

CLARA COLOMBATTO

Curriculum Vitae | November 2024

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ACADEMIC APPOINTMENTS

- 2024 - **University of Waterloo**, Ontario, CA
Assistant Professor, Department of Psychology
- 2024 - **University College London**, London, UK
Honorary Lecturer, Department of Experimental Psychology
- 2022 - 2023 **University College London**, London, UK
Research Fellow, Department of Experimental Psychology
Sponsor: Steve Fleming
- 2021 - 2022 **Yale University**, New Haven, CT
Postdoctoral Associate, Department of Psychology
Sponsor: M. J. Crockett

EDUCATION

- 2015 - 2021 **Yale University**, New Haven, CT
M.S. (2018), *M. Phil.* (2018), *Ph.D.* (2021) in Cognitive Psychology
Advisor: Brian Scholl
- 2011 - 2015 **Duke University**, Durham, NC
B.A. in Philosophy *Magna cum laude*
B.S. in Neuroscience *with High Distinction*
Advisors: Scott Huettel & Walter Sinnott-Armstrong

RESEARCH SUPPORT

- 2024 Natural Sciences and Engineering Research Council of Canada (NSERC)
Discovery Grant
“Perceptual Mechanisms of Mental State Representation”
PI: Colombatto
Amount: CAD \$177,500

- 2024 University of Waterloo — *Interdisciplinary Research Infrastructure Seed Grant*
“Future Training Laboratory”
PI: Evan Risko, Co-PI: Colombatto
Amount: CAD \$10,000
- 2024 Microsoft Research — *Cognition, and the Economy (AICE) Program*
“Metacognition and Trust in Human-AI Collaboration” Extension
PI: Colombatto
Amount: CAD \$70,000
- 2024 University of Waterloo — UW/SSHRC Explore Grant
“How Doubt Illuminates Moral Character”
PI: Colombatto
Amount: CAD \$7,000
- 2023 Microsoft Research — *Cognition, and the Economy (AICE) Program*
“Metacognition and Trust in Human-AI Collaboration”
PI: Colombatto, Co-PIs: Steve Fleming, Jonathan Birch, Marco Wittmann
Amount: CAD \$34,000

HONORS & AWARDS

- 2022 *James B. Grossman Dissertation Prize*
Awarded annually to the best doctoral dissertation in Psychology at Yale
- 2019 *Student Travel Award*
Object Perception, Attention, and Memory Conference
- 2019 *Student Travel Award*
Vision Sciences Society
- 2016 *Phi Beta Kappa*
Duke University

FELLOWSHIPS

- 2023 *Neuroscience of Consciousness Winter School Fellowship*
CIFAR program in Brain, Mind & Consciousness
- 2019 *Computational Summer School Fellowship*
Methods in Neuroscience at Dartmouth

- 2016 *Summer Institute in Cognitive Neuroscience Fellowship*
Kavli Foundation
- 2014 *Neuroscience Program of Research Fellowship*
Duke University
- 2013 *Bass Connections Scholarship*
Duke University

PUBLICATIONS (*equal contribution; ^student trainee)

Yan, L., **Colombatto, C.**, & Ristic, J. (2024). Search advantage for facing social groups reflects optimal interactive group size. *iScience*, 27, Article 111105.

*Kim, J. S., ***Colombatto, C.**, & Crockett, M. J. (2024). Goal inference in moral narratives. *Cognition*, 251, Article 105865.

Colombatto, C., & Fleming, S. M. (2024). Folk psychological attributions of consciousness to large language models. *Neuroscience of Consciousness*, 2024, niae013.

Colombatto, C., Chen, Y. -C., & Scholl, B. J. (2024). Perceived gaze dynamics in social interactions can alter (and even reverse) the perceived temporal order of events. *Cognition*, 247, Article 105745.

Bhattacharyya, R., **Colombatto, C.**, Fleming, S., Posner, I., & Hawes, N. (2023). Investigating the role of metacognition for joint decision-making in human-robot collaboration. *AAAI 2023 Summer Symposium: Building Connections: From Human-Human to Human-AI Collaboration*.

Colombatto, C., Everett, J. A. C., Senn, J., Maréchal, M. A., & Crockett, M. J. (2023). Vaccine nationalism counterintuitively erodes public trust in leaders. *Psychological Science*, 34, 1309–1321.

Colombatto, C., & Scholl, B. J. (2022). Unconscious pupillometry: An effect of ‘attentional contagion’ in the absence of visual awareness. *Journal of Experimental Psychology: General*, 151, 302–308.

Colombatto, C., Uddenberg, S., & Scholl, B. J. (2021). The efficiency of demography in face perception. *Attention, Perception, & Psychophysics*, 83, 3104–3117.

Colombatto, C., van Buren, B., & Scholl, B. J. (2021). Hidden intentions: Visual awareness prioritizes perceived attention even without eyes or faces. *Cognition*, 217, Article 104901, 1–7.

*Everett, J. A. C., ***Colombatto, C.**, Awad, E. Boggio, P., Bos, B., Brady, W. J., Chawla, M., Chituc, V., Chung, D., Drupp, M. A., Goel, S., Grosskopf, B., Hjorth, F., Ji, A., Kealoha, C., Kim, J. S., Lin, Y., Ma, Y., Maréchal, M. A., Mancinelli, F., Mathys, C., Olsen, A. L., Pearce, G., Prosser, A. M. B., Reggev, N., Sabin, N., Senn, J., Shin, Y. S., Sinnott-Armstrong, W., Sjøstad, H., Strick, M., Sul, S., Tummers, L., Turner, M., Yu, H., Zoh, Y., & Crockett, M. J. (2021). Moral dilemmas and trust in leaders during a global health crisis. *Nature Human Behavior*, 5, 1074–1088.

Colombatto, C., Chen, Y. -C., & Scholl, B. J. (2020). Gaze deflection reveals how gaze cueing is tuned to extract the mind behind the eyes. *Proceedings of the National Academy of Sciences*, 117, 19825–19829.

Colombatto, C., van Buren, B., & Scholl, B. J. (2020). Gazing without eyes: A ‘stare-in-the-crowd’ induced by simple geometric shapes. *Perception*, 49, 782–792.

Colombatto, C., van Buren, B., & Scholl, B. J. (2019). Intentionally distracting: Working memory is disrupted by the perception of other agents attending to you — even without eye-gaze cues. *Psychonomic Bulletin & Review*, 26, 951–957.

Chen, Y. -C., **Colombatto, C.**, & Scholl, B. J. (2018). Looking into the future: An inward bias in aesthetic experience driven only by gaze cues. *Cognition*, 176, 209–214.

Colombatto, C., & McCarthy, G. (2017). The effects of face inversion and face race on the P100 ERP. *Journal of Cognitive Neuroscience*, 29, 664–676.

MANUSCRIPTS UNDER REVIEW

Colombatto, C., Capozzi, F., Fratino, V., & Ristic, J. (in revision). A perceptual advantage for social groups.

Colombatto, C., Conway, P., De Brigard, F., Hofmann, W., Sinnott-Armstrong, W., Stanley, M. L., Yu, H., & Crockett, M. J. (under review). Motivated abstraction of personal transgressions in moral narratives.

Colombatto, C., & Scholl, B. J. (under review). Attending to attention: Reverse correlation reveals how we perceive attentiveness in other people’s faces.

Colombatto, C., Chen, Y. -C., van Buren, B., & Scholl, B. J. (under review). Foundations of social perception: Eye contact or ‘mind contact’?

Colombatto, C., & Fleming, S. M. (under review). Illusions of confidence in artificial systems.

Colombatto, C., & Fleming, S. M. (under review). Perceiving others' metacognition: A new dimension in person impressions.

WORKING PAPERS

[^]Yan, C., [^]Farquharson, E., [^]Patient, C., Fleming, S. M., & **Colombatto, C.** (in preparation). Attributions of consciousness to AI: Predictors and consequences.

Colombatto, C., Birch, J., & Fleming, S. M. (in preparation). The influence of mental state attributions on trust in Large Language Models.

Colombatto, C., Crockett, M. J., & Scholl, B. J. (in preparation). 'Perceptual ageism': Distinct trajectories of first impressions from faces across their lifespan.

Colombatto, C., & Crockett, M. J. (in preparation). Immoral behavior generates higher disagreement in collective moral impressions.

*Everett, J. A. C., ***Colombatto, C.,** ..., & Crockett, M. J. (in preparation). Moral dilemmas: from theory to practice.

INVITED TALKS

- 2025 University of Illinois Urbana-Champaign, Cognition seminar
- 2024 University of Guelph, Centre for Advancing Responsible and Ethical AI
- 2024 Microsoft Research, Collaborative Intelligence group
- 2024 Croatian Consciousness & Computation Conference
- 2024 Animal Consciousness Conference
- 2024 Western University, Mind and Brain Institute
- 2024 Georgia Institute of Technology, Rahnev Lab
- 2024 University of Central Lancashire, Perception and Cognition Neuroscience Group
- 2023 Université Libre de Bruxelles, Center for Research in Cognition & Neurosciences
- 2023 LSE-UCL Workshop on Attributions of Consciousness to AI
- 2023 Oxford Robotics Institute

- 2023 UCL-PSL Summer School on Consciousness and Metacognition
- 2023 Birkbeck, University of London, Department of Psychology
- 2022 University of Waterloo, Department of Psychology
- 2022 University of Bristol, Robotics Laboratory
- 2021 McGill University, Laboratory for Attention & Social Cognition
- 2021 UCLA, Computational Vision and Learning Laboratory
- 2021 University College London, Consciousness Club
- 2020 New School for Social Research, Perception Laboratory

CONFERENCE PRESENTATIONS

Colombatto, C., & Scholl, B. J. (2024). “Attending to attention”: The perception of attentiveness in others' faces. Talk given at the annual meeting of the Canadian Society for Brain, Behaviour and Cognitive Science, Edmonton AB, Canada.

Yan, L., **Colombatto, C., & Ristic, J. (2024).** Unveiling the dynamics of pupil responses to gaze signals. Poster to be presented at the annual meeting of the *Canadian Psychological Association*, Toronto, ON, Canada.

Yan, L., **Colombatto, C., & Ristic, J. (2024).** Hindered individuation of people in facing relative to non-facing social groups. Poster to be presented at the annual meeting of the *Social & Affective Neuroscience Society Conference*, Ottawa, ON, Canada.

Colombatto, C., & Scholl, B. J. (2024). Attending to attention: Reverse correlation reveals how we perceive attentiveness in other people's faces. Poster presented at the annual meeting of the Lake Ontario Visionary Establishment, Niagara Falls ON, Canada.

Ristic, J., Yan, L., & **Colombatto, C. (2023).** Social perceptual grouping is sensitive to group size. Talk given at the *European Conference on Visual Perception*, Paphos, Cyprus.

Colombatto, C., & Fleming, S. M. (2023). Illusions of confidence in artificial systems. Poster presented at the *Conference on Cognitive Computational Neuroscience*, Oxford, UK.

Yan, L., **Colombatto, C., & Ristic, J. (2023).** Perceptual grouping of social interactions is sensitive to group size. Poster presented at the annual meeting of the *Canadian Psychological Association*, Toronto, Canada.

Colombatto, C., & Fleming, S. M. (2023). Inferring metacognition in humans and machines. Poster presented at the annual meeting of the *Association of Scientific Studies of Consciousness*, New York, NY.

Colombatto, C., & Fleming, S. M. (2023). Illusions of confidence in the advice of artificial systems. Talk given at the Perceptual Metacognition Satellite of the *Association of Scientific Studies of Consciousness*, New York, NY.

Ristic, J., **Colombatto, C., & Yan, L. (2023).** From dyads to crowds: Perceptual unity of group interactions. Poster presented at the annual meeting of the *Vision Sciences Society*, St. Pete Beach, FL. [Abstract published in *Journal of Vision*, 23(9), 5336, <https://doi.org/10.1167/jov.23.9.5336>.]

Colombatto, C., Guo, Y. Y. L., Scholl, B. J., & Ristic, J. (2022). Pupil size modulates gaze cueing. Poster presented at the annual meeting of the *Psychonomic Society*, online.

McCrackin, S. D., **Colombatto, C., Fratino, V., Scholl, B. J., & Ristic, J. (2022).** Pupil dilation widens the perceived cone of direct gaze. Talk given at the annual meeting of the *Psychonomic Society*, online.

Ristic, J., **Colombatto, C., & Fratino, V. (2022).** Perceptual grouping of social interactions: From dyads to triads. Talk given at the annual meeting of the *Psychonomic Society*, online.

Crockett, M. J., **Colombatto, C., & Chawla, M. (2022).** Immoral behavior generates higher disagreement in collective moral impressions. Poster presented at the annual meeting of the *Society for Philosophy and Psychology*, Milan, Italy.

Colombatto, C., & Crockett, M. J. (2022). Motivated obfuscation of moral transgressions in natural language. Talk given at the annual meeting of the *Society for Philosophy and Psychology*, Milan, Italy.

Colombatto, C., & Scholl, B. J. (2022). Attending to attention: Reverse correlation reveals how we perceive attentiveness in other people's faces. Poster presented at the annual meeting of the *Vision Sciences Society*, St. Pete Beach, FL. [Abstract published in *Journal of Vision*, 22(14), 3339, <https://jov.arvojournals.org/article.aspx?articleid=2783984>.]

Fu, S., Chen, Y. -C., **Colombatto, C., & Lu, H. (2022).** Visual impressions of social avoidance from moving shapes. Poster presented at the annual meeting of the *Vision Sciences Society*, St. Pete Beach, FL. [Abstract published in *Journal of Vision*, 22(14), 3693, <https://jov.arvojournals.org/article.aspx?articleid=2784196>.]

Fratino, V., **Colombatto, C., & Ristic, J. (2022).** From dyads to triads: Perceptual unity of social groups. Poster presented at the annual meeting of the *Vision Sciences Society*, online.

Colombatto, C., & Crockett, M. J. (2022). Linguistic obfuscation of reality in narratives of moral transgressions. Talk given at the annual meeting of the *Society for Personality and Social Psychology*, San Francisco, CA.

Fratino, V., **Colombatto, C.**, & Ristic, J. (2022). Two is company, three is a crowd: Perceptual unity of dyads and small groups. Talk given at the annual *Harvard Women in Psychology Trends in Psychology Summit*, online.

Colombatto, C., Kim, J. S., Rodriguez, D., & Crockett, M. J. (2021). I see where you are going: Perception of persuasion goals in moral narratives influences character impressions. Poster presented at the annual meeting of the *Cognitive Sciences Society*, online.

Crockett, M. J., Kim, J. S., & **Colombatto, C.** (2021). Competing goals in the construction and perception of moral narratives. Talk given at the annual meeting of the *Society for Philosophy and Psychology*, online.

Colombatto, C., Chen, Y. -C., van Buren, B., & Scholl, B. J. (2021). From eyes to minds: Perceiving perception, and attending to attention? Talk given at the annual meeting of the *Society for Philosophy and Psychology*, online.

Colombatto, C., Chen, Y. -C., & Scholl, B. J. (2021). Gazing to look vs. gazing to think: Gaze cueing is modulated by the perception of others' external vs. internal attention. Poster presented at the annual meeting of the *Vision Sciences Society*, online. [Abstract published in *Journal of Vision*, 21(9), 2800, <https://arvojournals.org/article.aspx?articleid=2777666>.]

Lopez-Brau, M., **Colombatto, C.**, Jara-Ettinger, J., & Scholl, B. J. (2021). Attentional prioritization for historical traces of agency. Talk given at the annual meeting of the *Vision Sciences Society*, online. [Abstract published in *Journal of Vision*, 21(9), 2748, <https://arvojournals.org/article.aspx?articleid=2777716>.]

Colombatto, C., Chen, Y. -C., & Scholl, B. J. (2020). Observed gaze dynamics in social interactions alter the perceived temporal order of events. Talk given at the annual *Object Perception, Attention, & Memory* meeting, online.

Colombatto, C., & Scholl, B. J. (2020). Eyes vs. minds: A Janus-like manipulation reveals that perceived intentionality boosts gaze cueing. Poster accepted at the annual meeting of the *Vision Sciences Society*, online.

Colombatto, C., & Scholl, B. J. (2019). Unconscious attentional contagion: Faster breakthrough into awareness for faces with dilated pupils. Poster presented at the annual *Object Perception, Attention, & Memory* meeting, Montréal, Québec, CA.

Colombatto, C., & Scholl, B. J. (2019). Unconscious pupillometry: Faces with dilated pupils gain preferential access to visual awareness. Poster presented at the annual meeting of the *Vision Sciences Society*, St. Pete Beach, FL. [Abstract published in *Journal of Vision*, 19(10), 218, <https://arvojournals.org/article.aspx?articleid=2750796>.]

Uddenberg, S., **Colombatto, C., & Scholl, B. J. (2019).** The speed of demography in face perception. Poster presented at the annual meeting of the *Vision Sciences Society*, St. Pete Beach, FL. [Abstract published in *Journal of Vision*, 19(10), 229d, <https://arvojournals.org/article.aspx?articleid=2750849>.]

Colombatto, C., & Scholl, B. J. (2018). Illusions of morality: Visual impressions of causality override overt judgment in moral decision making. Talk given at the annual *European Conference on Visual Perception*, Trieste, Italy.

Chen, Y. -C., **Colombatto, C., & Scholl, B. J. (2018).** Looking into the future: An inward bias in aesthetic experience driven only by gaze cues. Poster presented at the annual meeting of the *Vision Sciences Society*, St. Pete Beach, FL. [Abstract published in *Journal of Vision*, 18(10), 1333, <http://jov.arvojournals.org/article.aspx?articleid=2700313>.]

Colombatto, C., Chen, Y. -C., & Scholl, B. J. (2018). Gaze cueing is tuned to extract the mind behind the gaze: Investigations of ‘gaze deflection’. Talk given at the annual meeting of the *Vision Sciences Society*, St. Pete Beach, FL. [Abstract published in *Journal of Vision*, 18(10), 197, <http://jov.arvojournals.org/article.aspx?articleid=2699191>.]

Colombatto, C., Chen, Y. -C., & Scholl, B. J. (2017). Gaze cueing is tuned to extract the mind behind the gaze: Investigations of ‘gaze deflection’. Poster presented at the annual *European Conference on Visual Perception*, Berlin, Germany.

Colombatto, C., van Buren, B., & Scholl, B. J. (2017). ‘Mind contact’: Might eye-gaze effects actually reflect more general phenomena of perceived attention and intention? Poster presented at the annual meeting of the *Vision Sciences Society*, St. Pete Beach, FL. [Abstract published in *Journal of Vision*, 17(10), 60, <http://jov.arvojournals.org/article.aspx?articleid=2650946>.]

Colombatto, C., McCarthy, G. (2017). Face processing at 100 ms: the effects of race and configuration. Poster presented at the annual meeting of the *Cognitive Neuroscience Society*, San Francisco, CA.

Colombatto, C. (2014). I'll do what you think we should do: Pronouns and the construction of the tutoring community. Talk given at the annual meeting of the *Southeastern Writing Center Association*, Greenville, NC.

Russell, V. & **Colombatto, C. (2013).** We deliver!: The multi-modal medium is the message. Talk given at the annual meeting of the *Southeastern Writing Center Association*, Fort Lauderdale, FL.

TEACHING

University of Waterloo

2024	Honours Seminar in Cognition: Social Perception
2024	Undergraduate Reading Course: Metacognition
2024	Graduate Reading Course: Supporting Memory and Metamemory
2024	Special Topics in Cognition and Perception: Social Perception

Guest Lectures

2024	Affective Computing (Jesse Hoey, Waterloo)
2024	Systems Design Engineering (Cameron Shelley, Waterloo)
2023	Neuroscience MSc (Tali Sharot, UCL)

Yale University

2020	Teaching Fellow, The Modern Unconscious (John Bargh)
2018	Teaching Fellow, Decision-Making (Dave Rand)
2017	Teaching Fellow, Cognitive Neuroscience (Steve Chang)
2017	Teaching Fellow, Social Psychology (John Bargh)
2016	Teaching Fellow, Intro to Cognitive Science (Brian Scholl)
2016 - 2018	Writing Fellow, Poorvu Center for Teaching and Learning

Duke University

2015	Teaching Assistant, Calculus and Functions II (Lewis Blake)
2015	Teaching Assistant, Calculus and Functions II (Emily Braley)
2014	Teaching Assistant, Calculus and Functions I (Rann Bar-On)
2014	Teaching Assistant, Writing Literacy (Vicki Russell)
2013	Teaching Assistant, Freshmen Writing (Jesse Summers)
2013	Teaching Assistant, Freshmen Writing (Lindsay Smith)
2012	Peer Tutor, Academic Resource Center

STUDENT SUPERVISION

(Unless otherwise noted, students are affiliated with Waterloo Psychology)

Master's Students

2024 -	Shakthi Senthil Kumar
2024 -	Yuanze Huang
2024 -	Claire Yan (University College London; co-advised with Steve Fleming)

Research Staff

2024 -	Brian Wu
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Undergraduate Honours Students

2024 -	Layla Hussain
2024 -	Simran Bal
2024 -	Amy Delia Younesi
2024 -	Aarifah Panchbhaya
2024	Daniela Pasqualini

Other Undergraduate Research Students

2024 -	Caroline Simpson
2024 -	Irsa Duka
2024 -	Fikir Mekonnen (Yale College; co-advised with Brian Scholl)
2024 -	Audrey Hempel (Yale College; co-advised with Brian Scholl)
2023 - 2024	Claire Yan (University College London; co-advised with Steve Fleming)
2023 - 2024	Eliza Farquharson (UCL; co-advised with Steve Fleming)
2023 - 2024	Charlotte Patient (UCL; co-advised with Steve Fleming)
2021 - 2022	Maria Canon (Yale College; co-advised with Brian Scholl)
2021 - 2022	Victoria Fratino (McGill University, now PhD student at Concordia)
2021 - 2022	Yang Yi Lin Guo (McGill University, now PhD student at UBC)
2019 - 2022	Conor Downey (Yale College, now PhD student at MIT)
2019 - 2021	Joanna Zukin (Yale College) 2019 - 2020 Rui Zhe Goh (Yale-NUS College, then PhD student at Johns Hopkins)
2018 - 2019	Lan Luo (Yale College, then PhD student at Columbia Business School)
2018 - 2019	Daniel Do (Yale College, then COO at Cortex College Consulting)
2015 - 2016	Audrey Luo (Yale College, then MD/PhD student at U of Pennsylvania)

PhD Committees

2024 -	Kaiden Stewart
2024 -	April Pereira
2024 -	Seth Winward
2024 -	Adrian Berk Safati
2024	Keith Rebello (University of Waterloo, Electrical Engineering)

Master's Committees

2024	Madeline Wiseman
2024	Neil Wegenschimmel
2024	Hamza Tariq
2024	Julianna Salvatierra
2024	Amie Durston

Undergraduate Committees

2025	Karen Eng
2024	Matthew Yeung

2024 Syrus Koetke
 2024 Lucas Robert Betts
 2024 Caroline Simpson

PROFESSIONAL SERVICE

2024 Donald O. Hebb Award Committee, Canadian Society for Brain,
 Behaviour and Cognitive Science
 2023 - Editorial Board Reviewer, Journal of Experimental Psychology: Human
 Perception and Performance
 2023 Co-organizer, LSE-UCL Workshop on Attributions of Consciousness to
 AI
 2022 - 2023 Co-organizer, UCL-PSL Consciousness & Metacognition Summer School
 2021 - 2023 Reviewer, Application Statement Feedback Program

University and Departmental Committees

2024 - 2025 Executive Committee, Cognition Area representative
 2024 - Human Research Ethics Board, Delegated Ethics Review Committee
 2024 - Psychology Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion Committee

Ad-Hoc Reviewing: Journals

Acta Psychologica
 American Psychologist
 Biological Psychology
 Cognition
 Cognitive, Affective, & Behavioral Neuroscience
 Cognitive Science
 Communications Psychology
 Computers in Human Behavior Reports
 Developmental Science
 Emotion
 Frontiers in Neuroscience
 Frontiers in Psychology
 iScience
 JEP: General
 JEP: Human Perception and Performance
 Journal of Cognitive Neuroscience
 Journal of Vision
 Memory & Cognition
 Open Mind
 Perception
 PCI Registered Reports
 Plos One

Proceedings of the National Academy of Sciences
Psychophysiology
Scientific Reports
Social Neuroscience
The Journal of Pain
Visual Cognition

Ad-Hoc Reviewing: Conferences

Cognitive Computational Neuroscience
Cognitive Science Society
Society for Personality and Social Psychology
Society for Philosophy and Psychology

Ad-Hoc Reviewing: Grant Agencies

National Science Foundation