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LAURA A. KING

THE SCIENCE OF

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LAURA A. KING

University of Missouri, Columbia

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LAURA A. KING

Laura King majored in English at Kenyon College, but in the second semester of her junior year she declared a second major in psychology. She completed her bachelor's degree 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 Ph.D. in personality psychology in 1991.

Laura began her career at Southern Methodist University in Dallas, moving to the University of Missouri, Columbus, in 2001, where she is now the Frederick A. Middlebush Professor of Psychological Sciences. In addition to seminars in the development of character, social psychology, and personality psychology, she has taught undergraduate 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, 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, her research accomplishments were recognized by a Templeton Prize in positive psychology. Laura's research (often in collaboration with undergraduate and graduate students) has been published in the *American Psychologist*, the *Journal of Personality and Social Psychology*, *Psychological Science*, and other publications. Currently editor-in-chief of the personality and individual differences section of the *Journal of Personality and Social Psychology*, Laura has also served as the editor-in-chief of the *Journal of Research in Personality* and as an associate editor for the *Personality and Social Psychology Bulletin*, as well as on numerous grant panels. She has edited or co-edited special sections of several journals, including the *American Psychologist*. In "real life," Laura is an accomplished cook and enjoys listening to music (mostly jazz vocalists and singer-songwriters), gardening, and chasing Sam, her 6-year-old son.

about the *author*

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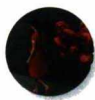


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