

**Elisa C. Baek, Ph.D.**  
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Last updated: September 7, 2022

## **APPOINTMENTS**

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**(Incoming) Assistant Professor** Starting January 2023  
Department of Psychology, University of Southern California

**Postdoctoral Fellow** 2019 - Present  
Department of Psychology, UCLA  
Sponsoring Scientists: Carolyn Parkinson, Mason Porter, Matthew Lieberman

## **EDUCATION**

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**Ph.D., Communication** August 2019  
**Annenberg School for Communication, University of Pennsylvania**  
Communication Neuroscience Lab  
Certificate in Social, Cognitive, and Affective Neuroscience (SCAN)  
Dissertation title: *The Role of Mentalizing in Information Propagation*  
Dissertation Committee: Emily Falk (advisor), Joseph N. Cappella, Robert Hornik

**M.A., Communication** May 2016  
**Annenberg School for Communication, University of Pennsylvania**

**B.A., Communication and Cognitive Neuroscience** May 2012  
**University of Pennsylvania**  
Honors Thesis: *An Examination of African Americans in Time and Newsweek Advertisements*  
Advisor: John L. Jackson, Jr.

## **RESEARCH AND TEACHING INTERESTS**

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• Social neuroscience, cognitive neuroscience, computational neuroscience, social connection/disconnection, social network analysis, information sharing, persuasion, social influence, health communication

## **FELLOWSHIPS, HONORS & AWARDS**

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Best Paper in Psychology Award, UCLA	2022
National Science Foundation SBE Postdoctoral Fellowship - \$165,000	2019-2021
Society for Neuroscience Trainee Professional Development Award	2021
UCLA Brain Research Institute/Semel Institute Neuroscience Postdoctoral Travel Award	2021
Highly-ranked abstract (top 20%) for Society for Affective Science	2021
Kavli Summer Institute in Cognitive Neuroscience Fellow, UC Santa Barbara	2019
Summer School in Social Neuroscience and Neuroeconomics, Duke University	2019
Wharton Risk Center Russell Ackoff Doctoral Student Fellowship - \$2,744	2018-2019

Best Papers in Information Systems, International Communication Association	2016
Top Paper in Mass Communication, International Communication Association	2016
Top Paper in Mass Communication, Social and Affective Neuroscience Society	2016

## PUBLICATIONS

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\* denotes equal author contributions

- Baek, E.C.**, Hyon, R., López, K., Finn, E.S., Porter, M.A., & Parkinson, C. (2022). In-degree centrality in a social network is linked to coordinated neural activity. *Nature Communications*, 13, 1118. <https://doi.org/10.1038/s41467-022-28432-3>
- Matz, S.C., Hyon, R., **Baek, E.C.**, Parkinson, C., & Cerf, M. (2022). Personality similarity predicts synchronous neural responses in fMRI and EEG data. *Scientific Reports*, 12, 14325. <https://doi.org/10.1038/s41598-022-18237-1>
- Baek, E.C.**, O'Donnell, M.B., Scholz, C., Pei, R., Garcia, J.O., Vettel, J.M., & Falk, E.B. (2021). Activity in the brain's valuation and mentalizing networks is associated with propagation of online recommendations. *Scientific Reports*, 11(1), 11196. <https://doi.org/10.1038/s41598-021-90420-2>
- Baek, E.C.**, Porter, M.A., & Parkinson, C. (2021). Social network analysis for social neuroscientists. *Social Cognitive and Affective Neuroscience*, 16(8), 883-901. <https://doi.org/10.1093/scan/nsaa069>
- Chang, H.Y., Scholz, C., **Baek, E.C.**, O'Donnell, M.B., & Falk, E.C. (2021). Being the gatekeeper: How thinking about sharing affects neural encoding of information. *Cerebral Cortex*, 31(8), 3939-3949. <https://doi.org/10.1093/cercor/bhab060>
- Baek, E.C.**, Scholz, C., & Falk, E.B. (2020). The neuroscience of persuasion and information propagation: Key role of the mentalizing system. In K. Floyd & R. Weber (Eds.), *Handbook of Communication Science and Biology*. Routledge.
- Doré, B.P., Scholz, C., **Baek, E.C.**, & Falk, E.B. (2020). Health news sharing is reflected in distributed reward-related brain activity. *Social Cognitive and Affective Neuroscience*, 15(10), 1111-1119. <https://doi.org/10.1093/scan/nsaa129>
- Scholz, C., Jovanova, M., **Baek, E.C.**, & Falk, E.B. (2020). Media-content sharing as a value-based decision. *Current Opinion in Psychology*, 31, 83-88. <https://doi.org/10.1016/j.copsyc.2019.08.004>
- Scholz, C., **Baek, E.C.**, O'Donnell, M. B., & Falk, E. B. (2020). Decision-making about broad- and narrowcasting: a neuroscientific perspective, *Media Psychology*. 23(1), 131-155. <https://doi.org/10.1080/15213269.2019.1572522>
- Doré, B.P., Scholz, C., **Baek, E.C.**, Garcia, J.O., O'Donnell, M.B., Bassett, D.S., Vettel, J.M., & Falk, E.B. (2019). Brain activity predicts population information sharing by capturing consensus judgments of value. *Cerebral Cortex*, 29(7). <https://doi.org/10.1093/cercor/bhy176>
- Baek, E.C.** & Falk, E.B. (2018). Persuasion and Influence: What makes a successful persuader? *Current Opinion in Psychology*, 24, 53-57. <https://doi.org/10.1016/j.copsyc.2018.05.004>

\***Baek, E.C.**, \*Scholz, C., O'Donnell M.B., & Falk, E.B. (2017). Neural correlates of selecting and sharing information. *Psychological Science*, 28(7), 851-861.  
<https://doi.org/10.1177/0956797617695073>

\*Scholz, C., \***Baek, E.C.**, O'Donnell M.B., Kim, H.S., Cappella, J.N., & Falk, E.B. (2017). A neural model of valuation and information virality. *Proceedings of the National Academy of Sciences*, 114(11), 2881-2886. <http://doi.org/10.1073/pnas.1615259114>

#### **PAPERS UNDER REVIEW, PREPRINTS, AND WORKING PAPERS**

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**Baek, E.C.**, Hyon, R., López, K., Porter, M.A., & Parkinson, C. (preprint; revise & resubmit). Lonely individuals process the world in idiosyncratic ways. <https://psyarxiv.com/yt872>

**Baek, E. C.** & Parkinson, C. (invited & under review). Shared understanding and social connection: Integrating approaches from social psychology, social network analysis, and neuroscience. *Social and Personality Psychology Compass*.

**Baek, E. C.** & Parkinson, C. (invited & in prep). Computational social neuroscience. In J. Chiao (Ed.), *The Oxford Handbook of Social and Affective Neuroscience*, New York: Oxford University Press.

Scholz, C., **Baek, E.C.**, & Falk, E.B. (revise & resubmit). Invoking self-related and social thoughts impacts online information sharing.

**Baek, E.C.**, Kim, H., Chey, J., Youm, Y., & Parkinson, C. (under review). Individuals who occupy central positions in a real-life social network show increased sensitivity to social exclusion.

Kim, H., Kwak, S., **Baek, E.C.**, Baldina, E., Youm, Y., & Chey, J. (under review). Brain connectivity during social exclusion differs depending on intimacy with rejecters among older adults living in a village.

**Baek, E.C.**, Tamir, D.I., & Falk, E.B. (preprint). Considering others' mental states causally increases feelings of social bonding and information sharing.  
<https://psyarxiv.com/nw43x/>

**Baek, E.C.**, Hyon, R., López, K., Porter, M.A., & Parkinson, C. (in prep). Convergence across subjects in neural responses during spontaneous viewing predicts sharing of naturalistic stimuli.

#### **INVITED TALKS**

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Invited Panelist (2022, May). "One World, One Multilevel Network: Cells to Societies" at the annual meeting of the International Communication Association, Paris, France.

Invited Panelist (2022, May). "Social Networks and Real-World Interaction" at the annual meeting of the Social and Affective Neuroscience Society.

Invited Talk (2022, April). UCLA Social Psychology Colloquium.

Invited Talk (2021, June). CogniTalks hosted by the Cognito Student Union at the Department of Brain & Cognitive Sciences at the University of Amsterdam.

Invited Talk (2021, April). Innovators in Cognitive Neuroscience, hosted by the Center for Cognitive Neuroscience at Dartmouth College in collaboration with University of Pennsylvania, Yale University, Massachusetts Institute of Technology, Princeton University, Harvard University, Columbia University, and Gallaudet University

Invited Talk (2021, April). Seminar on Cognitive Processing and Development hosted by Neuro-COGNiMATH at the Department of Psychology at the Benemérita Universidad Autónoma de Puebla, Mexico.

Invited Talk (2019, November). UCLA Networks Meeting.

Invited Talk (2019, October). UCLA Social Psychology Colloquium.

Invited Talk (2019, April). Princeton University Neuroscience and Social Decision Making talk series.

Invited Talk (2018, November). Wharton Neuroscience Initiative Student Society (WINSS) Undergraduate Meeting.

Invited Talk (2018, February), 4<sup>th</sup> Annual SCAN Retreat, Center for Neuroscience and Society, University of Pennsylvania.

Invited Talk (2017, November), Guest Lunch Series, Center for Neuroscience and Society, University of Pennsylvania.

## CONFERENCE PRESENTATIONS

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\* denotes equal author contributions

**Baek, E.C.,** Hyon, R., López, K., Porter, M.A., & Parkinson, C. (2022, May). Perceived social norms shape neural responses to naturalistic depictions of risky alcohol use: Evidence from neuroimaging and language use. To be presented at the annual meeting of the International Communication Association, Paris, France.

**Baek, E.C.,** Hyon, R., López, K., Porter, M.A., & Parkinson, C. (2022, March). Perceived social norms shape neural responses to naturalistic depictions of risky alcohol use: Evidence from neuroimaging and language use. To be presented at the annual meeting of the Society for Affective Science (virtual meeting).

**Baek, E.C.,** Hyon, R., López, K., Porter, M.A., & Parkinson, C. (2022, February). Perceived social norms shape neural responses to naturalistic depictions of risky alcohol use. Presented at the annual meeting of the Society for Personality and Social Psychology, San Francisco, CA.

**Baek, E.C.,** Hyon, R., López, K., Porter, M.A., Parkinson, C., & Reavis, E.A. (2021, November). Neural coordination between participants during naturalistic perception: Towards a marker of social dysfunction in schizophrenia. Presented at the Annual UCLA Brain Research Institute's Neuroscience Poster Session, Los Angeles, CA.

**Baek, E.C.,** Hyon, R., López, K., Porter, M.A., Parkinson, C., & Reavis, E.A. (2021, November). Neural coordination between participants during naturalistic perception: Towards a marker of social dysfunction in schizophrenia. Presented at Neuroscience 2021, the annual meeting of the Society for Neuroscience (virtual presentation due to COVID-19).

**\*\*UCLA Brain Research Institute/Semel Institute Neuroscience Postdoctoral**

**Travel Award\*\* \*\*Society for Neuroscience Trainee Professional Development Award\*\***

- Baek, E.C.**, Hyon, R., López, K., Porter, M.A., & Parkinson, C. (2021, May). Convergence across subjects in neural responses during spontaneous viewing predicts sharing of naturalistic stimuli. Presented at the annual meeting of the International Communication Association (virtual due to COVID-19).
- Chan, H.Y., Scholz, C., **Baek, E.C.**, O'Donnell, M.B., & Falk, E.B. (2021, May). Share versus read: Delineating share-forward and click-through of news information on social media. Presented at the annual meeting of the International Communication Association (virtual due to COVID-19). **\*\*Promising Student Papers of Information Systems\*\***
- Chan, H.Y., Scholz, C., **Baek, E.C.**, O'Donnell, M.B., & Falk, E.B. (2021, May). Being the gatekeeper: How neural encoding of information is affected during sharing decisions. Presented at the annual meeting of the International Communication Association (virtual due to COVID-19).
- Baek, E.C.**, Hyon, R., López, K., Porter, M.A., & Parkinson, C. (2021, April). Lonely individuals process the world in idiosyncratic ways. Presented at the annual meeting of the Social and Affective Neuroscience Society (virtual due to COVID-19).
- Baek, E.C.**, Hyon, R., López, K., Porter, M.A., & Parkinson, C. (2021, April). Lonely individuals process the world in idiosyncratic ways. Presented at the annual meeting of the Society for Affective Science (virtual due to COVID-19). **\*\*Highly-ranked abstract (top 20%) selected for publication in *Affective Science*\*\***
- Baek, E.C.**, Hyon, R., López, K., Porter, M.A., & Parkinson, C. (2021, February). Popular people in a social network exhibit synchronized neural responses to naturalistic stimuli, and unpopular people exhibit idiosyncratic neural responses. Presented at the Social Cognition Preconference (data blitz) at the annual meeting of the Society for Personality and Social Psychology (virtual due to COVID-19).
- Baek, E.C.**, Hyon, R., López, K., Porter, M.A., & Parkinson, C. (2021, February). Convergence in neural responses during spontaneous viewing predicts sharing. Presented at the annual meeting of the Society for Personality and Social Psychology (virtual due to COVID-19).
- Baek, E.C.**, Hyon, R., López, K., Porter, M.A., & Parkinson, C. (2021, February). Popular people in a social network exhibit synchronized neural responses to naturalistic stimuli, and unpopular people exhibit idiosyncratic neural responses. Presented at the annual meeting of the Society for Social Neuroscience (virtual due to COVID-19).
- Baek, E.C.**, Kim, H., Chey, J., Youm, Y., & Parkinson, C. (2020). Individuals who occupy central positions in a real-life social network show increased sensitivity to social exclusion. Accepted at the annual meeting of the Social and Affective Neuroscience Society (postponed due to COVID-19).
- Baek, E.C.**, Scholz, C., O'Donnell, M.B., Parkinson, C., & Falk, E.B. (2020). Density of real-life social networks is associated with brain activity during social decisions. Accepted at the annual meeting of the Social and Affective Neuroscience Society (postponed due to COVID-19).

- Hyon, R., Lopéz, K., **Baek, E.C.**, Porter, M.A., Parkinson, C. (2020). Inter-subject similarity in multi-voxel response pattern trajectories reflect similarities in preferences and personality. Accepted at the annual meeting of the Social and Affective Neuroscience Society (postponed due to COVID-19).
- Scholz, C., **Baek, E.C.**, & Falk, E.B. (2020, May). Using neuroscience to causally manipulate information sharing. Presented at the annual meeting of the International Communication Association (virtual presentation due to COVID-19).
- Doré, B.P., Scholz, C., **Baek, E.C.**, & Falk, E.B. (2020, October). Population news sharing is reflected in distributed reward-related brain activity. Presented at the annual meeting of the Association for Consumer Research (virtual presentation due to COVID-19).
- Baek, E.C.**, Scholz, C., & Falk, E.B. (2019, April). Narcissists show different psychological and neural motivations for interpersonal sharing. Presented at the annual meeting of the Social and Affective Neuroscience Society, Miami, FL.
- Doré, B.P., Cooper, N., Tompson, S., Scholz, C.S., **Baek, E.C.** & Falk, E.B. (2019, May). Population-level stimulus effects are reflected in distributed neural representations of affect and value. Presented at the annual meeting of the Social and Affective Neuroscience Society, Miami, FL. **\*\*Top Poster Award\*\***
- Garcia, J.O., Bansal, K., Rungratsameetaweemana, N., **Baek, E.C.**, Wasylyshyn, N., Roy, H., Lauharatanahirun, N., Johnson, T., Fernandez, R., O'Donnell, M.B., Falk, E.B., Metcalfe, J., & Vettel, J.M. (2019, March). Brain network communities between driver-passenger dyads capture successful communication while driving. Presented at the International IEEE EMBS Conference on Neural Engineering, San Francisco, CA.
- Doré, B.P., Scholz, C., **Baek, E.C.**, & Falk, E.B. (2019, May). Information virality is reflected in a distributed neural representation of value. Presented at the annual meeting of the International Communication Association, Washington D.C. **\*\*Top Paper Award in Communication Science & Biology\*\***
- \*Cascio, C.N., \***Baek, E.C.**, O'Donnell, M.B., & Falk, E.B. (2018, May). Social influence: A functional connectivity approach to conformity. Presented at the annual meeting of the International Communication Association, Prague, Czech Republic.
- Pareman, J.M., Doré, B.P., **Baek, E.C.**, Scholz, C., O'Donnell, M.B., & Falk, E.B. (2018, May). MVPA reveals decisions to consume or share news involve distributed processing in medial prefrontal cortex. Presented at the annual meeting of the Social and Affective Neuroscience Society, Brooklyn, NY.
- \*Cascio, C.N., \***Baek, E.C.**, O'Donnell, M.B., & Falk, E.B. (2018, May). Social influence: A functional connectivity approach to conformity. Presented at the annual meeting of the Social and Affective Neuroscience Society, Brooklyn, NY.
- Baek, E.C.**, Scholz, C., O'Donnell, M.B., & Falk, E.B. (2017, May). Negativity spreads socially: Negativity bias in opinion change is associated with activity in the brain's mentalizing system. Presented at the annual meeting of the International Communication Association, San Diego, CA.
- Scholz, C., **Baek, E.C.**, O'Donnell, M.B., & Falk, E.B. (2017, May). A neural propagation system: Neurocognitive and preference synchrony in information sharers and their

receivers. Presented at the annual meeting of the International Communication Association, San Diego, CA.

Doré, B.P., Scholz, C., **Baek, E.C.**, O'Donnell, M.B., & Falk, E.B. (2017, May). Neural prediction of population sharing behavior relates to domain familiarity. Presented at the annual meeting of the International Communication Association, San Diego, CA.

**Baek, E.C.**, Scholz, C., O'Donnell, M.B., & Falk, E.B. (2017, March). Negativity spreads socially: Negativity bias in opinion change is associated with activity in the brain's mentalizing system. Presented at the annual meeting of the Social and Affective Neuroscience Society, Los Angeles, CA.

Scholz, C., **Baek, E.C.**, O'Donnell, M.B., & Falk, E.B. (2017, March). A neural propagation system: Neurocognitive and preference synchrony in information sharers and their receivers. Presented at the annual meeting of the Social and Affective Neuroscience Society, Los Angeles, CA. **\*\*Top Poster Award\*\***

Doré, B.P., Scholz, C., **Baek, E.C.**, O'Donnell, M.B., & Falk, E.B. (2017, March). Neural prediction of population sharing behavior relates to domain familiarity. Presented at the annual meeting of the Social and Affective Neuroscience Society, Los Angeles, CA.

**\*Baek, E.C.**, \*Scholz, C., O'Donnell M.B., & Falk, E.B. (2016, June). Neural correlates of selecting and sharing information. Presented at the annual meeting of the International Communication Association, Fukuoka, Japan. **\*\*Best Papers in Information Systems Award\*\***

\*Scholz, C., **\*Baek, E.C.**, O'Donnell, M.B., & Falk, E.B. (2016, June). The value of sharing: A neural model of self-related and social processing in value-based virality. Presented at the annual meeting of the International Communication Association, Fukuoka, Japan. **\*\*Top Paper in Mass Communication Award\*\***

Scholz, C., **Baek, E.C.**, O'Donnell, M.B., & Falk, E.B. (2016, June). Sharing for the (social) self and others: An fMRI study of the neural mechanisms driving broad- and narrowcasting. Presented at the annual meeting of the International Communication Association, Fukuoka, Japan.

**\*Baek, E.C.**, \*Scholz, C., O'Donnell, M.B., & Falk, E.B. (2016, April). Neural correlates of selecting and sharing information. Presented at the annual meeting of the Social Affective Neuroscience Society, New York, NY.

\*Scholz, C., **\*Baek, E.C.**, O'Donnell, M.B., Kim, H.S., Cappella, J.N., & Falk, E.B. (2016, April). Value-based virality: A neurocognitive model of news retransmission. Presented at the annual meeting of the Social Affective Neuroscience Society, New York, NY. **\*\*Top Poster Award\*\***

**Baek, E.C.**, Cascio, C.N., O'Donnell, M.B., Bayer, J., Tinney Jr., F.J., & Falk, E.B. (2016, January). Personal distress & neural mechanisms of social influence. Presented at the Society for Personality and Social Psychology, San Diego, CA.

## MENTORING

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### Undergraduate

Concepción Esparza	Winter 2022-Present
UCLA Psychology Research Opportunities Program (PROPS) student	
Isabella Price	Summer 2021-Winter 2022
Undergraduate Research Assistant	

### **Trainee Conference Presentations**

Esparza, C., Baek, E.C., & Parkinson, C (2022, May). Lonely individuals process social scenes in idiosyncratic ways. Presented at the Psychology Undergraduate Research Conference, Los Angeles, CA.

Esparza, C., Baek, E.C., & Parkinson, C (2022, May). Lonely individuals process social scenes in idiosyncratic ways. To be presented at the UCLA Undergraduate Research Week, Los Angeles, CA.

### **TEACHING EXPERIENCE**

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<b>Annual Faculty Workshop on Best Equitable Practices in Teaching</b> , UCLA	Fall 2021
<b>Teaching Fellow</b> , The Communication Experience (COMM 310)	Fall 2017
<b>Guest Lecturer</b> , Introduction to Communication Behavior (COMM 125)	Summer 2017
<b>Training for Teaching Assistants</b> , Penn Center for Teaching & Learning	Summer 2017

### **SAMPLE MEDIA COVERAGE**

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Minds Matter podcast (September 4, 2022). "Your mind on loneliness & social connection"  
<https://www.mindsmatterpodcast.com/s2-e3-your-mind-on-loneliness>

Opinion Science podcast episode 50 (November 8, 2021). "To persuade is human?"  
<http://opinionsciencepodcast.com/episode/to-persuade-is-human/>

Canadian Broadcasting Company – 12 interviews across radio stations in Canada (February 28, 2017). "Why do some news stories go viral and others don't?"

Popular Science: <http://www.popsoci.com/viral-article-brain-imaging?dom=rss-default&src=syn>

Psychological Science:  
<http://www.psychologicalscience.org/publications/observer/obsonline/brain-activity-can-predict-which-articles-go-viral.html>

Vice: [https://tonic.vice.com/en\\_us/article/mris-say-were-all-needy-attention-seekers-on-facebook](https://tonic.vice.com/en_us/article/mris-say-were-all-needy-attention-seekers-on-facebook)

Mashable: <http://mashable.com/2017/02/27/why-stories-go-viral/#uyu4kTwSMOqW>

Philly Voice: <http://www.phillyvoice.com/will-story-go-viral-penn-researchers-use-mri-prove-you-subconsciously-know-answer/>

### **ACADEMIC SERVICE**

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Member, Student & Early Career Advisory Committee (SECAC), International Communication Association	2022-2025
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**Ad Hoc Reviewing (Funding Agencies)**

National Science Foundation

**Ad Hoc Reviewing (Journals)**

Cerebral Cortex, Cognition, Cognitive, Affective, and Behavioral Neuroscience, Current Psychology, Journal of Experimental Psychology: General, Journal of Neuroscience, NeuroImage, Science Advances, Scientific Reports, Social Cognitive and Affective Neuroscience, Social Neuroscience

**Ad Hoc Reviewing (Conferences)**

International Communication Association

Communication Science and Biology Division

Information Systems Division

Health Communication Division

Professional Development and Wellness Committee, Annenberg School, UPenn

2015-2016

**OUTREACH**

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**Baek, E.C.,** Hyon, R., Porter, M.A., & Parkinson, C. (in press). How do our brains support our friendships? *Frontiers for Young Minds*. \*\*Note: this article was written to introduce new scientific ideas to young audiences (pre-teens and teens).\*\*

Volunteer Research Consultant, Asian Mental Health Collective

2020-2021

Guest Speaker for AP Psychology Class, Lakeridge High School

April 2021

Guest Speaker for AP Psychology Class, Schroeder High School

September 2020

LA County Science & Engineering Fair, Special Awards Judge

March 2020

Presenter, Brain Awareness Week, UCLA Project Synapse (cancelled due to COVID-19) March 2020

**PROFESSIONAL AFFILIATIONS**

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International Communication Association (ICA)

Social and Affective Neuroscience Society (SANS)

Society for Personality and Social Psychology (SPSP)

Society for Neuroscience (SfN)

Society for Social Neuroscience (S4SN)

Society for Affective Science (SAS)

**SKILLS & ADDITIONAL TECHNICAL TRAINING**

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Data Sciences in the Social and Behavioral Sciences Workshop (Virtual)

2020

NeuroHackademy (Virtual)

2020

**Programs:** R, Python, fMRIPrep, Matlab

**Language Skills:** Korean (fluent)