

Brandon M. Woo

Department of Psychology  
Harvard University  
33 Kirkland Street, #1120  
Cambridge, MA 02138

Email: [bmwoo@g.harvard.edu](mailto:bmwoo@g.harvard.edu)  
<https://bmwoo.github.io>

## EDUCATION

---

2017 – present	PhD in Psychology, Harvard University
2017 – 2019	AM in Psychology, Harvard University
2013 – 2017	BSc (Honors) in Psychology, University of British Columbia

## PUBLICATIONS

---

Woo, B. M., Tan, E., & Hamlin, J. K. (in press). Theory of mind in context: Mental state representations for social evaluation. Commentary on Phillips et al.'s "Knowledge before belief". *Behavioral and Brain Sciences*. <https://psyarxiv.com/ny5q8>

Woo, B. M., & Hamlin, J. K. (in press). Origins of impression formation in infancy. In E. Balçetis and G. B. Moskowitz (Eds.), *Handbook of Impression Formation*.

Woo, B. M., & Mitchell, J. P. (2020). Simulation: a strategy for mindreading similar but not dissimilar others? *Journal of Experimental Social Psychology*.

Woo, B. M., & Schaller, M. (2020). "Parental" responses to human infants (and puppy dogs): Evidence that the perception of eyes is especially influential, but eye contact is not. *PLoS ONE*.

Woo, B. M., Steckler, C. M., Le, D. T., & Hamlin, J. K. (2017). Social evaluation of true and negligent accidents by 10-month-old infants. *Cognition*, 168, 154-163.

Steckler, C. M., Woo, B. M., & Hamlin, J. K. (2017). The limits of early social evaluation: 9-month-olds fail to generate social evaluations of individuals who behave inconsistently. *Cognition*, 167, 255-265.

## CONFERENCE PROCEEDINGS

---

Woo, B. M., & Spelke, E. S. (2021). Limits to early perspective-taking: Fourteen- to 15-month-old infants appreciate whether others can see objects, but not others' experiences of objects. *Proceedings of the 43rd Annual Meeting of the Cognitive Science Society*. <https://psyarxiv.com/d8c7u>

**Woo, B. M.,** Liu, S., & Spelke, E. S. (2021). Open-minded but not naïve: Three-month-old infants encode objects as the goals of other people's reaches. *Proceedings of the 43rd Annual Meeting of the Cognitive Science Society*. <https://psyarxiv.com/qjvre>

**Woo, B. M.,** & Spelke, E. S. (2020). How to help best: Infants' changing understanding of multistep action sequences informs their evaluations of helping. *Proceedings of the 42nd Annual Meeting of the Cognitive Science Society*.

## MANUSCRIPTS UNDER REVIEW

---

**Woo, B. M.,** & Spelke, E. S. (under review). Infants' social evaluations depend on the intentions of agents who act on false beliefs. <https://psyarxiv.com/eczgp>

**Woo, B. M.,** & Hamlin, J. K. (in revision). Evidence for an early-emerging moral core.

**Woo, B. M.,** & Hamlin, J. K. (in revision). 11-month-olds expect others to behave consistently, but fail to evaluate those who do not.

Thomas, A. J., **Woo, B. M.,** Spelke, E. S., Nettle, D., & Saxe, R. R. (in revision). Early representations of social intimacy: Infants, toddlers, and children use saliva as a cue to close social affiliation.

Chuey, C., ... **Woo, B. M.,** ... Gweon, H. (in revision). Examining the validity of online methods for developmental research.

\*This paper includes a meta-analysis on online versus in-person research, including data from Woo and Spelke (under review).

## MANUSCRIPTS IN PREPARATION

---

**Woo, B. M.,** & Spelke, E. S. (in preparation). Toddlers appreciate what others see but not what they experience.

**Woo, B. M.,** Liu, S., Gweon, H., & Spelke, E. S. (in preparation). Toddlers evaluate helpers based on others' needs.

**Woo, B. M.,** & Spelke, E. S. (in preparation). Infants' and toddlers' understanding of helping depends on their understanding of action goals.

## CONFERENCE PRESENTATIONS

---

### CHAired SYMPOSIA

**Woo, B. M.** (2021, April). Mental state understanding and moral development. Symposium chaired virtually at the Society for Research in Child Development biennial meeting.

**Woo, B. M.** (2020, July). The role of action understanding in early sociomoral cognition. Symposium chaired virtually at the International Congress of Infant Studies biennial meeting.

### TALKS

**Woo, B. M.,** Liu, S., & Spelke, E. S. (2021, July). Open-minded but not naïve: Three-month-old infants encode objects as the goals of other people's reaches. Talk presented virtually at the Cognitive Science Society annual meeting.

**Woo, B. M.,** & Spelke, E. S. (2021, July). Infants' social evaluations depend on the beliefs guiding acts of help. Talk presented virtually at the Human Behavior and Evolution Society annual meeting.

**Woo, B. M.,** & Spelke, E. S. (2021, April). Belief-based evaluations of helping in 15-month-old infants. Talk presented virtually at the Society for Research in Child Development biennial meeting.

**Woo, B. M.,** & Spelke, E. S. (2020, August). How to help best: Infants' changing understanding of multistep action sequences informs their evaluations of helping. Talk presented virtually at the Cognitive Science Society annual meeting.

**Woo, B. M.,** & Spelke, E. S. (2020, July). Social cognition in context: Infants' evaluations of helping in means-end sequences. Talk presented virtually at the International Congress of Infant Studies biennial meeting.

**Woo, B. M.,** & Spelke, E. S. (2020, January). Social cognition in context: 15- and 8-month-olds' evaluations of helping in means-end sequences. Talk presented at the Budapest Central European University Conference on Cognitive Development, Budapest, Hungary.

**Woo, B. M.,** & Mitchell, J. P. (2019, May). The selection of social partners based on the moral actions of the group vs. the individual. Talk presented at the Human Behavior and Evolution Society annual meeting, Boston, MA.

**Woo, B. M.,** & Hamlin, J. K. (2018, June). The role of helpers' and harmers' mental states in infants' sociomoral evaluations. Talk presented at the International Congress of Infant Studies biennial meeting, Philadelphia, PA.

**Woo, B. M.,** Steckler, C. M., Le, D. T., & Hamlin, J. K. (2017, April). Social evaluation of true and negligent accidents by 10-month-old infants. Talk presented at the Society for Research in Child Development biennial meeting, Austin, TX.

Steckler, C. M., **Woo, B. M. (presenting author),** & Hamlin, J. K. (2017, April). 9-month-olds fail to generate social evaluations of individuals who behave inconsistently. Talk presented at the Society for Research in Child Development biennial meeting, Austin, TX.

## POSTERS

**Woo, B. M.,** & Spelke, E. S. (2021, July). Limits to early perspective-taking: Fourteen- to 15-month-old infants appreciate whether others can see objects, but not others' experiences of objects. Poster presented virtually at the Cognitive Science Society annual meeting.

**Woo, B. M.,** Liu, S., Gweon, H., & Spelke, E. S. (2021, July). Who needs more help? Sixteen-month-old infants prefer to look at and reach for helpers who help with harder tasks. Poster presented virtually at the Cognitive Science Society annual meeting.

**Woo, B. M.,** & Mitchell, J. P. (2020, February). The evaluation of accidental and intentional harm by ingroup vs. outgroup members. Poster presented at the Society for Personality and Social Psychology annual meeting, New Orleans, LA.  
\*Finalist for best poster award (one of the top 40 posters).

**Woo, B. M.,** & Spelke, E. S. (2020, February). Mentalistic social cognition in context: 15-month-olds' evaluations of helpers based on their mental states in means-end sequences. Poster presented at the Social Cognition preconference for the Society for Personality and Social Psychology, New Orleans, LA.

**Woo, B. M.,** & Spelke, E. S. (2019, October). Mentalistic social cognition in context: 15-month-olds' evaluations of helpers based on their mental states in means-end sequences. Poster presented at the Cognitive Development Society biennial meeting, Louisville, KY.

**Woo, B. M.,** & Mitchell, J. P. (2019, February). Overestimating the degree to which attitudes are shared between the self and ingroup members. Poster presented at the Society for Personality and Social Psychology annual meeting, Portland, OR.  
\* Finalist for best poster award (one of the top 40 posters).

**Woo, B. M.,** & Mitchell, J. P. (2019, February). The self erroneously anchors estimations of similar others' attitudes. Poster presented at the Social Cognition preconference for the Society for Personality and Social Psychology, Portland, OR.

**Woo, B. M.** (2012, February). "The truth about lying." Poster presented at the American Association for the Advancement of Science and the American Junior Academy of Science annual meeting, Vancouver, BC.

## FELLOWSHIPS AND RESEARCH FUNDING

---

2020 – 2022	<b>SSHRC Doctoral Fellowship</b> Social Sciences and Humanities Research Council of Canada, \$40,000 CAD
2019 – 2021	<b>Restricted Funds Small Research Grant (x3)</b> Harvard University, \$1400 USD
2018	<b>Stimson Research Grant</b> Harvard University, \$1000 USD
2017 – 2019	<b>Frank Knox Memorial Fellowship</b> Harvard University, \$60,000 USD
2017	<b>Undergraduate Student Research Award</b> (with Dr. Frances Chen) Natural Sciences and Engineering Research Council, \$6070 CAD
2016	<b>Summer Research Grant</b> (with Dr. Kiley Hamlin) Psi Chi International, \$5000 USD
2016	<b>Quinn Research Assistantship Award</b> (with Dr. Mark Schaller) University of British Columbia, \$5740 CAD
2016	<b>Fall Research Grant</b> (with Dr. Kiley Hamlin) Psi Chi International, \$1000 USD
2015	<b>Quinn Research Assistantship Award</b> (with Dr. Kiley Hamlin) University of British Columbia, \$5740 CAD
2014	<b>Undergraduate Student Research Award</b> (with Dr. Loren Rieseberg) Natural Sciences and Engineering Research Council CREATE, \$6000 CAD

## AWARDS, HONORS, AND RECOGNITIONS

---

2020	<b>Certificate of Distinction in Teaching</b> (Introduction to Statistics) Harvard University
2020	<b>Graduate Travel Grant</b> Psi Chi International, \$1180 USD
2020	<b>Finalist for Best Poster Award</b> Society for Personality and Social Psychology
2019	<b>Student Travel Award</b> Society for Personality and Social Psychology, \$500 USD

2019	<b>Student Travel Award</b> Cognitive Development Society, \$500 USD
2019	<b>Finalist for Best Poster Award</b> Society for Personality and Social Psychology
2017	<b>Morris Belkin Award for Top Psychology Honors Thesis</b> University of British Columbia, \$900 CAD
2017	<b>Certificate of Academic Excellence for Top Psychology Undergraduate Thesis</b> Canadian Psychological Association
2017	<b>Quinn Travel Award for Undergraduates</b> University of British Columbia, \$500 CAD
2016	<b>Dean of Science Scholarship</b> University of British Columbia, \$1500 CAD
2015	<b>J. Fred Muir Memorial Scholarship</b> University of British Columbia, \$500 CAD

## INVITED TALKS

---

2021	Webinar on Testing Babies Online, International Congress of Infant Studies
2021	Developmental Psychology Brownbag, Stanford University
2021	Phil Lab, Dartmouth College
2021	Social Cognition and Learning Lab, University of California San Diego
2021	Centre for Infant Cognition, University of British Columbia
2021	Laboratory for Developmental Studies Seminar, Harvard University
2021	Social Psychology Lunch, Harvard University
2020	Machine Common Sense Group, Harvard University, MIT, and IBM
2020	Centre for Infant Cognition, University of British Columbia
2020	Laboratory for Developmental Studies Seminar, Harvard University
2020	Moral Psychology Research Lab, Harvard University
2020	Social Psychology Lunch (canceled due to COVID-19), Harvard University
2018	Intergroup Neuroscience Lab, Harvard University
2018	Social Psychology Lunch, Harvard University
2018	Working Group in Political Psychology, Harvard University

## TEACHING

---

2021	<b>Teaching Fellow</b> (with Dr. Patrick Mair) Bayesian Data Analysis (Harvard PSY 2030)
------	---------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------

2021	<b>Head Teaching Fellow</b> (with Dr. Fiery Cushman) Social Psychology (Harvard PSY 15)
2020	<b>Head Teaching Fellow</b> (with Dr. Patrick Mair) Introduction to Statistics for the Behavioral Sciences (Harvard PSY 1900)
2020	<b>Teaching Fellow</b> (with Dr. Fiery Cushman) Social Psychology (Harvard PSY 15)
2019	<b>Teaching Fellow</b> (with Dr. Patrick Mair) Introduction to Statistics for the Behavioral Sciences (Harvard PSY 1900)
2018 – present	<b>Guest Lecturer</b> (with Dr. Elizabeth Spelke) Lab in Early Cognitive Development (Harvard PSY 1652r)

## STUDENT ADVISEES

---

Nupur Vaghasia (Lawrence University, summer 2021)  
Delaney Caldwell (Vanderbilt University, summer 2021)  
Vanessa Kudrnova (University of Bath, fall 2020 to summer 2021)  
Manasa Kumar (University of Bath, fall 2020 to spring 2021)  
Lauren Salmans (Harvard, spring 2021)  
Maria Roldan Castro (Harvard, fall 2020)  
Larisa Shrestha (Harvard, spring 2020 – summer 2020)  
Jane Rhee (Harvard, spring 2020 – summer 2020)  
Reshma Sreekala (Harvard, fall 2019)  
Yuman Li (University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign, summer 2019)  
—completed a Master’s degree at Stanford University  
Trista Lin (Boston University, summer 2018 – summer 2019)  
—graduate student at Carnegie Mellon University  
Pablo Izaga Gonzalez (Harvard, summer 2018 – spring 2019)  
Michael Shirek (Harvard, fall 2018)  
Izogie Aigberomwan-Isibor (Harvard, fall 2018)  
Peyton Fowler (Emmanuel College, summer 2018)  
Nathan Hollinsaid (Tufts University, summer 2018)  
—incoming graduate student at Harvard University  
Feyza Teke (University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill, summer 2018)  
Rebecca Wiener (New York University, summer 2018)

## PROFESSIONAL SERVICE

---

2019 – 2020	<b>Harvard University Developmental Studies Seminar</b> Co-Organizer
-------------	-------------------------------------------------------------------------

2018 – 2020	<b>Harvard University Frank Knox Memorial Fellowships</b> Chair of the Knox Committee
2016 – 2017	<b>University of British Columbia Psi Chi (Honor Society) Chapter</b> President
2014 – 2017	<b>Science World's Future Science Leaders Program (Vancouver)</b> Writing Mentor (for high school students)
2016	<b>Human Behavior and Evolution Society</b> Local Host Conference Committee Volunteer
Reviews:	Cognitive Science Society

## **AFFILIATIONS**

---

International Congress of Infant Studies  
Cognitive Development Society  
Cognitive Science Society  
Society for Research in Child Development  
Human Behavior and Evolution Society  
Society for Personality and Social Psychology  
Psi Chi Honors Society in Psychology