

Brendan Bo O'Connor | Bren

Department of Psychology | University at Albany, State University of New York
cognitive scientist | social psychologist | outsider artist
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Bren is a cognitive scientist, scholar of imagination, and outsider artist. He is a recently appointed associate professor at University at Albany SUNY where he directs the Imagination & Cognition Lab, using psychology, philosophy, and neuroscience to investigate the role of future thinking and imagination in empathy, effective altruism, equality, intergroup processes, and morality. He is a member of the Purpose Makerspace, a puppeteer and parade tech marshal with Processional Arts Workshop, and the creator and director of the Lucid Dream Minigolf project funded by the New York State Council on the Arts and the Alliance of Resident Theatres New York. His work is visible in the scientific community through peer-reviewed research articles published in flagship journals (e.g., *Psychological Science*, *PNAS*, *Cognition*, *Emotion*, *JPSP*, *Social Cognitive and Affective Neuroscience*, *Trends in Cognitive Science*, and *Personality and Social Psychology Review*). His research has been generously funded by the John Templeton Foundation, the Forrest Research Foundation, and federal institutions such as the Social Sciences and Humanities Research Council. He has engaged the broader public by consulting with PBS, writing for *Scientific American* and *The Conversation*, recording a piece for NPR, speaking at Columbia’s Center for Science and Society, and serving as a panelist and consultant for the Museum of Science, Boston for a conference on imagination accessible to artists, educators, and the general public. Most recently he was selected as a research fellow at the Strong National Museum of Play to study the development of play and imagination across the lifespan.

EDUCATION & TRAINING

2014	Ph.D. (Psychology), Harvard University
2009	M.A. (Psychology), Harvard University
2007	B.A. (Psychology with a minor in Business), <i>summa cum laude</i> , Massachusetts College of Liberal Arts

EMPLOYMENT

2023	Associate Professor (Psychology), University at Albany, SUNY
2016-2023	Assistant Professor (Psychology), University at Albany, SUNY
2013-2016	Postdoctoral Researcher (Psychology), Boston College

PUBLICATIONS

Peer-reviewed Articles in Preparation

Fowler, Z., Palombo, D., Madan, C. R., & **O'Connor, B.B.** Collaborative imagination synchronizes representations of the future and fosters social connection in the present. Under revision.

Law, K., Syropoulos, S., Coleman, M., Gainsburg, I., and **O'Connor B.B.** Moral future-thinking: do moral thinking and behavior stand the test of time? Under review.

Vollberg, M.C., **O'Connor, B.B.**, Vuilleumier, P., Sander, D., and Cikara, M. Place-related neural activity sets the stage for empathy. Under review.

Peer-reviewed Articles Published or In Press

Law, K., Amormino, P., Abigail Marsh, and **O'Connor, B.B.** Ethical reasoning vs. empathic bias: a false dichotomy? (2024) *Trends in Cognitive Sciences*, 28, 1-4.

Gregory, A., Bartz, J., **O'Connor, B.B.**, and Sheldon, S. (2023) From memory to motivation: Probing the relationship between episodic simulation, empathy, and helping intentions. *Emotion*. Advance online publication.

O'Connor, B.B. and Fowler, Z (2023). How imagination and memory shape the moral mind. *Personality and Social Psychology Review*, 27, 226-249.

*Tuen, Y. J., Bulley, A., Palombo, D., and **O'Connor, B.B.** (2023). Social value at a distance: The role of identity and impartiality in social discounting. *Cognition*, 230, 105283.

Ryan, D., **O'Connor, B.B.**, Schacter, D., and Campbell, K (2022). Episodic simulation of helping behavior in younger and older adults during the COVID-19 pandemic. *Journal of Applied Research in Memory and Cognition*. Advance online publication.

Campbell, D., Tusche, A., and **O'Connor, B.B.** (2022). Imagination and the prosocial personality: Mapping the effect of episodic simulation on helping across prosocial traits. *Applied Cognitive Psychology*, 36, 685-698.

O'Connor, B.B., Campbell, D., Lee, K., and Young, L. (2022). Moral psychology from the lab to the wild: Relief registries as a paradigm for studying real-world altruism. *PLOS One*, 17(6): e0269469.

Morris, A., **O'Connor, B.B.**, and Cushman, F. (2022) The role of episodic simulation in motivating commonplace harms. *Cognition*, 225, 105104.

Sawczak, C., McAndrews, M. P., Fowler, Z., **O'Connor, B.B.**, and Moscovitch, M. (2022) I remember therefore I am: Episodic memory retrieval and self-reported trait empathy judgments in young and older adults and individuals with medial temporal lobe excisions. *Cognition*, 225, 105124.

Fowler, Z., Law, K. F., and **Gaesser, B.** (2021) Against empathy bias: The moral value of equitable empathy. *Psychological Science*, 32, 766-779.

Law, K. F., Campbell, D., and **Gaesser, B.** (2021). Biased benevolence: The perceived morality of effective altruism across social distance. *Personality and Social Psychology Bulletin*, 48, 426-444.

Vollberg, M.C., **Gaesser, B.**, and Cikara, M. (2021) Activating episodic simulation increases affective empathy. *Cognition*, 209, 104558.

Campbell, D., Kidder, W., D'Cruz, J., and **Gaesser, B.** (2021). Emotion in imaginative resistance.

Philosophical Psychology, 34, 895-937.

***Gaesser, B.**, Shimura, Y., and Cikara, M (2020). Episodic simulation reduces intergroup bias in prosocial intentions and behavior. *Journal of Personality and Social Psychology*, 118, 638-705.

Gaesser, B. (2020) Episodic mindreading: Mentalizing guided by scene construction of imagined and remembered events. *Cognition*, 203, 104325.

Gaesser, B., & Fowler, Z. (2020). Episodic simulation of prosocial interaction: Investigating the roles of memory and imagination in facilitating a willingness to help others. *Psychology of Consciousness: Theory, Research, and Practice*, 7(4), 376–387.

Sawczak, C. M., McAndrews, M. P., **Gaesser, B.**, and Moscovitch, M. (2019). Episodic simulation and empathy in older adults and patients with unilateral medial temporal lobe excisions, *Neuropsychologia*, 135, 1-14.

Gaesser, B., Hirschfeld-Kroen, J., Wasserman, E., Horn, M., and Young, L. (2019) A role for the medial temporal lobe subsystem in guiding prosociality: the effect of episodic processes on willingness to help others. *Social Cognitive and Affective Neuroscience*, 14, 397-410.

Gaesser, B., Keeler, K., and Young, L (2018). Moral imagination: facilitating prosocial decision-making through scene imagery and theory of mind. *Cognition*, 171, 180-193.

*Ford, J. H., **Gaesser, B.**, DiBiase, H., Berro, T., Young, L., and Kensinger, E (2018). Heroic memory: Remembering the details of others' heroism in the aftermath of a traumatic public event can foster our own prosocial response. *Applied Cognitive Psychology*, 32, 47-54.

Gaesser, B., Dodds, H., and Schacter, D. L. (2017). Effects of aging on the relation between episodic simulation and prosocial intentions. *Memory*, 25:9, 1272-1278.

Gaesser, B., DiBiase, H. D., and Kensinger, E. A. (2017). A role for affect in the link between episodic simulation and prosociality. *Memory*, 25:8, 1052-1062.

Gaesser, B., Horn, M., and Young, L (2015). When can imagining the *self* increase willingness to help *others*? Investigating whether the self-referential nature of episodic simulation fosters prosociality. *Social Cognition*, 33, 562-584.

Gaesser, B., and Schacter, D. L. (2014). Episodic simulation and episodic memory can increase intentions to help others. *Proceedings of the National Academy of Sciences, USA*, 111, 4415-4420.

Madore, K., **Gaesser, B.**, and Schacter, D. L. (2014). Constructive episodic simulation: Dissociable effects of specificity induction on remembering, imagining, and describing in young and older adults. *Journal of Experimental Psychology: Learning, Memory, and Cognition*, 40, 609-622.

Gaesser, B. (2013). Memory, imagination, and empathy: A cognitive neuroscience perspective. *Frontiers in Psychology, Special Issue: Examining the Role of Memory in Social Cognition*, 3, 1-6.

Gaesser, B., Spreng, R. N., Martin, V. C., Addis, D. R., and Schacter, D. L. (2013). Imagining the future: evidence for a hippocampal contribution to constructive processing. *Hippocampus*, 23, 1150-1161.

Schacter, D. L., **Gaesser, B.**, and Addis, D. R. (2013). Remembering the past and imagining the future in the elderly. *Gerontology*, 59, 143-151.

Schacter, D. L., Chamberlain, J., **Gaesser, B.**, and Gerlach, K. D. (2012). Neuroimaging of true, false, and imaginary memories: Findings and implications. In L. Nadel, & W. P. Sinnott-Armstrong, (Eds.), *Memory and Law* (pp. 233-262). New York: Oxford University Press.

Gaesser, B., Sacchetti, D. C., Addis, D. R., and Schacter, D. L. (2011). Characterizing age-related changes in remembering the past and imagining the future. *Psychology and Aging*, 26, 80-84.

Schacter, D. L., **Gaesser, B.**, and Addis, D. R. (2010). Age-related changes in the episodic simulation of past and future events. In A. S. Benjamin (Ed.), *Successful remembering and successful forgetting: A festschrift in honor of Robert A. Bjork* (pp. 509-529). London, UK: Psychology Press.

Popular Press Articles or Opinion Pieces

Gaesser, B., and Fowler, Z. The morality of feeling equal empathy for strangers and family alike. *The Conversation*. December 22, 2020.

***Gaesser, B.**, and Ford, J. H. (2018). A potential benefit to memories of terrorism. *Scientific American*, April 3, 2018.

Schacter, D. L., and **Gaesser, B.** (2009). Memory and reality. *Nature Neuroscience*, 12, 367.

***Denotes Co-First Authorship**

AWARDS & RESEARCH SUPPORT

2022-2024 John Templeton Foundation (\$228,256, PI). *Universal Love: Expanding the Limits of Exceptional Care*. Awarded by the John Templeton Foundation Character Virtue Development area.

2023 Strong Research Fellowship at The Strong National Museum of Play to conduct exploratory research about the forms, history, and consequences of cooperative play and how it develops across the lifespan from childhood to old age.

2020-2021 Social Sciences and Humanities Research Council (SSHRC) Insight Development Grant (\$60,100, Collaborator) *The Interplay between Episodic Propection and Far-sighted Decision Making*. Awarded by Social Sciences and Humanities Research Council (SSHRC) to Daniela Palombo at the University of British Columbia.

2018-2020 Forrest Research Foundation Fellowship (\$344,000, Collaborator) *Building*

wellbeing and resilience in depression: investigating the role of event memory and future simulation in driving prosocial behavior. Awarded by the Forrest Research Foundation to Julie Ji at the University of Western Australia.

- 2017-2018 Presidential Innovation Fund for Research and Scholarship (PIFRS) program (\$3,636, PI): *Albany Moral Mind, Brain, and Behavior (M2B2) Speaker Series.* Awarded by Office of the President at the University at Albany, SUNY
- 2014-2016 Templeton Science of Prospection Award (\$145,000, Co-PI): *Harnessing Episodic Simulation to Facilitate Prosociality.* Awarded by the John Templeton Foundation and University of Pennsylvania Positive Psychology Center
- 2015-2016 Postdoctoral Fellow Psychology Trainee Research, Education, and Travel Grant (\$2,500): *Exploring the Effect of Episodic Simulation on Real World Prosocial Behavior.* Awarded by the Boston College Psychology Department.

RESEARCH EXPERIENCE

- 2013-2016 Postdoctoral research with Dr. Liane Young and Dr. Elizabeth Kensinger, Boston College *Project: The consequences of episodic simulation and memory of social and moral decision-making*
- 2007-2014 Ph.D. research with Dr. Daniel Schacter, Harvard University *Dissertation title: Simulating personal future events: Contributions of episodic memory and beyond*
- 2007-2009 M.A. research with Dr. Daniel Schacter, Harvard University *Thesis title: Characterizing age-related changes in remembering the past and imagining the future*
- 2006 Laboratory Technician to Dr. Kevin Davis, University of Rochester *Project: Investigated the inferior colliculus of cats using single-unit recording*
- 2005-2006 Research Assistant to Dr. Timothy Jay, Massachusetts College of Liberal Arts *Project: Examined priming effects in taboo language*
- 2004-2005 Research Assistant to Dr. Maria Bartini, Massachusetts College of Liberal Arts *Project: Examined the effect of intention on aggression and implicit gender stereotyping*

PRESENTATIONS AT MEETINGS

Law, K. F., Syropoulos, S., Coleman, M., Gainsburg, I., & **O'Connor, B. B.** (2024). Moral future thinking: Does the moral circle stand the test of time? Poster presented at Society for Personality and Social Psychology Annual Meeting and the Moral Psychology Preconference, San Diego, CA.

O'Connor, B. B. The Future We Imagine Together: Investigating the Social Function of Collaborative Imagination (August, 2023). Talk presented at Society for Applied Research in Memory and Cognition (SARMAC) Bi-Annual Meeting, Nagoya, Japan.

Fowler, Z., Palombo, D. J., Madan, C. R., & **O'Connor, B. B.** The Future We Imagine Together: Fostering Social Connection Through Co-Imagination. Poster presented at International Conference on Learning and Memory Meeting. Huntington Beach, CA, USA.

Law, K. F., & **O'Connor, B. B.** (2023). Universal Love: Expanding the Limits of Exceptional Care. Poster presented at Society for Personality and Social Psychology Annual Meeting, Atlanta, GA.

Fowler, Z., Palombo, D. J., Madan, C.R., & **O'Connor, B. B.** Collaborative Imagination: A Natural Language Processing Approach. Poster presented at Society for Personality and Social Psychology Annual Meeting, Atlanta, GA.

Vollberg, M.C., **O'Connor, B.B.**, Vuilleumier, P., Sander, D., & Cikara, M. (April, 2022) The Neural Interplay between Episodic Memory and Empathy. *2022 Annual Meeting of the Social Affective Neuroscience Society.*

Fowler, Z. & **Gaesser, B.** (February, 2022) The Future We Imagine Together: Fostering Social Connection Through the Co-creation of Shared Futures. Talk Presented at Society for Personality and Social Psychology (SPSP) Annual Meeting, Shared Reality & Authenticity Pre-conference Symposium, Virtual Format.

Law, K.F. & **Gaesser, B.** (February, 2022) Empathy and Reasoning Moderate Moral Judgments of Effective Altruism. Poster Presented at Society for Personality and Social Psychology (SPSP) Annual Meeting, Virtual Format.

Gilbert, C. & **Gaesser, B.** (February, 2022) Episodic Simulation and Social Discounting. Poster Presented at Society for Personality and Social Psychology (SPSP) Annual Meeting, Virtual Format.

Gregory, A.J.P., Rioux, M., **Gaesser, B.**, Bartz, J.A., Sheldon, S. Episodic simulation increases the personal distress response to empathic scenarios. (2021, August 12-15). [Poster] Annual meeting for the American Psychological Association, San Diego, CA, USA.

Fowler, Z., Law, K. F., & **Gaesser, B.** (June, 2021). Against Empathy Bias: Perceptions of Empathy as an Equitable Moral Force. Poster presented at Society for Philosophy and Psychology (SPP) Annual Meeting, Princeton, NJ, USA.

Law, K., Campbell, D., & **Gaesser, B.** (June, 2021). Biased Benevolence: Social Distance Moderates the Morality of Altruism. Poster presented at Society for Philosophy and Psychology (SPP) Annual Meeting, Princeton, NJ, USA.

Campbell, D., Kidder, W., D'Cruz, J., & **Gaesser, B.** (June, 2021). Emotion in Imaginative Resistance. Poster presented at Society for Philosophy and Psychology (SPP) Annual Meeting, Princeton, NJ, USA.

Gregory, A.J.P., Mathilde, R., **Gaesser, B.**, Sheldon, S., & Bartz, J. (April, 2021). Mental simulation as a mechanism driving empathic responding. Poster presented at Society for Affective Science (SAS) Annual Meeting, Virtual Format.

Fowler, Z., Law, K., & **Gaesser, B.** (February, 2021). Against Empathy Bias: Perceptions of Empathy as an Equitable Moral Force. Poster Presented at Society for Personality and

Social Psychology (SPSP) Annual Meeting, Virtual Format.

Law, K.F., Campbell, D., **Gaesser, B.** (February, 2021) Biased benevolence: The role of physical distance in the morality of effective altruism. Poster Presented at Society for Personality and Social Psychology (SPSP) Annual Meeting, Virtual Format.

Law, K., Rottman, J., & **Gaesser, B.** (February, 2020). Ignoring the Farthest Humans for the Trees: Moral Circles, Mind Perception, and Moral Judgments of Socially Distant Altruism. Poster presented at Society for Personality and Social Psychology (SPSP) Annual Meeting, New Orleans, LA, USA.

Fowler, Z., Sawczak, C., McAndrews, M. P., Moscovitch, M., & **Gaesser, B.** (February, 2020). I Remember, Therefore I Am: The Influence of Episodic Memory on Trait Empathy Judgments. Poster Presented at Society for Personality and Social Psychology (SPSP) Annual Meeting, New Orleans, LA, USA.

Campbell, D., Tusche, A., & **Gaesser, B.** (February, 2020). Imagination and the Cooperative Phenotype: Exploring the Relationship between Episodic Simulation and Individual Differences in Prosociality. Poster presented at Society for Personality and Social Psychology (SPSP) Annual Meeting, New Orleans, LA, USA.

Gaesser, B. (June, 2019). Co-Chaired symposium with Jaclyn Ford. The future of flashbulb and traumatic memories: new insights into the characteristics and consequences of emotional extreme memories in the aftermath of public trauma talks presented by Daniela Palombo, Jaclyn Ford, Brendan Gaesser, Charles Stone, and William Hirst at Society for Applied Research in Memory and Cognition (SARMAC) Bi-Annual Meeting, Brewster, MA, USA.

Campbell, D. & **Gaesser, B.** (June, 2019). Imagination and the cooperative phenotype: exploring the relationship between episodic simulation and individual differences in prosociality. Poster presented at Society for Applied Research in Memory and Cognition (SARMAC) Bi-Annual Meeting, Brewster, MA, USA.

Gaesser, B. (May, 2019). Chaired symposium. Imagine all the people: how social imagination changes the way we view ourselves, empathize with others, and predict the future of society. Talks presented by Diana Tamir, Marius Volberg, Caspian Sawczak, and Karl Szpunar at Association for Psychological Science (APS) Annual Meeting, Washington, DC, USA.

Law K. F., Campbell, D., & **Gaesser, B.** (May, 2019). The morality of altruism and its consequences for social relationships and behavior. Poster presented at Association for Psychological Science (APS) Annual Meeting, Washington, DC, USA.

Gaesser, B., & Young, L. (February, 2019). Constructive episodic memory guides prosocial cognition: new insights into scenes, minds, and morality. Talk presented at Society for Personality and Social Psychology (SPSP) Annual Meeting, Portland, OR, USA.

Law K. F., Campbell, D., & **Gaesser, B.** (February, 2019). The morality of altruism and its consequences for social relationships and behavior. Poster presented at Justice and Morality Pre-conference and Society for Personality and Social Psychology (SPSP) Annual Meeting, Portland, OR, USA.

Sawczak, C. M., McAndrews, M. P., **Gaesser, B.**, & Moscovitch, M. (November, 2018). Episodic simulation and prosocial intentions in medial temporal lobe epilepsy. Poster presented at Psychonomics Society Annual Meeting, New Orleans, LA, USA.

Gaesser, B., & Horn, M., Wasserman, E. A., & Young, L. (May, 2018). A role for the medial temporal lobe subsystem in guiding prosociality: the effect of episodic processes on willingness to help others. Talk presented at Social and Affective Neuroscience Society (SANS) Annual Meeting, Brooklyn, NY USA.

Cikara, M., **Gaesser, B.**, & Shimura, Y. (May, 2017). Leveraging Episodic Simulation to Reduce Intergroup Bias in Helping. Talk presented at Association for Psychological Science (APS) Annual Meeting, Boston, MA, USA.

Gaesser, B. (April, 2017). Future simulations of prosocial episodes: The positive, the negative, and the neutral. Talk presented at Society for Affective Science (SAS) Annual Meeting, Boston, MA, USA.

Gaesser, B., and Young, L. (January, 2017). Imagining a brighter future: Applying episodic future thinking to foster charitable donations. Talk presented at Society for Applied Research in Memory and Cognition (SARMAC) Annual Meeting, Sydney, NSW, Australia.

Gaesser, B., Keeler, K., DiBiase, H., Kensinger, E., and Young, L. (May, 2016). Prospection facilitates prosocial decision-making through a dynamic interaction of scene construction and theory of mind. Talk presented in the symposium, “Advances in prospection research: Making the future bright”, at Association for Psychological Science Annual Meeting, Chicago, IL, USA.

Sawczak, C. M., McAndrews, M. P., **Gaesser, B.**, & Moscovitch, M. (April, 2016). Episodic simulation and prosociality in younger and older adults. Poster presented at Cognitive Neuroscience Society (CNS) Annual Meeting, New York, NY, USA.

Sawczak, C. M., McAndrews, M. P., **Gaesser, B.**, & Moscovitch, M. (November, 2015). The role of episodic simulation and self-referential processing in altruistic intentions. Poster presented at Psychonomics Society Annual Meeting, Chicago, IL, USA.

Gaesser, B., and Young, L. (June, 2015). Applying episodic simulation to social decision-making: evidence of a visuospatial mechanism enhancing prosociality. Talk presented in the symposium, “Social Factors in Remembering, Forgetting, and Decision Making”, at Society for Applied Research in Memory and Cognition (SARMAC) Annual Meeting, Victoria, BC, Canada.

Hynds, E. B., DiBiase, H. D., **Gaesser, B.**, Kensinger, E. A. (May, 2015). Imagining emotional events and its effects on prosocial responses. Poster presented at Psychology Undergraduate Research Conference (PURC), Chestnut Hill, MA, USA.

Keeler, K., **Gaesser, B.**, Young, L. (May, 2015). Social consequences for imagining future events: scene construction facilitates social decision-making. Poster presented at Psychology Undergraduate Research Conference (PURC), Chestnut Hill, MA, USA.

Lee, K., **Gaesser, B.**, Young, L. (May, 2015). Applying episodic simulation to online prosocial behavior. Poster presented at Psychology Undergraduate Research Conference (PURC), Chestnut Hill, MA, USA.

Gaesser, B., and Young, L. (April, 2015). Social consequences of scene construction: Evidence of the medial temporal lobe subsystem enhancing prosociality. Poster presented at Social and Affective Neuroscience Society (SANS) Annual Meeting, Boston, MA, USA.

Gaesser, B. (March, 2015). Episodic empathy effect: Evidence for a social function of episodic future thinking. Talk presented in the symposium, “Functions of Future Thoughts”, at International Convention of Psychological Science (ICPS) Annual Meeting, Amsterdam, The Netherlands.

Gaesser, B., Horn, M., and Young, L. (February, 2015). Imagining the *self* increases willingness to help *others*: Using episodic simulation to foster moral decision-making. Talk presented in the symposium, “Could Focusing on the Self Make you a Better Person? The Role of Self-Focus in Moral Judgment and Behavior”, at Society for Personality and Social Psychology (SPSP) Annual Meeting, Long Beach, CA, USA.

Gaesser, B., and Schacter, D. L. (February, 2014). Episodic memory and imagination facilitate our willingness to help others. Poster presented at Society for Personality and Social Psychology (SPSP) Annual Meeting, Austin, TX, USA.

Gaesser, B., and Schacter, D. L. (December, 2013). Contributions of episodic memory and imagination to prosocial intentions. Poster presented at Charles River Association of Memory (CRAM) meeting, Massachusetts Institute of Technology, Cambridge, MA, USA.

Madore, K., **Gaesser, B.**, and Schacter, D. L. (November, 2013) Episodic specificity and aging: Dissociable effects of an induction on remembering, imagining, and describing. Poster presented at Psychonomic Society Annual Meeting, Toronto, Ontario, Canada.

Gaesser, B., and Schacter, D. L. (June, 2013). Evidence of episodic memory and imagination increasing our willingness to help others. Poster presented at Social Perspectives on Autobiographical Memory: Memory and Imagination conference, Center on Autobiographical Memory Research (CON AMORE), Aarhus University, Aarhus, Denmark.

Gaesser, B., Spreng, R. N., Martin, V. C., Addis, D. R., and Schacter, D. L. (November, 2012). Hippocampal contributions to the construction of imagined future events. Poster presented at Society for Neuroscience (SFN) Annual Meeting, New Orleans, LA, USA.

Gaesser, B., Alley, B. A., Addis, D. R., Budson, A. E., and Schacter, D. L. (September, 2011). Remembering the past, imagining the future, and describing the present in healthy and impaired older adults. Poster presented at Emory Cognition Project Conference: Mental Time Travel, Atlanta, GA, USA.

Stevens, W. D., Spreng, R. N., **Gaesser, B.** and Schacter, D. L. (June, 2011). Image-invariant neural priming of faces associated with changes in functional connectivity of FFA.

Poster presented at Human Brain Mapping (HBM) Annual Meeting, Quebec City, Canada.

Gaesser, B., Sacchetti, D. C., Addis, D. R., and Schacter, D. L. (November, 2009). Characterizing age-related changes in remembering the past and imagining the future. Poster presented at Psychonomic Society Annual Meeting, Boston, MA, USA.

Stevens, W. D., **Gaesser, B.**, Spreng, R. N., and Schacter, D. L. (November, 2009). Exposure to variable images of unfamiliar faces improves subsequent face-recognition and is associated with image-invariant neural priming across distributed brain regions. Poster presented at Society for Neuroscience (SFN) Annual Meeting, Chicago, IL, USA.

INVITED TALKS & LECTURES

Co-Imagination: Emerging Evidence for the Structure and Function of Collaborative Imagination. Cognitive Colloquium at University of California, San Diego, San Diego, CA (February, 2024).

Co-Imagination: Emerging Evidence for the Structure and Function of Collaborative Imagination. Cognitive Colloquium at University of California, Santa Cruz, Santa Cruz, CA (January, 2024).

The Future We Imagine: From Moral Future-Thinking to Collaborative Imagination. Princeton Social Neuroscience Lab Meeting. Princeton University, Princeton, NJ, USA (December 2023)

Imagination and the Brain. The Experimental Humanities and Social Engagement program at New York University, New York City, NY, USA (September, 2023).

The Imaginative Mind: Recombining the Past to Solve for the Future. Scientific Discovery conference, The Center for Science and Society at Columbia University, New York City, NY, USA (September, 2022)

Moral Imagination: Applying the Cognitive Science of Imagination to Foster Empathy and Altruism. Psychology Department Colloquium, Bard College, Tivoli, NY, USA (April, 2022)

Moral Imagination. Psychological Science Seminar, Toronto Metropolitan University, Toronto, NY, Canada (March, 2022)

Raising the Imagination. Panelist for Unpacking the Imagination in STEM a conference on imagination hosted by the Museum of Science, Boston, MA, USA. (September, 2021)

Moral Imagination. Mind Studies brown bag (a graduate student run speaker series exploring the intersection of ideas between philosophy, psychology, and neuroscience), University at Albany, Albany, NY, USA (December, 2020)

The Episodic Mind and Why It Matters for Understanding Morality, Cognition, and Decision Making. Social Brain brown bag, Dartmouth College, Hanover, NY, USA (October, 2018)

Moral Cognition. Science and Technology Studies Colloquium, Rensselaer Polytechnic Institute, Rensselaer, NY, USA (October, 2018)

Episodic Mind Manuscript Workshop. Memory Lab, Harvard University, Cambridge, MA, USA (May, 2018).

Memory, imagination, & moral decision-making. The Preston Lab meeting, University of Texas, Austin, USA (April, 2018).

The systematic wanderings of an interdisciplinary nomad: Uncovering a relationship between episodes, minds, social decision-making, and moral behavior. Department of Psychology Cross-program Colloquium Keynote Speaker, University of Illinois, Chicago, USA (March, 2018).

Episodic morality: Scenes, minds, and decision-making. Human Neuropsychology & Cognitive Science Lab meeting, University of Toronto, Saint George, Ontario, Canada (March, 2018).

Episodic morality: Scenes, minds, and decision-making. Department of Psychology Colloquium, University of Toronto, Mississauga, Ontario, Canada (March, 2018).

Episodic Mind Manuscript Workshop. Morality Lab, Boston College, Newton, MA, USA (February, 2018).

Episodic morality: Scenes, minds, and moral decision-making. Social Psychology Colloquium, University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill, Chapel Hill, NC, USA (November, 2017).

Moral Cognition. Honors College, University at Albany, State University of New York, Albany, NY, USA (September, 2017).

Episodic morality: Imagining the future, remembering the past, and moral decision-making. Social Psychology Colloquium, Syracuse University, Syracuse, NY, USA (April, 2017).

Episodic morality. Social Psychology Lunch, Brown University, Providence, RI, USA (November, 2016).

Harnessing episodic simulation to facilitate prosociality: Year 2. Science of Propection Research Final Retreat, University of Pennsylvania, Philadelphia, PA, USA (August, 2016).

Using imagination and memory to increase willingness to help others and charitable Donations. Workshop in Multidisciplinary Studies at the Lilly Family School of Philanthropy, Indianapolis, IN, USA (April, 2016).

Episodic morality. Boston Area Moral Cognition Group (BAM) Meeting, Cambridge, MA, USA (April, 2016).

Harnessing episodic simulation to facilitate prosociality: Year 1. Science of Propection Research Mid-Course Retreat, University of Pennsylvania, Philadelphia, PA, USA (August, 2015).

Using imagination and memory to increase a willingness to help others. Pace Prosocial Development Conference, Pace University, Manhattan, NY, USA (June, 2015).

Leveraging episodic simulation and memory to facilitate prosociality. Social Interaction and Motivation Lab; and, Aging, Culture, and Cognition Lab, Brandeis University, Waltham, MA, USA (March, 2015).

Leveraging episodic simulation and memory to facilitate prosociality. Neuroscience and Social Decision-Making talk series, Princeton University, Princeton, NJ, USA (February, 2015).

Leveraging episodic simulation and memory to facilitate prosociality. Social Psychology Brownbag, Harvard University, Cambridge, MA, USA (February, 2015).

Harnessing episodic simulation to facilitate prosociality. Science of Prosocial Research Symposium, University of Pennsylvania, Philadelphia, PA, USA (August, 2014).

Episodic empathy: When imagining and remembering increase intentions to help others. Social Area Colloquium, University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill, Chapel Hill, NC, USA (April, 2014).

Episodic empathy: preliminary results and clinical implications. Sinnott-Armstrong Lab & Imagination and Modal Cognition Lab, Duke University, Durham, NC, USA (April, 2014).

Harnessing episodic simulation and memory to promote a willingness to help others. Boston Area Moral and Social Cognition group, Boston University, Boston, MA, USA (April, 2013).

A new approach to fostering prosocial intentions: Episodic simulation. Social Brain Sciences Symposium, Harvard University, Cambridge, MA, USA (December, 2012).

Contributions of memory and imagination to empathy and helping. Advanced Laboratory in Cognitive Neuroscience & Memory Research Seminar. Harvard University, Cambridge, MA, USA (November, 2012).

Simulating empathy and helping. Morality Lab & Cognitive and Affective Neuroscience Lab, Boston College, Newton, MA, USA (August, 2012).

Differences in memory and imagination between healthy younger and older adults. Dickerson Lab, Martinos Center, Massachusetts General Hospital, Charlestown, MA, USA (June, 2009).

Age-related differences in imagination and memory. Advanced Laboratory in Cognitive Neuroscience & Memory Research Seminar. Harvard University, Cambridge, MA, USA (October, 2009).

TEACHING EXPERIENCE

Department of Psychology, University at Albany, SUNY

Instructor

2023-Fall	APSY 605 <i>Social Psychology</i>
2023-Spring	APSY 450T <i>Science of Imagination</i>
2023-Spring	APSY 730 <i>Social Cognition</i>
2022-Fall	APSY 450T <i>Science of Imagination</i>
2022-Fall	APSY 450T <i>Moral Psychology</i>
2022-Spring	APSY 450T <i>Science of Imagination</i>
2022-Spring	APSY 450T <i>Moral Psychology</i>
2021-Fall	APSY 450T <i>Science of Imagination</i>
2021-Fall	TPSY 316 <i>Honors Moral Psychology</i>
2021-Spring	APSY 780 <i>Cognitive, Affective, and Social Neuroscience</i>
2021-Spring	APSY 270 <i>Social Psychology</i>

2020-Fall APSY 450T *Science of Imagination*
2020-Fall APSY 450T *Moral Psychology*
2020-Spring APSY 730 *Social Cognition*
2020-Spring APSY 270 *Social Psychology*
2019-Fall TPSY 316 *Honors Moral Psychology*
2019-Fall APSY 450T *Moral Psychology*
2019-Spring APSY 450T *Moral Psychology*
2019-Spring APSY 270 *Social Psychology*
2018-Spring APSY 730 *Social Cognition*
2018-Spring APSY 270 *Social Psychology*
2017-Fall APSY 450T *Moral Psychology*
2017-Spring APSY 450T *Moral Psychology*
2017-Spring APSY 270 *Social Psychology*
2016-Fall APSY 450 *Moral Psychology*

Department of Psychology, University at Albany

Guest Lecturer

2022-Spring *How the Brain Decides*

Department of Psychology, Queen's University

Guest Lecturer

2021-Spring *Social Decision-Making*

Department of Psychology, Boston College

Guest Lecturer

2021-Spring *Moral Psychology*

Department of Psychology, Princeton University

Guest Lecturer

2018-Fall *The Landscape of Thought*

Department of Psychology, University of Arizona

Guest Lecturer

2017 *Cognitive Neuroscience of Imagination*

Department of Psychology, Boston College

Guest Lecturer

2014-2016 *Human Memory, Moral Psychology*

Department of Psychology, Emerson College

Guest Lecturer

2014 *Introduction to Psychology*

Department of Psychology, Harvard University

Instructor

2012 *Sophomore Tutorial*
(Reading and Writing in Social and Cognitive Neuroscience)

Teaching Assistant

2012 *Human Memory & Amnesia.*
2011 *Cognitive Neuroscience*
2009-2010 *Introduction to Psychology*

Department of Psychology, Massachusetts College of Liberal Arts

Teaching Assistant

2006 *Statistical Methods in Psychology*
2005 *Research Methods in Psychology*
2005 *Neuroscience of Sleep & Dreams*

Laboratory Assistant

2005 *Cognitive Psychology*

Tutor

2004 *Research Design and Analysis*

Doctoral Dissertation Committees

Kyle F. Law (Spring, 2024)

Dylan Campbell (Spring, 2024)

Nathan S. Kemper Committee Member (Spring, 2023).

Bruce Peng. External Committee Member at University of Auckland (Fall, 2021).

Kruti M. Vekaria. External Committee Member at Georgetown University. Generosity Across Time and Space: Examining the Roles of Temporal Delay, Social Distance, and Risk in Altruistic Decisions. (Spring, 2019).

Tina C. DeMarco. Committee Member. More is not always better: Examining the Influence of Group Qualities on Need Satisfaction and the Social Cure Effect (Fall, 2018).

Master Thesis Committee

Nathan Kemper. Committee Member. What's So Disgusting about Morality? Assessing the Evidential Value of Moral Disgust Research with the *P*-Curve (Spring, 2020)

Brendan Gallagher. Committee Member. Towards an Integrated Dual Diathesis-Threat Model of Authoritarianism (Spring, 2023)

Undergraduate Honors Theses Supervision

Sarah Smith. Supervisor. Social Imagination (Spring, 2023; winner of honors thesis award)

Haley Lynch. Supervisor. Collective Imagination (Spring, 2020; winner of honors thesis award)

Olivia Johansen. Supervisor. Empathy and Negative Reciprocity as Predictors of Third-Party Punishment (Spring, 2018)

AD HOC REVIEWER

Cognition · Cortex · eLife · Psychological Science · Emotion · Journal of Cognitive Psychology · Journal of Cognitive Neuroscience · Journal of Cognitive Psychology · Journal of Experimental Psychology: General · Journal of Experimental Social Psychology · Journal of Neuroscience · Memory · Memory & Cognition · Neuropsychologia · Neuropsychology · National Science Foundation · Personality and Social Psychology Bulletin · Philosophical Psychology · Social Cognitive and Affective Neuroscience

CONSULTING EDITOR

DEPARTMENTAL SERVICE

2019-2022	<i>Website Committee</i>
2019-2021	<i>Faculty Psi Chi Advisor</i>
2017-2023	<i>Awards Committee</i>
2016-2020	<i>Colloquium Committee (Chair)</i>
2011-2013	<i>Committee of Undergraduate Instruction</i>
2009-2013	<i>Concentration Advising (Eliot House)</i>

UNIVERSITY SERVICE

2021-2022	<i>College of Arts and Sciences Faculty Council (Psychology</i>
2019-2020	<i>Representative)</i>
2021-2022	<i>College of Arts and Sciences Faculty Academic Support Committee</i>
2019-2020	<i>College of Arts and Sciences Faculty Development Committee</i>

PUBLIC ART & CULTURE

2023	Invisible Cities, a roving performance installation inspired by Italo Calvino (assistant with Processional Arts Workshop)
2023	TurnPark Art Space sculpture park (reading)
2023	Prattsville Art Center & Residency, Prattsville NY (artist residency)
2022	Wassaic Project, Wassaic NY (artist residency)
2022	Cross Pollination: The Great Pollinator Ramble! at Opus 40 Sculpture Park (Puppeteer)
2021	Sinterklaas Parade (Puppet Tech Marshall with Processional Arts Workshop)
2021	NYC Halloween Parade (Puppet Tech Marshall with Processional Arts Workshop)
2021	Cross Pollination: The Great Pollinator Ramble! at Thomas Cole Museum and Olana State Historic Site (Puppeteer)
2021	Awesome Foundation NYC Awardee for Lucid Dream Minigolf project
2020-present	Lucid Dream Minigolf (creator, director, performer)
2019-present	Purpose Cooperative Makerspace (Member)
2019-2020	New York State Council on the Arts, Decentralization Community Art Grants Program (Panelist, Columbia County)
2019-present	Mad Hatter's Parade (Marshall)
2018	Honk! Festival of Activist Street Bands Parade (Deputy Marshall)