**Accurate and individualized social prediction**

Our routine social lives are flush with information and demands. It’s simply not enough to passively react to the sights and sounds other people provide us. Social savviness requires that we anticipate others’ thoughts, feelings, and actions. To do so, we need to understand how people think and behave in general, as well as how a specific partner might deviate from such patterns. My research investigates whether people can apply, refine, draw from, extrapolate from their general social knowledge to accurately predict the behavior of specific individuals, as well as the consequences of accuracy and inaccuracy.

**Knowledge structures for quick social induction**

Despite wide variation across individuals, people typically learn to accurately tailor their predictions of how a regular/well-known/familiar partner’s thoughts and feelings might change over time. More intriguingly, people also individuate their social predictions even for those with whom they only have very limited experiences. I combine probabilistic modeling and behavioral experiments to understand (if and?) how structured mental representations might reflect statistical structures of the social world, seeking avenues by which we may rapidly extrapolate information about novel partners through inductive inference.

**Social malleability of self-knowledge**

Memory, and by extension, self-knowledge, is notoriously pliable. When memories are recalled, they become subject to alteration beyond our awareness. Social reasoning itself can also be inflected in the moment– we evoke what we know about ourselves, and in the process renders it malleable to social influences. In several collaborative projects, I’ve investigated how our self-knowledge might be sculpted when we interact with, or even just think about, other people.   
  
With [Meghan Meyer](https://pbs.dartmouth.edu/people/meghan-l-meyer), [Sasha Brietzke](https://www.linkedin.com/in/sasha-brietzke-50600464/), and [Jordan Rubin-McGregor](https://www.linkedin.com/in/jordan-rubin-mcgregor-31614bb9/), I’ve shown that reasoning about others can change both our episodic and semantic self-knowledge to be more similar to those of the target. These changes can be extensive and durable/long-lasting. Using fMRI and multivariate analyses, I investigated the neural underpinning of this phenomenon.   
  
With [Madalina Vlasceanu](https://scholar.princeton.edu/madalinavlasceanu/home) and [Elizabeth McDevitt](https://scholar.google.com/citations?user=WjEyDoIAAAAJ&hl=en), I examined how memory might be shaped by conversation. When we converse, we base our anticipations of our partner’s utterances on our own experiences. When our partner violates our expectations, it can actually weaken our pre-existing memories. Using fMRI, I explored the complex interface between memory reinstatement, prediction error, and partner characteristics which shape our memory through social interactions.