1987-1991 (co-chair, 1988-1989)
Ad hoc Committee on Four-Course Load, 2007
Social/Cognitive/Developmental Tenure-track Faculty Search Committee 2005-2006
Clinical Tenure-track Faculty Search Committee, 1988-1989, 1994-1995, 1995-1996, 2001-2002
Cognitive Tenure-track Faculty Search Committee, 1987-1988
Temporary Faculty Search Committees, 1988, 1990, 1994
Freshman Advisor, 1988-1993, 1995-1996
Major Advisor, 1988-present

Membership

American Psychological Association
Association for Behavioral and Cognitive Therapies
Association for Psychological Science
Society for Personality and Social Psychology