Elizabeth Trancik  
Mentor: Dr. Sang Eun Woo, Ph.D.  

*Not knowing their language may make you feel less ostracized: A moderating role of openness in the presence of linguistic ostracism*

As the world is becoming increasingly globalized, there are more social, work interactions with different cultures and languages. Individuals may feel excluded due to the language barrier, or linguistic ostracism, which describes any situation where people converse in a language that others do not comprehend. This study examined the moderating role of individuals’ openness in the presence of linguistic ostracism. Using a between-subject design, we compared the extent to which ostracism has negative effects on various outcomes under two different conditions: being ostracized with a language barrier (i.e., linguistic ostracism condition) versus being ostracized without a language barrier (i.e., regular ostracism condition). In both conditions, each participant was excluded from a 5-minute social conversation when placed in the same room with two other Korean confederates before the three-team group engaged in an online “problem solving” discussion task together. We hypothesized individuals with higher levels of tolerance (an Openness facet) would feel less ostracized and give less negative team evaluations in the linguistic ostracism condition.