

# Daniel Bennett

## Curriculum Vitae

---

Department of Psychiatry, Monash University, Australia  
e-mail: [daniel.bennett@monash.edu](mailto:daniel.bennett@monash.edu)  
website: <https://bennett-daniel.github.io>

---

<b>Research interests</b>	I study mood, learning, and decision making. I use computational methods (e.g., reinforcement learning models of behaviour, multivariate pattern analysis of neural data) to understand how these phenomena interact. I am particularly interested in investigating the ways that interactions between mood, learning, and decision making might go awry in psychiatric conditions like major depression and bipolar disorder.	
<b>Employment</b>	<i>Research Fellow</i>	<b>2021-present</b>
	Department of Psychiatry, Monash University	
	<i>Postdoctoral Research Fellow</i>	<b>2019-2020</b>
	Princeton Neuroscience Institute, Princeton University & Department of Psychiatry, Monash University	
	<i>Postdoctoral Research Associate</i>	<b>2017-2018</b>
	Princeton Neuroscience Institute, Princeton University Advisor: Yael Niv	
<b>Education</b>	<i>Doctor of Philosophy (PhD) in Psychology</i>	<b>2013-2017</b>
	The University of Melbourne Thesis: Belief updating and information seeking in decision making under uncertainty Supervisors: Stefan Bode, Carsten Murawski, Rob Hester	
	<i>Bachelor of Science (Honours) in Psychology</i>	<b>2011</b>
	The University of Melbourne	
	<i>Bachelor of Science and Bachelor of Arts</i>	<b>2007-2010</b>
	The University of Western Australia	
<b>Publications</b>	<i>Preprints and under review</i>	
	<ol style="list-style-type: none"><li>1. <b>Bennett, D.</b>, Niv, Y., &amp; Langdon, A. J. (under review). Value-free reinforcement learning: Policy optimization as a minimal model of operant behavior. Preprint hosted at <i>PsyArXiv</i>: <a href="https://psyarxiv.com/ew58m/">https://psyarxiv.com/ew58m/</a></li><li>2. Zorowitz, S., Niv, Y., &amp; <b>Bennett, D.</b> (under review). Inattentive responding can induce spurious associations between task behavior and symptom measures. Preprint hosted at <i>PsyArXiv</i>: <a href="https://psyarxiv.com/rynhk/">https://psyarxiv.com/rynhk/</a></li><li>3. Goh, A. X.-A., <b>Bennett, D.</b>, Bode, S., &amp; Chong, T. T.-J. (under review). Neurocomputational mechanisms underlying the subjective value of information. Manuscript submitted for review.</li></ol>	
	<i>Peer-reviewed articles and chapters</i>	

4. **Bennett, D.**, Davidson, G., & Niv, Y. (in press). A model of mood as integrated advantage. Manuscript accepted for publication in *Psychological Review*. doi: 10.31234/osf.io/dzsmc.
5. Smillie, L. D., **Bennett, D.**, Tan, N. P., Sutcliffe, K., Fayn, K., Bode, S., & Wacker, J. (in press). Does openness/intellect predict sensitivity to the reward value of information? Manuscript accepted for publication in *Cognitive, Affective, and Behavioral Neuroscience*.
6. Zorowitz, S., **Bennett, D.**, Choe, G. & Niv, Y. (2021). A recurring reproduction error in the administration of the Generalized Anxiety Disorder Scale. *The Lancet Psychiatry*, 8(3), 180-181.
7. **Bennett, D.**, Sutcliffe, K., Tan, N. P., Smillie, L. D., & Bode, S. (2020). Anxious and obsessive-compulsive traits are independently associated with valuation of non-instrumental information. Manuscript accepted for publication in *Journal of Experimental Psychology: General*. doi: 10.1101/768168.
8. **Bennett, D.**, & Niv, Y. (2020). Opening Burton's clock: Psychiatric insights from computational cognitive models. Chapter in *The Cognitive Neurosciences, 6th edition* (M. Gazzaniga, ed.).
9. **Bennett, D.**, Silverstein, S., & Niv, Y. (2019). The two cultures of computational psychiatry. *JAMA Psychiatry*, 76(6), 563-564.
10. **Bennett, D.\***, Sasmita, K.\*, Maloney, R. T., Murawski, C., & Bode, S. (2019). Monetary feedback modulates performance and electrophysiological indices of belief updating in reward learning. *Psychophysiology*, 56(10), e13431.  
\*These authors contributed equally
11. Bode, S., Feuerriegel, D., **Bennett, D.**, & Alday, P. M. (2019). The Decision Decoding ToolBOX (DDTBOX): A multivariate pattern analysis toolbox for event-related potentials. *Neuroinformatics*, 17(1), 27-42.
12. Sewell, D., Warren, H. A., Rosenblatt, D., **Bennett, D.**, Lyons, M., & Bode, S. (2018). Feedback discounting in probabilistic categorization: converging evidence from EEG and cognitive modelling. *Computational Brain and Behavior*, 1(2), 165-183.
13. Bode, S., **Bennett, D.**, Sewell, D. K., Paton, B., Egan, G. F., Smith, P. L., & Murawski, C. (2018). Dissociating neural variability related to stimulus quality and response times in perceptual decision-making. *Neuropsychologia*, 111, 190-200.
14. Brydevall, M.\*, **Bennett, D.\***, Murawski, C., & Bode, S. (2018). The neural encoding of information prediction errors during non-instrumental information seeking. *Scientific Reports*, 8, 6134.  
\*These authors contributed equally
15. **Bennett, D.**, Yücel, M., & Murawski, C. (2018). Errors of statistical inference in the Information Sampling Task. *Biological Psychiatry*, 83(12), e61-e62.
16. **Bennett, D.**, Oldham, S., Dawson, A., Parkes, L., Murawski, C., & Yücel, M. (2017). Systematic overestimation of reflection impulsivity in the Information Sampling Task. *Biological Psychiatry*, 82(4), e29-e30.
17. Carter, O., **Bennett, D.**, Nash, T., Arnold, S., Brown, L., Cai, R.Y., Allan, Z., Dłuzniak, A., McAnally, K., Burr, D., & Sundram, S. (2017). Sensory integration deficits support a dimensional view of psychosis and are not limited to schizophrenia. *Translational Psychiatry*, 7, e1118.

18. **Bennett, D.**, Bode, S., Brydevall, M., Warren, H., & Murawski, C. (2016). Intrinsic valuation of information in decision making under uncertainty. *PLoS Computational Biology*, 12(7), e1005020.
19. **Bennett, D.**, Dluzniak, A., Cropper, S., Partos, T., Sundram, S., & Carter, O. (2016). Selective impairment of global motion integration, but not global form integration, in schizophrenia and bipolar affective disorder. *Schizophrenia Research: Cognition*, 3, 11-14.
20. **Bennett, D.** (2015). The neural mechanisms of Bayesian belief updating. *The Journal of Neuroscience*, 35(50), 16300-16302.
21. **Bennett, D.**, Murawski, C., & Bode, S. (2015). Single-trial event-related potential correlates of belief updating. *eNeuro*, 2(5), 1-14.
22. Bode, S., **Bennett, D.**, Stahl, J., & Murawski, C. (2014). Distributed patterns of event-related potentials predict subsequent ratings of abstract stimulus attributes. *PLoS One*, 9(10), e109070.

*Extended abstracts in peer-reviewed conference proceedings*

23. **Bennett, D.**, Davidson, G., & Niv, Y. (2019). Momentum and mood in policy-gradient reinforcement learning. *The 4th Multidisciplinary Conference on Reinforcement Learning and Decision Making*.
24. **Bennett, D.**, Feuerriegel, D., Alday, P. M., & Bode, S. (2017). The Decision Decoding ToolBOX (DDTBOX): A multivariate pattern analysis toolbox for event-related potentials. *Conference on Cognitive Computational Neuroscience 2017*.

**Funding  
and awards**

Travel Fellowship Award (USD \$2,000) Society of Biological Psychiatry	<b>2020</b>
Graduate Fellowship (USD \$40,000) American-Australian Association	<b>2019</b>
CJ Martin Early Career Fellowship (AUD \$417,192) National Health and Medical Research Council Project title: Towards a neurocomputational model of mood instability in psychiatric illness.	<b>2019-2022</b>
Career Development Award (AUD \$1,500) School of Psychological Sciences, The University of Melbourne	<b>2016</b>
Postgraduate student presentation award School of Psychological Sciences, The University of Melbourne	<b>2015</b>
Melbourne Abroad Travelling Scholarship (AUD \$1,500) The University of Melbourne	<b>2014</b>
Australian Postgraduate Award (AUD \$92,008) Postgraduate research scholarship, Australian Federal Department of Education	<b>2013-2016</b>
Dwight Prize for Honours in Psychology For coursework in Psychology at The University of Melbourne	<b>2011</b>
Dean's Honours List in Science	<b>2011</b>

Last updated April 2021

For coursework in the Bachelor of Science at The University of Melbourne

*Convocation, The UWA Graduates Association Prize*

**2008**

Award for undergraduate coursework

*Commonwealth Accommodation Scholarship*

**2007-2010**

Undergraduate scholarship, Australian Federal Department of Education

## **Presentations**

### *Invited talks*

1. "A model of mood as integrated advantage." Invited presentation at the Transcontinental Computational Psychiatry Workgroup meeting, January 2021.
2. "Affect-congruent attention biases generalized reward expectations." National keynote speaker for Faculty of Medicine, Dentistry and Health Sciences Graduate Research Conference, University of Melbourne, December 2020.
3. "Modelling mood and mood disorders with reinforcement learning." Monash Health Professorial Lecture, November 2020.
4. "A model of mood as integrated advantage." Invited presentation at the Parallel Distributed Processing meeting, Princeton University, May 2020.
5. "Modelling mood and mood disorders with reinforcement learning." Invited presentation at the Institute for Pure and Applied Mathematics, UCLA, February 2020.
6. "Individual differences in attention allocation during value construction." Invited presentation at the Parallel Distributed Processing meeting, Princeton University, February 2019 (with Angela Radulescu).
7. "Reinforcement learning and computational psychiatry." Invited tutorial at the Kavli Summer Institute in Cognitive Neuroscience, Lake Tahoe, July 2018.
8. "Assessing mood's effect on attention via compound generalisation." Invited presentation at the Chesapeake Area Memory and Learning meeting, July 2018.
9. "Affect in reinforcement learning." Invited presentation at the Parallel Distributed Processing meeting, Princeton University, April 2018.
10. "Assessing mood's effects on attention via compound generalisation." Invited presentation at the Center for Computational Cognitive Neuropsychiatry, Rutgers University, May 2018 (with Angela Radulescu).
11. "A computational process model of affect dynamics." Invited presentation at the Neuroscience and Social Decision Making seminar series, Princeton University, December 2017.
12. "Testing a neurocomputational model of mood instability." Invited presentation at the Center for Computational Cognitive Neuropsychiatry, Rutgers University, October 2017.
13. "Information seeking in decision making under uncertainty." Invited presentation at the Affective Brain meeting, University College London, December 2016.
14. "Belief updating and information seeking in decision making under uncertainty." Invited presentation at the University of California (San Diego), November 2016.
15. "Belief updating and information seeking in decision making under uncertainty." Invited presentation at Harvard University, October 2016.
16. "Belief updating and information seeking in decision making under uncertainty." Invited presentation at the Parallel Distributed Processing meeting, Princeton Neuroscience Institute, October 2016.

Last updated April 2021

17. “Impaired reversal learning in psychosis.” Invited presentation at the Princeton Neuroscience Institute, October 2016.

*Conference presentations*

18. **Bennett, D.**, Erickson, M., Silverstein, S. & Niv, Y. (2020) A transdiagnostic association between extreme mood and mood-learning interaction. *Biological Psychiatry Australia*. (symposium oral presentation)
19. **Bennett, D.**, Davidson, G., & Niv, Y. (2019). Momentum and mood in policy-gradient reinforcement learning. *Reinforcement Learning and Decision Making: Montreal, Canada*. (Poster presentation)
20. **Bennett, D.**, Radulescu, A., Zorowitz, S., & Niv, Y. (2019). Measuring attention to value in decision making. *Society for Affective Science: Boston, USA*. (Poster presentation)
21. **Bennett, D.**, & Niv, Y. (2018). A computational process model of affect dynamics. *Society for Affective Science: Los Angeles, USA*. (Poster presentation)
22. **Bennett, D.**, Lee, C., & Niv, Y. (2018). Mood-congruency in the relationship between affect and stimulus valuation. *Society for Affective Science: Los Angeles, USA*. (Poster presentation)
23. **Bennett, D.**, Brydevall, M., Murawski, C., & Bode, S. (2016). The feedback-related negativity encodes an information prediction error in decisions to seek information. *Society for Neuroscience: San Diego, USA*. (Poster presentation)
24. **Bennett, D.**, Sasmita, K., Murawski, C., & Bode, S. (2016). Bayes if it pays: Switches between Bayesian and heuristic learning strategies are encoded in the event-related potential. *Australasian Experimental Psychology Conference: Melbourne, Australia*. (Oral presentation)
25. **Bennett, D.**, Brydevall, M., Murawski, C. & Bode, S. (2016). The feedback-related negativity reflects an intrinsic preference for information in decision making under uncertainty. *Australasian Cognitive Neuroscience Society Conference: Auckland, New Zealand*. (Poster presentation)
26. **Bennett, D.**, Bode, S., Warren, H., & Murawski, C. (2015). Computational modelling of information seeking under uncertainty. *Australian Mathematical Psychology Conference: Newcastle, Australia*. (Oral presentation)
27. **Bennett, D.**, Murawski, C., & Bode, S. (2014) Bayesian modeling of belief updating in reinforcement learning. *Australian Mathematical Psychology Conference: Canberra, Australia*. (Oral presentation)
28. **Bennett, D.**, Murawski, C., & Bode, S. (2014). Belief updating is indexed by single-trial P3 amplitude: a neurocognitive modelling approach to EEG. *International Conference on Cognitive Neuroscience: Brisbane, Australia*. (Poster presentation)
29. **Bennett, D.**, Murawski, C., & Bode, S. (2013). Single-trial P3 amplitude indexes feedback information in reinforcement learning. *Australasian Cognitive Neuroscience Conference: Melbourne, Australia*. (Poster presentation)
30. **Bennett, D.**, Carter, O., Cropper, S., & Sundram, S. (2012). The problem of integrating sensory information in schizophrenia. *Melbourne Health Research Week: Melbourne, Australia*. (Poster presentation)

## Professional service

### *Supervision*

- 2019-present: Senior thesis co-supervisor for Claire Lee (Princeton University)
- 2019-present: Junior project co-supervisor for Isla Weber (Princeton Neuroscience)
- 2017-2020: PhD co-supervisor for Ariel Goh (Monash University)
- 2014-2017: Assistant supervision for 4 Honours students at The University of Melbourne (primary supervision by Olivia Carter or Stefan Bode)

### *Ad-hoc peer reviewer (journal articles)*

Behavioural Processes; Biological Psychiatry; Cerebral Cortex; Cognition & Emotion; Cognitive, Affective, and Behavioral Neuroscience; Computational Brain & Behavior; Computational Psychiatry; Current Opinion in Behavioral Sciences; eLife; Frontiers in Human Neuroscience; Journal of Affective Disorders; Journal of Cognitive Neuroscience; Journal of Experimental Psychology: General; Journal of Individual Differences; Journal of Neuroscience; NeuroImage; PLOS Computational Biology; PLOS One; Psychiatry & Clinical Neurosciences; Psychonomic Bulletin & Review; Psychological Medicine; Schizophrenia Research; Translational Psychiatry.

### *Ad-hoc peer reviewer (funding schemes)*

American-Australian Association; German Research Foundation; Swiss National Science Foundation.

### *Other service*

- 2018-2019: Member of seminar series organising committee, Princeton Neuroscience Institute.
- 2016: Graduate student representative for external relations committee, Melbourne School of Psychological Sciences
- 2016: Workshop co-organiser, “Multivariate Analysis of Event-Related Potentials”, University of South Australia, Adelaide

## Teaching

### *Postdoctoral Tutorial Leader*

**Fall Semester, 2018**

Junior Neuroscience Tutorial, Princeton University

Responsibilities: design, deliver, and assess an intensive undergraduate tutorial series on a topic of my choice.

### *Ad-hoc lecturer*

**Semester 2, 2016**

PSYC40004: Current Topics in Cognitive Neuroscience, The University of Melbourne  
Responsibilities: design and deliver a one-off lecture.

### *Tutor*

**Semester 1, 2015**

PSYC30018: Neuroscience and the Mind, The University of Melbourne

Responsibilities: delivery of tutorial material and assignment marking

### *Non-residential Tutor*

**2011-2012**

Responsibilities: design and deliver first-year psychology coursework tutorials at several residential colleges at The University of Melbourne (Janet Clarke Hall, Newman College, St. Mary's College, University College).