

KEREM OKTAR

Department of Psychology, Princeton University

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Education

Princeton University	2021 - Present
Ph.D. Candidate in Psychology	
Advisors: Tania Lombrozo & Tom Griffiths	
Dissertation: <i>Cognitive, Social, and Computational Principles of Disagreement</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	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	Pomona College, 2015 - 2019

Grants & Fellowships

Rockefeller Graduate Prize Fellowship	Princeton Center for Human Values, 2023
Title: <i>A Study of Individual Belief Amid Controversy</i>	
Award: \$110,000 (PI)	
Cognitive Science Research Grant	Princeton University, 2022
Title: <i>Computational Modeling of Belief Persistence</i>	
Award: \$3,000 (Co-PI)	
Partisan Animosity Survey Time Grant	Polarization Research Lab, 2022
Title: <i>Political Differences in Belief Persistence</i>	
Award: <i>Representative Sample Grant for 2,000 Participants (Co-PI)</i>	

Travel Grants

NYU Stern Diverse Pathways Program (2024); Society for Judgment and Decision-Making (2023); Diverse Intelligences Summer Institute (2023); Cognitive Science Society (2022)

Publications

PEER-REVIEWED JOURNAL ARTICLES

* denotes joint first- or senior-authorship

1. **Oktar, K.**, Lombrozo, T.*, & Griffiths, T.* (2024). Learning from Aggregated Opinion. (*Accepted at Psychological Science*)
2. **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>
3. **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>
4. **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. [\[Link\]](#)

PEER-REVIEWED CONFERENCE PROCEEDINGS

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

INVITED COMMENTARY

1. **Oktar, K.** (2024). Psychology Remains Marginally Valid. *Nature Reviews Psychology*. <https://doi.org/10.1038/s44159-024-00281-5>

Manuscripts in Progress

PRE-PRINTS

1. 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)

MANUSCRIPTS UNDER REVIEW

1. **Oktar, K.** and Lombrozo, T. How Beliefs Persist Amid Controversy: The Paths to Persistence Model. (*R&R at Psychological Review*)
2. **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*).
3. Gottlieb-Cohen, S.*, **Oktar, K.***, & Lombrozo, T. Deciding when we cannot know: First-person priority in transformative choice. (*R&R at Open-mind*).

Presentations

INVITED TALKS

How Beliefs Persist When Millions Disagree

- UC Berkeley (PI: Ayduk & Mendoza-Denton) 2024
- UC San Diego (PI: Rossano) 2024
- Harvard University (PI: Cushman & Greene) 2023
- Harvard Kennedy School (PI: Minson) 2022
- UCL (Judgment and Decision Making Seminar) 2022
- Princeton University (PI: Crockett) 2022

Learning from Aggregated Opinion

- Stevens Institute (PI: Ho) 2024
- MIT Sloan (PI: Rand & Bhui) 2024
- NYU (ConCats Talk Series) 2024
- Princeton University (PI: Vélez) 2023

Can Morality be Taught?

- Bogazici University (Psychology Department Colloquium) 2023
- Princeton University (PI: Crockett) 2022

Deciding to be Authentic

- Pomona College (Cognitive Science Department Colloquium)

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.*, & Lombrozo, T. (2024, February). What Enables Societal Controversy? Presentation at the Society for Personality and Social Psychology.

Oktar, K.*, Byers, J. B. & Lombrozo, T. (2024, February). Is Disagreement Just a Difference in Beliefs?. Presentation at the Society for Personality and Social Psychology.

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.

INVITED SYMPOSIA

- Constructive Disagreement Online & Offline (Institute for Humane Studies) 2024

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

Press Coverage

APALA : Effective actions to reduce our carbon footprint. [French]	2023
Big Think : Why it isn't strategic to always be rational.	2022
Psychology Today : When to Go With Your Gut and Be True to Yourself.	2022

Leadership, Diversity, & Service

LEADERSHIP

Mentor	Project SHORT, 2022 - Present
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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 - 2024
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
The American Psychological Association

MENTORSHIP

Undergraduate

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

Application Mentorship (Project SHORT)

Dung (Derrick) Nguyen [Behavioral Economics]

Vietnam, 2023 - Present

Shivam Puri [Cognitive Neuroscience]

India, 2023