

Ryan Bruno

ryan.bruno@marshall.usc.edu

Research Interests

Judgments and decision-making, moral psychology, and divisive beliefs

Education

PhD Student, Marketing | University of Southern California | 2025

Bachelor of Science, Neuroscience | DePaul University | 2017
Cum Laude

Associate of Science | SUNY Adirondack | 2015
Magna Cum Laude

Selected Works Under Review

Wallace, L.E., Bruno, R., Kim, Y., Levine, E.E. (under review). *Perpetuating disadvantage and distrust: When leaders avoid victims due to concerns about distrust*

Works in Progress

Bruno, R., Silver, I., The Preference for Equal Coverage versus Proportional Coverage of News Media. Stage: Data Collection in Progress

Bruno, R., Kazarovytska, F., Levine, E.E. Proportion Dominance in *Subjective Harm Perceptions*. Stage: data collection in progress.

Bruno, R., Kazarovytska, F., Levine, E.E. *Subjective Harm Perceptions in Advantaged vs. Disadvantaged Groups*. Stage: data collection in progress.

Lee, J., Bruno, R., Wallace, L.E., Levine, E.E. *Similarity in Leader Identities Exacerbates Effect of Historical Distrust in Victims*. Stage: data collection in progress.

Medvedev, D., Bruno, R., Tong, R., Wei, L., Talhelm, T. *Monetary and Psychological Incentives across Cultures*. Stage: data collection in progress.

Roberts, R., Bruno, R., Risen, J.L. *Conspiracy Intuitions as a Pathway Toward Conspiracy Beliefs*. Stage: data collection in progress.

Grieco-Calub, T., Bruno, R. *Visual Speech Cues Facilitate Incremental Processing in School-Aged Children* Stage: data collection finished.

Conference Talks

SJDM 2025

Bruno, R., Silver, I., Levine, E.E., *Proportion Dominance in Perceptions of Harm*

Conference Posters

SPSP 2026

Bruno, R., Silver, I., Levine, E.E., *Proportion Dominance in Perceptions of Harm*.

Bruno, R., White, R.J., *The Impact of Early Job Experiences on Later Life Experiences*.

Bruno, R., Kazarovytska, F., Levine, E.E. Proportion Dominance in *Subjective Harm Perceptions*.

MPA 2024

Bruno, R., Fionalita, M., Larocco, S., Yang, Z., White, R. (2024). *Mood regulation in anticipation of decision-making*.

Ge, B., Bruno, R., Liu, Y, Nguyen, V., White, R. (2024). *The Association Between Explanations Types and Meaning in Life*.

American Auditory Society 2021

Grieco-Calub, T., Bruno, R. (2021). *Visual Speech Cues Facilitate Incremental Processing of Acoustically Degraded Speech*

Relevant Research Experience

University of Chicago – The Center for Decision Research

Research Professional for Professors Emma Levine and Jane Risen | Chicago, IL | 2023-Present

- Lead research projects on moral psychology, including studies on perceived harm in advantaged vs. disadvantaged groups, and the long-term effects of giving time vs. money.
- Designed experiments and co-authored manuscripts on how factors like anticipated distrust and conspiracy intuitions.
- Collaborated with interdisciplinary teams to analyze large datasets including cross-cultural data, providing new insights into moral reasoning and group dynamics.
- Managed project timelines, data collection, and facilitated academic presentations and publications.
- Generate data reports, automated data formatting, cleaning, and analyses for the Seeds of Peace project, including data interpretations and outlining future directions.

Lab Manager, Mindworks | Chicago, IL | July 2022 – August 2023

- Initiated the RA Research Project, leading a team of RAs to explore research questions based on our shared interests: "How do different types of explanations affect the appraisal of tragic life events?" and "To what extent do people believe their transient emotions impact their decision-making, and do they regulate their mood accordingly before making important decisions?" We presented our findings at the 2024 MPA conference.

- Gained experience with diverse methodologies including but not limited to: online and lab experiments, eye-tracking, virtual reality, field studies
- Analyzed operational data (visitor feedback, social media, data quality) to improve lab operations.
- Led a team of 10-15 research assistants, conducting hundreds of in-person study sessions weekly.
- Collaborated with researchers to onboard their studies at Mindworks and provided feedback on experimental design.

Research Assistant, Mindworks | Chicago, IL | Mar 2022 – Jul 2022

- Conducted faculty and postdoctoral research involving human participants.
- Assisted with recruitment, data collection, and informed consent.
- Demonstrated expertise in behavioral science research to visitors.

Rush Neurobehavioral Center | Chicago, IL

Research Assistant | Jun 2021 – Jul 2022

- Led the *Visual Speech* study and contributed to other projects such as *Word Learning in Noise*, *Literacy and Development*, and *Mother-Child Interactions*.
- Administered cognitive and linguistic assessments to child participants.
- Created stimuli using Premiere Pro and Praat, and coded experiments using Cognition.run and PsychoPy.
- Conducted data collection and analysis, IRB documentation, poster design, and manuscript writing.

Australian Catholic University | Sydney, AU

Research Assistant | Feb 2019 – Jun 2019

- Studied how body fat percentage affects food perception and how visual cues influence emotional processing.
- Conducted data collection, survey coding, and data entry.

Skills

Research Skills: Quantitative design, Qualitative design, Vignette writing, Mixed-Methods, Audio Transcription, REDCap, TOBII eye-tracking, EMG data processing

Software: Microsoft Office, Google Suite, Adobe Suite, Github, PsychoPy, Zotero, Mendeley, Qualtrics, CloudResearch, MechanicalTurk, Prolific, Clickworker, Microworkers, Toloka, Praat, RefWorks, Cognition.run, SPSS

Programming: R, Basic JavaScript, jsPsych

Languages: English (Advanced), Spanish (Limited Working Proficiency)

References

Emma Levine

Faculty | Chicago Booth School of Business

Email: Emma.Levine@chicagobooth.edu | Phone: (630) 204-9346

Rebecca White

Labs Director / Adjunct Faculty | Roman Family Center for Decision Research

Email: Rebecca.White@chicagobooth.edu | Phone: (630) 204-9346

Jane Risen

Faculty | Chicago Booth School of Business

Email: Jane.Risen@chicagobooth.edu | Phone: (630) 204-9346

Laura Wallace

Post-Doc | Chicago Booth School of Business

Email: Laura.Wallace@chicagobooth.edu

Tina Grieco-Calub

Researcher | Rush Neurobehavioral Center

Email: Tina_GriecoCalub@rush.edu | Phone: (773) 732-0945

Jasmine Kwong

Mindworks Director | Behavioral Science Discovery Center

Email: Jasmine.Kwong@chicagobooth.edu | Phone: (773) 225-9388