



THE SCIENCE OF
PSYCHOLOGY⁵

An Appreciative View

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Hill

LAURA A. KING

THE **SCIENCE** OF
PSYCHOLOGY

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An Appreciative View

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for *Sam*

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about *the author*



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LAURA A. KING

Laura King did her undergraduate work at Kenyon College, where, already an English major, she declared a second major in psychology during the second semester of her junior year. She completed her AB in English with high honors and distinction and in psychology with distinction in 1986. Laura then did graduate work at Michigan State University and the University of California, Davis, receiving her PhD in personality psychology in 1991.

Laura began her career at Southern Methodist University in Dallas, moving to the University of Missouri in 2001, where she is now a Curators' Professor of Psychological Science. In addition to seminars in the development of character, social psychology, and personality psychology, she has taught undergraduate lecture courses in introductory psychology, introduction to personality psychology, and social psychology. At SMU, she received six different teaching awards,

including the “M” award for “sustained excellence” in 1999. At the University of Missouri, she received the Chancellor’s Award for Outstanding Research and Creative Activity in 2004.

Her research, which has been funded by the National Institute of Mental Health and the National Science Foundation, has focused on a variety of topics relevant to the question of what it is that makes for a good life. She has studied goals, life stories, happiness, well-being, and meaning in life. In general, her work reflects an enduring interest in studying what is good and healthy in people. In 2001, she earned recognition for her research accomplishments with a Templeton Prize in Positive Psychology. In 2011, she received the Ed and Carol Diener Award for Distinguished Contributions to Personality Psychology. In 2015, she received the Society for Personality and Social Psychology Award for service to the field, in part for her efforts in bringing the science of psychology to students. In 2019, she received the Jack Block Award for distinguished contributions to personality psychology. Laura’s research (often in collaboration with undergraduate and graduate students) has been published in *American Psychologist*, the *Journal of Personality and Social Psychology*, *Psychological Bulletin*, and *Psychological Science*.

Laura has held numerous editorial positions. She is currently the editor of *Perspectives on Psychological Science*. She was editor-in-chief of the Personality and Individual Differences section of the *Journal of Personality and Social Psychology* and the *Journal of Research in Personality* and associate editor for the *Journal of Personality and Social Psychology* and *Personality and Social Psychology Bulletin*, as well as on numerous grant panels. She has edited or coedited special sections of the *Journal of Personality* and *American Psychologist*.

In “real life,” Laura is an accomplished cook and enjoys hosting lavish dinner parties, listening to music (mostly jazz vocalists and singer-songwriters), running with her faithful dogs Bill and John, and swimming and debating with her son Sam.

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