

Dr. Sarah E. Gaither—Faculty Bio

Dr. Sarah Gaither is currently an Assistant Professor in the Department of Psychology & Neuroscience at Duke University. Prior to starting at Duke, she was a Provost's Postdoctoral Scholar in the Psychology Department and Fellow at the Center for the Study of Race, Politics and Culture at the University of Chicago after earning her Ph.D. and M.S. in Social Psychology from Tufts University and her B.A. in Social Welfare from U.C Berkeley.

Her research focuses broadly on how a person's social identities and experiences across the lifespan motivate their social perceptions and behaviors in diverse settings. More specifically, she studies how contact with diverse others shapes social interactions, how having multiple racial or multiple social identities affects different types of social behavior and categorizations of others, and what contexts shape the development of racial perceptions and biases from childhood through adulthood. Growing up as a biracial Black/White woman has fueled her research path.

Being a first year faculty member, Dr. Gaither already has 16 publications most of which are first author in top tier journals (and she has another ten papers that are under review). Many of these papers are the first to explore biracial and racial minority individuals and she has become a leader in the field of multiple identity and multiracial research. Her research is very timely since not only the U.S., but the world as a whole is increasing in diversity making it vital for research to begin more cross-cultural and diversity context work so we know how the changing demographics may shift our social attitudes and perceptions. Dr. Gaither is an expert at recruiting understudied populations and children and recently started a cross-cultural study for children and adults in the U.S. and Taiwan comparing ambiguous Asian/White categorization and the role that context plays in shaping those perceptions.

Dr. Gaither has also garnered media attention (i.e., *New York Magazine*, *Time Magazine*, *Ways and Means* podcast, local *NPR* affiliate radio stations) and she will be the featured researcher for two upcoming multiracial and racial identity documentaries aired to debut at the end of 2017. Additionally, in the past year Dr. Gaither has been invited to give over ten research talks and she regularly presents at local and national conferences.

Her research has been funded by both the NSF Graduate Student Fellowship and the Ford Foundation Dissertation Fellowship in addition to a number of small internal and external grants and awards from agencies such as SPSSI, EASP, and APA. Most recently, Dr. Gaither was awarded a research grant from the Russell Sage Foundation to be the first to compare biracial and bicultural identity denial experiences using cortisol as a measure of experienced stress.