

# ryan w. carlson

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## education

- 2017-present      Yale University, New Haven, CT, USA  
PhD in Psychology  
Advisor: Molly Crockett
- 2010-2014        Simon Fraser University, Burnaby, BC, Canada  
BA (Hons.) in Psychology  
Advisors: Lara Aknin & Mario Liotti

## research experience

- 2015-2017        Stanford University, Stanford, CA, USA  
Full-time Research Assistant  
Advisor: Jamil Zaki

## awards

- 2021                Yale University Richter Summer Fellowship
- 2021                Yale University Teaching Innovation Project Grant
- 2019                Fellow at Kavli Summer Institute in Cognitive Neuroscience
- 2017-2023        Yale University Graduate Fellowship
- 2016                Stanford Center for Cognitive and Neurobiological Imaging Innovation Grant
- 2015                National Science Foundation Travel Grant
- 2014                VPR Sciences Undergraduate Student Research Award
- 2013-2014        Simon Fraser University Undergraduate Open Scholarships
- 2013                Irving K. Barber One World Scholarship
- 2013                International Mobility Award

## publications

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

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

Weisz, E., Ong, D. C., **Carlson, R. W.**, & Zaki, J. (2020). 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*, 11(1), 1-11.
- Carlson, R. W.**, & Crockett, M. J. (2018). The lateral prefrontal cortex and moral goal pursuit. *Current Opinion in Psychology*, 24, 77-82
- Carlson, R. W.**, & Zaki, J. (2018). Good deeds gone bad: Lay theories of altruism and selfishness. *Journal of Experimental Social Psychology*, 75, 36-40.
- Morelli, S. A., Leong, Y. C., **Carlson, R. W.**, Kullar, M., & Zaki, J. (2018). Neural detection of socially valued community members. *PNAS*, 115(32), 8149-8154.
- 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*, 11(7), 1121-1129.

## manuscripts under review

- Melnikoff, D. E., **Carlson, R. W.**, & Stillman, P. E. (under review). A computational theory of flow.
- Weisz, E., Chen, P., Ong, D. C., **Carlson, R. W.**, Clark, M. D., & Zaki, J. (under review). A brief intervention to motivate empathy in middle school.

## conference presentations

- Carlson, R. W.**, Yu, H., & Crockett, M. J. (Feb, 2021). The role of self-inference in prosocial behavior. Talk to be presented virtually at the Society for Personality and Social Psychology (SPSP) annual meeting.
- Carlson, R. W.**, Yu, H., & Crockett, M. J. (Oct, 2020). Bridging self-report and choice modelling to investigate the accuracy of self-inferred preferences. Poster to be presented virtually at the Society for Neuroeconomics Annual Meeting.
- Carlson, R. W.**, Yu, H., & Crockett, M. J. (July, 2020). Self-inferred desires to benefit self and other. Poster presented virtually at the Cognitive Science Society Annual Meeting.
- Carlson, R. W.**, Oud, B., Marechal, M., Fehr, E., & Crockett, M. J. (Feb, 2019). Selfish decisions are more generous in hindsight. Talk presented at the Judgment and Decision-Making Preconference for the Society for Personality and Social Psychology (SPSP) annual meeting, Portland, OR.
- Carlson, R. W.**, Oud, B., Marechal, M., Fehr, E., & Crockett, M. J. (Mar, 2018). Selfish decisions are more generous in hindsight. Poster presented at the Emotion Preconference for SPSP, Atlanta, GA.
- Leong, Y.C., Morelli, S.A., **Carlson, R. W.**, Kullar, M. & Zaki, J. (Mar, 2017) Neural prediction of social support hubs in emerging social networks. Poster presented at the Social Affective Neuroscience Society annual meeting (SANS), Los Angeles, CA.
- Carlson, R. W.**, & Zaki, J. (Jan, 2017). Believing in true altruism amplifies prosocial tendencies. Poster presented at the Emotion Preconference for SPSP, San Antonio, TX.
- Kullar, M., Morelli, S. A., **Carlson, R. W.**, & Zaki, J. (Jan, 2017). Neural representation of popularity and closeness in social networks differs depending on context. Poster presented at SPSP, San Antonio, TX.
- Carlson, R. W.**, Morelli, S. A., Kullar, M., & Zaki, J. (Apr, 2016). Social network dynamics shape neural sensitivity to vicarious reward. Poster presented at SANS, New York, NY.
- Kullar, M., Morelli, S. A., **Carlson, R. W.**, & Zaki, J. (Apr, 2016). Neural systems that track social perceptions of network members. Poster presented at SANS, New York, NY.
- Carlson, R. W.**, Burnett A. J., & Liotti, M. (Jan, 2016). Sacrificing time for others during an unpleasant experience supports well-being. Poster presented at the Emotion Preconference for SPSP, San Diego, CA.
- Burnett A. J., **Carlson, R. W.**, & Liotti, M. (Jan, 2016). "Are there partisans which would do well in the imitation game?": Moral turing tests promote ideological depolarization. Poster presented at the Judgment and Decision-Making Preconference for SPSP, San Diego, CA.

**Carlson, R. W.**, Liotti, M. & Aknin, L. B. (Nov, 2014). Spatiotemporal neural dynamics of intuitive prosociality. Poster presented at the Society for Social Neuroscience annual meeting, Washington, DC.

**Carlson, R. W.** & Aknin, L. B. (May, 2014). Intuition, empathy, and prosocial behavior. Talk presented at Connecting Minds, Richmond, BC.

## teaching experience

	<b>Teaching Fellow, Yale University</b>
2020	PSYC 200: <i>Statistics for Psychological Science</i> (A. Bailey)
2019	PSYC 376: <i>Learning and Memory</i> (T. Brown)
2019	PSYC 303: <i>Social Neuroscience</i> (M. Crockett)
2018	PSYC 141: <i>Abnormal Psychology</i> (A. Baskin-Sommers)
	<b>Teaching Assistant, Simon Fraser University</b>
2014-2015	PSYC 201: <i>Research Methods in Psychology</i> (G. Alder; G. Rose)

## service

2019-present	<b>Graduate Affiliate, Trumbull College</b> Mentor Yale undergraduates in preparation for their senior thesis talks. Coordinate social events that promote student well-being.
2018-2020	<b>Psychology Representative, Yale Graduate Student Assembly (GSA)</b> Conducted town halls, meetings, and surveys to engage with students about their needs and concerns. Worked with other elected reps and department leadership to advocate for psychology graduate students.
2016	<b>Program Assistant, SPSP Emotion Preconference</b> Organized and designed the program for the SPSP 2016 Emotion Preconference.
2013-2015	<b>Founder, Editor-in-Chief, SFU Undergraduate Journal of Psychology</b> Launched an undergraduate research journal to promote independent student research. Developed protocols and a peer-review process. Coordinated with editors and reviewers, led promotion initiatives, maintained web content and submissions, and edited the journal's inaugural volume.
2012-2013	<b>Global Partnering System Mentor, SFU International Services for Students</b> Mentored three international exchange students, offering tutoring and support for academic success.
2011-2012	<b>Residence Orientation Leader, SFU Residence Orientation</b> Led new students through residence orientation week. Provided guidance and support for transitioning to living on campus, and led activities to help students build leadership and communication skills.

## professional workshops

2020	Crockett Lab R Summer Workshop (organizer / instructor)
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

## **languages**

R, Python, MATLAB, Javascript, HTML, CSS

## **ad-hoc reviewing**

*Biological Psychology*  
*European Journal of Social Psychology*  
*Journal of Experimental Social Psychology*  
*Journal of Neurophysiology*  
*Journal of Neuroscience*  
*NeuroImage*  
*Social Psychology*