

Benjamin M. Silver

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EDUCATION AND RESEARCH EXPERIENCE

- 2019– **Columbia University**, Ph.D. in Psychology
SCAN Lab; Psychology Department
Advisor: Kevin N. Ochsner, Ph.D.
Secondary advisor: Chris Baldassano, Ph.D.
- 2017–2019 **Weill Cornell Medical College**, Research Coordinator
Jones Lab; Sackler Institute for Developmental Psychobiology
Advisor: Rebecca M. Jones, Ph.D.
Secondary advisor: Jonathan D. Power, M.D., Ph.D.
- 2013–2017 **Brown University**, Honors Sc.B in Cognitive Neuroscience, 3.95 GPA
Developmental Cognitive Neuroscience Lab; Cognitive, Linguistic & Psychological Sciences Department
Honors thesis: *The relationship between pretend play and working memory in preschool aged children*
Advisor: Dima Amso, Ph.D.

AWARDS AND FUNDING

Research

- 2024 Doctoral Dissertation Grant, Incite Institute at Columbia University
2024 Graduate Travel Award, Psychology Department
2023 Conference Matching Travel Award, Graduate School of Arts and Sciences
2023 Student Travel Grant, Arts and Sciences Graduate Council
2022 Fellowship, Kavli Summer Institute in Cognitive Neuroscience
2022 Seed Grant, Columbia University Zuckerman Institute
2021 Neurohackademy participant
2017 Member, Sigma Xi
2016 Undergraduate Teaching and Research Award, Brown University
2015 BrownConnect LINK Award, Brown University
2013 Semifinalist, INTEL Science Talent Search Competition

Teaching/outreach

- 2024 Teaching Scholars Fellowship, Columbia Graduate School of Arts and Sciences
2023 Teaching Fund Small Grant, Association for Psychological Science
2023 Career Development Grant, Professional and Organizational Development Network
2023 Fellowship, ComSciCon Flagship Workshop
2021 Teaching Observation Fellowship, Columbia University Center for Teaching and Learning
2020 Lead Teaching Fellowship, Columbia University Center for Teaching and Learning

PUBLICATIONS

Manuscripts in prep/under review

Silver, B.M., Williams–Ceci, S., Naaman, M. (in prep). Perceptions of AI moderators and the spread of misinformation in closed group chats.

Silver, B.M., Baldassano, C., Davachi, L., Ochsner, K.N. (in prep). The mentalizing network updates neural representations of romantic interest in response to social feedback.

Silver, B.M., Corbani, F., Muskin, P.R., Davachi, L., Ochsner, K.N. (in prep). Investigating hypnosis as a tool for emotion regulation during fMRI.

Silver, B.M., Meyer, M., Davachi, L., Ochsner, K.N. (in revisions). Changes in self-views in response to the 2020 U.S. presidential election.

<https://doi.org/10.31234/osf.io/pq4k5>

Kamdem, A., Euteneier, J., **Silver, B.M.**, Freeman, N., Bouché, V. (in prep). Sex buyers as organized crime. *Trends in Organized Crime*.

Published/in press

Silver, B. M., Williams–Ceci, S., & Naaman, M. (2025). AI is Perceived as Less Trustworthy and Less Effective when Using Emotional Arguments to Moderate Misinformation. In *CHI EA '25: Extended Abstracts of the CHI Conference on Human Factors in Computing Systems* (Association for Computing Machinery).

<https://doi.org/10.1145/3706599.3720008>

Silver, B.M., Yu, W., Bolger, N., Davachi, L., Ochsner, K.N. (2025). What are my friends really like? How we change our perceptions of familiar others' traits and actions. *Personality and Social Psychology Bulletin*.

<https://doi.org/10.1177/01461672251320476>

Silver, B.M., Ochsner, K.N. (2024). Changes in Online Moral Discourse About Public Figures During #MeToo. *Affec Sci*.

<https://doi.org/10.1007/s42761-024-00250-4>

Top-rated abstracts from the 2022 Annual Meeting of the Society for Affective Science. *Affec Sci* (2023). <https://doi.org/10.1007/s42761-022-00175-w>

Bos, D.J., Barnes, E.D., **Silver, B.M.**, Ajodan, E.L., Clark–Whitney, E., Scult, M.A. Power, J.D., Jones, R.M. (2021). An effort-based social feedback paradigm reveals aversion to popularity in socially anxious participants and increased motivation in adolescents. *PLOS ONE*.

<https://doi.org/10.1371/journal.pone.0249326>

Lynch, C.J., Voss, H., **Silver, B.M.**, Power, J.D. (2021). On measuring head motion and effects of headmolds during fMRI. *Neuroimage*.

<https://doi.org/10.1016/j.neuroimage.2020.117494>

Silver, B.M., Conte, M.M., Victor, J.D., Jones, R.M. (2020). Visual search for circumscribed interests in autism is similar to that of neurotypical individuals. *Frontiers in Psychology*. <https://doi.org/10.3389/fpsyg.2020.582074>

Lynch, C.J., **Silver, B.M.**, Dubin, M.J., Martin, A., Jones, R.M., Power, J.D.

(2020). A prevalent, sex-biased respiratory pattern influences functional connectivity MRI in young adults. *Nature Communications*.
<https://doi.org/10.1038/s41467-020-18974-9>

Bos, D.J., **Silver, B.M.**, Barnes, E., Ajodan, E.L., Silverman, M.R., Clark-Whitney, E., Tarpey, T., Jones, R.M. (2019). Adolescent-specific motivation deficits in autism versus typical development. *Journal of Autism and Developmental Disorders*. <https://doi.org/10.1007/s10803-019-04258-9>

Power, J.D., Lynch, C. J., Dubin, M.J., **Silver, B.M.**, Martin, A., Jones, R.M. (2019). Characteristics of respiratory measures in young adults scanned at rest, including systematic changes and “missed” deep breaths. *Neuroimage*.
<https://doi.org/10.1016/j.neuroimage.2019.116234>

Power, J.D., Lynch, C.J., **Silver, B.M.**, Dubin, M.J., Martin, A., Jones, R.M. (2019). Distinctions among real and apparent respiratory motions in human fMRI data. *Neuroimage*. <https://doi.org/10.1016/j.neuroimage.2019.116041>

Bos, D.J., Silverman, M.R., Ajodan, E.L., Martin, C., **Silver, B.M.**, Brouwer, G., Di Martino, A., Jones, R.M. (2019). Rigidity coincides with reduced cognitive control to affective cues in children with autism. *Journal of Abnormal Psychology*.
<https://doi.org/10.1037/abn0000423>

Power, J.D., **Silver, B.M.**, Silverman, M.R., Ajodan, E.L., Bos, D.J., Jones, R.M. (2019). Customized head molds reduce motion during resting state fMRI. *Neuroimage*. doi.org/10.1016/j.neuroimage.2019.01.016

UNIVERSITY TEACHING AND MENTORING EXPERIENCE

Instructor of record

- 2024, Fall PSYC3830: Psychology and the Internet
- Developed and taught course as part of Columbia’s Teaching Scholars program
 - Course syllabus [here](#)

Lab section instructor

- 2022, Fall PSYC1450: Research Methods: Social Cognition and Emotion
- 2022, Spring PSYC1450: Research Methods: Social Cognition and Emotion
- 2021, Spring PSYC1455: Research Methods: Social/Personality

Teaching assistant

- 2025, Spring PSYC2235: Thinking and Decision Making
- 2024, Spring PSYC2435: Social Neuroscience
- Guest lecture: Social neuroscience and social media
- 2020, Summer PSYC2630: Social Psychology
- Guest lecture: Attitudes and Consistency
- 2020, Spring PSYC2235: Thinking and Decision Making

- Guest lecture: The Cognitive Neuroscience of Decision Making

Other

- 2023 Participant, Center for Teaching and Learning Innovative Course Design Workshop
- Five-week workshop devoted to creating and designing an original undergraduate course with innovative elements
 - Designed a course entitled “Psychology and the Internet”
- 2022–2024 Teaching Consultant – Center for Teaching and Learning
- Conduct in-class observations, mid-course reviews, and practice teaching sessions for graduate student instructors across the university
 - Consult with graduate students on teaching materials and teaching statements for the academic job market
- 2021 Instructor, Summer Internship Program in Psychological Science
- Taught undergraduate students in R programming, the scientific method, and science communication
- 2020 Assistant Instructor – Columbia Psychology coding bootcamp

Mentored students

- 2021–2024 Arielle Clark: Senior honors thesis project, undergrad research assistant
- 2022–2024 Jessie Lin: Undergrad research assistant, summer research project
- 2023 Duygu Cakmur: Undergrad research assistant
- 2022 Brena Bessa: Post-bac research assistant
- 2021–2022 Jana Jaran: Senior honors thesis project, undergrad research assistant
- 2021–2022 Monica Boose: Undergrad research assistant
- 2021 Charlotte Cassidy: Post-bac research assistant, summer research project

PRESENTATIONS

Talks and workshops

- 2025 Invited guest speaker, Cognition in Collectives Lab (Alin Coman) lab meeting
- 2025 Invited guest speaker, Suffern High School science research symposium
- 2024 Awardee lunch talk, Incite Institute
- 2024 Invited guest speaker, Impression in Action Lab (Chujun Lin) lab meeting
- 2024 Invited guest speaker, Social Computation Representation and Prediction Lab (Mark Thornton) lab meeting
- 2024 Silver, B.M., Williams–Ceci, S., Naaman, M. *Perceptions of AI moderators and the spread of misinformation in closed group chats*. Flash talk presented at the Psychology of Technology conference. Boston, MA.
- 2024 Panelist, Zuckerman Institute Neuroethics Teacher Institute
- 2024 Invited guest speaker, Social Learning and Choice Lab (Leor Hackel) lab meeting
- 2024 Co-facilitator, Teaching observation workshop, Center for Teaching and Learning

- 2022 Silver, B.M., Ochsner, K.N. *Morality and #MeToo: Motivated impression updating on Twitter*. Flash talk presented at the Society for Affective Science. Online.
- Denoted as “High-ranking abstract”; invited to submit abstract as conference publication
- 2020 Silver, B.M., Li, D.H., Mayers, A., Croxson, P.L. *Neuroscience education from home: Challenges and opportunities*. Interactive talk presented at the Neuromatch conference. Online.
- 2017 Silver, B.M. *The relationship between pretend play and working memory in preschool aged children*; Oral undergraduate honors thesis presentation. Providence, RI.

Posters: First author

- 2024 Silver, B.M., Baldassano, C., Davachi, L., Ochsner, K.N. *Always on my mind: The role of the dmPFC in responding to social feedback from potential romantic partners*. Poster presented at the Social and Affective Neuroscience Society. Toronto, CA.
- 2024 Silver, B.M., Corbani, F., Muskin, P.R., Davachi, L., Ochsner, K.N. *You are enjoying this poster: Investigating hypnosis as a tool for emotion regulation during fMRI*. Poster presented at the Society for Affective Science. New Orleans, LA.
- 2023 Silver, B.M., Baldassano, C., Davachi, L., Ochsner, K.N. *Do you like me back? Motivated perceptions and cognitive effort for potential romantic partners*. Poster presented at the Social and Affective Neuroscience Society. Santa Barbara, CA.
- 2023 Silver, B.M., Yu, W., Davachi, L., Ochsner, K.N. *What are my friends really like? Motivated perceptions after completing a virtual escape room*. Poster presented at the Society for Affective Science. Long Beach, CA.
- 2022 Silver, B.M., Baldassano, C., Davachi, L., Ochsner, K.N. *Romantic remembering: Social information determines individualized reward value and motivates memory*. Poster presented at the Social and Affective Neuroscience Society. Online.
- 2019 Silver, B.M., Lynch, C.J., Clark-Whitney, E., Barnes, E., Power, J.D., Jones, R.M. *Longitudinal resting-state fMRI using individual-specific analyses in autism*. Poster presented at the FLUX Congress. New York, NY.
- 2019 Silver, B.M., Barnes, E., Clark-Whitney, E., Conte, M.M., Victor, J.D., Jones, R.M. *Developing a novel visual search task personalized for individual interests*. Poster presented at the INSAR Conference. Montreal, Canada.
- 2018 Silver, B.M., Bos, D.J., Ajodan, E., Silverman, M., Power, J.D., Jones, R.M. *Preferred interests interfere with self-control in autism*; Poster presented at The Social and Affective Neuroscience Society Conference. Brooklyn, NY.

Posters: Middle author

- 2023 Li, D.H., Gumnit, M., Shah, A., Bravo, I., **Silver, B.M.**, Patel, P., Miller, M., Remole, K.E., Imbimbo, J., Shohamy, D., Croxson, P.L., Mayers, A.M. *Brain*

Research Apprenticeships In New York At Columbia (BRAINYAC) strengthens STEM identity and self-efficacy in high school students through coursework and mentored research. Poster presented at the Society for Neuroscience Annual Meeting. Washington, D.C.

- 2021 Li, D.H., **Silver, B.M.**, Patel, P., Remole, K.E., Imbimbo, J., Mayers, A.M., Shohamy, D., Croxson, P.L. *Advancing high school research exposure through BRAINYAC: Brain Research Apprenticeships In New York At Columbia.* Poster presented at the Society for Neuroscience Annual Meeting. Online
- 2021 Croxson, P.L., Li, D.H., **Silver, B.M.**, Patel, P., Remole, K.E., Imbimbo, J., Mayers, A., Shohamy, D. *Advancing high school research exposure through Brain Research Apprenticeships in New York at Columbia (BRAINYAC).* Poster presented at BRAIN Initiative Investigators Meeting. Online
- 2019 Barnes, E., **Silver, B.M.**, Clark-Whitney, E., Ajodan, E.L., Scult, M., Jones, R.M. *Studying teen choices on social media: validation of a novel social decision-making task.* Poster presented at the FLUX Congress. New York, NY.
- 2019 Jones, R.M., Barnes, E., Ajodan, E.L., **Silver, B.M.**, Clark-Whitney, E., Scult, M. *Behavioral and neural correlates of adolescent-specific social motivations: Implications for psychosocial treatments.* Talk presented at the Anxiety and Depression Conference. Chicago, IL.
- 2019 Bos, D.J., Ajodan, E.L., Silverman, M.R., **Silver, B.M.**, Martin, C., Di Martino, A., Jones, R.M. *Similarities and differences in cognitive control to motivating cues in autism and (co-morbid) ADHD.* Poster presented at the INSAR Conference. Montreal, Canada.
- 2019 Bos, D.J., Tarpey, T., **Silver, B.M.**, Ajodan, E.L., Silverman, M.R., Martin, C., Jones, R.M. *Absence of adolescent-specific sensitivity to motivating cues in Autism.* Poster presented at the INSAR Conference. Montreal, Canada.
- 2018 Bos, D.J., Silverman, M.R., Ajodan, E.L., Martin, C., **Silver, B.M.**, Di Martino, A., Jones, R.M. *Cognitive control to affective cues across neurodevelopmental disorders;* Poster presented at the Eunethydis Conference. Edinburgh, Scotland.
- 2018 Ajodan, E., **Silver, B.M.**, Silverman, M., Southerland, A., Chanda, K., Stubbs, E.A., Lord, C., Rehg, J., Rozga, A., Jones, R.M. *Gaze patterns during parent-child versus clinician-child interactions;* Poster presented at the INSAR Conference. Rotterdam, Netherlands.
- 2018 Bos, D.J., Silverman, M., Ajodan, E., Martin, C., **Silver, B.M.**, Di Martino, A., Jones, R.M. *Reconciling the co-occurrence of impulsivity and insistence on sameness in ASD;* Talk presented at the INSAR Conference. Rotterdam, Netherlands.
- 2017 Freier, L., Gunther, K., **Silver, B.M.**, Badre, D., Amso, D. *3- to 7-year-olds' use of working memory gating strategies in a naturalistic task;* Poster presented at the Society for Research in Child Development Conference. Austin, TX.

RELEVANT RESEARCH SKILLS

- Neuroimaging analysis – NIPY suite, FSL, SPM, AFNI, Freesurfer, Connectome Workbench
- Data analysis/organization – Python, R, Matlab, bash/tcsh, SPSS, Excel, REDCap
- Experimental design – PsychoPy3, PsychToolbox, Qualtrics, E-Prime
- Video and gaze coding – Interact, Datavyu, Yabus, Boris
- Clinical assessments – Autism Diagnostic Observation Schedule (reliable on Modules 3, 4), Wechsler Adult Intelligence Scale-IV, Differential Ability Scales-II, Mullen, Woodcock-Johnson-III, Brief Observation of Social Communication Change

GENERAL AUDIENCE PUBLICATIONS

- “[Elodie Freyman, Primatologist](#)” *Muse Magazine* (April 2024 issue)
- “[Facebook and campus mental health](#)” *Center for Brain Mind and Society* (September 26, 2023)
- “[Executive Functioning](#)” *Center for Brain Mind and Society* (September 26, 2023)
- “[Is mind reading possible?](#)” *Muse Magazine* (September 2023 issue)
- “[Something Magical](#)” *Muse Magazine* (May/June 2023 issue)
- “[Laura Lewis, PhD](#)” *Scientist on the Subway* (April 10, 2023)
- “[Sarah Woolley, Neuroscientist](#)” *Muse Magazine* (November/December 2022 issue)
- “[Dr. Uraina Clark](#)” *Scientist on the Subway* (March 21, 2022)
- “[Anita Burgos, PhD](#)” *Scientist on the Subway* (September 13, 2021)
- “[Shivon Robinson, PhD](#)” *Scientist on the Subway* (November 30, 2020)

SERVICE AND OUTREACH EXPERIENCE

Volunteer peer reviewer: Autism Research, Social Cognitive and Affective Neuroscience

Society member: Social Affective Neuroscience Society, Society for Affective Science

2024	Mentor, BioBus <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Advised high school students on a science research project during weekly after-school sessions • Provided guidance on research questions, procedures, data analysis, and presentations
2023	Instructor, Genspace <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Taught a two-day workshop for the general public entitled “Neurohacking 101: Analyzing and visualizing brain networks”
2023	Instructor, Double Discovery Center <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Created and taught a 7-week course on science communication for high school students in a college prep program
2022–2023	Coordinator, BraiNY Bunch <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Organized and facilitated a virtual journal club for high school and undergraduate students from around the world
2020–2022	Instructor, Brain Research Apprenticeships in New York at Columbia <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Taught neuroscience to high school students, helped build course curriculum, mentored students during summer internships • Served as Senior Instructor 2021–2022
2020–2023	Writer/Outreach coordinator, Scientist on the Subway (SciSub)

- Interviewed neuroscientists from underrepresented backgrounds, write articles
 - Developed curricula based on SciSub articles, coordinate partnerships with science education programs
- 2020–2022 Psychology Department Monday Seminar Coordinator
- Organized weekly seminar series for department with both external and internal speakers, as well as panels
- 2021–2023 Instructor, Summer Internship Program in Psychological Science
- Internship program for undergraduates to learn psychology research skills and complete an internship
 - Part of core team running the program; taught coding and professional development workshops
- 2021 Mentor, Mindhive
- Mentored high school students on citizen science projects
- 2019 Instructor, Columbia University Neuroscience Outreach Multi-Visit Program
- Taught neuroscience to middle school students at Renaissance School of the Arts and helped them prepare for a final presentation
- 2017–2018 Instructor, Mad Science
- Performed and taught as a “Mad Scientist” for children’s birthday parties
- 2014–2017 Science Center Student Worker, Brown University
- Created, wrote, and hosted a web series about science research at Brown (<https://bit.ly/2Ozxdke>)
 - Coordinated “Science Underground” science café program
- 2015–2017 Brown Brain Bee High School Coordinator, Brown University
- Taught basic neuroscience to high school students, recruited high schools to participate, mentored other student teachers
- 2016–2017 Tour Program Co-Coordinator, Brown University
- Oversaw 100 tour guides, ran training sessions, gave tours and information sessions to visiting families
- 2015 Summer Intern, Liberty Science Center
- Led presentations on museum floor, assistant taught summer camps, explained exhibits to museum guests