

# Christopher T. Smith, Ph.D.

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[LinkedIn](#) [Website](#) [Blog](#)

Leader in Graduate & Postdoc Career & Professional Development, Supporter of Research Workforce

A neuroscientist by training, I now work to unlock human potential by assisting Ph.D.-trained researchers in their career transitions and advocating for more holistic career and professional development in higher education.

## Education

**2014 Doctor of Philosophy**, Neurobiology  
University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill

**2008 Bachelor of Science**, Neuroscience  
magna cum laude, Furman University, Greenville, SC

## PROFESSIONAL & WORK EXPERIENCE

### Postdoctoral Affairs Program Manager, Office of Postdoctoral Affairs (OPA), The Graduate School

North Carolina State University, Raleigh, NC, **January 2019 - present**

I assist North Carolina State University's 400+ postdoctoral fellows and house officers (DVM interns & residents) with issues in their current training roles at the University as well as in their career and professional development.

The role is primarily administrative: reviewing postdoc job descriptions, approving hires, overseeing postdoc orientation, liaising with faculty and human resources personnel to support postdoc recruitment and managing policies & procedures.

### Relevant Accomplishments:

**DATA COLLECTION & REPORTING.** Developed postdoc [entry](#), [exit](#), and [climate](#) surveys to better connect postdocs with professional development opportunities, document the postdoc experience to effect change, & measure and [report career outcomes](#). Published [OPA 2019 Year in Review](#) to highlight accomplishments & metrics. Maintain postdoc alumni database.

**COMMUNITY BUILDING & SUPPORT.** Oversight of [Postdoctoral Association](#), creation of postdoc Slack Group, bi-monthly [OPA newsletter](#), organize annual [postdoctoral research symposium](#), administer postdoc [professional development](#) & [travel](#) awards

**COMMUNICATION INITIATIVES.** Founder, [writer](#), & manager of [ImPACKful Blog](#) focused on highlighting [current](#) & [past](#) NC State graduate students & postdocs; sharing [tips](#) & [resources](#) to assist trainees in their career & professional development.

**CAREER & PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT PROGRAMMING.** Co-taught two sections of writing for journal article publication ([trainee reviews](#)) as well as a career exploration series ([trainee reviews](#)) for graduate students and postdocs. Delivered workshops on [navigating the academic job market](#), [career exploration](#), & [informational interviewing/networking](#).

Held three [Postdoc Academy](#) Learning Communities to help support new postdocs.

### Postdoctoral Fellow, Department of Psychology

Vanderbilt University, Nashville, TN, **August 2014 - January 2019**

### Graduate Research Assistant, Neurobiology Curriculum

University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill, **August 2008 - May 2014**

## SERVICE IN ADVANCING GRADUATE STUDENT & POSTDOC PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT

### [National Postdoctoral Association \(NPA\) Board of Directors \(January 2020 - present\)](#)

Liaise with a variety of stakeholders (postdocs, administrators, & industry) to improve the postdoctoral experience across the United States. Work with *The POSTDOCKET* leadership to share stories & resources with our membership, including **authoring pieces** on [framing postdoc research experience for industry jobs](#), profiling [initiatives that expand training opportunities](#) (see [also](#)), highlighting [NPA resources](#), and diverse career paths ([faculty at undergraduate-serving institutions](#), [postdoc affairs](#)).

### [Graduate Career Consortium \(GCC\) Communications Chair \(August 2020 - present\)](#)

**Benchmarking & Education Research Committees (2019 - present)**

### Faculty Job Market Research Group (2019 - present)

Interdisciplinary and diverse group of postdocs, faculty, and administrators seeking to understand predictors of faculty job market success. [Publication of 2018-2019 faculty job market data](#); Currently collecting data for 2019-2020 cycle

## First-Author Publications (see all publications at [NCBI Bibliography](#)):

11. **Smith CT**, San Juan DT, Katz DT, Dang LC, Perkins SF, Burgess LL, Cowan RL, Manning HC, Nickels ML, Claassen DO, Samanez-Larkin GR, Zald DH (2018). Ventral striatal dopamine transporter availability is associated with lower trait motor impulsivity in healthy adults. *Translational Psychiatry*, 8 (1), 269, DOI: 10.1038/s41398-018-0328-y. PMID: PMC6286354
10. **Smith CT**, Dang LC, San Juan DT, Perkins SF, Burgess LL, Smith D, Cowan RL, Le NT, Kessler RM, Samanez-Larkin GR, Zald DH (2018). Lack of consistent sex differences in d-amphetamine-induced dopamine release measured with [<sup>18</sup>F]fallypride PET. *Psychopharmacology*, 236 (2), 581-590. PMID: PMC6401232
9. **Smith CT**, Crawford JL, Dang LC, Seaman KL, San Juan D, Katz DT, Matuskey D, Cowan RL, Morris ED, Zald DH, Samanez-Larkin GR (2017). Partial-volume correction increases estimated dopamine D2-like receptor binding potential and reduces adult age differences. *Journal of Cerebral Blood Flow and Metabolism*, 39 (5), 822-833. PMID: PMC6498753
8. **Smith CT**, Dang LC, Buckholtz JW, Tetreault AM, Cowan RL, Kessler RM, Zald DH (2017). The impact of common dopamine D2 receptor gene polymorphisms on D2/3 receptor availability: C957T as a key determinant in putamen and ventral striatum. *Translational Psychiatry*, 7 (4), e1091, DOI: 10.1038/tp.2017.45. PMID: PMC5416688
7. **Smith CT**, Dang LC, Cowan RL, Kessler RM, Zald DH (2016). Variability in paralimbic dopamine signaling correlates with subjective responses to d-amphetamine\*. *Neuropharmacology*, 108, 394-402. PMID: PMC4912942  
\*Faculty of 1000 Recommended Article by Kent Berridge (University of Michigan)
6. **Smith CT**, Weafer J, Cowan RL, Kessler RM, Palmer AA, de Wit H, Zald DH (2016). Individual differences in timing of peak positive subjective responses to d-amphetamine: Relationship to pharmacokinetics and physiology. *Journal of Psychopharmacology*, 30 (4), 330-343. PMID: PMC5049703
5. **Smith CT**, Wallace DL, Dang LC, Aarts E, Jagust WJ, D'Esposito M, Boettiger CA (2016). Modulation of impulsivity and reward sensitivity in intertemporal choice by striatal and midbrain dopamine in healthy adults. *Journal of Neurophysiology*, 115 (3), 1146-1156. PMID: PMC4808128
4. **Smith CT**, Steel EA, Parrish MH, Kelm MK, Boettiger CA (2015). Intertemporal Choice Behavior in Late Adolescents and Adults: Effects of Age Interact with Alcohol Use and Family History Status. *Frontiers in Human Neuroscience*, Nov 23; 9:627. PMID: PMC4655234
3. **Smith CT**, Sierra Y, Oppler SH, Boettiger CA (2014). Ovarian Cycle Effects on Immediate Reward Bias in humans: a role for estradiol\*. *Journal of Neuroscience*, 34 (16): 5468-5476. PMID: PMC3988406  
\*Featured in Journal of Neuroscience Journal Club Article: Dimitroff SJ (2014). Phasic estradiol levels and bias for immediate rewards. *Journal of Neuroscience*, 34 (37): 12239-12240.
2. **Smith CT**, Swift-Scanlan T, Boettiger CA (2014). Genetic polymorphisms regulating dopamine signaling in the frontal cortex interact to affect target detection under high working memory load. *Journal of Cognitive Neuroscience*, 26 (2), 395-407. PMID: PMC3877727
1. **Smith CT**, Boettiger CA (2012). Age modulates the effect of COMT genotype on delay discounting behavior. *Psychopharmacology*, 222 (4), 609-617. PMID: PMC340127

See a collection of my other writings on my [personal website](#), [LinkedIn](#), [PassioInventa](#) & [LifeApps](#).