

Dr. Aaron J. Blashill

Body Image, Sexuality, and Health (BISH) Lab <https://bishlab.sdsu.edu/>

About the BISH Lab:

The BISH lab focuses its research on the role body image plays in influencing health behaviors (e.g., sexual risk behaviors, HIV medication adherence, anabolic steroid misuse, skin cancer risk behaviors, suicidal behaviors, depression, and eating disorders and related problems with weight and shape). We are also interested in sexual orientation health disparities. We mostly work with sexual minority men (i.e., men who are gay, bisexual, or sexually attracted to men) but also work with adolescent boys, emerging adults, and individuals living with HIV.

Under the direction of Aaron J. Blashill, PhD, the BISH team is made up of staff and current students from SDSU, including postdocs, graduate students, and undergraduate research assistants. Research collaboration and mentorship between lab members is encouraged. We have weekly team meetings during the semester where we discuss current lab research, individual research/activity updates, and other relevant topics and opportunities, and review selected research articles. We utilize a number of scientific methods/statistical analyses within the lab including: treatment development and randomized clinical trials, longitudinal analysis, mediation, moderation, meta-analysis, and psychometric evaluation.

Role description:

We are looking for **four** research assistants to join our team; **for safety reasons all lab work will be completed remotely until campus restrictions due to COVID-19 have been lifted.**

The research assistant will be involved in lab tasks as needed, including involvement in one (or more) of the following research projects:

Pride Body Project <https://www.facebook.com/BodyPrideSDSU/>

This project looks at different approaches to improve body image among adult sexual minority men (i.e., men who are gay, bisexual, or sexually attracted to men), aged between 18 and 35 years old. Research activities may include:

- Remote cover during assessments/groups
- Data entry (once permitted to be on campus)
- Flyering (i.e., on campus, at local community colleges, and in the community) (once permitted to be on campus)
- In-person recruitment events (e.g., San Diego Pride) (once permitted to be on campus)

Suicide Prevention Project

This project looks at a novel suicide prevention program designed to reduce suicide attempts among sexual and gender minority youth and emerging adults, aged between 15 and 29 years.

Research activities may include:

- Remote cover during assessments
- Data entry (once permitted to be on campus)
- Flyering (i.e., on campus, at local community colleges, and in the community) (once permitted to be on campus)

Eating Disorder Therapy Study

This project looks at novel eating disorder treatment programs (individual and couples-based) for gay and bisexual men, aged between 18 and 64 year old. Research activities may include:

- Remote cover during assessments/treatment sessions

tDCS

This project looks at the effects of transcranial direct current stimulation (tDCS)—a non-invasive form of brain stimulation—in females with body image concerns, aged between 18 and 30 years old. **Note: This project will resume once permitted to be on campus.** Research activities may include:

- Monitoring sign-ups on the Research Participation System (SONA) and assessing pre-screens via Qualtrics
- Scheduling assessments
- Consenting research participants
- Data collection (in-person) in the lab

tDCS & Mirror Exposure

This project looks at a multimodal treatment, combining transcranial direct current stimulation (tDCS)—a non-invasive form of brain stimulation—with mirror exposure, among women with body image concerns, aged between 18 and 35 years old. **Note: This project will resume once permitted to be on campus.** Research activities may include:

- Monitoring sign-ups on the Research Participation System (SONA) and assessing pre-screens via Qualtrics
- Scheduling assessments
- Consenting research participants
- Data collection (in-person) in the lab

Daily Diary Study

This 7-day diary study looks at risk and protective factors for disordered eating behaviors and associated problems with body, weight, and shape, among men and women, aged between 18 and 30 years old. **Note: This project will resume when SONA resumes in the Fall semester.** Research activities may include:

- Monitoring online daily survey completions
- Scheduling daily survey text messages
- Allocating credits on the Research Participation System (SONA)

Miscellaneous Lab Tasks

The research assistant will be involved in miscellaneous lab tasks as needed, such as administrative/office duties (once permitted to be on campus), remote recruitment research, and preparing remote assessment materials.

The research assistant will be required to commit to at least 10 hours per week for no less than two full semesters in the lab (Fall 2020 and Spring 2021), but will have the opportunity to

continue with the lab if interested. The position will be on a voluntary basis but can be used for course credit during the Fall and/or Spring semester.

Eligibility requirements:

- Undergraduate student at SDSU
- Cumulative GPA of 3.5 or higher
- Commitment of at least 10 hours per week
- Commitment until the end of **Spring 2021** (with the opportunity to continue if interested)
- Access to a laptop/computer with reliable wifi to complete remote RA tasks
- (preferred) Interest in one of the following research areas: eating disorders; body image disturbance; suicide prevention; health behaviors; minority populations (e.g., sexual, racial, or ethnic minorities)

Applications:

- Send current CV to Justino Flores (Research Coordinator) at the BISH Lab (bishlab@sdsu.edu).
- Application deadline closes (Friday 8/21, 9am).
- Applications will be reviewed as received, with remote interviews to be conducted (in the last week of August).