

**POSITIONS**

- July 2018 – present                      Assistant Professor, Social Psychology and Global Justice  
Munk School of Global Affairs, University of Toronto
- June 2017 – 2018                        Postdoctoral Fellow, jointly sponsored by the Department of Philosophy, the  
Department of Cognitive Neuroscience, and the Kenan Center for Ethics,  
Duke University  
*Advisors: Walter Sinnott-Armstrong & Felipe De Brigard*
- June 2017 – 2018                        Associate, Psychology, Harvard University  
*Advisor: Steven Pinker*

**EDUCATION**

- June 2015 – May 2017                    Postdoctoral Fellow, Psychology, Harvard University  
*Advisors: Steven Pinker  
Jesse Snedeker*
- Sept 2011 – May 2015                    Ph.D., Social Psychology & Social Neuroscience, Boston College  
*Advisor: Liane Young*
- Sept 2008 – May 2011                    M.A., Mental Health Counseling & Art Therapy, Lesley University
- Sept 1998 – May 2002                    B.A., High Honors, Studio Arts, Clark University

**GRANTS & AWARDS**

- |             |           |  |
|-------------|-----------|--|
| 2018        | \$1500    | SPSP Community Catalyst Grant: Marginalia Science Meet-Up  |
| 2018        |           | Best Symposium Award, Academy of Management, Organizational Behavior Division, 2018  |
| 2018        | \$1000    | Early Career Scholars Travel Award, Society for the Psychological Study of Social Issues, to present at 2018 SPSSI Summer Conference, Pittsburgh                     |
| 2017 – 2018 | \$29,138  | Research Grant: Templeton Foundation and Duke University<br><i>The Experience of Being a Credible Authority</i><br>Co-PI's: Natalia Washington & Clifford Workman    |
| 2015 – 2017 | \$211,877 | Postdoctoral Research Fellowship: National Science Foundation<br>Award #1513815: <i>The Psycholinguistics of Morality</i><br>Co-PI's: Steven Pinker & Jesse Snedeker |
| 2017        | \$1,500   | Fellowship: Duke University, Summer Seminar in Neuroscience & Philosophy   |
| 2016        | \$5,000   | Grant: Harvard Fund for Research on Foundations of Human Behavior<br><i>Morality, Language &amp; Thought Workshop</i> , Institut Jean Nicod, Paris, July 2017        |
| 2016        |           | Poster Award: Social and Affective Neuroscience Society  |
| 2015        | \$16,000  | Teaching Fellowship: Boston College (declined; accepted NSF grant)   |
| 2013 – 2014 | \$25,000  | Research Grant: National Endowment for the Arts<br>Award #13-3800-7003: <i>The Arts and Economic Vitality</i>  |
| 2014 – 2015 | \$11,125  | Dissertation Fellowship: Boston College  |
| 2015        | \$500     | Travel Award: Society for Personality and Social Psychology  |

2012	\$250	Travel Award: Annual Meeting on Object Perception, Attention & Memory
2012	\$1,600	Fellowship Award: International Summer School of Affective Science
2011 – 2014	\$6,000/summer	Research Funding: Boston College Cognition Lab

## PUBLICATIONS

**Niemi, L.,** Woodbridge, M., Young, L., Cordes, S. (in press). Partisan mathematical processing of political polling statistics: It's the expectations that count. *Cognition*. (COGNIT3893).

**Niemi, L. & Graham, J.** (2018). Acknowledging and managing deep constraints on moral agency and the self. [Commentary on Doris]. *Behavioral and Brain Sciences*, DOI 10.1017/S0140525X17001182.

**Niemi, L.** (2018). The morally relevant consequences of disgust in the context of sexual assault. In N. Strohminger & V. Kumar (Eds.) *The Moral Psychology of Disgust*.

**Niemi, L.,** Wasserman, E., Young, L. (2017). The behavioral and neural signatures of distinct conceptions of fairness. *Social Neuroscience*, DOI:10.1080/17470919.2017.1333452.

Hamamouche, K,\* **Niemi, L.,\*** Cordes, S. (2017). Quantifying a threat: Evidence of a numeric processing bias. \*contributed equally. *Acta Psychologica*, 177, 1-9.

**Niemi, L. & Young, L.** (2017). Who sees what as fair? Mapping individual differences in valuation of reciprocity, charity, and impartiality. *Social Justice Research*, DOI 10.1007/s11211-017-0291-4.

**Niemi, L.** (2017). Victim-blaming. In K. Nadal (Ed.) *The SAGE Encyclopedia of Psychology and Gender*, pp. 1756-1757. London: UK.

**Niemi, L. & Young, L.** (2016). When and why we see victims as responsible: The impact of ideology on attitudes toward victims. *Personality and Social Psychology Bulletin*, 42(9), 1227-1242.

**Niemi, L. & Young, L.** (2016). Justice and the moral lexicon. *Psychological Inquiry*, 27(1), 50-54.

**Niemi, L.,** Hartshorne, J., Gerstenberg, T. & Young, L. (2016). Implicit measurement of motivated causal attribution. *Proceedings of the 38th Annual Conference of the Cognitive Science Society*.

**Niemi, L. & Young, L.** (2014). Blaming the victim in the case of rape. *Psychological Inquiry*, 25(2), 230-233.

**Niemi, L. & Young, L.** (2013). Caring across boundaries versus keeping boundaries intact: Links between moral values and interpersonal orientations. *PLOS ONE*, 8(12).

**Niemi Young, L. & Cordes, S.** (2013). Fewer things, lasting longer: The effects of emotion on quantity judgments. *Psychological Science*, 24(6), 1057-1059.

**Niemi Young, L.,** Cordes, S. & Winner, E. (2013). Arts involvement predicts academic achievement only when the child has a musical instrument. *Educational Psychology*, 34(7), 1-13.

**Niemi Young, L.,** Winner, E. & Cordes, S. (2012). Heightened incidence of depressive symptoms in adolescents involved in the arts. *Psychology of Aesthetics, Creativity and the Arts*, 7(2), 197-202.

**Niemi Young, L.** & Cordes, S. (2012). Time and number under the influence of emotion. *Visual Cognition*, 20(9), 1048-1051. [Conference abstract]

### SUBMITTED MANUSCRIPTS

**Niemi, L.**, Stanley, M., Hartshorne, J., Gerstenberg, T. & Young, L. (submitted). Moral values pervade causal attribution: Evidence from the implicit verb causality task and explicit judgments.

Henne, P., **Niemi, L.**, Pinillos, A, De Brigard, F., Knobe, J. (submitted). A counterfactual explanation of the omission effect.

Stanley, M., Henne, P., **Niemi, L.**, Sinnott-Armstrong, W., De Brigard, F. (submitted). Making moral principles suit yourself.

### MANUSCRIPTS IN PREPARATION

**Niemi, L.** & Young, L. (in revision). A conceptual semantics analysis of contamination and injury reveals new boundaries between impurity and harm.

**Niemi, L.** & Cordes, S. (in revision). The arts and economic vitality: Leisure time interest in art predicts entrepreneurship and innovation at work.

Nizzi, M-Ch. & **Niemi, L.** (in preparation). Impaired sense of self predicts suicidal thoughts and behaviors in survivors of sexual assault.

**Niemi, L.** & Young, L. (in preparation). Being and judging an agent or a patient of sexual assault.

### POPULAR SCIENCE WRITING

Niemi, L. (accepted). The flavours of fairness: Laura Niemi on how we might understand the moral cognition behind our judgements. *The Philosopher's Magazine*.

Payne, K., **Niemi, L.** & Doris, J. (3/37/2018). How to Think about "Implicit Bias". *Scientific American*, available at: <https://www.scientificamerican.com/article/how-to-think-about-implicit-bias>

**Niemi, L.** & Young, L. (6/24/2016). Who blames the victim? *The New York Times*, available at: <http://nyti.ms/28TwapH>

**Niemi, L.**, Chakroff, A., & Young, L. (4/2017). Talking in Euphemisms Can Chip Away at Your Sense of Morality. *New York Magazine*, available at: <http://nymag.com/scienceofus/2017/04/indirect-speech-talking-in-euphemisms.html>

Blog at *PsychologyToday.com*: "Morality in Language". Access online at: [www.psychologytoday.com/blog/morality-in-language](http://www.psychologytoday.com/blog/morality-in-language)

### SELECTED PRESS

4/19/2018 "#MeToo's next challenge: domestic gun violence." *The Christian Science Monitor*

2/27/2018 "Why we're psychologically hard-wired to blame the victim." *The Guardian*.

10/10/17 "Donna Karan's 'horrible' Harvey Weinstein defense harms humankind, according to experts" *Yahoo News*

- 10/11/16 “Five Oxford interview questions and five answers” *The Guardian*  
10/5/16 “The psychology of victim-blaming” *The Atlantic*  
7/12/16 “Why society blames victims, according to science” *The Huffington Post*  
7/11/16 “How Language Helps Erase the Tragedy of Millions of Road Deaths” *Nautilus*  
12/12/12 “Depressed teens more likely to make art, study says” *Chicago Tribune*  
2/1/13 “Arts participation linked to higher rates of teen depression” *New England Psychologist*  
6/14 “The latest research on creativity and the arts” *APA Monitor on Psychology*

## PRESENTATIONS & EVENTS

Forthcoming 2019: (Talk). *Psychology and Language Preconference*. Society for Personality and Social Psychology, Portland, OR.

September 2018: “Tracing the process of moral judgement in language and cognition” (Talk). York University Cognitive Science Speaker Series, Toronto, ON.

August 2018: “The role of moral commitments and narrative framing in judgment of victims” (Talk in *She Said “Me, Too,” He said “Not Me:” A Situationist Perspective on Sexual Harassment* – Winner of Best Symposium Award OB Division). Academy of Management, Chicago, IL.

July 2018: “Explaining blame: How theories about violence influence apportioning of blame to self and others” (Talk). *Society for Philosophy and Psychology*, Ann Arbor, MI.

June 2018: “Influencing victim blaming with narrative framing” (Talk). *Society for the Psychology Study of Social Issues Conference*, Pittsburgh, PA

May 2018: “Brief Comment on Vogt” (Discussant). *Happiness and Well-Being Project Capstone*. St. Louis, MO.

March 2018: “Language, causation, and moral judgment” (Talk). *Workshop on Causal Reasoning*. Duke University.

February 2018: “Language, causation, and moral judgment” (Talk). *Psychology & Language Preconference at Society for Personality & Social Psychology*, Atlanta, GA.

February 2018: “The experience of being denied credibility: Stress and epistemic injustice” (Talk). *St. Louis Area Well-Being Workshop*, St. Louis, MO.

October 2017: “What forces influence people's views about victims?” (Guest Lecture). *Washington University in St. Louis*.

October 2017: “Does Justice Have a Unique Moral Grammar?” (Talk). *Munk School of Global Affairs*. University of Toronto.

October 2017: “The Experience of Being Taken at Your Word: A Multi-Method Investigation” (Talk). *Moral Psychology Research Group*, The Pennsylvania State University, University Park, PA.

July 2017: *Morality, Language, and Thought Workshop*, Institut Jean Nicod, Paris, France; Co-Facilitated with Dr. Brent Strickland

July 2017: “Moral values and the distribution of blame” (Talk). *Jury Bias Litigation Group, American Association of Justice Annual Convention*, Boston, MA.

July 2017: “The space and time of contamination: Complete, continual, spreading effects” (Poster). *CogSci2017*, London, England.

July 2017: “Using psycholinguistic analysis to differentiate impurity from harm” (Talk). In Symposium “Moral Disgust and Contagion: Consequences for Law, Judgment and Action” *18th General Meeting of the European Association of Social Psychology*, Granada, Spain.

June 2017: “Understanding impurity and harm through conceptual semantic analysis and alteration of contamination judgments.” (Poster). *Society for Philosophy and Psychology (SPP), Johns Hopkins University*, Baltimore, MD.

May 2017: “Moral values and the distribution of blame” (Talk). *Association for Psychological Science Convention*, Boston, MA.

March 2017: “Morality in language” (Talk). *University at Albany, SUNY*, Albany, NY.

February 2017: “Morality in language” (Talk). *Department of Psychology, The Pennsylvania State University*, University Park, PA.

February 2017: “Morality in language” (Talk). *Munk School of Global Affairs, University of Toronto*.

January 2017: “The language of purity and harm values: An analysis of the conceptual semantics of contamination and injury” (Talk). *Society for Personality & Social Psychology*, San Antonio, TX

December 2016: “On patiency: How value is attributed to the opposite of agency” (Talk). *Moral Psychology Research Group*, Pittsburg, PA

December 2016: “Who is a moral expert?” (Talk). *Moral Psychology Research Group*, Pittsburg, PA

November 2016: “Implicit measurement of causal attribution and social values” (Talk). *Society for Judgment and Decision-Making Conference*, Boston, MA

November 2016: “Machiavellian fairness: The fairness values of people with reduced self-reported prosociality” (Poster). *Society for Judgment and Decision-Making Conference*, Boston, MA

November 2016: “Causal attribution during minimal language processing” (Talk). *Twenty-Fifth Biennial Meeting of the Philosophy of Science Association*, Atlanta, GA

October 2016: “How people attribute contamination and injury across the moral dyad: Tracing patterns in language use to reveal the structure of morality” (Talk). *Brown University*, Providence, RI

October 2016: “Attributing contamination and injury across the moral dyad: A psycholinguistics approach” (Talk). *Society of Experimental Social Psychology Conference*, Santa Monica, CA

September 2016: “Tracing the emergence of the moral dimension of implicit verb causality” (Talk). *Yale University, Mind and Development Lab*, New Haven, CT

August 2016: “The implicit causality task as a measure of motivated causal attribution” (Talk). *CogSci 2016*, Philadelphia, PA

August 2016: “Moral judgment during minimal language processing” (Talk). Chair, Symposium “Mutual constraints in moral cognition and language” *International Conference on Thinking*, Brown University, Providence, RI

June 2016: “Implicit measurement of causal attribution: (Talk). *Society of Philosophy and Psychology Annual Conference*, University of Texas, Austin, TX

May 2016: “Moral inference biases verbs’ implicit causality” (Talk). *Moral Psychology Research Group*, Harvard University

April 2016: “Moral inference in minimal language processing” (Talk). *Social Perception and Evaluation Lab Meeting*, New York University

April 2016: “The behavioral and neural signatures of distinct conceptions of fairness: Impartiality, charity, and reciprocity” (Poster). *Social and Affective Neuroscience Annual Conference*, NYU

March 2016: “The moral dimension of implicit verb causality” (Talk). *CUNY 2016: 29th Annual CUNY Conference on Human Sentence Processing*, Gainesville, FL

February 2016: “Implicit causality and moral judgment” (Talk). *Language & Cognition Seminar*, Harvard University

January 2016: “Person-blind and person-based fairness: Investigating the differences among impartiality, charity, and reciprocity” (Talk). Co-Chair of Symposium “Multiple perspectives on the psychology of fairness: New neural, computational, developmental and cross-cultural findings,” *Society for Personality & Social Psychology*, San Diego, CA

November 2015: “Implicit causality and moral inference” (Talk). *The Expression, Communication, and the Origins of Meaning (ECOM) Research Group Workshop*, University of Connecticut

October 2015: “Ideology and causal attribution” (Talk). *Cognition, Brain, and Behavior Research Seminar*. Harvard University

October 2015: “Implicit causality as moral inference-making” (Talk). *Boston Area Morality and Social Cognition Discussion Group*, Boston University

June 2015: “Decreasing victim blaming by intervening on moral focus: Policy implications” (Poster). *Society for the Psychology Study of Social Issues Conference*, Washington, DC

Feb 2015: “Implicit and explicit moral cognition in sexual victimization and coercion” (Talk). Co-chair of Symposium “The role of disgust in morality: It's complicated” *Society for Personality & Social Psychology Annual Conference*, Long Beach, CA

June 2014: “Ideology, psychology, and recovery: Implicit and explicit cognition in moral judgment of sexual assault and links to mental contamination” (Talk) *Society for the Study of the Psychology of Social Issues Conference*, Portland, OR

May 2014: “Comparing quantities under the influence of emotion: Effects on temporal and numeric processing” (Poster) *Association for Psychological Science Convention*, San Francisco, CA

May 2014: “Examining moral norms” *Boston College Graduate Research Day*, Chestnut Hill, MA

April 2014: “Implicit and explicit cognition in the case of sexual assault: Future directions” (Talk)

*Laboratory for Clinical and Developmental Research, Harvard University*

April 2014: “Neural representations of fairness based on impartiality, reciprocity and need” (Poster) *Cognitive Neuroscience Society Annual Meeting, Boston, MA*

April 2014: “Examining moral norms” *Moral Psychology Research Group, Duke University*

April 2014: “Implicit and explicit cognition in the case of sexual assault” (Talk) *Moral Psychology Research Lab, Brown University, Providence, MA*

March 2014: “The development of the effects of emotion on numerical estimation abilities” (Poster co-authored with undergraduate advisee Emily Lewis) *Eastern Psychological Association Meeting, Boston, MA*

Feb 2014: “Contamination and condemnation: Examining implicit and explicit attitudes about harm and purity in the case of sexual assault” (Poster) *Society for Personality & Social Psychology, Austin, TX*

Feb 2014: “Neural representations of fairness based on impartiality, reciprocity and need” (Talk) *Social Brain Science Symposium, Boston, MA*

May 2013: “Quantifying a threat: Evidence of a numeric processing bias” (Poster) *Association for Psychological Science Convention, Washington, DC.*

May 2013: “Sexual crimes: Contamination and condemnation” (Talk) *Moral Psychology Research Group, Brown University, Providence, RI*

Jan 2013: “Care across boundaries versus keeping boundaries intact: Diverging links with Machiavellianism, social dominance orientation & prosociality” (Poster) *Society for Personality and Social Psychology, New Orleans, LA*

Nov 2012: “Fewer things, lasting longer: The effect of emotion on quantity judgments” (Talk) *20th Annual Meeting on Object Perception, Attention, and Memory, Minneapolis, MN*

Oct 2012: “Machiavellian morals: Uncovering the true nature of binding versus individualizing values” (Talk) *Boston Area Morality and Social Cognition Discussion Group, Boston University*

Aug 2012: “Artful morality: Investigating mediators of value change” (Talk) *International Summer School of Affective Science, Bogis-Bossey, Switzerland*

Aug 2012: “Heightened incidence of depressive symptoms in adolescents involved in the arts” (Talk) *American Psychological Association Convention, Orlando, FL*

## TEACHING & ADVISING

**Cornell University**, Fall 2019: Moral Psychology  
Undergraduate Lecture

**University of Toronto**, Peace, Conflict & Justice Program  
Fall 2018: PCJ360 *Topics in Peace Conflict and Justice: Fairness*

Course summary: Through readings from developmental, social, moral and cultural psychology, as well as philosophy and behavioral economics, students gain a practical understanding of both current research and foundational thinking on the topic. Students apply their learning to historical and contemporary conflicts, from inside the home to across national boundaries. *3<sup>rd</sup> year undergraduate seminar*

**University of Toronto, Masters of Global Affairs Program**

Instructor, Winter/Spring 2019 GLA2013H *Topics in Global Violence: Explanations*.

Course summary: The objectives of the course are that: (a) students examine and evaluate the factors driving theories about the causes of violence from psychology, sociology, and contemporary philosophy, and that (b) students assess the consequences of diverging theories about harm and violence in diverse societies. *Graduate-level seminar*

**Harvard University, Department of Psychology**

Teaching Fellow: Duties included teaching weekly one-hour sections; advising individual research papers; teaching basic statistical analysis and scientific writing; individual advising; grading research papers, weekly assignments, and exams; development and planning of section lecture content.

- *Psychological Science*, Spring 2015: Prof. Steven Pinker (3 Sections)
- *Social Psychology*, Spring 2015: Prof. Joshua Greene (2 Sections)
- *Social Psychology*, Fall 2014: Prof. Fiery Cushman (5 Sections)
- *Social Psychology*, Spring 2014: Prof. Joshua Green (3 Sections)

**Boston College, Department of Psychology**

Instructor, *Clinical Psychology*. Spring 2014: Creating and delivering original 70-minute lectures with integrated classroom activities on the theory and practice of clinical psychology and psychotherapy; exam preparation; grading; and individual advising for 48 students.

**Boston College, Department of Psychology**

Teaching Assistant: Duties included individual advising; grading research papers and exams; preparing exam questions; guest lecturing on gender and development (Fall 2011), moral psychology (Fall 2012), social development (Spring 2013).

- *Social Psychology*, Spring 2015: Prof. Andrea Heberlein
- *Social Psychology*, Spring 2013: Prof. Andrea Heberlein
- *Social Psychology*, Fall 2012: Prof. Andrea Heberlein
- *Abnormal Psychology*, Spring 2012: Prof. Marilee Ogren
- *Developmental Psychology*, Fall 2011: Prof. Sara Cordes

**Research Assistants Advised:** 11 students at Boston College; 2 at Harvard University; 2 at Princeton University; 2 at Duke University; 1 at University of Toronto

**Postdoctoral Researchers Advising:** 1 at University of Toronto

**Senior Theses Advised**

- *The Effects of Emotion & Autistic Traits on Time Processing in Adults* (Boston College 2013; Emily Lewis, poster in 2014 Eastern Psychological Association Meeting)
- *The Stability of Symmetry Preferences* (Boston College 2013)
- *Underestimating the Opponent's Big Lead in the Polls* (Boston College 2013)
- *The Influence of Emotion on Time and Number Estimation* (Boston College 2014)
- *Effects of Emotion on Numerical Estimation: A Developmental Perspective* (Boston College 2014)
- *The Experience of Being a Credible Authority* (Duke, 2018)



## SERVICE

2018 – present	Member, William James Prize Committee, Society for Philosophy and Psychology
2018 – present	Volunteer Validator of the Co-Curricular Record, Voices of Women for Peace Undergraduate Student Group, University of Toronto
2018 – present	Member, Kiessling Paper Award Committee, Munk School of Global Affairs & Public Policy, University of Toronto
2018 – present	Member, Emergency Funding and Student Support Committee, Munk School of Global Affairs & Public Policy, University of Toronto
2016 – present	Co-Founder & Ongoing Organizer, Marginalia Science
5/2016 – 7/2017	Co-organizer with Dr. Brent Strickland of <i>Morality, Language, and Thought Workshop</i> , held at Institut Jean Nicod, Paris in July 2017
9/2012 – 5/2015	Co-Founder, Graduate Research Workshop, Boston College
9/2012 – 9/2015	Mentor, Psi Chi Grad-Undergrad Mentorship Program, Boston College
9/2012 – 9/2014	Vice President, Graduate Student Council, Boston College

## Peer Review:

- Articles *Cognition; Cognitive Science; Journal of Counseling Psychology; Emotion; European Journal of Social Psychology; Journal of Experimental Psychology: General; Organizational Behavior and Human Decision Processes; Leonardo; Journal of Personality; Philosophical Psychology; Political Psychology; PLOS ONE; Personality and Social Psychology Bulletin; Psychology of Violence; Psychological Science; Sexuality Research and Social Policy; Social Cognitive and Affective Neuroscience; Journal of Experimental Social Psychology; Social Psychology; Social Psychological and Personality Science*. Article Editor: *SAGE Open*
- Conferences *Academy of Management; COGSCI: Cognitive Science Society; SPP: Society for Philosophy and Psychology; CUNY: Conference on Human Sentence Processing; SSNAP: Summer Seminar on Neuroscience and Philosophy*

## TECHNICAL SKILLS

*Magnetic Resonance Imaging*: Green Badge Certified at the Harvard Center for Brain Science  
*Programming*: MATLAB, Inquisit, RealBasic, Qualtrics, Amazon Mechanical Turk, TurkPrime, Git Bitbucket, SPSS, SPM

*Visual design and graphics (for print and web)*: Adobe Creative Suite: Illustrator, Photoshop

## CLINICAL EXPERIENCE

9/2010 – 5/2011	<i>Intern</i> , Boston Children's Hospital Inpatient Psychiatry Unit, Boston, MA
7/2010 – 9/2010	<i>Art Therapist</i> , Raw Art Works, Lynn, MA
9/2009 – 5/2010	<i>Intern</i> , Victims of Crime and Loss (VOCAL) Program, Beverly, MA
8/2004 – 4/2005	<i>Certified Sexual Assault Counselor</i> , Santa Barbara Rape Crisis Center, CA

## PROFESSIONAL MEMBERSHIPS

Association for Psychological Science  
Cognitive Science Society  
Moral Psychology Research Group  
Psi Chi: International Honor Society in Psychology  
Society for Philosophy and Psychology  
Society of Personality & Social Psychology  
Society for the Psychological Study of Social Issues