

Catherine Molho

ASSISTANT PROFESSOR, TOULOUSE SCHOOL OF ECONOMICS

✉ catherine.molho@iast.fr | 🏠 <https://catherinemolho.github.io/>

Academic Positions

- 2024- **Assistant Professor**, Department of Social and Behavioral Sciences, *Toulouse School of Economics*
2022-2024 **Assistant Professor**, Department of Experimental and Applied Psychology, *VU Amsterdam*
2021-2022 **Postdoctoral Researcher**, Center for Research in Experimental Economics and Political Decision Making (CREED),
Amsterdam School of Economics, *University of Amsterdam*
2019-2021 **Research Fellow**, *Institute for Advanced Study in Toulouse (IAST)*
2015-2019 **PhD Candidate**, Department of Experimental and Applied Psychology, *VU Amsterdam*
2014-2015 **Research Assistant**, Network Institute, *VU Amsterdam*

Education

PhD Psychology

VU AMSTERDAM

2019

Netherlands

Thesis title: "The psychological underpinnings of cooperation and the punishment of non-cooperators: Insights from the lab to the field"

MSc Social Psychology

VU AMSTERDAM

2015

Netherlands

BA Psychology

PANTEION UNIVERSITY FOR SOCIAL AND POLITICAL SCIENCES

2012

Greece

Publications

PEER-REVIEWED ARTICLES

- Fan, L., **Molho, C.**, van Leeuwen, F., Imada, H., Tybur, J. M. (2025). Linking anger and disgust to motives and anticipations of aggression in the East: testing a socio-functional account of moral emotions in Japan. *Cognition and Emotion*.
- Molho, C.**, Soraperra, I., Schultz, J., Shalvi, S. (2025). Guilt drives prosociality across 20 countries. *Nature Human Behaviour*, 9, 2199–2211.
- Singhal, N., Abacioglu, C. S., **Molho, C.**, Tabak, B. T. (2025). Breaking the silence: White privilege intervention in the Netherlands. *Journal of Social Issues*, 81, e70011.
- Vu, L., **Molho, C.** (2025). Reluctant altruism: Underlying mechanisms and global variations. *Current Opinion in Psychology*, 102107.
- Fan, L., **Molho, C.**, Kupfer, T.R., Tybur, J.M. (2024). Moral violations that target more valued victims elicit more anger, but not necessarily more disgust. *Journal of Experimental Social Psychology*, 112, 104597.
- Fan, L., **Molho, C.**, Kupfer, T.R., Sauter, D.A., Tybur, J.M. (2024). Beyond outrage: Observers anticipate different behaviors from expressors of anger versus disgust. *Social Psychological and Personality Science*. 15, 450-460
- Mol., J., **Molho, C.** (2024). Information about changes in platform economy taxation diminishes optimism regarding future use. *Journal of the Economic Science Association*, 10, 330-345.
- Molho, C.**, De Petrillo, F., Garfield, Z. H., Slewe, S. (2024). Cross-societal variation in norm enforcement systems: A review. *Philosophical Transactions of the Royal Society B*, 379, 20230034.
- Molho, C.**, Peña, J., Singh, M., Derex, M. (2024). Do institutions evolve like material technologies? *Current Opinion in Psychology*, 101913. Advance online publication.
- Vu, L., **Molho, C.**, Soraperra, I., Fiedler, S., Shalvi, S. (2024). Giving (in) to help an identified person. *Journal of Experimental Social Psychology*, 110, 104557.

- Spadaro, G., **Molho, C.**, Van Prooijen, J.-W., Romano, A., Mosso, C.O., Van Lange, P.A.M. (2023). Corrupt third-parties undermine trust and prosocial behavior between people. *Nature Human Behaviour*, 7, 46–54.
- Balliet, D., **Molho, C.**, Columbus, S., Dores Cruz, T.D. (2022). Prosocial and punishment behaviors in everyday life. *Current Opinion in Psychology*, 43, 278–283.
- Columbus, S., **Molho, C.** (2022). Subjective interdependence and prosocial behaviour. *Current Opinion in Psychology*, 43, 226–231.
- Molho, C.**, Twardawski, M., Fan, L. (2022). What motivates direct and indirect punishment? Extending the ‘Intuitive Retributivism’ hypothesis. *Zeitschrift für Psychologie*, 230, 84–93.
- Shalvi, S., Mol, J. M., **Molho, C.**, Vu, L., Leib, M., Soraperra, I. (2022). Psychological science for a responsible sharing economy. *Current Opinion in Psychology*, 44, 100–105.
- Dores Cruz, T.D., Thielmann, I., Columbus, C., **Molho, C.**, ..., Balliet, D. (2021). Gossip and reputation in daily life. *Philosophical Transactions of the Royal Society B*, 376, 20200301.
- Molho, C.**, Wu, J. (2021). Direct punishment and indirect reputation-based tactics to intervene against offenses. *Philosophical Transactions of the Royal Society B*, 376, 20200289.
- Columbus, S.*, **Molho, C.***, Righetti, F., Balliet, D. (2021). Interdependence and cooperation in daily life. *Journal of Personality and Social Psychology*, 120, 626–650. * shared first authorship
- Molho, C.**, Tybur, J.M., Van Lange, P.A.M., Balliet, D. (2020). Direct and indirect punishment of norm violations in daily life. *Nature Communications*, 11, 3432.
- Peperkoorn, L.S., Becker, D.V., Balliet, D., Columbus, S., **Molho, C.**, Van Lange, P.A.M. (2020). The prevalence of dyads in social life. *PLOS ONE*, 15, e0244188.
- Righetti, F., Balliet, D., **Molho, C.**, ..., Arriaga, X. (2020). Fostering attachment security: The role of interdependent situations. *International Journal of Environmental Research and Public Health*, 17, 7648.
- Tybur, J.M., **Molho, C.**, Çakmak, B., das Dores Cruz, T.D., Singh, G.D., Zwicker, M. (2020). Disgust, anger, and aggression: Further tests of the equivalence of moral emotions. *Collabra: Psychology*, 6, 34.
- Karinen, A.K., **Molho, C.**, Kupfer, T., Tybur, J.M. (2019). Disgust sensitivity and opposition to immigration: Does contact avoidance or resistance to foreign norms explain the relationship? *Journal of Experimental Social Psychology*, 84, 103817.
- Molho, C.**, Balliet, D., Wu, J. (2019). Hierarchy, power, and strategies to promote cooperation in social dilemmas, *Games*, 10, 12.
- Gerpott, F., Balliet, D., Columbus, S., **Molho, C.**, de Vries, R.E. (2018). How do people think about interdependence? A multidimensional model of subjective outcome interdependence. *Journal of Personality and Social Psychology*, 115, 716–742.
- Molho, C.**, Tybur, J.M., Güler, E., Balliet, D., Hofmann, W. (2017). Disgust and anger relate to different aggressive responses to moral violations. *Psychological Science*, 28, 609–619.
- Molho, C.**, Roberts, S.G.B., de Vries, R.E., Pollet, T.V. (2016). The six dimensions of personality (HEXACO) and their associations with network layer size and emotional closeness to network members. *Personality and Individual Differences*, 99, 144–148.
- Tybur, J.M., Inbar, Y., Güler, E., **Molho, C.** (2015). Pathogen disgust requires no defense: a response to Shook, Terrizzi, Clay, Oosterhoff (2015). *Evolution and Human Behavior*, 36, 502–504.
- Tybur, J.M., Inbar, Y., Güler, E., **Molho, C.** (2015). Is the relationship between pathogen avoidance and ideological conservatism explained by sexual strategies? *Evolution and Human Behavior*, 36, 489–497.

BIG TEAM SCIENCE

- Grigoryan, L., Grigoryan, A., Schmidt, K., ..., **Molho, C.**, ..., (2025). (In)alienable worth? Cultural logics of Dignity, Honor, and Face and their links to prosociality across the world. *Pre-print available on the Open Science Framework*.
- Spadaro, G., Tiddi, I., Columbus, S., Jin, S., Ten Teije, A., ..., **CoDa Team**, ..., Balliet, D. (2022). The Cooperation Databank: machine-readable science accelerates research synthesis. *Perspectives on Psychological Science*, 17, 1472–1489.
- Maitner, A.T., DeCoster, J., Andersson, P.A., ..., **Molho, C.**, ..., Wu, J. (2022). Perceptions of emotional functionality: Similarities and differences among dignity, face, and honor cultures. *Journal of Cross-Cultural Psychology*, 53, 263–288.

Eriksson, K., Strimling, P., Andersson, P.A., ..., **Molho, C.**, ..., Yamagishi, T. (2017). Cultural universals and cultural differences in meta-norms about peer punishment. *Management and Organization Review*, 13, 851–870.

BOOK CHAPTERS

Molho, C. (2023). Harnessing outrage to create social change. In I. Vermeulen (Ed.), *Connected World*. VU University Press.

Molho, C., Balliet, D. (2020). Navigating interdependent social situations. In D. Funder, J. Rauthmann, R. Sherman (Eds.), *The Oxford Handbook of Psychological Situations*. Oxford: Oxford University Press.

Tybur, J.M., **Molho, C.**, Balliet, D. (2018). Moralized disgust versus disgusting immorality: An adaptationist perspective. In N. Strohminger, V. Kumar (Eds.), *The Moral Psychology of Disgust* (pp. 11–27). Rowman Littlefield.

Awards & Scholarships

2025 **Rising Star Award**, *Human Behavior and Evolution Society (HBES)*

2024 **New Investigator Award**, *Cognition, Behavior, and Evolution Network (CBEN)*

2024 **Rising Star designation**, *Association for Psychological Science (APS)*

2017 **Research Excellence Award**, *Social and Organizational Psychology, VU Amsterdam*

2014; 2015 **William James Scholarship**, *William James Graduate School, VU Amsterdam*

Grants

2025 **JCJC grant**, *French National Research Agency (ANR)*, PI on project ENFORCE

2025 **Multidisciplinary Research Grant**, *Institute for Advanced Study in Toulouse*, Co-PI on project 'Retributive and compensatory justice across small- and large-scale societies'

2021 **Multidisciplinary Research Grant**, *Institute for Advanced Study in Toulouse*, Co-PI on project 'Evolution of Institutions for Collective Action'

2020 **Multidisciplinary Research Grant**, *Institute for Advanced Study in Toulouse*, Co-PI on project 'TEAM-3PP – Testing Evolutionary Alternative Models of Third-Party Punishment'

Presentations

INVITED TALKS

September 2025. Workshop on Interdisciplinary Advances in Cooperation Research, University of Nottingham

May 2025. Cooperation Colloquia (online talk).

May 2025. Evolution and Social Cognition group, Institut Jean Nicod, École Normale Supérieure - PSL.

March 2025. CLLE, Université Toulouse Jean Jaurès.

March 2025. Inaugural Symposium 'Foundations of Cooperation', Rijksuniversiteit Groningen.

January 2025. Amsterdam Interdisciplinary Centre for Emotion (AICE), University of Amsterdam.

October 2024. Social, Economic and Organisational Psychology department, Institute of Psychology, Leiden University.

April 2024. Center for Research in Experimental Economics and Political Decision Making (CREED), University of Amsterdam.

March 2024. Toulouse School of Economics.

September 2023. Laboratory of Agent Based Social Simulation (LABSS).

July 2023. RPTU Kaiserslautern-Landau.

March 2023. Interdisciplinary Conference on Social Norms, Nuffield College, University of Oxford.

October 2022. Saxelab, Social Cognitive Neuroscience Laboratory, McGovern Institute, MIT.

June 2022. Workshop on 'Social Norm Change: Drivers and Consequences,' Institute for Future Studies.

February 2022. Conflict and Cooperation Lab, Leiden University.

October 2021. French Experimental Talks (Online talk).

November 2019. Max Planck Institute for Research on Collective Goods.

CONFERENCE PRESENTATIONS

October 2024. Guilt- and shame-based mechanisms to promote prosociality across 20 countries. Cognition, Behavior, and Evolution Network (CBEN) meeting, Maastricht, Netherlands.

October 2024. How do collective threats influence the design of punishment institutions? PIREN meeting, Sète, France.

July 2024. Guilt- and shame-driven prosociality across societies. International Conference on Social Dilemmas (ICSD), Leiden, Netherlands.

May 2024. Guilt- and shame-driven prosociality across societies. Human Behavior and Evolution Society (HBES) conference, Aarhus, Denmark.

November 2023. Impartiality in third-party punishment across relationship categories. French network for the Evolutionary Study of Humans (FRESH) Conference, Paris, France.

July 2023. People use emotional cues to infer others' gossip tendencies. Force of Gossip Conference, Amsterdam, Netherlands.

July 2023. Personality and situational antecedents of gossip in daily life. European Association of Social Psychology Conference, Krakow, Poland.

July 2023. Discussant in symposium 'Post-transgression behavior as communication'. European Association of Social Psychology Conference, Krakow, Poland.

July 2022. Aggressive, not prosocial, individuals are more inclined to punish moral offenses. International Conference on Social Dilemmas, University of Copenhagen, Copenhagen, Denmark.

May 2022. Exposure to corrupt third parties undermines trust and prosocial behavior. CBESS-CeDEX-CREED Meeting, Tinbergen Institute, Amsterdam, the Netherlands.

April 2022. Aggressive—not prosocial—individuals are more motivated to punish. European Human Behaviour and Evolution Association (EHBEA), Max Planck Institute for Evolutionary Anthropology. (poster)

November 2021. What motivates direct and indirect punishment? Extending the 'intuitive retributivism' hypothesis. Cognition, Behavior, and Evolution Network (CBEN) meeting, Tilburg, the Netherlands.

February 2021. Retribution motivates direct and indirect punishment. Morality and Justice Preconference. Online meeting, Society for Personality and Social Psychology. (poster)

January 2021. When do people gossip about norm violations in daily life? Force of Gossip talk series, Vrije Universiteit Amsterdam. (flash talk)

January 2021. Using ecological momentary assessment methods to study social behaviors in the field. Online Epistemology workshop, Institute for Advanced Study in Toulouse

November 2020. Who punishes norm violations? Aggressive, but not prosocial traits, predict motivations to punish. Online meeting of the Cognition, Behavior, Evolution Network (CBEN). (flash talk)

November 2020. The social functions of distinct moral emotions. Online meeting of the Réseau transdisciplinaire prioritaire 'Evolutionary Human Sciences'. (flash talk)

February 2020. Direct and indirect punishment of norm violations in daily life. Society for Personality and Social Psychology Convention, New Orleans, USA.

February 2020. Personality antecedents of second- and third-party punishment. Evolutionary Psychology Pre-Conference, Society for Personality and Social Psychology Convention, New Orleans, USA. (flash talk)

January 2020. Power and cooperation in social dilemmas: A meta-analysis. 5th Pyrenean Interdisciplinary Research Event (PIREN), Ax-les-Thermes, France.

November 2019. Sketching the mechanisms and functions of distinct punishment strategies. Cognition, Behavior, Evolution Network (CBEN) meeting, Amsterdam, Netherlands.

June 2019. Direct and indirect punishment in daily life. International Conference on Social Dilemmas, Sedona, USA.

May 2019. Situational, relational, and emotional antecedents of punishment in daily life. Human Behavior and Evolution Society Conference, Boston, USA.

July 2018. Second- and third-party punishment are characterized by different emotions and different aggressive tactics. Human Behavior and Evolution Society Conference, Amsterdam, the Netherlands.

April 2018. Angered or disgusted by immoral behavior? Antecedents and consequences of distinct moral emotions. Consortium of European Research on Emotion, Glasgow, Scotland, UK.

March 2018. Disgusting immorality: Moral disgust relates to indirect aggression against moral offenders. Society for Personality and Social Psychology Convention, Atlanta, USA.

November 2017. Mapping interdependence in daily life. Cognition, Behavior, Evolution Network (CBEN) meeting, Leiden, Netherlands.

July 2017. Disgust and anger relate to different aggressive responses to moral violations. European Association of Social Psychology Conference, Granada, Spain.

December 2016. Asymmetric power and deterrence strategies in social dilemmas: Power leads to more (direct) punishment tactics. Human Evolution and Behavior Network Conference, Antwerp, Belgium.

December 2016. Power leads to less cooperation and more (direct) punishment tactics. Dutch Association of Social Psychology Researchers (ASPO) Conference, Leiden, the Netherlands.

June 2016. Asymmetric power and cooperation in social dilemmas: Does power influence the use of punishment and gossip strategies to promote cooperation? Human Behavior and Evolution Society Conference, Vancouver, Canada.

April 2016. Functional Interdependence Theory: How has evolution shaped interdependent minds? Kurt Lewin Institute Conference, Zeist, the Netherlands.

Teaching Experience

2025 **Nudges and the Psychology of Decision-Making**, L2, *Toulouse School of Economics*

2025 **Behavioral and Experimental Economics**, M1, *Toulouse School of Economics*

2024; 2025 **The psychology of cooperation and norm enforcement**, *Toulouse Summer School in Quantitative Social Sciences, Toulouse School of Economics*

2024; 2025 **Experience Sampling Methods to Study Social Psychology in the Field**, *Kurt Lewin Institute*

2023; 2024 **Motivation and Emotion**, Research Master's in Social Psychology, *VU Amsterdam*

2023 **Introduction to R for Behavioral Sciences**, Research Master's in Social Psychology, *VU Amsterdam*

2023 **Expert Workshop on Interdependence**, Research Master's in Social Psychology, *VU Amsterdam*

2022 **Behavioral Business Ethics, co-teacher with Shaul Shalvi**, Master's Business Economics, *University of Amsterdam*

2022 **Neuroeconomics, tutor**, Master's Business Economics & Brain and Cognitive Sciences, *University of Amsterdam*

GUEST LECTURES

September 2025. Introduction to Psychology. Lecture for the course 'Introduction to Quantitative Social Sciences', *Toulouse School of Economics*.

October 2024. Evolutionary and cultural foundations of punishment. Invited lecture for course 'The science behind our choices: decision-making across species and societies', *Newcastle University*.

October 2023. Experience sampling methods: Introduction and applications. Invited lecture for 'Advanced Research Methods' course, *VU Amsterdam*.

October 2022. Evolutionary and cognitive foundations of punishment. Invited lecture for course 'The science behind our choices: decision-making across species and societies', *Newcastle University*.

May 2021. Evolutionary perspectives on punishment. Invited lecture for 'Evolutionary Psychology' course, *Kurt Lewin Institute*.

September 2020. Informal punishment in daily life. Invited lecture for 'Bridging Social Psychology' course, VU Amsterdam.

Student Supervision

2022-2024	RM theses supervision , Research Master's in Social Psychology, <i>VU Amsterdam</i>	10 theses
2022-2024	RM first-year group project supervision , Research Master's in Social Psychology, <i>VU Amsterdam</i>	10 students
2022	MA theses supervision , Amsterdam School of Economics, <i>University of Amsterdam</i>	4 theses
2020	M1 internship supervision , <i>Institute for Advanced Study in Toulouse</i>	2 interns
2015-2018	MA theses and internship supervision , Department of Social and Organizational Psychology, <i>VU Amsterdam</i>	9 theses
2015-2018	BA theses supervision , Department of Social and Organizational Psychology, <i>VU Amsterdam</i>	13 theses

PHD STUDENT SUPERVISION

Supervisor: Xiyan Song (2024-); **Co-Supervisor:** Sofia Pelica (2023-)

Professional Service

PEER REVIEW

- 2026- **Board of Reviewing Editors**, *PNAS Nexus*
- 2020- **Editorial Board**, *Cooperation Databank*
- 2020- **Editorial Board**, *Current Research in Ecological and Social Psychology*
- 2020-2025 **Associate Editor**, *Collabra: Psychology*

Ad Hoc Reviewer: Cognition and Emotion, Communications Psychology, Current Research in Ecological and Social Psychology, Developmental Psychology, Emotion, European Journal of Personality, European Journal of Social Psychology, Evolution and Human Behavior, Evolutionary Behavioral Sciences, Evolutionary Psychological Science, Group Processes and Intergroup Relations, Human Ethology, Human Nature, Journal of Behavioral Decision Making, Journal of Cross-Cultural Psychology, Journal of Experimental Psychology: Applied, Journal of Experimental Psychology: General, Journal of Experimental Social Psychology, Journal of Neuroscience, Psychology, and Economics, Journal of Personality and Social Psychology, Journal of Research in Personality, Motivation and Emotion, Nature Human Behaviour, Nature Communications, New Ideas in Psychology, Organizational Behavior and Human Decision Processes, Personality and Individual Differences, Personality and Social Psychology Bulletin, PLOS One, Political Behaviour, Political Psychology, Proceedings of the Royal Society B, Psychological Review, Psychological Science, Royal Society Open Science, Scientific Reports, Social Cognition, Social Psychological and Personality Science, Sustainability, Zeitschrift für Psychologie

DEPARTMENT SERVICE

- **Group Leader, Expanded Morality Research Team**, *Institute for Advanced Study in Toulouse* (2024-present)
- **Research Data Manager**, *Department of Experimental and Applied Psychology, VU Amsterdam* (2023-2024)
- **Research Master's Program committee**, *Department of Experimental and Applied Psychology, VU Amsterdam* (2022-2024)
- **Organizer of weekly seminars**, *Institute for Advanced Study in Toulouse* (2019-2020)
- **PhD representative**, *Social Psychology Department, VU Amsterdam* (2016-2018)
- **Committee member for best dissertation award**, *Dutch Association of Social Psychology Researchers (ASPO)* (2017-2018)
- **Organizer of PhD and Research Assistant meetings**, *Social Psychology Department, VU Amsterdam* (2016-2017)
- **Committee member for best M-thesis award**, *Social and Organizational Psychology, VU Amsterdam* (2016)

CONFERENCE CO-ORGANIZATION

- **Co-organizer, Conference "Disgust across Borders: Multidisciplinary Perspectives on a Core Emotion"**, *Institute for Advanced Study in Toulouse (IAST), Toulouse, France* (2025)

- **Co-organizer, Pre-conference "Cross-Cultural Research in Social Dilemmas and Beyond"**, International Conference on Social Dilemmas (ICSD), Leiden, the Netherlands (2024)
- **Co-organizer, Workshop "Cooperation is not WEIRD: Cross-cultural methods and insights"**, Institute for Advanced Study (IAS), Amsterdam, the Netherlands (2024)
- **Organizing team member, Human Behavior and Evolution Society Conference**, Amsterdam, the Netherlands (2018)
- **Organizing team member, International Conference on Social Dilemmas**, Taormina, Italy (2017)
- **Organizing team member, William James Study Association Symposium**, Amsterdam, the Netherlands (2015)

PROFESSIONAL MEMBERSHIPS

Association for Psychological Science (APS), European Association of Social Psychology (EASP), Human Behavior and Evolution Society (HBES)