

# Benjamin M. Silver

bms2202@columbia.edu

## 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>

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

- 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