

# Julia M. Smith

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

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## Academic Appointments

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

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

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## Publications

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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*. →

**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., Shackelford, 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., Shackelford, 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. [➔](#)

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## Preprints

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Click [➔](#) to access the papers

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

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## Teaching

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*Instructor*

**Applied Research Methods**

*University of Michigan*

**Decision Processes through Dungeons and Dragons**

*University of Michigan*

*Graduate Student  
Instructor*

**Psychology and Law**

*University of Michigan*

Instructor of Record: David Dunning

**Decision Processes**

*University of Michigan*

Instructor of Record: Audrey Michal

**Introduction to Social Psychology**

*University of Michigan*

Instructors of Record: Josh Ackerman, Allison Earl

**Social Psychology**

*The New School for Social Research*

Instructor of Record: Shai Davidai

**Developmental Psychology**

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## Mentorship

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<i>Undergraduate Senior Theses</i>	<b>University of Michigan</b> Miri Kim <i>co-advised with David Dunning</i>  Abigail Rieck
<i>Undergraduate Researchers</i>	<b>Duke University</b> Ruby Griggs, Mya Harris, Chisa Ihekwereme, Runzi Ma, Raouda Njimogna  <b>University of Michigan</b> 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>	Friar Pearl Bañas, Jone Biaunikoro, Adiana Israel, Vennyanna Israel, Seruwaia Ratu, Andrei Lawrence Rosales, Meli Vuilabasa

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## 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>

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## Select Conference Activity

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† 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.**, Strohming, 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).

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## Invited Talks

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- 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*

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## Select Media Coverage

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“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 →](#)

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## 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>

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## 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>

