

## CINDEL J. M. WHITE

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### ACADEMIC APPOINTMENTS

Assistant Professor, Department of Psychology, York University 2021 – Present

### EDUCATION

**Ph.D., Social and Personality Psychology**, University of British Columbia 2021  
Minor in Quantitative Methods  
Dissertation: *The cognitive foundations and prosocial consequences of belief in karma and gods*  
Committee: Ara Norenzayan, Mark Schaller, and J. Kiley Hamlin

**M. A., Social and Personality Psychology**, University of British Columbia 2017  
Thesis: *Belief in karma: The content and correlates of supernatural justice beliefs across cultures*

**B. A. (Honors), Psychology**, King's University College at Western University 2015  
Thesis: *Unexpected events as a cue to social surveillance*

### REFEREED PUBLICATIONS

**White, C. J. M.**, Muthukrishna, M., & Norenzayan, A. (In press). Cultural similarity among co-religionists within and between countries. *PNAS*. Preprint available at <https://psyarxiv.com/uetg6>

**White, C. J. M.**, & Norenzayan, A. (In press). Karma and God: Convergent and divergent mental representations of supernatural norm enforcement. *Psychology of Religion and Spirituality*. Preprint available at <https://psyarxiv.com/a7398/>

Baimel, A., **White, C. J. M.**, Sarkissian, H. & Norenzayan, A. (In press). How is analytical thinking related to religious belief? A test of three theoretical models. *Religion, Brain, and Behavior*. Preprint available at <https://psyarxiv.com/a6d8j/>

**White, C. J. M.**, Willard, A.K., Baimel, A., & Norenzayan, A. (2021). Cognitive pathways to belief in karma and belief in God. *Cognitive Science*, 45(1): e12935. doi: 10.1111/cogs.12935

**White, C. J. M.**, Schaller, M., & Norenzayan, A. (2020). How strongly do moral character inferences predict forecasts of the future? Testing the moderating roles of transgressor age, implicit personality theories, and belief in karma. *PLoS ONE*, 15(12): e0244144. doi: 10.1371/journal.pone.0244144

- White, C. J. M.,** Baimel, A., & Norenzayan, A. (2021). How cultural learning and cognitive biases shape religious beliefs. *Current Opinion in Psychology*, *40*, 34-39. doi: 10.1016/j.copsyc.2020.07.033
- White, C. J. M.,** Kelly, J. M., Shariff, A. F., & Norenzayan, A. (2019). Supernatural norm enforcement: Thinking about karma and God reduces selfishness among believers. *Journal of Experimental Social Psychology*, *84*, 103797. doi: 10.1016/j.jesp.2019.03.008
- White, C. J. M.,** & Norenzayan, A. (2019). Belief in karma: How cultural evolution, cognition, and motivations shape belief in supernatural justice. In J. M. Olson (Ed.), *Advances in Experimental Social Psychology* (Vol. 60, pp. 1–63). doi: 10.1016/bs.aesp.2019.03.001
- White, C. J. M.,** Norenzayan, A., & Schaller, M. (2019). The content and correlates of belief in Karma across cultures. *Personality and Social Psychology Bulletin*, *45*, 1184-1201. doi: 10.1177/0146167218808502
- White, C. J. M.,** & Schaller, M. (2018). Are children perceived to be morally exceptional? Different sets of psychological variables predict adults' moral judgments about adults and about young children. *Personality and Social Psychology Bulletin*, *44*, 1147 – 1162. doi: 10.1177/0146167218760800
- Hofer, M. K., Buckels, E. E., **White, C. J. M.,** Beall, A. T., and Schaller, M. (2018). Individual differences in activation of the parental care motivational system: An empirical distinction between protection and nurturance. *Social Psychological and Personality Science*, *9*(8), 907 – 916. doi: 10.1177/1948550617728994
- White, C.,** Baimel, A., & Norenzayan, A. (2017). What are the causes and consequences of belief in karma?. *Religion, Brain, and Behavior*, *7*(4), 339 – 342. doi: 10.1080/2153599X.2016.1249921

#### MANUSCRIPTS UNDER REVIEW

- White, C. J. M.,** Schaller, M., Abraham, E., Rottman, J. (2021). A person-centered approach to punishment: Reprimand and avoidance are differentially directed towards adult and child transgressors. *Revise and resubmit*. Preprint available at <https://psyarxiv.com/9y3wp>

#### MANUSCRIPTS IN PREPARATION

- Pasek, M. H., Kelly, J. M., Shackelford, C., **White, C.J.M.,** Vishkin, A., Smith, J., Norenzayan, A., Shariff, A., & Ginges, J. (2020). Thinking of God leads to more generosity to members of other religious groups. *Manuscript in preparation*.
- Hofer, M. K., Lai, A., **White, C.J.M.,** & Schaller, M. (2020). Does caring breed contempt?: The impact of temporary activation of a “parental” mindset on moral judgments. *Manuscript in preparation*.

**RESEARCH GRANTS OBTAINED**

Issachar Fund Doctoral Dissertation Sub-Grant (\$50,000) PI: Cindel White <i>The Evolution of Science and Religion as Meaning-Making Systems: Karma, Naturalistic Explanations for Misfortune, and Prosocial Behaviour</i>	2020 - 2022
John Templeton Foundation, Early Career Grant (\$25,000) PI: Cindel White; Co-investigator: Brent Stewart <i>Gratitude to God: Exploring the role of mind attribution and awe as determinates of non-personal gratitude</i>	2020 - 2021
Arts Graduate Research Award (\$1000) PI: Cindel White; Co-investigator: Joshua Rottman <i>Asymmetries in moral disgust elicited by adults' and children's norm violations</i>	2019
John Templeton Foundation seed grant (\$11,200) Co-investigators: Kathleen H. Corriveau, Kurt Gray, Aiyana K. Willard <i>Do You Believe in Magical Objects? The Importance of Artifacts in Ritual Success</i>	2018 - 2019
John Templeton Foundation seed grant (\$11,200) Co-investigators: Jordan P. LaBouff, Kathleen H. Corriveau, Jennifer M. Clegg, Kurt Gray <i>It's only weird if it doesn't work: The role of intentions and emotions in magical thinking</i>	2018 - 2019

**OTHER GRANT-WRITING ACTIVITY**

The John Templeton Foundation (\$621,224) <i>Children's and adults' responses to people who seek to learn about religion</i> PI: Larisa Heiphetz; Research team member: Cindel White	2020 – 2023
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**FELLOWSHIPS AND AWARDS**

President's Academic Excellence Initiative PhD Award (\$552.60)	2020 - 2021
Delroy L. Paulhus Scholarship in Psychology (\$1,200)	2020
UBC Four Year Fellowship for PhD Students (\$13,685.36)	2017 - 2021
SSHRC Joseph-Armand Bombardier CGS Doctoral Scholarship (\$116,667) <i>The developmental origins, mental representation, and behavioural consequences of belief in karma</i>	2017 - 2020
SSHRC Canada Graduate Scholarships-Master's (\$17,500)	2016
UBC Graduate Fellowship (\$17,500)	2015

## REFEREED CONFERENCE PRESENTATIONS

- White, C. J. M.,** Willard, A. K., & Norenzayan, A. (2021, July). Karma's effect on generosity and attributions for misfortune. Presented at the *14th Biennial Conference of the Asian Association of Social Psychology* [Virtual].
- White, C. J. M.,** Muthukrishna, M., & Norenzayan., A. (2021, June). Worldwide evidence of cultural similarity among co-religionists. Presented at the *Cultural Evolution Society Conference* [Virtual].
- White, C. J. M.,** Schaller, M., Abraham, E., Rottman, J. (2021, February). A person-centered approach to punishment: Reprimand and avoidance are differentially directed towards adult and child transgressors. Presented at the *22<sup>nd</sup> Annual Convention for the Society for Personality and Social Psychology* [Virtual].
- White, C. J. M.,** Muthukrishna, M., & Norenzayan., A. (2021, February). Worldwide evidence of cultural similarity among co-religionists within and across countries using the World Values Survey. Presented at the *22<sup>nd</sup> Annual Convention for the Society for Personality and Social Psychology, Religion and Spirituality Preconference* [Virtual].
- White, C. J. M.,** & Schaller, M. (2020, July\*). Differences between adults' evaluations of adults' and young children's moral transgressions. To be presented at the *European Association of Social Psychology General Meeting, Kraków, Poland.*  
\* Cancelled because of COVID-19 pandemic
- White, C. J. M.,** Baimel, A., & Norenzayan, A. (2020, February). Cognitive pathways to belief in karma and belief in God. Presented at the *21<sup>st</sup> Annual Convention for the Society for Personality and Social Psychology, Religion and Spirituality Preconference, New Orleans, LA, USA.*
- White, C. J. M.,** Van de Vondervoort, J. W., Hamlin, J. K., & Norenzayan, A. (2019, May). Third-party punishment, vigilante justice, or karma? A comparison of reactions to interpersonal and cosmic justice. Presented at the *31<sup>st</sup> Annual Conference for the Human Behavior and Evolution Society, Boston, MA, USA.*
- White, C. J. M.,** Kelly, J. M., Shariff, A. F., & Norenzayan, A. (2019, February). Thinking about Karma and God reduces believers' selfishness in anonymous dictator games. Presented at the *20<sup>th</sup> Annual Convention for the Society for Personality and Social Psychology, Portland, OR, USA.*
- White, C. J. M.,** Norenzayan, A. (2018, October). Mental models of supernatural morality. Presented at the *Cultural Evolution Society Conference, Tempe, Arizona, USA.*
- White, C. J. M.,** Kelly, J. M., Shariff, A. F., & Norenzayan, A. (2017, September). God is still watching: Reminders of God, but also Karma, increase prosociality. Presented at the *Inaugural Cultural Evolution Society Conference, Jena, Germany.*

**White, C., & Norenzayan, A.** (2016, June). Content and correlates of belief in karma. Part of symposium: Digging at the roots of religion: How mentalizing abilities and group processes at the heart of religious beliefs and rituals help sustain human cooperation. Presented at the *28th Annual Conference for the Human Behavior and Evolution Society*, Vancouver, Canada.

## **REFEREED CONFERENCE PRESENTATIONS: POSTERS**

**White, C. J. M., Norenzayan, A., & Schaller, M.** (2020, February). How strongly do moral character inferences predict forecasts of the future? Testing the moderating roles of transgressor age, implicit personality theories, and belief in karma. Presented at the *21<sup>st</sup> Annual Convention for the Society for Personality and Social Psychology*, New Orleans, LA, USA.

Kelly, J. M., **White, C. J. M.**, Shariff, A. F., & Norenzayan, A. (2019, February). Christians increase generosity towards both atheists and fellow Christians following a religious cue. Presented at the *20<sup>th</sup> Annual Convention for the Society for Personality and Social Psychology*, Portland, USA.

**White, C. J. M., & Norenzayan, A.** (2018, May). Beliefs about Karma and God, Interpersonal Morality, and Prosocial Behaviour. Presented at the workshop *Future directions in the evolution of rituals, beliefs and religious minds*, Erice, Italy.

**White, C. J. M., & Norenzayan, M.** (2018, March). God and Karma beliefs and prosocial behaviour, among Christians, Hindus, Buddhists, and the non-religious. Presented at the *19<sup>th</sup> Annual Convention for the Society for Personality and Social Psychology*, Atlanta, Georgia.

**White, C., & Schaller, M.** (2017, January). Intentionality and disgust affect moral judgments about children less than moral judgments about adults. Presented at the *18<sup>th</sup> Annual Convention for the Society for Personality and Social Psychology*, San Antonio, Texas.

**White, C., & Norenzayan, A.** (2016, August). Belief in karma. Presented at the conference for the *International Association for the Cognitive Science of Religion*, Vancouver, British Columbia.

**White, C., & Schaller, M.** (2016, January). Do babies have special moral status? Predictors of the moral standing granted to adults and infants. Presented at the *17<sup>th</sup> Annual Convention for the Society for Personality and Social Psychology*, San Diego, California.

**White, C., Penner-Wilger, M., & Broad, G.** (2015, July). Historical Cognition: An investigation of factors affecting reasoning about historical causality. Presented at the *37<sup>th</sup> Annual Cognitive Science Society Meeting*, Pasadena, CA.

Penner-Wilger, M., Waring, R. J., Newton, A. T., & **White, C.** (2015, July). Finger Gnosis and Symbolic Number Comparison as Robust Predictors of Adult Numeracy. Presented at the *37<sup>th</sup> Annual Cognitive Science Society Meeting*, Pasadena, CA.

**White, C.,** Buckland, C., Penner-Wilger, M., Broad, G. (2015, June). Historical Cognition: Cognitive Biases in Historical Reasoning. Presented at the 25<sup>th</sup> Annual Meeting of the Canadian Society for Brain, Behaviour, & Cognitive Science, Ottawa, ON.

Penner-Wilger, M., Waring, R. J., Newton, A. T., & **White, C.** (2015, June). Calculation: A Digital Domain. Presented at the 25<sup>th</sup> Annual Meeting of the Canadian Society for Brain, Behaviour, & Cognitive Science, Ottawa, ON.

## **INVITED TALKS**

Developing Moral Values Lab, Franklin & Marshall College (January 2021).

Social and Moral Cognition Lab, Columbia University (October 2020).

Social Learning Lab, Boston University (May 2019).

## **INVITED WORKSHOP PARTICIPATION**

Emergent Themes in the Study of Science & Belief in Society (April 2021), Online.

Gratitude to God Workshop (February 2021), Online.

Summer Institute in Social and Personality Psychology (July 2019), New York University.

Early-Career Psych of Religion Workshop (October 2016), Oceanside, CA.

## **AD HOC REVIEWER**

*Psychological Science; Cognition; Journal of Experimental Psychology: General; Journal of Experimental Social Psychology; Personality and Social Psychology Bulletin; The International Journal for the Psychology of Religion; Psychology of Religion and Spirituality; Evolution and Human Behavior; Religion, Brain & Behavior*

## **COMMITTEES**

Student Representative, Faculty Search Committee for hiring Tenure-Track Position in Social/Personality Psychology	2020-2021
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## **CONTRACTOR WORK**

Statistical and Survey Design Consultant Munro Thompson Communications Inc.	2019-2020
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## **PROFESSIONAL MEMBERSHIPS**

- Association for Psychological Science
- Society for Personality and Social Psychology
- Human Behaviour and Evolution Society
- Cultural Evolution Society

## REFERENCES

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