

# Steve Rathje

## Curriculum Vitae

### Contact

University of Cambridge  
Department of Psychology  
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### Education

- 2018-present **University of Cambridge (Trinity College)**  
PhD student in Psychology  
Supervisor: Sander van der Linden  
Gates Cambridge Scholar  
Louis and Valerie Freedman Studentship for the Medical Sciences
- 2014-2018 **Stanford University (4.07 GPA)**  
BA in Psychology (with Honors and Distinction)  
Minor in Symbolic Systems  
Junior Phi Beta Kappa  
J.E. Wallace Sterling Award for Scholastic Achievement

### Awards and Grants

- 2021 **Psychology of Technology Institute Dissertation Award (\$1,000)**  
Annual award for best dissertation on the psychology of technology.
- 2021 **Synergy Scholar - Center for the Science of Moral Understanding (\$50,000)**  
Post-doctoral salary and research expenses.
- 2021 **Alliance for Decision Education Grant (\$110,000)**  
Post-doctoral salary and research expenses.
- 2018 **Gates Cambridge Scholarship (Full PhD Funding)**  
Full scholarship to Cambridge awarded by the Bill and Melinda Gates Foundation.
- 2018 **Louis and Valerie Freedman Studentship (Full PhD Funding)**  
Full scholarship awarded to one member of Trinity College, Cambridge.
- 2018 **J.E. Wallace Sterling Award for Scholastic Achievement**  
Awarded to top 25 graduating seniors at Stanford University.

- 2017      **Phi Beta Kappa (Elected as a Junior)**  
Awarded to top 2% of Stanford students.
- 2015      **President's Award for Academic Excellence**  
Awarded to top 5% of Stanford's freshman class.
- 2019      **Psychology Department Field Work Funding (\$6,000)**  
Awarded to study as a visiting researcher at NYU with Jay Van Bavel.
- 2019      **1<sup>st</sup> Place, Hooper Declamation Prize (£450)**  
First Prize in Trinity College speaking competition.
- 2020      **Bushwick Star Pet Project Grant (\$500)**  
Grant to support playwriting projects.
- 2018      **People's Choice Award, California Cognitive Science Conference**  
Awarded for poster "How the subtle use of metaphorical framing shapes mindsets"
- 2017      **Oregon New Play Prize (\$10,000 Award)**  
Selected out of 150 scripts to receive commission for development of new play.
- 2017      **Ozy Genius Award (\$10,000 Award)**  
Grant awarded to develop free playwriting festival in Portland, OR.
- 2016      **Strauss Public Service Scholarship (\$10,000 Award)**  
Grant awarded to develop free playwriting festival in Portland, OR.
- 2017      **Undergraduate Advising and Research Grant (\$7,000 Award)**  
Funding for undergraduate honors research.
- 2016      **Chappell-Lougee Scholarship (\$6,400 Award)**  
Funding to write a play based on psychology research.
- 2016      **Finalist, Eugene O'Neill Playwriting Competition**  
Selected out of more than 1,500 scripts.
- 2014      **Winner, Psychology One Scholar Award**  
Awarded to top 3% of Psychology One students at Stanford.

## **Publications**

Rathje, S, Van Bavel, J & van der Linden, S (2020) Outgroup animosity drives engagement on social media. (Minor revisions at *Proceedings of the National Academy of Sciences*).

Rathje, S, Hackel, L, Zaki, J (2021). Attending live theatre improves empathy, changes attitudes, and leads to pro-social behavior. *Journal of Experimental Social Psychology*.

Van Bavel, J. J., Harris, E. A., Pärnamets, P., Rathje, S., Doell, K., & Tucker, J. A. (2021). Political psychology in the digital (mis)information age. *Social Issues and Policy Review*.

Van der Linden, S., Roozenbeek, J., Basol, M., Kacha, O., Martins, R., Rathje, S., Traberg, C (2021, in press). The Psychology of Fake News: A New Field and Research Agenda. *Spanish Journal of Social Psychology*.

Fong, A., Roozenbeek, J., Goldwert, D., Rathje, S., & van der Linden, S. (2021, in press). The language of conspiracy: A psychological analysis of speech used by conspiracy theorists and their followers on Twitter. *Group Processes and Intergroup Relations*.

Van Bavel, J., & Boggio, P. (2020). National identity predicts public health support during a global pandemic (Under review at *Nature Communications*).

Rathje, S., Shariff, A., & Schnall, S. (2020). Ideology Trumps Self-Interest: Continued Support for a Political Leader Despite Disappointing Tax Returns (Revise and resubmit at *Journal of Elections, Public Opinion, and Parties*).

### **Projects: In-Progress**

Rathje, S & van der Linden, S (*Data collection and analysis*). Accuracy and social incentives shape belief in (mis)information.

Rathje, S, Van Bavel, J, van der Linden, S (*In progress*). Have I shared fake news? A feedback-based intervention for reducing the spread of misinformation.

Rathje, S, Van Bavel, J & van der Linden, S (*In progress*). Social media monitor: A browser extension intervention to improve online behavior and well-being.

### **Talks**

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| 2021 | <b>How Theatre Teaches Empathy</b><br>Public conversation (via Zoom) with Hamilton star Phillipa Soo about research on theatre and empathy.                          |
| 2019 | <b>Arts and Pro-Social Research Group, University of Kent</b><br>Presented original research on link between theatre and pro-social behavior.                        |
| 2019 | <b>Gates Day of Research, University of Cambridge</b><br>Presented original research in talk called “Can art change minds?”  |
| 2019 | <b>Hooper Declamation Prize, Trinity College Cambridge</b><br>Presented original research on art and pro-social behavior.<br>*Winner, Best Speaker Award, £450 Prize |

## Conference Presentations

- 2021      **Association for Psychological Science**  
Flash Talk: Rathje, S, Van Bavel, J & van der Linden, S. Accuracy and Social Motivations Shape Perceptions of (Mis)Information.
- 2021      **Society for Personality and Social Psychology**  
Single Presenter Panel: Rathje, S, Van Bavel, J & van der Linden, S. Outgroup animosity drives engagement on social media.
- 2021\*      **European Association for Social Psychology (EASP) General Meeting\***  
Co-Chaired Symposium with Simone Schnall: The Politics of Our Times: What Makes People Vote for Trump or the AfD Party?  
\*Delayed to 2021 due to COVID-19 pandemic.
- 2020      **Association for Psychological Science (APS) Annual Convention**  
Poster Presentation: Rathje, S, Hackel, L, Zaki, J. Seeing theatre improves empathy, changes attitudes, and leads to pro-social behavior.
- 2018      **Association for Psychological Science (APS) Annual Convention**  
Poster Rathje, S, Santoro, E, Dweck, C, Crum, A. How the subtle use of metaphorical language shapes our mindsets.
- 2018      **California Cognitive Science Conference**  
Rathje, S, Santoro, E, Dweck, C, Crum, A. How the subtle use of metaphorical language shapes our mindsets.  
\*Winner of the “Best Poster” People’s Choice Award

## Teaching Experience

- 2020-2021      **Supervisor, Applied Behavioral Insights**  
Teaching Assistant (Supervisor) for Cambridge Undergraduate Course  
Taught by Lee De-Wit
- 2017-2018      **Psychology One Teaching Fellow**  
Department of Psychology, Stanford University  
Taught by James Gross (Fall Semester) and Jamil Zaki (Spring Semester)
- 2015-2017      **Oral Communication Tutor**  
Hume Center for Writing and Speaking, Stanford University.
- 2016      **Stanford Splash**  
Taught a seminar for high school students on Social Psychology.

## Research Experience

- 2019-Present **Member, Cambridge Social Decision-Making Lab**  
PI: Dr. Sander van der Linden
- 2020-2022 **Visiting Researcher, Social Identity and Morality Lab**  
PI: Dr. Jay Van Bavel, NYU
- 2014-2018 **Research Assistant, Mind & Body Lab**  
PI: Dr. Alia Crum, Stanford University

### **Volunteer & Work Experience**

- 2014-Present **Proscenium Live Playwriting Festival**  
Founded an annual free playwriting festival in Portland, OR that has brought in 1000s of audience members to see dozens of plays performed by local actors.
- 2015-2018 **Peer Counselor, Stanford Peer Counseling Center**
- 2016-2017 **Resident Assistant, Stanford University**
- 2015-2017 **Editor & Chief Theatre Critic, Stanford Daily**

### **Science Communication**

- 2018-Present **Contributor at Psychology Today**  
Contributor for blog "Words Matter."

The power of framing: it's not what you say, it's how you say it (2017). *The Guardian*.  
 Metaphors can change our opinions in ways we don't even realize (2018). *Quartz*.  
 Will the Coronavirus Bring Us Together or Pull Us Apart? (2020). *Psychology Today*.  
 Why People Ignore Facts (2018). *Psychology Today*.  
 You Know Less Than You Think (2019). *Psychology Today*.  
 How to Get More People to Vote (2018). *Psychology Today*.  
 Do We Need a Common Enemy? (2018). *Psychology Today*.  
 The Danger of Searching for One True Cause (2019). *Psychology Today*.  
 When Correcting a Lie, Don't Repeat It. Do This Instead (2018). *Psychology Today*.  
 Can Art Change Minds? (2019). *Gates Scholars Magazine*.  
 Steve Rathje on Identity and Reason (2019). *Know Thyself History Podcast*.  
 Lab Lockdown #3: Steve Rathje (2020). *Cognitive Revolution Podcast*.

### **Ad-Hoc Reviewer**

Journal of Personality  
Palgrave MacMillon

### **Skills**

**Programming Languages:** R (Advanced), Java, JavaScript, HTML, CSS, Python, Java, C++

**Research and Coding Skills:** Social Media Data Analysis (Facebook, Twitter, and TikTok Data), Experimental Design (Survey & Field Experiments, Qualtrics, Prolific Academic, MTurk), Statistical Analysis, Web & Chrome Extension Development, Database management (SQL and MongoDB).

**Communication & Writing:** Writing (Academic, Popular Science, Creative Writing, Playwriting), Public Speaking, Teaching, Editing, Project and Team Management, Peer Counseling (QPR Suicide Protocol Training certified).

### **Professional Memberships**

Member, Society for Personality and Social Psychology (SPSP)

Member, Association for Psychological Science (APS)