

# Kyle A. Thomas

Curriculum Vitae

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Department of Psychology, Harvard University  
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## Education

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2008–present	Harvard University Doctoral Candidate, Psychology Cognition, Brain, & Behavior Program Dissertation: <i>The psychology of coordination and common knowledge</i>	Cambridge, MA Advisor: Steven Pinker Expected Completion: 2015
2000–2004	University of California, Santa Cruz Bachelor of Arts, with honors Psychology, Pre-medicine, Spanish	Santa Cruz, CA

## Consulting and Entrepreneurship

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2010–present	TipTap Lab Vice President of Research	Cambridge, MA
2008–present	Signet Education Director of Science Education 2008-2011 Partner and Advisor 2011-present	Cambridge, MA

## Publications

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- Thomas, K. A.**, DeScioli, P., Haque, O. S., & Pinker, S. (2014). The psychology of coordination and common knowledge. *Journal of Personality and Social Psychology*.
- Chakroff, A., **Thomas, K. A.**, Haque, O. S., & Young, L. (2014). An indecent proposal: The dual functions of indirect speech. *Cognitive Science*.
- Chiu, E. M., **Thomas, K. A.**, Persike, M., Quan, J. R., & Bridgeman, B. (in press). A slippery slope: Estimated slant of hills increases with distance. *Perception*.

## Manuscripts

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- Thomas, K. A.**, & Clifford, S. (under review). *Validity and Mechanical Turk: An assessment of exclusion methods and interactive experiments*. Manuscript submitted for publication.
- Thomas, K. A.**, Hoffman, M., & Pinker, S. (in preparation). The role of social knowledge in indirect speech: Evidence for game-theoretic predictions of the Strategic Speaker theory.
- Thomas, K. A.**, Mendes, W. B., & Pinker, S. (in preparation). The social and emotional costs of

direct speech: Evidence for the Strategic Speaker theory of indirect speech.

**Thomas, K. A.**, Massenkoff, M., DeScioli, P., & Pinker, S. (in preparation). People use indirect speech to evade third-party punishment.

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### Educational Publications

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**Thomas, K. A.** (2010). *GRE course book*. Cambridge, MA: Signet Education.

**Thomas, K. A.** (2008). *How to succeed in physics*. Cambridge, MA: Signet Education.

**Thomas, K. A.** (2008). *How to succeed in organic chemistry*. Cambridge, MA: Signet Education.

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### Presentations

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**Thomas, K. A.**, & Pinker, S. (2013). Common knowledge and the self-conscious emotions. Talk presented at 25<sup>th</sup> annual HBES conference, Miami, Florida.

**Thomas, K. A.** (2012). The dissertation: Strategies for getting from beginning to end in the process. Invited talk presented at Harvard GSAS dissertation symposium, Harvard University, Cambridge, Massachusetts.

**Thomas, K. A.**, DeScioli, P., Haque, O. S., & Pinker, S. (2012). The psychology of common knowledge and coordination. Talk presented at 24<sup>th</sup> annual HBES conference, Albuquerque, New Mexico.

**Thomas, K. A.** (2012). Attention checks in MTurk and Qualtrics integration. Invited talk presented at Amazon Mechanical Turk and the Social Sciences Symposium, Harvard University, Cambridge, Massachusetts.

**Thomas, K. A.**, Mendes, W. B., Pinker, S., & Nocera, C. C. (2011). “Do you want to see my etchings?” Evidence for a game-theoretic model of indirect speech. Talk presented at 23<sup>rd</sup> annual HBES conference, Montpellier, France.

**Thomas, K. A.**, DeScioli, P., & Pinker, S. (2011). Common knowledge and Coordination. Poster presented at 23<sup>rd</sup> annual HBES conference, Montpellier, France.

Haque, O. S., Rand, D. G, **Thomas, K. A.**, & Pinker, S. (2011). The unjustified mistrust of the irreligious. Talk presented at 1<sup>st</sup> annual ASREC conference, Washington D.C.

**Thomas, K. A.**, Mendes, W. B., & Pinker, S. (2010). What’s special about off-record indirect speech acts? Invited talk presented at Role of Social Cognition and Language Processing Workshop, Cambridge, Massachusetts.

**Thomas, K. A.**, Mendes, W. B., Pinker, S., & Nocera, C. C. (2010). “Would you like to come up and see my etchings?” The costs and benefits of indirect speech. Poster presented at 12<sup>th</sup> annual SPSP conference, San Antonio, TX.

Haque, O. S., Nocera, C. C., **Thomas, K. A.**, & Pinker, S. (2010). Religious ritual postures and social cognition. Talk presented at Cognition, Religion and Theology Project, Oxford, England.

**Thomas, K. A.** (2005-2006). Symbol cognition, mathematics, and the natural sciences. Talk presented at three tutor training sessions, UC Santa Cruz, Santa Cruz, CA.

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### Teaching

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**Invited lecture**, Strategic speech: Evidence for a game-theoretic model of indirect speech, April 15, 2014. Game Theory and Psychology (undergraduate course), Harvard.

**Head Teaching Fellow**, Psychological Science, Spring 2012. Under Professor Steven Pinker, Harvard.

**Teaching Fellow**, Psychological Science, Spring 2011. Under Professor Steven Pinker, Harvard. \*\*Won *Distinction in Teaching* award

**Teaching Fellow**, Intermediate Statistical Analysis in Psychology (graduate course), Fall 2010. Under Professor Samuel Moulton, Harvard.

**Invited lecture**, Introduction to statistics for the social sciences, October 13, 2010. Psychology/Anthropology Research Methods Proseminar (master's course), Harvard.

**Course Developer and Instructor**, GRE Preparation Course. Signet Education, 2009-2011.

**Teaching Fellow**, The Human Mind, Spring 2008. Under Professor Steven Pinker, Harvard.

**Course Developer and Instructor**, How to Succeed in Physics. Signet Education, 2008-2010.

**Course Developer and Instructor**, How to Succeed in Organic Chemistry. Signet Education, 2008-2010.

**GRE Course Instructor**. Testmasters Educational Services Inc. 2007-2008.

**Peer Tutor**. UCSC's Modified Supplemental Instruction program. 2003-2006. Tutored: physics, chemistry, organic chemistry, psychological statistics.

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### Patents

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Cudgma, D., Nocera, C. C., & **Thomas, K. A.** (2014). Method and system for determining correlations between personality traits of a group of consumers and a brand/product. To be published September 2015, filed February 2014. Patent Pending.

**Thomas, K. A.** (2012). Method and system for verifying and determining acceptability of unverified survey items. US Patent Application 2013-0122474, filed October 2012. Patent Pending.

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### Awards and Scholarships

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Graduate Society Dissertation Completion Fellowship, Harvard University	2012
Restricted Funds Research Awards, Harvard University	2010
Restricted Funds Research Awards, Harvard University	2009
Stimson Grant, Harvard University	2008
Michelle Guard Memorial Scholarship, UC Santa Cruz	2001

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#### **Research Assistants**

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Maxim Massenkoff (2014-present); Tiana Press (2014-present); Cheng Li (2011–2013); Sophie Scolnik-Brower (2011–2012); Bay McCulloch (2009–2012); Natalie Aharon (2011–present); Sara Paul (2011–2012); Pooja Ami Patel (2011–present); Ari Brennar (2011); Ian Mark (2011); Julian deFreitas (2011-present); Richard Truncellito (2009–2011); Kevin Verbael (2009–2010); Spencer Kline (2009–2010); Rebecca Jablonski (2009); Abigail Schachter (2009); Becca Feistritzer (2009); Ivana Viani (2009); Jared Horvath (2009); Christopher Kleinhen (2009); Monica Liu (2009); Alex Lipton (2009).

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#### **Professional Affiliations**

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Human Behavior and Evolution Society  
Society for Personality and Social Psychology  
American Psychological Association

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#### **Research Interests**

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Common knowledge, indirect speech, coordination, mutualism, evolution of cooperation, self-conscious emotions, moral cognition, behavioral economics, evolutionary biology, psychometrics, applied consumer psychology