

James J. Dillon, Ph.D.

Professor of Psychology
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Academic Achievement

Teacher Certification: Georgia State Certification: April, 2014
Early Childhood Education, Grades Pre-K-5

Clark University, Worcester, Mass., Ph.D., Psychology, 1998
Dissertation: The Differential Effects of Five Teaching Strategies on Children's Understanding of Biology and the Inside of the Body

Clark University, Worcester, Mass., M.A., Psychology, 1994
Thesis: Symbol Formation: Concretizing the Abstract and Intangible

College of the Holy Cross, A.B., Psychology, *in cursu honoris, magna cum laude*, 1990
Honor's Thesis: Terminally Ill Children's Understanding of Imminent Death

GACE

Basic Skills Assessment	Spring, 2014
Early Childhood Education	Spring, 2014

Professional Activity

- Dillon, J. (in press). *Complex and archetype: Exploring the forces which animate our lives*. Palgrave-Macmillan.
- Dillon, J. (2024). Wild critical analysis. *Academic Questions*, 37(4), 56-60.
- Dillon, J. (2022). *The joy of duty: Human happiness and ethical obligation*. Ethics International.
- Dillon, J. (2021). Reassembling the real person: A Jungian and mythical-dramatistic approach to human development. *The Journal of Humanistic Psychology*, 61(5), 786-805.
<https://doi.org/10.1177/0022167819853072>
- Dillon, J. (2020). Humanistic psychology and the good: A forgotten link. *The Humanistic Psychologist*, 48(3), 244-256.
- Dillon, J. (2019). *Inside today's elementary classrooms: A psychologist's perspective*. Palgrave-Macmillan.
- Dillon, J. (2018). A letter to a new faculty member: How to stay sane in the academy. *The Humanistic Psychologist*, 46(2), 147-158.
- Dillon, J. (2016). *Teaching psychology and the Socratic Method: Real knowledge in a virtual age*. Palgrave-Macmillan.
- Dillon, J. (2013). Using Socrates to teach psychology: A humanistic approach to Psychology 101. *The Journal of Humanistic Psychology*, 53(3), 362-385.
- Dillon, J. (2011). Psychology and spiritual life writing. *The Humanistic Psychologist*, 39(2): 137-153.
- Dillon, J. (2010). Primal vision: The psychological effects of creation myth. *The Journal of*

- Humanistic Psychology*, 50(4), 495-513.
- Dillon, J. (2009). Benjamin Franklin: A wonder-based approach to life and learning. *Encounter: Education for Meaning and Social Justice*, 22(4), 1-10.
- Dillon, J. (2008). Reclaiming humanistic psychology from modernity: Problems and solutions. *Journal of Humanistic Psychology*, 48(2), 221-242.
- Dillon, J., Sagarin, J., & Bibace, R. (2008). Change in reasoning about the body through psychological distancing activities. *Journal of Applied Developmental Psychology*, 29(4), 254-258.
- Dillon, J. (2006). The tears of Priam: Reflections on *Troy* and teaching ancient texts. *Humanitas*, 19(1): 126-131.
- Dillon, J. (2006). Irving Babbitt's "New Humanism" and its potential value to humanistic psychology. *The Humanistic Psychologist*, 34(1), 59-73.
- Dillon, J. (2006). Spirituality for humans, not angels. *AHP Perspective*, February/March, 27-29.
- Dillon, J. (2005). Learning psychology: Using the seminar to teach undergraduates. *The Georgia Psychologist*, 59, 4-6.
- Dillon, J. (2005). The development of discernment in St. Ignatius Loyola. In E. Dowling W. Scarlett (Eds.), *Encyclopedia of Religious and Spiritual Development* (pp. 45-54). Sage.
- Dillon, J. (2003). Psychological studies on spiritual and religious development (review). *International Journal for the Psychology of Religion*, 13(1), 239-243.
- Dillon, J. (2003). Bringing counseling to the classroom and the residence hall: The university learning community. *Journal of Humanistic Counseling Education and Development*, 42, 194-208.
- Dillon, J. (2002). The role of the child in adult development. *The Journal of Adult Development*, 9(4), 267-275.
- Dillon, J. (2001). Children's secret lives. *Science & Spirit*, 13(1), 45 & 50.
- Dillon, J. (2000). The spiritual child: Appreciating children's transformative effects on adults. *Encounter: Education for Meaning and Social Justice*, 13(4), 4-18.
- Bibace, R., Dillon, J., & Dowds, B. (1999). *Partnerships in research, clinical and educational settings*. Greenwood.
- Dillon, J. (1999). Psychology and ethics. In R. Bibace, J. Dillon, & B. Dowds (Eds.), *Partnerships in research, clinical and educational settings* (pp. 105-120). Greenwood.
- Dillon, J. (1999). It's the relationship that matters most: Sidney Jourard and his significance to psychological research and education. A. Richards and T. Shumrum (Eds.). *Invitations to dialogue: The legacy of Sidney M. Jourard* (pp. 235-246). Kendall/Hunt Publishing Company.
- Dillon, J. (1999). Tripping on the Cosmic Game. *The Humanistic Psychologist*, 27(2), 246-250.
- Dillon, J. (1999). The new millennium and its discontents. *Georgia Psychologist*, 53(4), 19. (Reprinted in *Psychogram: Virginia Academy of Clinical Psychologists*, 25(1), 22-23).
- Dillon, J., & Futterman, A. (1998). Faith, doubt, and well-being in later life. *The Journal of Aging and Identity*, 3(3), 153-169.
- Futterman, A., Dillon, J., & Haugh, J. (1998). Quest religiosity and the search for meaning in later life. L.E. Thomas and S.A. Eisenhandler (Eds.) *Religion, belief, and spirituality in late life* (pp. 153-177). Springer.
- Bibace, R., Aramburuzabala, P., Bush, P.J., Dillon, J., Green, D., McNeil, J., Menacker,

F., Minian, N., Quinn, P. (1997). What children want to know about medicine. In *Proceedings of the USP open conference, children and medicines: Information isn't just for grownups*. Rockville, Md: The U.S. Pharmacopoeial Convention, Inc.

Selected conference papers, posters, and colloquia

- Dillon, J. (March, 2015). A few surprising things about today's elementary schools. University of West Georgia College of Social Science Colloquium, Carrollton, GA.
- Dillon, J. (February, 2014). The psychological effects of creation myth. University of North Georgia Arts and Letters Conference, Dahlonega, GA.
- Bartholomew, F., & Dillon, J. (2011). Listening to students' voices: Assessing what psychology majors have learned. Paper presented at the annual SPARC research conference, Carrollton, GA.
- Dillon, J. (2008). Tailoring teaching to student orientation to college. Paper Presented at the annual meeting of the American Psychological Association, Boston, MA.
- Dillon, J. (2008). Materialism and happiness in ancient Greek thought. Paper Presented at the annual meeting of the American Psychological Association, Boston, MA.
- Dillon, J. (2007, November). The development of discernment in children. Paper presented at the bi-annual meeting of the Conference on Children's Spirituality, Chattanooga, TN.
- Dillon, J. (2002, August). William James and the challenge of religious experience to Psychology's self-understanding. Paper presented at the annual meeting of the American Psychological Association, Chicago, IL.
- Dillon, J. (2002, April). Learning from learning communities. Invited speaker at the Georgia Board of Regents' Teaching and Learning with Advanced Technologies Conference, Athens, GA.
- Dillon, J. (2001, August). Fairy tales: A valuable methodological resource. Paper presented at the annual meeting of the American Psychological Association, San Francisco, CA.
- Dillon, J. (2000, August). Children's effects on adults' spiritual life. Paper presented at the annual meeting of the American Psychological Association, Washington, D.C.
- Dillon, J. (2000, August). Research on children's spirituality. Hospitality suite discussion hour delivered at the annual meeting of the American Psychological Association, Washington, D.C.
- Dillon, J. (2000, April). Children, adults, and spirituality: A conversation about spiritual development. Colloquium presented to the Department of Psychology, State University of West Georgia, Carrollton, GA.
- Dillon, J. (1999, April). The psychological distancing strategy, education, and human development. Poster presented at the annual conference of the Society for Research on Child Development, Albuquerque, N.M.
- Dillon, J. (1998, October). The development of metaphor. Colloquium presented to the Department of Psychology, State University of West Georgia, Carrollton, GA.
- Dillon, J. (1997, February). Toward an ethically-inspired developmental psychology: The distancing strategy as an educational tool. Paper presented at the Annual Conference of the Eastern Psychological Association Conference, Boston,

Massachusetts.

- Bibace, R., & Dillon, J. (1997, April). The Co-existence concept of development. Paper presented at the annual conference of the Society for Research in Child Development, Washington, D.C.
- Dillon, J., & Bibace, R. (1997, April). On the limitations of the forced-choice technique. Paper presented at the Annual Conference of the Eastern Psychological Association, Washington, D.C.
- Dillon, J. (1996, September). Research participants as partners, not subjects: Concepts and ramifications. Paper presented at the Conference of the New England Psychological Association, New London, Connecticut.
- Dillon, J. (1996, October). The differential effects of four psychological distancing strategies on children's conceptions of biology. Poster presented U.S. Pharmacopoeia Conference, "Children and Medicines: Information Isn't Just for Grownups," Reston, VA.

University Teaching Experience

- 2008-present Professor of Psychology, University of West Georgia
- 2002-2008 Associate Professor of Psychology, State University of West Georgia
- 1997-2002 Assistant Professor of Psychology, State University of West Georgia
- 1994-1997 Visiting Instructor of Psychology, College of the Holy Cross

Directed Student Learning

Theses

- Paul Nelson, Acts against Judgment, 2005
- Leslie Gouger, Exploring Children's Religious Lives, 2007
- Valerie Cleveland, Radical Recovery: An Integrative Approach for Treating Addiction, 2010
- Richard Sears, The Psychology of Dehumanization, 2011
- Noah Cochran, Consulting Characters: Inner Dialogue and Decision-Making 2017
- Mark Rich, Psychology and the Sacred, 2018
- Andrea Laubstein, Toward a Yogic Pedagogy, 2018
- Elena Mayfield, Institutional Deprivation and Its Effects on Child Development, 2018

Dissertations Directed

- Andrea Stover, Levels of Love: Toward a Developmental Model of Self in Relation to Types of Romantic Love Relationships, 2020
- Louisa Grann, Transcendent Play: An Empirical Exploration into How Character Creation and Imaginative Role-Play in Online and Offline Video Games Can Facilitate Self-Discovery, 2021

Awards & Honors

- Georgia Regents' Scholarship of Teaching and Learning Faculty FY14 Award. Presented by University of West Georgia, 2014.
- "First-Year Student Advocate of the Year," Fall, 2001, State University of West Georgia.
- Nominated for Governor's Teaching Fellowship, College of Arts & Sciences, State University of West Georgia. (Spring 2001)