Autumn is in the air and people are preparing for a happy–yet spooky–Halloween, with all the trapping, including witches, monsters, and ghosts. Few things are scarier than ghosts, with the possible exception of being ghosted in an online relationship. While the fanciful frights of a Halloween ghost quickly fade, the impact of online ghosting may last much longer and have some genuinely frightening impacts later in life.

Earlier this year, Dr. Maureen Coyle, a visiting assistant professor at Seton Hall University, presented research on how being ghosted affected expectations about future relationships. This research was also presented in Dr. Coyle’s 2021 APS Annual Meeting Flash Talk: Looking for my Boo.