

## 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

*Note:* \* denotes an undergraduate, graduate student, or post-doc trainee at time of project

**White, C. J. M.,** Dean, C. M.,\* Laurin, K. (Accepted). Do reminders of God increase willingness to take risks? *Journal of Experimental Social Psychology*. Preprint available at <https://psyarxiv.com/h74a3>

Mosley, A. J.,\* **White, C. J. M.,** & Solomon, L.H. (Accepted). Children's Moral Evaluations of and Behaviors toward People Who are Curious about Religion and Science. *Child Development*.

**White, C. J. M.,** Mosley, A. J.,\* & Solomon, L. H. (Accepted). Adults Show Positive Moral Evaluations of Curiosity about Religion. *Social Psychological and Personality Science*. <https://psyarxiv.com/y6kvn>

**White, C. J. M.,** Johnson, K. A., & Mirbozorgi, B.\* (In press). Unique cognitive and emotional profiles of interpersonal gratitude and spiritual gratitude. *The Journal of Positive Psychology*. <https://psyarxiv.com/3tcvs/>

Pasek, M. H., Kelly, J. M., Shackelford, C., **White, C.J.M.,** Vishkin, A., Smith, J., Norenzayan, A., Shariff, A., & Ginges, J. (2023). Thinking about God encourages prosociality towards religious outgroups: A cross-cultural investigation. *Psychological Science*, 34(6). doi: u.ca/10.1177/09567976231158576

- Hoogeveen, S., Sarafoglou, A., ... **White, C. J. M.**, ...van Elk, M., Wagenmakers, E. (In press). Many-Analysts Approach to the Relation Between Religiosity and Well-being. *Religion, Brain, & Behavior*. doi: 10.1080/2153599X.2022.2070255
- White, C. J. M.**, Schaller, M., Abraham, E.,\* Rottman, J. (2022). Navigating between punishment, avoidance, and instruction: The form and function of responses to moral violations varies across adult and child transgressors. *Cognition*, 223, 105048. doi: 10.1016/j.cognition.2022.105048
- White, C. J. M.**, & Norenzayan, A. (2022). Karma and God: Convergent and divergent mental representations of supernatural norm enforcement. *Psychology of Religion and Spirituality*, 14(1), 70–85. doi: 10.1037/rel0000436
- White, C. J. M.**, Muthukrishna, M., & Norenzayan., A. (2021). Cultural similarity among co-religionists within and between countries. *Proceedings of the National Academy of Sciences*, 118 (37): e2109650118. doi: 10.1073/pnas.2109650118
- Baimel, A., **White, C. J. M.**, Sarkissian, H. & Norenzayan, A. (2021). How is analytical thinking related to religious belief? A test of three theoretical models. *Religion, Brain, and Behavior*, 11 (3): 239-260. doi: 10.1080/2153599X.2021.1878259
- 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.**, 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.**, 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.**, 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.,** & Billet, M. I.\* (2022). The role of anthropomorphism, spirituality, and gratitude in pro-environmental attitudes. *Manuscript under review*.

**White, C. J.M.,** & Willard, A. K. (2023). How karma harms and helps generosity towards those in need. *Manuscript under review*.

#### MANUSCRIPTS IN PREPARATION

Billet, M.I.\* **White, C.J.M.,** & Norenzayan, A. (2023). End of World Beliefs Predict Environmental Policy Support. *Manuscript in preparation*.

Hofer, M. K., Lai, A., **White, C.J.M.,** & Schaller, M. (2023). Does caring breed contempt?: Examining the hypothesis that activation of a “parental” mindset causes harsher moral judgments. *Manuscript in preparation*.

Mercier, B., **White, C. J. M.,** & Inbar, Y. (2023). Bad victims: Moral transgressions against immoral victims are judged less harshly. *Manuscript in preparation*. Preprint available at <https://psyarxiv.com/bm7hp/>

Salvador, C. E., **White, C. J. M.,** & Ai, T. (2023). Who is your biggest critic? Cultural variation in moral judgements of the self and others. *Manuscript in preparation*.

Schimmelpfennig, R., Spicer, R., **White, C. J. M.,** Gervais, W., Norenzayan, A., Heine, S., Henrich, S., & Muthukrishna, M. (2023). A Problem in theory and more: Measuring the moderating role of culture in Many Labs 2. *Manuscript in preparation*. Preprint available at <https://psyarxiv.com/hmnrx/>

**White, C. J. M.,** & Muthukrishna, M. (2023). More educated, more WEIRD: Higher education predicts worldwide cultural similarity to the United States and other WEIRD countries. *Manuscript in preparation*. Preprint available at <https://psyarxiv.com/8wr5d>

**White, C. J. M.,** Johnson, K. A., & Mirbozorgi, B.\* (2023). Varieties of spiritual gratitude: Differences between emotional responses to blessing from God, karma, and human benefactors. *Manuscript under review*. Preprint available at <https://psyarxiv.com/m5prg>

## RESEARCH GRANTS OBTAINED

SSHRC Insight Development Grant (\$59,358) PI: Cindel White <i>The Psychological Structure of Non-Theistic Supernatural Beliefs</i>	2022 - 2024
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
Explaining Atheism (£76,168) <i>Explaining Nordic Atheism: How cultural learning mechanisms predict atheism in Nordic cultural contexts</i> PI: Valerie van Mulukom & Anne Lundahl Mauritsen; Advisory Board: Cindel White	2022 - 2023

## FELLOWSHIPS AND AWARDS

Morris Belkin Prize for best dissertation (\$1,200)	2021
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President's Academic Excellence Initiative PhD Award (\$552.60)	2020 - 2021
Delroy L. Paulhus Scholarship in Psychology (\$1,200)	2021
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.,** Dean, C. M.\*, & Laurin, K. (2023, June). Reminders of God increase willingness to take risks: A registered report. Presented at the *Social/Personality Pre-Conference for the Canadian Psychological Association 84<sup>th</sup> Annual National Convention*, Toronto, Canada.

**White, C. J. M.,** & Muthukrishna, M. (2023, February). Education makes us WEIRD: Higher education predicts worldwide cultural similarity to the United States. Presented at the *24<sup>nd</sup> Annual Convention for the Society for Personality and Social Psychology, Advances in Cultural Psychology Preconference*, Atlanta, USA.

**White, C. J. M.** & Muthukrishna, M. (2022, September). Higher education predicts worldwide cultural similarity to the United States. Presented at the *Cultural Evolution Society Conference*, Aarhus, Denmark.

**White, C. J. M.** (2022, September). Varieties of spiritual gratitude: Differences between emotional responses to blessing from God, karma, and human benefactors. Presented at the 8th biennial meeting of the *International Association for the Cognitive and Evolutionary Sciences of Religion*, Aarhus, Denmark.

Heiphetz, L., Mosley, A. J.,\* & **White, C. J. M.** (2022, May). Moral evaluations of curiosity regarding religion and science. Paper presented at the *annual meeting of the Association for Psychological Science*. Chicago, IL.

Mosley, A.J.,\* **White, C.,** Heiphetz, L. (2022, February). The Virtue Ethics of Curiosity: How Perceptions of Effort Shape Moral Judgements of Curious Actors. *Talk presented at The Society for Personality and Social Psychology 24th Annual Meeting*, San Francisco, CA.

- 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

Aryaie, M.\*, & **White, C. J. M.** (2023, June). Belief in the Evil Eye. Presented at the *Social/Personality Pre-Conference for the Canadian Psychological Association 84<sup>th</sup> Annual National Convention*, Toronto, Canada.

Farias Martelli, G.\*, & **White, C. J. M.** (2023, June). Exploring factors that predict credible religious testimony. Presented at the *Social/Personality Pre-Conference for the Canadian Psychological Association 84<sup>th</sup> Annual National Convention*, Toronto, Canada.

Mercier, B.\*, **White, C.**, & Inbar, Y. (2023, February). Bad Victims: Perpetrators who Harm Unethical Victims are Perceived as Less Immoral. Presented at the *24<sup>st</sup> Annual Convention for the Society for Personality and Social Psychology*, Atlanta, USA.

Farias Martelli, G.\*, & **White, C. J. M.** (2023, February). Karma and Interpersonal Justice Evaluations. Presented at the *24<sup>st</sup> Annual Convention for the Society for Personality and Social Psychology, Religion and Spirituality Preconference*, Atlanta, USA.

Aryaie, M.\*, & **White, C. J. M.** (2023, February). Belief in the Evil Eye. Presented at the *24<sup>st</sup> Annual Convention for the Society for Personality and Social Psychology, Religion and Spirituality Preconference*, Atlanta, USA.

Charles, S.N.\*, Mosley, A.J.\*, **White, C.**, Heiphetz, L. (2022, April). 5- to 8- year-olds' moral evaluations of curiosity about religion and science. Presented at the biennial meeting of the *Cognitive Development Society*.

**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

- Keynote, York University/University of Toronto Joint Social Personality Conference (May 2023)
- Evolution of Science and Religion as Meaning Making Systems Dublin Workshop (May 2023)
- Psychology Colloquium, Duke University (November 2022)
- Social Psychology Colloquium, McGill University (November 2022)
- Gratitude to God Workshop, Palm Springs (October 2022)
- Evolution of Science and Religion as Meaning Making Systems Edinburgh Workshop (May 2022)
- Gratitude to God Brown Bag Meeting (March 2022)
- Oxford Brookes University (March 2022).
- Religion & Spirituality Preconference at the SPSP Annual Convention (February 2022).
- 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**

The Evolution of Science and Religion as Meaning Making Systems (May 2023), Dublin, Ireland.  
 The Evolution of Science and Religion as Meaning Making Systems (May 2022), Edinburgh, UK.  
 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.

## **TEACHING EXPERIENCE**

### **Courses Taught (York University)**

Cultural Psychology (Undergraduate level)

### **Undergraduate Research Supervision**

Sophia Kurt, Independent Research Project (2023): Psychology of supernatural beliefs  
 Atlee Lauder, Independent Research Project (2023): Mental models of supernatural forces  
 Michelle Saltzman, Independent Research Project (2023): Mental models of supernatural forces  
 Graziela Farias Martelli, Honours Thesis (2022): Relationship Between Government Restrictions  
 on Religion and Cultural Distance Between Christians  
 Behnam Mirbozorgi, Independent Research Project (2022): Topic modelling themes in gratitude to  
 tangible and intangible benefactors  
 Arezoo Khaligh, Independent Research Project (2022): Explanations for Help and Harm

### **Graduate Research Supervision**

Mina Aryaie (MA, expected 2024)  
 Graziela Farias Martelli (MA, expected 2024)  
 Hannah Tran (Committee member, MA)  
 Kaiwen Zhou (Committee member, PhD)  
 Jeremy Forsythe (Committee member, PhD)

### **Mentorship**

*Productive Writing During Grad School: Tips for Thesis, Dissertation, Manuscripts, and Grants,*  
 Mentorship Breakfast during SPSP 2022

## **PROFESSIONAL AND UNIVERSITY SERVICE**

### **Ad Hoc Journal Reviewer**

*Psychological Science; Nature Human Behaviour; Psychological Inquiry; Cognition; Cognitive Science; 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; Developmental Psychology; European Journal of Social Psychology; Scandinavian Journal of Psychology; Current Research in Ecological and Social Psychology*

### **Grant Reviewer/Adjudicator**

John Templeton Foundation	2022
Social Sciences and Humanities Research Council (SSHRC)	2022

### **Service to Social/Personality Area at York**

Colloquium Series Coordinator, Social/Personality Area at York University	2022 - present
Reviewer, Norm Endler Research Fellowship Nominations	2022 – 2023

### **Service to University of British Columbia**

Student Representative, Faculty Search Committee for hiring Tenure-Track Position in Social/Personality Psychology at UBC	2020-2021
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### **Service to the Academic Community**

Organizer of the Psychology of Religion & Spirituality Preconference at the Annual Meeting for the Society for personality and Social Psychology	2023 - present
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Member-at-large, Executive Committee, International Association for the Cognitive and Evolutionary Sciences of Religion (IACESR)	2022 - present
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### **CONTRACTOR WORK**

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

- Cultural Evolution Society
- Society for Personality and Social Psychology
- Human Behaviour and Evolution Society
- International Association for the Cognitive and Evolutionary Sciences of Religion