Ryan W. Carlson

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EMPLOYMENT & EDUCATION

2023-present   **University of Chicago Booth School of Business**, *Chicago, IL*
Principal Researcher
Advisor: Ayelet Fishbach

2017-2023   **Yale University**, *New Haven, CT*
Ph.D. in Psychology
M.S. (2019) & M.Phil. (2020)
Advisor: Molly Crockett

2015-2017   **Stanford University**, *Stanford, CA*
Full-time Research Coordinator
Advisor: Jamil Zaki

2010-2014   **Simon Fraser University**, *Burnaby, BC, Canada*
B.A. (Hons.) in Psychology
Advisor: Lara Aknin

AWARDS & HONORS

2023   Jane Olejarczyk Department Service Award, *Yale University*

2022   Frederick W. Hilles Memorial Scholarship, *Yale University*

2022   Conference Travel Fellowship, *Yale University*

2021   Richter Summer Fellowship, *Yale University*

2021   Teaching Innovation Project Grant, *Yale University*

2019   Fellow, *Kavli Summer Institute in Cognitive Neuroscience*

2017   Graduate Fellowship, *Yale University*

2016   Innovation Grant, *Stanford Center for Cognitive and Neurobiological Imaging*

2015   Travel Grant, *National Science Foundation*

2014   VPR Sciences Undergraduate Research Award, *Simon Fraser University*

2013   Undergraduate Open Scholarship, *Simon Fraser University*

2013   One World Scholarship, *Irving K Barber BC Scholarship Society*

2013   International Mobility Award, *Simon Fraser University*

PUBLICATIONS

Carlson, R. W., & Fishbach, A. (2024). Learning from failure. *Motivation Science.*

Davis, I., **Carlson, R. W.,** Dunham, Y., & Jara-Ettinger, J. (2023). Detecting potential social partners from indirect prosociality: A computational account. *Cognition.*

Melnikoff, D. E., **Carlson, R. W.,** & Stillman, P. E. (2023). The structure of immersive activities. In A. Kruglanski, A. Fishbach, & K. Copetz (Eds.), *Goal Systems Theory: Psychological Processes and Applications.* New York: Oxford University Press.

__Carlson, R. W.__, *Bigman, Y. E., Gray, K., Ferguson, M. J., & Crockett, M. J. (2022). How inferred motives shape moral judgments. *Nature Reviews Psychology.*

Weisz, E., Ong, D. C., **Carlson, R. W.**, Clark, M. D., & Zaki, J. (2022). A brief intervention to motivate empathy among middle school students. *Journal of Experimental Psychology: General.*

Carlson, R. W., Adkins, C., Crockett, M. J., & Clark, M. S. (2022). Psychological selfishness. *Perspectives on Psychological Science.*

Melnikoff, D. E., **Carlson, R. W.,** & Stillman, P. E. (2022). A computational theory of the subjective experience of flow. *Nature Communications.*

Carlson, R. W., & Zaki, J. (2021). Belief in altruistic motives predicts prosocial actions and inferences. *Psychological Reports.*

Weisz, E., Ong, D. C., **Carlson, R. W.**, & Zaki, J. (2021). Building empathy through motivation-based interventions. *Emotion.*

Carlson, R. W., Marechal, M., Oud, B., Fehr, E., & Crockett, M. J. (2020). Motivated misremembering of selfish decisions. *Nature Communications*

Carlson, R. W., & Crockett, M. J. (2018). The lateral prefrontal cortex and moral goal pursuit. *Current Opinion in Psychology.*

Carlson, R. W., & Zaki, J. (2018). Good deeds gone bad: Lay theories of altruism and selfishness. *Journal of Experimental Social Psychology.*

Morelli, S. A., Leong, Y. C., **Carlson, R. W.**, Kullar, M., & Zaki, J. (2018). Neural detection of socially valued community members. *PNAS.*

Carlson, R. W., Aknin, L. B., & Liotti, M. (2016). When is giving an impulse? An ERP investigation of intuitive prosocial behavior. *Social Cognitive and Affective Neuroscience.*

WORKING PAPERS

Carlson, R. W., Zoh, Y., Morris, A., & Crockett, M. J. (under review). Quantifying accuracy and bias in motive introspection. [Link](#).

Morris, A., **Carlson, R. W.**, Kober, H., & Crockett, M. J. (under review). Introspective access to value-based choice processes. [Link](#).

Carlson, R. W., & Crockett, M. J. (under review). The pitfalls of play-to-play morality.

Zoh, Y. S., Shin, Y. S., **Carlson, R. W.,** Chang, S. W. C., Crockett, M. J. (under review). Historical principles in distributive decision-making are common, politically variable and malleable.

Carlson, R. W., & Small, D. A. (in prep). Revisiting the norm of self-interest: The case for prosocial modesty.

Melnikoff, D. E., **Carlson, R. W.,** & Stillman, P. E. (in prep). Optimal mental models for task engagement and performance.

Melnikoff, D. E., Stillman, P. E., **Carlson, R. W.,** & Rutledge, R. B. (in prep). Flow is a source of happiness.

INVITED TALKS AND ORAL PRESENTATIONS

Carlson, R. W. (Oct, 2024). The opportunity blindspot. Talk to be presented at the Society for Experiment Social Psychology (SESP) meeting, Santa Fe, NM.

Carlson, R. W. (Sept, 2024). Revisiting the norm of self-interest: The case for prosocial modesty. Talk to be presented at Association for Consumer Research (ACR) meeting, Paris, France.

Carlson, R. W. (Mar, 2024). Quantifying accuracy and bias in motive introspection. Talk presented at the Society for Consumer Psychology (SCP) meeting, Nashville, TN.

Carlson, R. W. (Feb, 2024). The mismeasure of minds: Lessons from the history of Yale Psychology. Talk presented to the Department of Psychology, Yale University.

Carlson, R. W. (Nov, 2023). What can subjectivity offer the science of morality? Talk presented at the Social Talk Series, Department of Psychology, University of Chicago.

Carlson, R. W. (Nov, 2022). The pitfalls of pay-to-play morality. Talk presented at Sprouts (Behavioral Marketing group), Yale School of Management.

Carlson, R. W. (Nov, 2022). A theory of motive introspection. Talk presented to the Morality Lab (PI: Liane Young) at Boston College.

Carlson, R. W. (Oct, 2022). Quantifying accuracy and bias in motive introspection. Talk presented to the Concepts & Cognition Lab (PI: Tania Lombrozo) at Princeton University.

Carlson, R. W. (Jul, 2022). The pitfalls of pay-to-play morality. Talk presented at Society for Philosophy and Psychology (SPP) annual meeting, Milan, Italy.

Carlson, R. W. (Apr, 2022). Motivated misremembering and the subjective side of morality. Talk presented to the Moral Psychology Research Lab (PIs: Fiery Cushman & Joshua Greene) at Harvard University.

Carlson, R. W. (Feb, 2021). The role of self-inference in prosocial behavior. Talk presented virtually at the Society for Personality and Social Psychology (SPSP) annual meeting.

Carlson, R. W. (Feb, 2019). Selfish decisions are more generous in hindsight. Talk presented at the JDM Preconference for the SPSP annual meeting, Portland, OR.

TEACHING EXPERIENCE

2025	**Teaching Assistant,** Booth School of Business, University of Chicago BUSN 38001: *Managing in Organizations* (A. Fishbach)
2021-2023	**StatLab Consultant**, *Marx Science & Social Science Library, Yale University*
	Head Teaching Fellow, *Department of Psychology, Yale University*

2022	PSYC 315: *The Modern Unconscious* (J. Bargh)
2019	PSYC 376: *Learning and Memory* (T. Brown)

Teaching Fellow, *Department of Psychology, Yale University*
2020	PSYC 200: *Statistics for Psychological Science* (A. Bailey)
2019	PSYC 303: *Social Neuroscience* (M. Crockett)
2018	PSYC 141: *Abnormal Psychology* (A. Baskin-Sommers)

Teaching Assistant, *Department of Psychology, Simon Fraser University*
2015	PSYC 201: *Research Methods in Psychology* (G. Alder)
2014	PSYC 201: *Research Methods in Psychology* (G. Rose)
2014	PSYC 201: *Research Methods in Psychology* (G. Alder)

SERVICE

2022-2023	**Member**, *Yale Psychology's Committee for Racial Equity and Justice*
2021-2023	**Sneak Peek Mentor**, *Yale Psychology Sneak Peek Program*
2020-2023	**Peer Mentor**, *Yale Diversity Committee*
2020	**Co-organizer, Speaker**, *Yale Psychology*'s *Town Hall on Anti-Racism*
2019-2023	**Graduate Affiliate**, **Mellon Forum Mentor**, *Trumbull College, Yale University*
2018-2020	**Psychology Representative**, *Yale Graduate Student Assembly (GSA)*
2018-2019	**Interview Weekend Coordinator (Social Area)**, *Yale Psychology*
2016	**Programming Assistant**, *SPSP Emotion Preconference*
2013-2015	**Founder, Editor-in-Chief**, *SFU Undergraduate Journal of Psychology*

MENTORSHIP

Research Assistants
2017	Julia Hu (then: Yale College, now: UX Research, GoPro)
2019	Cameron Martel (then: Yale College, now: PhD student, MIT)
2020	Paul McKee (then: Connecticut State U., now: PhD student, Duke)
2020-2022	Caleb Kealoha (then: Yale lab manager, now: PhD student, Harvard)
2020-2022	Mina Caraccio (Yale College, now: Research Fellow, Conn. Mental Health)

Yale College Mellon Forum Mentees
2019	Jasmyne Pierre (then: Yale College, now: PhD student, CUNY)
2020	Illayda Orhan (then: Yale College, now: PhD student, NYU)
2023	Dylan Campbell (Yale College, now: Research Fellow, Brigham & Women's)

Yale Psychology Sneak Peak Program Mentees
2021	Micaela Rodriguez (then: Stony Brook U., now: PhD student, UNC Chapel Hill)
2022	Savannah Gregory (University of Notre Dame)

PROFESSIONAL WORKSHOPS

Instructor
2022	Yale StatLab Data Visualization Workshop
2022	Yale StatLab Data Wrangling Workshop
2021	Crockett Lab Summer R Refresher
2020	Crockett Lab Summer R Workshop

Participant

2019	Kavli Summer Institute in Cognitive Neuroscience
2018	Intel Hackathon for Computational Neuroscience
2017	Stanford Center for Reproducible Neuroscience Better Science Workshop
2016	Berkeley Institute for Data Science Nilearn Course
2016	Stanford Neurosciences Institute Advanced R Workshop
2015	Stanford Computational Social Science R Workshop
2015	Chicago Neuroimaging Workshop

AD-HOC REVIEWING

Biological Psychology, Cognition, CogSci, Emotion, European Journal of Social Psychology, Journal of Experimental Psychology: General, Journal of Experimental Social Psychology, Journal of Personality and Social Psychology, Journal of Neurophysiology, Journal of Neuroscience, NeuroImage, Organizational Behavior and Human Decision Processes, Social Psychology

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REFERENCES

Molly Crockett, Ph.D., Associate Professor, Princeton University
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Ayelet Fishbach, Ph.D., Professor, University of Chicago
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Deborah Small, Ph.D., Professor, Yale University
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Jamil Zaki, Ph.D., Professor, Stanford University
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Margaret Clark, Ph.D., Professor, Yale University
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Melissa Ferguson, Ph.D., Professor, Yale University
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