Lena Gerber  
Mentor: William Graziano, Ph.D.

*Agreeableness as a Predictor of Forgiveness among Third-Party Transgressions*

The third-party forgiveness effect states that a participant’s willingness to forgive is higher when a transgression is made against the participant than when a transgression is made against the participant’s friend. Researchers found this effect was mediated by closeness to transgressor. The current study extends this research by measuring forgiveness when the participant is equally motivated to maintain positive relationships with both the victim and the transgressor. Agreeableness was also measured as a potential predictor of forgiveness. Participants in Study 1 read a vignette from each of the four conditions and completed forgiveness measures. Results suggest that forgiveness is highest when both the victim and transgressor are friends of the participant. Study 2 expanded these findings by placing participants in a laboratory setting and manipulating them to believe a group member had completed a negative evaluation of either the participant or another group member.