

Celestial “Jynx” Weaver (formerly: Pigart)

Ph.D. Candidate
School of Life Sciences
Arizona State University
jynx@asu.edu

updated: April 8, 2026

EDUCATION

ASU - Arizona State University, Tempe, AZ (2022 – present)

Ph.D. in Biology & Society, expected May 2027

Concentration: Biology Education

Advisor: Dr. Katelyn Cooper

ECU - East Carolina University, Greenville, NC (2016-2020)

B.S. Biology and Psychology

Concentration: Molecular Biology

Advisors: Dr. Heather Vance-Chalcraft (Biology Education), Dr. Matthew C Whited (Psychology)

GRANTS AND MONETARY AWARDS

Funded national award

- 1) National Science Foundation Graduate Research Fellowship Program 2022-2027, \$159,000

Funded institutional awards (\$17,100 total)

- 1) SOLS Graduate Research Award (Graduate College Fellowship) \$6,000
- 2) ECU Thomas Harriot College of Arts and Sciences Staff Council Scholarship, 2020 \$1,000
- 3) ECU HJ Daniels Memorial Scholarship, 2020, \$1,000
- 4) ECU Carol S Ripley Research Scholarship, 2020, \$1,500
- 5) ECU Campus Living Residential Volunteer Scholarship, 2019, \$4,000
- 6) ECU SECU Public Fellows Intern Scholarship, 2018, \$4,600

Travel awards (\$10,710 total)

- 1) ASU Biology and Society Center Travel Award, Fall 2025, \$3,200
- 2) ASU School of Life Sciences Graduate Student Travel Award, Q1 2025-26, \$400
- 3) ASU Graduate College Travel Award, Q1 2025-26, \$300
- 4) Biology and Society AAAS Poster Competition Travel Award, 2024-2025, \$1,340
- 5) ASU Graduate College Travel Award, Q3 2024-25, \$300
- 6) Biology and Society AAAS Poster Competition Travel Award, 2023-2024, \$1,000
- 7) ASU Graduate College Travel Award, Q2 2023-24, \$300
- 8) Gordon Research Conference Biology Education Travel Award 2023, \$2,000
- 9) ASU School of Life Sciences Graduate Student Travel Award, Q1 2023-24, \$400
- 10) ASU School of Life Sciences Graduate Student Travel Award, Q3 2022-23, \$400
- 11) ASU Graduate College Travel Award, Q3 2022-23, \$70
- 12) ECU The Jim and Pam Mullen Thomas Harriot College of Arts & Sciences Staff Council Scholarship, 2019 \$1,000

PUBLICATIONS

Peer Reviewed Journal Articles

- 1) **Pigart CJ**, Cohen KA, McDanal R, Schneider JL, & Cooper KM. STEM, gender, and mental health: understanding depression and anxiety in a national undergraduate sample. *PLOS Mental Health*. August 2025. <https://doi.org/10.1371/journal.pmen.0000364>
- 2) Kahraman MA, Mohammed T, **Pigart CJ**, & Cooper KM. A proof of concept for Hopelessness Theory of Depression: Attributions help explain why stressors in scientific research can exacerbate depression among undergraduates and graduates. *International Journal of STEM Education*. July 2025. <https://doi.org/10.1186/s40594-025-00560-4>
- 3) **Pigart CJ**, Mohammed T, Acuña T, Baltazar S, Bean C, Hart M, Huizenga K, James A, Shaw H, Zsuffa K, Busch C, Cooper KM. Premed pressure: examining whether premed students experience more academic stress compared to non-premeds. *Advances in Physiology Education*. January 2025. <https://doi.org/10.1152/advan.00168.2024>
- 4) **Pigart CJ**, MacKinnon DP, & Cooper KM. Academic social comparison: a promising new target to reduce fear of negative evaluation in large enrollment college science courses. *International Journal of STEM Education*. August 2024. <https://doi.org/10.1186/s40594-024-00501-7>
- 5) **Pigart CJ** & Whited MC. Potential benefits of social support in videogames on college student mental health during COVID-19 (Undergraduate senior thesis). *The Lookout: A Journal of Undergraduate Research*. January 2024.

In review

- 1) **Weaver CJ**, Clark S, & Cooper KM. A national survey of undergraduates with depression in active learning college science courses. *CBE – Life Sciences Education*. February 2026. *Under review*.
- 2) Kahraman, M. A., Mohammed, T. F., **Weaver**, C. J., & Cooper, K. M. (2026). Protective buffers or persistence barriers? Coping strategies used by science graduate students with depression in U.S. research environments. *International Journal of STEM Education*.
- 3) Katelyn M Cooper, Carly A Busch, Alice Accorsi, Derek A Applewhite, Parth B Bhandari, Bruno da Rocha-Azevedo, Abhijit Deb Roy, Joseph P Campanale, Fred Chang, Jerry E Chipuk, Lee A Ligon, GW Gant Luxton, Austin J Graham, Camila Hochman-Mendez, Imge Ozugergin, Zachory M Park, Claire M Thomas, Alex M Valm, C Jynx **Weaver**, Hongxian Zhu, Rebecca S Alvania. LGBTQ+ Realities in the Biological Sciences. *CBE Life Sciences Education*. *Under review*.

In preparation

- 1) **Weaver CJ**, Kahraman MA, & Cooper KM. Retrospective timeline mapping: an interdisciplinary mixed methods approach to studying depression in STEM doctoral students. *CBE – Life Sciences Education*. Spring 2026. *In preparation*.
- 2) **Weaver CJ**, Wiesenthal NJ, Mohammed TF, Kennedy L, Gin LE, Cooper KM. Ph.D. Anxiety: The relationship between life science Ph.D. students' anxiety and their experiences in research and teaching. *CBE – Life Sciences Education*. Spring 2026. *In preparation*.
- 3) Kahraman MA, Mohammed T, **Weaver CJ**, ..., & Cooper KM. A neurodivergent audit study in undergraduate biology students. *Advances in Physiology*. Summer 2026. *In preparation*.
- 4) Mohammed T, Kahraman MA, **Weaver CJ**, ..., & Cooper KM. The influence of groupwork on undergraduate student anxiety in active learning biology classrooms. *Advances in Physiology*. Summer 2026. *In preparation*.
- 5) **Pigart CJ**, Cohen KA, Schneider JL, & Cooper KM. STEM and mental health: understanding depression and anxiety in a national undergraduate sample by disaggregated LGBTQ+ identity. *PLOS Mental Health*. Fall 2026. *In preparation*.

News articles

- 1) [ASU Students Share Experiences from AAAS 2025 Annual Meeting](#). *ASU School of Life Sciences News*. April 2025.
- 2) [12 ASU students share experiences participating in 2025 AAAS Annual meeting](#). *ASU Center for Biology & Society*. March 2025.

PRESENTATIONS

Peer-reviewed talks

- 1) **Pigart CJ.** Academic social comparison: a promising intervention target to reduce fear of negative evaluation in active learning science classrooms. ESERA International Annual Meeting. University of Copenhagen. Copenhagen, Denmark. August 2025.
- 2) **Pigart CJ.** Academic social comparison: a promising intervention target to reduce fear of negative evaluation in active learning science classrooms. Society for the Advancement of Biology Education Research (SABER) Regional West Conference. University of California, Irvine. Irvine, California. January 2024.

Invited talks and workshops

- 1) **Pigart CJ.** Academic social comparison: a promising intervention target to reduce fear of negative evaluation in active learning science classrooms. School of Life Sciences Fall 2025 Brown Bag Seminar Series. Arizona State University. Tempe, Arizona. October 2025.
- 2) **Pigart CJ.** Academic social comparison: a promising intervention target to reduce fear of negative evaluation in active learning science classrooms. Biology Teaching and Learning Group. University of Washington. Seattle, Washington. February 2024.
- 3) **Pigart CJ.** How to apply for the NSF-GRFP, tips and tricks. Center for Biology and Society. Arizona State University. Tempe, AZ. September 2024.
- 4) **Pigart CJ.** Social comparison partially mediates the relationship between underserved science identities and fear of negative evaluation. Research for Inclusive STEM Education Inclusion Summit. Arizona State University. Tempe, Arizona. October 2023.
- 5) **Pigart CJ, Busch C, & Mohammed TF.** How to apply for the NSF-GRFP, tips and tricks. Center for Biology and Society. Arizona State University. Tempe, AZ. October 2023.

Conference poster presentations

- 1) **Pigart CJ, MacKinnon DP, & Cooper KM.** Social comparison partially mediates the relationship between underserved science identities and fear of negative evaluation. ASU Psychology Department, David P MacKinnon Day. Tempe, Arizona. March 2026.
a) Won best applied quantitative methods poster award.
- 2) **Weaver CJ, Cohen KA, McDanal R, Schleider JL, & Cooper KM.** STEM majors, gender, & mental health: understanding depression and anxiety at scale. American Association for the Advancement of Science Student E-poster Competition. Tempe, Arizona. February 2026.
Won honorable mention internationally in the science & society category for graduate students.
- 3) **Weaver CJ & Cooper KM.** The relationship between undergraduate depression and participation in active learning science courses. ASU FolcFest. Tempe, Arizona. February 2026.
- 4) **Pigart CJ, Cohen KA, McDanal R, Schleider JL, & Cooper KM.** Undergraduates in STEM fields and women report worse mental health than non-STEM majors and men. Society for the Advancement of Biology Education Research (SABER) National Conference. July 2025.
Won the 2025 graduate poster award in a national competition.
- 5) **Pigart CJ & Cooper KM.** Depression over time in graduate school programs. American Association for the Advancement of Science Student E-poster Competition. Boston, Massachusetts. February 2025.
Won first place internationally in the social science category for graduate students.
- 6) **Pigart CJ & Cooper KM.** The relationship between undergraduate depression and participation in active learning science courses. ASU Institute for Social Science Research Fall 2024 Poster Competition. Tempe, Arizona. November 2024.
Won third place in a university-wide competition.

- 7) **Pigart CJ** & Cooper KM. Depression over time in graduate school research. SOLS Fall 2024 Graduate Poster Competition. Tempe, Arizona. November 2024.
Won second place in a department competition.
Won "Most clear to understand" poster clarity superlative.
- 8) **Pigart CJ** & Cooper KM. Depression over time in graduate school research. RISE Summit. Tempe, Arizona. November 2024.
- 9) **Pigart CJ** & Cooper KM. Depression over time in graduate school research. Society for the Advancement of Biology Education Research (SABER) National Conference. Twin cities, Minnesota. July 2024.
- 10) **Pigart CJ**, MacKinnon DP, & Cooper KM. Social comparison partially mediates the relationship between underserved science identities and fear of negative evaluation. ASU Institute for Social Science Research. Tempe, Arizona. April 2024.
- 11) **Pigart CJ**, MacKinnon DP, & Cooper KM. Social comparison partially mediates the relationship between underserved science identities and fear of negative evaluation. AAAS. Denver, Colorado. February 2024.
- 12) **Pigart CJ**, MacKinnon DP, & Cooper KM. Social comparison partially mediates the relationship between underserved science identities and fear of negative evaluation. ASMCUE. Phoenix, Arizona. November 2023.
- 13) **Pigart CJ**, MacKinnon DP, & Cooper KM. Social comparison partially mediates the relationship between underserved science identities and fear of negative evaluation. Research for Inclusive STEM Education Inclusion Summit. Tempe, Arizona. October 2023.
- 14) **Pigart CJ**, MacKinnon DP, & Cooper KM. Social comparison partially mediates the relationship between underserved science identities and fear of negative evaluation. Society for the Advancement of Biology Education Research (SABER) National Conference. Minneapolis, Minnesota. July 2023.
- 15) **Pigart CJ** & Cooper KM. Depression over time in graduate school research. Gordon Research Conference for Biology Education. Lewiston, Maine. June 2023.
- 16) **Pigart CJ**, MacKinnon DP, & Cooper KM. Social comparison partially mediates the relationship between underserved science identities and fear of negative evaluation. Gordon Research Conference for Biology Education. Lewiston, Maine. June 2023.
- 17) **Pigart CJ** & Cooper KM. Examining how research and teaching affect anxiety in life sciences Ph.D. Students. Society for the Advancement of Biology Education Research (SABER) West Conference. Irvine, California. January 2023.
- 18) **Pigart CJ**, Whited MC, Capiaghi A, Midgette E, McNinch A, & Davis H. Exploring potential benefits of social support in commercial videogames on college student behavioral health during COVID-19. Poster selected for presentation at the 43rd annual meeting of the Society of Behavioral Medicine (virtual conference). April 2022.
- 19) **Pigart CJ**, Whited MC, Ellis J, Capiaghi A, Midgette E, & Davis H. Exploring an Interaction of Antidepressants and Depressive Symptoms on Health Behaviors in College Students. Poster selected for presentation at the 41st annual meeting of the Society of Behavioral Medicine (virtual conference). April 2020.

RESEARCH-RELATED MEDIA APPEARANCES, NEWS, & INTERVIEWS

Arizona State University press

- 1) [Why women and LGBTQ+ students face greater challenges in college science classrooms](#). ASU News. September 2024.
 Article highlights: my 2024 paper *Academic social comparison: a promising new target to reduce fear of negative evaluation in large-enrollment college science courses*.
- 2) [Life sciences graduate students awarded NSF fellowships](#). ASU News. April 2022.
 Article highlights: becoming a National Science Foundation 2022 Graduate Research Fellow.

- 3) [NSF Graduate Research Fellowship Program \(GRFP\) recognizes 4 outstanding CBS graduate students](#). Center for Biology and Society. April 2022.

Article highlights: becoming a National Science Foundation 2022 Graduate Research Fellow.

Podcasts

- 1) [American Physiological Society Featured Podcast: Premed pressure, examining whether premed students experience more academic stress compared to non-premeds](#). American Physiological Society. July 2025.
- o Article highlights: my 2025 paper *Premed pressure: examining whether premed students experience more academic stress compared to non-premeds*.

TEACHING EXPERIENCE

Arizona State University, School of Life Sciences (2022 – present)

1) BIO 494 Biology Education Research, Spring 2023 – present.

Assisted in developing and teaching a 3-credit course-based research experience (CURE) for undergraduates/Master's students in ASU's fully online program. In this course, students learn about the process of science by engaging in an authentic biology education research project with the intent to publish their findings. This course was backward designed to deliver process of science, quantitative reasoning, modeling and simulation, and communication and collaboration skills; four of the biology core competencies outlined by Vision and Change.

- i) 2023 – Lead Teaching Assistant, resulting in the publication of my 2024 paper *Academic social comparison: a promising new target to reduce fear of negative evaluation in large-enrollment college science courses*.
- ii) 2024 – Research Assistant, who assisted in survey and data analysis design for students. The resulting publication focused on anxiety in active learning college science groupwork *in prep*.
- iii) 2025 – Lead Instructor, for a 3-week hands-on course module teaching undergraduate students how to use R to analyze real-world survey data they collected earlier in the semester. All components of the module were tailored to meet the needs of the enrolled online cohort, including custom: presentations, in-class assignments, homework, grading rubrics, and recordings of both class and assignment walkthroughs for accessibility. The resulting publication of an audit study on science student perceptions of neurodivergence *in prep*.

2) BIO 340 Genetics, Teaching Assistant, Fall 2022.

Facilitated 4 lecture exams throughout the semester and ran 4, 1-hour recitations every week for a large enrollment (400 student) genetics course for biology majors. I personally developed a recitation lesson on phylogenetic trees, including a presentation and assignment module, that all graduate TAs for genetics implemented and followed that semester.

East Carolina University, Department of Biology (2017 – 2020)

3) BIO 1051, Biology I Laboratory for non-majors, Teaching Assistant, Fall 2017 – Spring 2018.

Undergraduate teaching assistant for a total of three, 3-hour weekly labs associated with the introductory biology course for non-majors. Responsibilities included preparing lab materials, leading the lessons prior to experiments, and grading both quizzes and lab reports.

4) BIO 1101, Biology I Laboratory for majors, Teaching Assistant, Fall 2017 – Spring 2020.

Undergraduate teaching assistant for two, 3-hour weekly labs taught every semester, for 8 semesters. These labs were associated with the introductory biology course for majors, included

preparing lab materials, leading the lessons prior to experiments. For majors, I facilitated the implementation of an experimental Argument-Driven Inquiry (ADI) lab structure designed to increase undergraduate critical thinking skills in the sciences, which replaced traditional lab reports and experiments.

SECU Public Fellow: North Carolina State Aquarium on Roanoke Island (2018)

5) Biology Education Intern, Summer 2018. Full time 330-hour internship.

Taught programming accessible to audiences from pre-K to seniors that inspired the conservation and preservation of North Carolina's aquatic wildlife on a wide variety of topics relevant to freshwater riverways, brackish-water sounds of the barrier island, and to the unique oceanic waters that promoted sea turtle nesting sites. Included outreach advocacy programs to the libraries of neighboring rural counties and handling certifications for 30 animal ambassadors.

MENTORSHIP EXPERIENCE

Trainees mentored as a graduate student in biology education research, ASU

- 1) Alexandra Lamothe, undergraduate student, Spring 2026
- 2) Teona Savic, undergraduate student, Spring 2025 – present
- 3) Mary Kahraman, postbaccalaureate researcher, Spring 2023 – Spring 2025
- 4) Sarah Clark, undergraduate student, Fall 2023 – Summer 2024

PROFESSIONAL LEADERSHIP

Discipline Based Education Research Scholars in Training (DBER-SiT) Committee

Bylaws & Elections Co-Chair, 2023 – present.

As a Bylaws & Elections Co-Chair, I proposed revisions to organizational documents to improve how the committee runs, facilitate elections for the adoption of new bylaws and policies, and oversee annual elections of subcommittee leaders. I successfully passed amendments to increase the accessibility of committee voting matters by creating asynchronous voting procedure guidelines, as well as facilitated a committee restructuring in 2026.

Chair-Elect, 2025 – present.

As a Chair-Elect, I shadow and assist the Chair in serving as liaison between our parent organization (SABER) and the graduate committee. Chair, 2026-2027 *incoming role*.

Society for the Advancement of Biology Education Research

Poster Awards Committee, Member, 2025 – present.

After winning the graduate poster award at the 2025 Annual Meeting, I joined the committee to pay it forward. I have since helped revise the poster judge rubric and reviewed poster abstracts.

Steering Committee, DBER-SiT Committee Liaison, 2025 – 2027.

Dual-appointment as DBER-SiT Chair-elect to serve on the SABER Steering Committee as a representative voice of scholars-in-training to the President of SABER.

ASU School of Life Sciences Graduate Executive Board

Mental Health Committee, Member, 2022 – 2024.

Attended monthly meetings to discuss, develop, and attend mental health programming specific to graduate students in the School of Life Sciences.

International STEM Postgraduate Mental Health Alliance

Founding Member, 2024 – present.

Attended monthly meetings since its inception to discuss, develop, and pilot mental health programming that can be applicable to any STEM graduate student anywhere in the world.

PROFESSIONAL SERVICE

- 1) ESERA poster abstract reviewer for the 2025 international conference.
6 posters reviewed.
- 2) ESERA extended summary oral presentation reviewer for the 2025 international conference.
3 oral presentations reviewed.
- 3) SABER West short-talk proposal reviewer for the 2024 and 2025 conferences.
8 short-talks reviewed.
- 4) SABER National poster abstract reviewer for the 2024, 2025, 2026 conferences.
17 posters reviewed.
- 5) SABER 2024 graduate short talk volunteer judge.
8 short-talks.
- 6) Graduate and Professional Student Association, award reviewer, Spring 2023.
Reviewed 5 application packets for both graduate teaching and research excellence.
- 7) Graduate and Professional Student Association, award reviewer, Fall 2022.
Reviewed 5 application packets for both graduate teaching and research excellence.
- 8) NSF-GRFP application consultant. Fall 2022 – present.
Annual duties include reviewing at least two applications and offering a yearly workshop to new students in the ASU Biology & Society graduate program. Helped 2 graduate students become 2024 and 2025 NSF-GRFP recipients.

PROFESSIONAL SOCIETY MEMBERSHIPS

- 1) European Science Education Research Association, ESERA, 2025 – present.
- 2) American Association for the Advancement of Science, AAAS, 2024 – present.
- 3) Society for the Advancement of Biology Education Research, SABER, 2023 – present.
- 4) New York Academy of Sciences, 2022 – 2025.
- 5) American Society of Microbiology, 2022 – 2023.

PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT

Workshops & special seminars

- 1) McNeish D. Structural Equation Modeling for Ecological Momentary Assessment Data. *Statistical Horizons 3-day online seminar*. February 2025.
- 2) McNeish D. Latent growth curve modeling. *Statistical Horizons 3-day online seminar*. January 2025.
- 3) Brown S & Mohammadian P. The path to becoming a community college educator: a workshop on applying for teaching positions. *SABER West*. January 2024.
- 4) Manninen BA & Cunningham A. Utilizing science to promote well-being and thriving in courses. *ASU West's Teaching Innovation and Excellence Collaborative (TIE) seminar*. January 2024.
- 5) National Science Foundation. *NSF-INTERN online seminar*. July 2023.
- 6) Kiser S & Russo-Tait T. GRC power hour career development. *Gordon Research Conference in Biology Education*. June 2023.
- 7) Gordon Research Seminar in Biology Education. Early career scientists 1-day workshop. *Gordon Research Seminars*. June 2023.
- 8) Ko M. Introduction to ggplot2 graphics for biology education research. *SABER West Workshop*. January 2023.

Certifications

- 1) Davis O & Coleman T. *LivingWorks interventions: SafeTALK training for suicide prevention certification*. May 2025.

- 2) CITI Human Research. *Social/Behavioral Research Investigators & Key Personnel Certification*. Renewed January 2023.
- 3) SOLS Teaching Innovation Center. *Inclusive Online Teaching Certification*. August 2022.
- 4) Adobe. *Adobe Creative Campus Faculty Fellow*. July 2021.
- 5) ECU Dr. Jesse Peel LGBTQ+ Center. *Safe Zone Certification*. April 2021.

AWARDS & RECOGNITIONS

Competitive presentation awards (\$2,490 total)

- 1) ASU Psychology Department David P MacKinnon Day Spring 2026, Best Applied Poster Award, \$300
- 2) American Association for the Advancement of Science 2026 Meeting E-poster Competition, Honorable Mention Award graduate poster in the Science in Society category, item prize (\$140 value)
- 3) Society for the Advancement of Biology Education Research (SABER) 2025 National Meeting, Graduate Poster Award, \$500
- 4) American Association for the Advancement of Science 2025 Meeting E-poster Competition, 1st place graduate poster in the Social Sciences category, \$500
- 5) ASU Institute for Social Science Research Fall 2024 Graduate Poster Competition 3rd place, \$800
- 6) ASU School of Life Sciences Fall 2024 Graduate Poster Contest, 2nd place, \$250
- 7) ASU School of Life Sciences Fall 2024 Graduate Poster Contest, Poster Clarity Award.

Recognition awards

- 1) Serving University Needs (SUN) Award, 2024. Recognition of mentoring undergraduate students at their first national research conference (AAAS).