

KEREM OKTAR

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Education

Princeton University	2021 - Present
Ph.D. Candidate in Psychology	
Dissertation Title: <i>How Opinions Shape Beliefs</i>	
Princeton University	2019 - 2021
M.A in Psychology	
Pomona College	2015 - 2019
B.A. in Economics, Cognitive Science (<i>cum laude</i>)	

Awards

Best Poster Prize (out of ~90)	Society for Philosophy and Psychology, 2023
Marr Prize for Best Student Paper (out of ~700)	Cognitive Science Society, 2022
Graduate School Teaching Award (top ~2%)	Princeton University, 2022
Diversity and Inclusion Conference Award	Cognitive Science Society, 2021
Fletcher Jones Foundation Top Thesis Prize	Pomona College, 2019
Distinction in Linguistics and Cognitive Science	Pomona College, 2019
Pomona College Scholar (x6)	Pomona College, 2015 - 2019

Grants & Fellowships

Totaling > \$160,000

Diverse Pathways in Academia Scholar	NYU Stern School of Business, 2024
J. Frank Yates Travel Scholarship	Society for Judgment and Decision-Making, 2023
Rockefeller Graduate Prize Fellowship	Princeton Center for Human Values, 2023
Diverse Intelligences Institute Fellowship	Templeton World Charity Fund, 2023
Nationally Representative Sample Grant	Polarization Research Lab, 2022
Glushko & Samuelson Travel Grant	Cognitive Science Society, 2022
Cognitive Science Research Grant	Princeton University, 2022
Cognitive Science Fellowship	Princeton University, 2021
University Administrative Fellowship	Princeton University, 2020
Independent Summer Research Grant	Pomona College, 2018, 2019
Pulliam Memorial Scholarship	Pomona College, 2015

Publications

PEER-REVIEWED JOURNAL ARTICLES

* denotes joint first- or senior-authorship

16. **Oktar, K.**, Lerner, A., Malaviya, M., & Lombrozo, T. (2023). Philosophy instruction changes views on moral controversies by decreasing reliance on intuition. *Cognition*, 236, 105434. <https://doi.org/10.1016/j.cognition.2023.105434>
 - Altmetric Attention Score: 78 [Top 4%]
 - Best Poster Prize at SPP
15. **Oktar, K.** and Lombrozo, T. (2022). Deciding to be authentic: Intuition is favored over deliberation when authenticity matters. *Cognition*, 223, 105021. <https://doi.org/10.1016/j.cognition.2022.105021>
 - Altmetric Attention Score: 77 [Top 3%]
 - Coverage on [Psychology Today](#)
14. **Oktar, K.**, Laura, Z., & Leticia, S. (2019). Impact of Increasing Levels of Difficulty on the Generation Effect. *Koc University Undergraduate Psychology Journal*, 4(18), 12-17. [\[Link\]](#)

JOURNAL ARTICLES—OPINION PIECES & OTHER

13. **Oktar, K.** (2023). Psychology Remains Marginally Valid. *Nature Reviews Psychology*.

JOURNAL ARTICLES—UNDER REVIEW

12. **Oktar, K.**, Lombrozo, T.*, & Griffiths, T.* Learning from Aggregated Opinion. (*R&R at Psychological Science*).
11. **Oktar, K.** and Lombrozo, T. How Beliefs Persist Amid Controversy: The Paths to Persistence Model. (*R&R at Psychological Review*).
10. **Oktar, K.**, Sucholutsky, I., Lombrozo, T., & Griffiths, T. Dimensions of Disagreement: Unpacking Divergence and Misalignment in Cognitive Science and Artificial Intelligence (*R&R at Decision*).
9. Gottlieb-Cohen, S.*, **Oktar, K.***, & Lombrozo, T. Deciding when we cannot know: First-person priority in transformative choice. (*R&R at Open-mind*).

JOURNAL ARTICLES—PRE-PRINTS

8. Sucholutsky, I., Muttenthaler, L., ..., **Oktar, K.**, ..., Lampinen, A., Müller, K., Toneva, M., & Griffiths, T. L. (2023). Getting aligned on representational alignment. *arXiv preprint* [arXiv:2310.13018](https://arxiv.org/abs/2310.13018)

PEER-REVIEWED CONFERENCE PROCEEDINGS

7. **Oktar, K.** and Lombrozo, T., (2022). Mechanisms of Belief Persistence in the Face of Societal Disagreement. Proceedings of the 44th Annual Conference of the Cognitive Science Society, *Cognitive Science Society*. [\[Link\]](#)
6. Malaviya, M., Sucholutsky, I., **Oktar, K.**, and Griffiths, T. (2022). Can Humans Do Less-Than-One-Shot Learning? Proceedings of the 44th Annual Conference of the Cognitive Science Society, *Cognitive Science Society*. [\[Link\]](#)
5. **Oktar, K.** and Lombrozo, T., (2021). Deciding to be Authentic: Intuition is Favored Over Deliberation for Self-Reflective Decisions. Proceedings of the 43rd Annual Conference of the Cognitive Science Society, *Cognitive Science Society*. [\[Link\]](#)
4. **Oktar, K.** and Lombrozo, T., (2020). You Should Really Think This Through: Cross-Domain Variation in Preferences for Intuition and Deliberation. Proceedings of the 42nd Annual Conference of the Cognitive Science Society, *Cognitive Science Society*. [\[Link\]](#)

JOURNAL ARTICLES—IN PREP

3. **Oktar, K.** and Lombrozo, T. How Beliefs Persist When Millions Disagree. (*Manuscript in Prep; Available Upon Request*).
2. **Oktar, K.** & Lombrozo, T. How Aggregated Opinions Shape Beliefs. (*Manuscript in Prep; Available Upon Request*).
1. **Oktar, K.**, Lombrozo, T. Ideological Differences in Belief Persistence. (*Manuscript in Prep; Available Upon Request*).

Presentations

INVITED TALKS

Organized by project; [†] indicates forthcoming talk.

How Beliefs Persist When Millions Disagree

- UC San Diego: Rossano Lab[†] Spring 2023
- Harvard University: Cushman/Greene Joint Lab Fall 2023
- Harvard Kennedy School: Minson Conflict and Collaboration Lab Spring 2022
- University College London: Judgment and Decision Making Seminar Fall 2022
- Princeton University: Crockett Lab Meeting Fall 2022
- Princeton University (SPIA): Kahneman-Treisman Center Spring 2021

Learning from Aggregated Opinion

- MIT: Rand/Bhui Joint Lab[†] Spring 2023
- New York University: ConCats Talk Series[†] Spring 2023
- Princeton University: Vélez Lab Fall 2023

Can Morality be Taught?

- Bogazici University: Department of Psychology Colloquium (Turkey) Summer 2023
- Princeton University: Crockett Lab Spring 2022

Deciding to be Authentic

- Pomona College: Cognitive Science Colloquium Spring 2020

CONFERENCE TALKS

Fall 2023. Learning from Aggregated Opinion. Talk at the Annual Meeting of the Society for Judgment and Decision Making, San Francisco, CA.

Summer 2023. Learning from Aggregated Opinion. Virtual Symposium talk: 45th Annual Conference of the Cognitive Science Society, Sydney, Australia.

Summer 2022. Mechanisms of Belief Persistence in the Face of Societal Disagreement. Conference talk: 44th Annual Conference of the Cognitive Science Society, Toronto, Canada.

Summer 2021. Deciding to be Authentic: Intuition is Favored Over Deliberation for Self-Reflective Decisions. Virtual conference talk: 43rd Annual Conference of the Cognitive Science Society, Vienna, Austria.

CONFERENCE POSTER PRESENTATIONS

Oktar, K.*, Sumers, T.R., & Griffiths, T. L. (2023, November). Trust and Doubt: A Rational Model of Epistemic Vigilance Explains How Inferred Motivations Moderate Inferences. Presentation at the MIT Conference on Directions of Polarization, Social Norms, and Trust in Societies: Perspectives from behavioral sciences.

Oktar, K., Lerner, A., Malaviya, M., & Lombrozo, T. (2023, June). Philosophy instruction changes views on moral controversies by decreasing reliance on intuition. Presentation at the 49th Annual Meeting of the Society for Philosophy and Psychology.

Oktar, K. and Lombrozo, T. (2021, June). Intuition is Favored Over Deliberation When Authenticity Matters. Virtual presentation at the 47th Annual Meeting of the Society for Philosophy and Psychology.

Oktar, K. and Lombrozo, T. (2021, June). Intuition is Favored Over Deliberation When Authenticity Matters. Virtual presentation at the 47th Annual Meeting of the Society for Philosophy and Psychology.

Oktar, K. and Lombrozo, T. (2020, July). You Should Really Think This Through: Cross-Domain Variation in Preferences for Intuition and Deliberation. Virtual presentation at the 42nd Annual Meeting of the Cognitive Science Society.

Oktar, K. and Sher, S. (2019, September). Investigating the Affective Reactions Elicited Through Inconsistency Processing. Presentation at the Pomona College Linguistics

and Cognitive Science Thesis Conference in Claremont, CA.

Oktar, K. (2018, September). Investigating the Affective Reactions Elicited Through Inconsistency Processing. Presentation at the Pomona College Stover Walk Research Conference in Claremont, CA.

Oktar, K. (2017, September). Investigating the Neural Basis of Age Related Deficits in Word Retrieval. Presentation at the Pomona College Stover Walk Research Conference in Claremont, CA.

Gertel, V., **Oktar, K.**, & Diaz, M. (2017, November). Graph Theoretical Approaches Show a Relationship Between Resting State Functional Connectivity in Younger and Older Adults and Phonological Aspects of Language Production. Presentation at the meeting of the Society for the Neurobiology of Language, Baltimore, MD.

Winter, S.B., Rizio, A.A., Dempsey, J., **Oktar, K.**, Diaz, M.T. (2017, November). White Matter Integrity and Language Production in Aging. Presentation at the meeting of the Society for the Neurobiology of Language, Baltimore, MD.

Teaching

Instructor	Psychology of Justice, Edna Mahan Women's Prison, 2024
Teaching Assistant	Developmental Psychology, Princeton University, 2022
	Cognitive Psychology, Princeton University, 2021
	Cognitive Psychology, Princeton University, 2020
	Thought and Cognition, Pomona College, 2018
	Lit., Film, and Cognitive Science, Pomona College, 2017

Leadership, Diversity, & Service

LEADERSHIP

Mentor	Project SHORT, 2022 - Present
Ambassador	Center for Open Science, 2022
First Year President	Associated Students of Pomona College, 2015

DIVERSITY, EQUITY, & INCLUSION

Syllabus Committee Member	Princeton Prison Teaching Initiative, 2023 - Present
President	Princeton Graduate Turkish Students Association, 2021 - Present
Conference Assistant	Anti-racist Research Methods Conference at Princeton, 2021
Mentor	Pomona International Student Mentorship Program, 2016

INSTITUTIONAL SERVICE

Prospective Student Interview Committee	Princeton University, 2022
Student Pool Administrator & IRB Reviewer	Princeton University, 2019 - 2021
Student Liaison	Pomona Cognitive Science Department, 2018
Faculty Search Panel Member	Pomona Cognitive Science Department, 2018

AD HOC REVIEWER

Journals

Psychological Science
 Journal of Experimental Psychology: General
 Cognition
 Decision
 Scientific Reports
 International Journal of Psychology

Conferences

The Annual Meeting of the Cognitive Science Society
 NeurIPS Workshop on Human and Machine Decision-making
 The ACM Annual Designing Interactive Systems (DIS) Conference

PROFESSIONAL MEMBERSHIPS

Cognitive Science Society
 Society for Judgment and Decision-Making
 Society for Philosophy and Psychology
 The Society for Personality and Social Psychology

MENTORSHIP

Brackets indicate discipline of advised research.

Graduate—Research

Branson Byers [Psychology]	Princeton University, 2023 - Present
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Undergraduate Research Mentees

Sungho (Sam) Park [Philosophy]	Princeton University, 2023 - Present
Joshua Schoenberg [Cognitive Science]	Princeton University, 2022 - Present

Graduate—Application Support (Project SHORT)

Dung (Derrick) Nguyen [Behavioral Economics]	Vietnam, 2023
Shivam Puri [Cognitive Neuroscience]	India, 2023

Professional Experience

Team Lead	StratejiCo. Literature Review and survey design on motivation, 2019
Research Assistant	Dr. Jack Abecassis. Syllabus and lecture design, 2016 - 2019

Analyst Intern	Promontory & IBM. Research on ML for anti-money laundering, 2018
Research Assistant	Dr. Michele Diaz. fMRI & DTI processing and analysis, 2017