

Julia M. Smith

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Department of Psychology and Neuroscience
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[OSF](#)
[Website](#)

Academic Appointments

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| <i>2024 - Present</i> | Duke University Postdoctoral Researcher Department of Psychology & Neuroscience |
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Education

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| <i>2018 - 2024</i> | University of Michigan , Ann Arbor, MI Ph.D., Social Psychology, May 3, 2024 Advisor: David Dunning Graduate Teacher Certificate, 2024 |
| <i>2016 - 2018</i> | The New School for Social Research , New York, NY M.A., Psychology Advisor: Jeremy Ginges |
| <i>2012 - 2015</i> | Wofford College , Spartanburg, SC Summa Cum Laude B.S., Psychology B.A., Intercultural Studies |

Publications

Click → to access the papers

Smith, J.M., Mohamadpour, H., Engelmann, J., Davis, H.E., Krieger, J., Sørensen, B., Koster, J., Heysieattalab, S., & Amir, D. (in press). No developmental differences in preferences for epistemic versus physical uncertainty across three diverse cultures. *Developmental Science*, 28(6). →

Smith, J.M., Davidai, S., & Gilovich, T. (2024). The privileges we do and do not see: The relative salience of interpersonal and circumstantial benefits. *Personality and Social Psychology Bulletin*, 51(11), 2217-2230. →

- Pasek, M.H., Kelly, J.M., Shackleford, C., White, C.J.M., Vishkin, A., **Smith, J.M.**, Norenzayan, A., Shariff, A., & Ginges, J. (2023). Thinking about God encourages prosociality towards religious outgroups: A cross-cultural investigation. *Psychological Science*, 34(6), 657-669. [↗](#)
- Smith, J.M.**, Pasek, M. H., Vishkin, A., Johnson, K. A., Shackleford, C., & Ginges, J. (2022). Thinking about God discourages dehumanization of religious outgroups. *Journal of Experimental Psychology: General*, 151(10), 2586-2603. [↗](#)
- Pasek, M.H., Shackelford, C., **Smith, J.M.**, Vishkin, A., Lehner, A, & Ginges, J. (2020). God values the lives of my outgroup more than I do: Evidence from Fiji and Israel. *Social Psychological and Personality Science*, 11(7), 1032-1041. [↗](#)

Preprints

Click → to access the papers

Smith, J.M. Decision Processes through Dungeons and Dragons. [↗](#)

Teaching

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|-------------------------|---|
| <i>Instructor</i> | Applied Research Methods <i>University of Michigan</i> |
| | Decision Processes through Dungeons and Dragons <i>University of Michigan</i> |
| <i>Graduate Student</i> | Psychology and Law |
| <i>Instructor</i> | <i>University of Michigan</i> Instructor of Record: David Dunning |
| | Decision Processes <i>University of Michigan</i> Instructor of Record: Audrey Michal |
| | Introduction to Social Psychology <i>University of Michigan</i> Instructors of Record: Josh Ackerman, Allison Earl |
| | Social Psychology <i>The New School for Social Research</i> Instructor of Record: Shai Davidai |
| | Developmental Psychology |

Mentorship

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| <i>Undergraduate Senior Theses</i> | University of Michigan Miri Kim <i>co-advised with David Dunning</i> Abigail Rieck |
| <i>Undergraduate Researchers</i> | Duke University Ruby Griggs, Mya Harris, Chisa Ihekwereme, Runzi Ma, Raouda Njimogna |
| | University of Michigan Sherry Chen, Molly Copley, Ava Gargiulo, Claire Goods, Abigail Rieck, Allison Sparpana, Marcos Torres, Kara Warnke, Cooper Wrona, Helen Yang, Kaitlyn Zhao |
| <i>International</i> | Frian Pearl Bañas, Jone Biaunikoro, Adiamah Israel, Vennyanna Israel, Seruwaia Ratu, Andrei Lawrence Rosales, Meli Vuilabasa |

Funding and Awards

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| 2023 | Undergraduate Research Opportunities Program Grant <i>University of Michigan</i> |
| 2022 | Rackham Dissertation Award <i>University of Michigan</i> |
| | Rackham Research Grant <i>University of Michigan</i> |
| 2020 | Rackham Research Grant <i>University of Michigan</i> |
| | Undergraduate Research Opportunities Program Grant <i>University of Michigan</i> |
| 2014 | James E. Seegars, Jr. Scholarship <i>Wofford College</i> |
| | Presidential Scholar Fund Research Grant <i>Wofford College</i> |

Select Conference Activity

† denotes trainee

Smith, J.M., Mohamadpour, H., Engelmann, J., Davis, H.E., Krieger, J., Sørensen, B., Koster, J., Haysieattalab, S., & Amir, D. (2025). A preference for epistemic over physical uncertainty across development: Evidence from three diverse cultures. Talk at the Biennial Meeting of the Society for Research in Child Development (SRCD).

Smith, J.M., Strohminger, N. & Amir, D. (2025). The Essential Moral Self Across Cultures. Poster at the Annual Meeting of the Society for Personality and Social Psychology (SPSP) Moral and Cultural Preconferences.

Smith, J.M. & Dunning, D. (2024). “If only” in America: Counterfactual thinking in response to politically relevant negative events. Flash talk at the Annual Meeting of the Society for Personality and Social Psychology (SPSP) Judgment and Decision Making Preconference.

Smith, J.M. (2023). Visible and invisible privileges: An interpersonal headwind/tailwind asymmetry. Poster session presented at the Annual Meeting of the Society for Personality and Social Psychology (SPSP).

Rieck, A.J.† & **Smith, J.M.** (2022). Political scripts in Twitter conversations about the COVID-19 pandemic. Virtual poster session presented at the Annual Meeting of the Society for Personality and Social Psychology (SPSP).

Smith, J.M. (2022). Thinking about God discourages dehumanization of religious outgroups. Invited talk at the Annual Meeting of the Society for Personality and Social Psychology (SPSP) Religion Preconference.

Smith, J.M., Black, J., & Ginges, J. (2017). Attributions of violent actions to individuals or communities. Poster session presented at the Annual Scientific Meeting of the International Society of Political Psychology (ISPP).

Invited Talks

- 2025 Duke University, Department of Psychology and Neuroscience Social and Developmental Colloquium, *Durham, NC*
University of North Carolina Greensboro, Department of Psychology Colloquium, *Greensboro, NC*
- 2023 University of Michigan Social Psychology Colloquium, *Ann Arbor, MI*
- 2019 University of Michigan, Introduction to Social Psychology Guest Lecture, *Ann Arbor, MI*

Select Media Coverage

“Count your blessings: It often happens when others help, not self-achieved.”
[Michigan News →](#)

“Study explores prosocial behavior within, between religious groups.” [Science Magazine →](#)

National Science Foundation awards research on religion and human conflict.
[Research Matters →](#)

“Religious believers think God values the lives of out-group members more than they do themselves.” [SPSP News →](#)

Academic and Community Service

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| 2025 | Mentor, <i>Duke University Cognitive Neuroscience Research Internship</i> |
| 2025 | Panel on Success in Graduate School, <i>University of Michigan</i> |
| 2023-2024 | Weekly Talks Committee, <i>University of Michigan</i> |
| 2022 | Departmental Associate, <i>University of Michigan</i> |
| 2019-2023 | Mentor, <i>University of Michigan Undergraduate Research Opportunities Program</i> |
| 2020-2021 | Mentor, <i>University of Michigan Research Scholars Program</i> |
| 2020 | Admissions Committee, <i>University of Michigan</i> |
| | Recruitment Area Representative, <i>University of Michigan</i> |

Professional Service and Membership

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| Ad-Hoc Reviewer | <i>Group Processes, Journal of Experimental Social Psychology, Personality and Social Psychology Bulletin</i> |
| Member | <i>Society for Personality and Social Psychology, Society for the Teaching of Psychology</i> |

