

KEREM OKTAR

Department of Psychology, Princeton University

oktar@princeton.edu | +1 (609) 375-4325 | oktar.princeton.edu

Education

Ph.D. Candidate, Psychology	2019 - Present
Princeton University	Princeton, NJ
M.A. in Psychology Received Fall 2021	
Advisors: Tania Lombrozo & Tom Griffiths	
B.A., Economics, Cognitive Science (<i>cum laude</i>)	2015 - 2019
Pomona College	Claremont, CA
Advisors: Shlomi Sher & Michael Steinberger	

Awards

Best Poster Prize	Society for Philosophy and Psychology, 2023
Marr Prize for Best Student Paper	Cognitive Science Society, 2022
Graduate School Teaching Award	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
Pulliam Memorial Scholarship	Pomona College, 2015

Grants & Fellowships

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

Publications

JOURNAL ARTICLES—PUBLISHED & IN PRESS

* denotes joint first-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>
 - 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>
 - Among Top 10 Most Downloaded Articles on Cognition, Mar-May 2022
 - 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—INVITED & FORTHCOMING

13. **Oktar, K.** (2023). Why Psychology Remains Marginally Valid. (*Forthcoming at Nature Reviews Psychology*).
12. **Oktar, K.** & Lombrozo, T. (2023). How Aggregated Opinions Shape Beliefs. (*Invited at Nature Reviews Psychology*).

JOURNAL ARTICLES—UNDER REVIEW

11. **Oktar, K.**, Lombrozo, T., & Griffiths, T. (2022). Learning from Aggregated Opinion. (*R&R at Psychological Science*).
10. **Oktar, K.** and Lombrozo, T. (2023). How Beliefs Persist Amid Controversy: The Paths to Persistence Model. (*R&R at Psychological Review*).
9. **Oktar, K.**, Sucholutsky, I., Lombrozo, T., & Griffiths, T. (2022). Dimensions of Disagreement: Unpacking Divergence and Misalignment in Cognitive Science and Artificial Intelligence (*R&R at Decision*).
8. Gottlieb-Cohen, S.*, **Oktar, K.***, & Lombrozo, T. (2022). Deciding when we cannot know: First-person priority in transformative choice. (*R&R at Open-mind*).

JOURNAL ARTICLES—PRE-PRINTS

7. 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)

JOURNAL ARTICLES—IN PREP

6. **Oktar, K.** and Lombrozo, T. (2023). How Beliefs Persist When Millions Disagree. (*Manuscript in Prep; Available Upon Request*).
5. **Oktar, K.**, Lombrozo, T. (2023). Political Differences in Belief Persistence. (*Manuscript in Prep; Available Upon Request*).

CONFERENCE PROCEEDINGS

4. **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*. [\[Link\]](#)
3. 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*. [\[Link\]](#)
2. **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*. [\[Link\]](#)
1. **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*. [\[Link\]](#)

Presentations

INVITED EXTERNAL TALKS

- Fall 2024. How Beliefs Persist When Millions Disagree. Cushman/Greene/Cikara Joint Lab Meeting. Harvard University Department of Psychology.
- Summer 2023. Can Morality be Taught? Bogazici University Department of Psychology Colloquium, Turkey.
- Spring 2023. How Beliefs Persist When Millions Disagree. Minson Conflict and Collaboration Lab, Harvard Kennedy School for Government.
- Fall 2023. How Beliefs Persist When Millions Disagree. University College London Judgment and Decision Making Seminar, London, U.K. (Virtual Talk)
- Spring 2019. You Should Really Think This Through: Cross-Domain Variation in Preferences for Intuition and Deliberation. Pomona College Cognitive Science Department.

INVITED INTERNAL TALKS

- Fall 2024. Learning from Aggregated Opinion. Vélez Lab Meeting, Princeton University Department of Psychology.

Spring 2023. How Beliefs Persist When Millions Disagree. Kahneman-Treisman Center, Princeton University School for International and Public Affairs.

Spring 2023. Can Morality be Taught? Crockett Lab Meeting, Princeton University Department of Psychology.

Fall 2023. How Beliefs Persist When Millions Disagree. Crockett Lab Meeting, Princeton University Department of Psychology.

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

Summer 2023. 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
Teaching Assistant	Cognitive Psychology, Princeton University, 2020, 2021
Grader	Introduction to Cognitive Science, Pomona College, 2019
Teaching Assistant	Thought and Cognition, Pomona College, 2018
Grader	Macroeconomic Theory, Pomona College, 2017
Teaching Assistant	Lit., Film, and Cognitive Science, Pomona College, 2017

Leadership, Diversity, & Service

LEADERSHIP

Ambassador	Center for Open Science, 2022 - Present
Mentor	Project SHORT, 2022 - Present
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

Graduate—Research

Branson Byers

Princeton University, 2023 - Present

Undergraduate Research Mentees

Sungho (Sam) Park

Princeton University, 2023 - Present

Joshua Schoenberg

Princeton University, 2022 - Present

Graduate—Application Support (Project SHORT)

Derrick Nguyen

Vietnam, 2023

Shivam Puri

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