

## 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

- 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. (In press). 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. *PNAS*, 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.,** Dean, C. M., Laurin, K. (2022). Do reminders of God increase willingness to take risks? *Revise & resubmit.*
- Hofer, M. K., Lai, A., **White, C.J.M.,** & Schaller, M. (2022). Does caring breed contempt?: The impact of temporary activation of a “parental” mindset on moral judgments. *Manuscript under review.*

**White, C. J. M.,** Mosley, A. J., & Heiphetz, L. (2022). Attitudes towards curiosity about religion. *Manuscript under review.*

**White, C. J. M.,** Johnson, K. A., & Mirbozorgi, B. (2022). Unique cognitive and emotional profiles of interpersonal gratitude and spiritual gratitude. *Manuscript under review.*

## 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. (2022). Belief in moralizing gods encourages prosociality towards religious outgroups. *Manuscript in preparation.*

Salvador, C. E., **White, C. J. M.,** & Ai, T. (2022). Who is your biggest critic? Cultural variation in moral judgements of the self and others. *Manuscript in preparation.*

**White, C. J. M.,** Johnson, K. A., Mirbozorgi, B., & Stewart, B. (2022). Varieties of spiritual gratitude: Differences between emotional responses to blessing from God, karma, and human benefactors. *Manuscript in preparation.*

**White, C. J. M.,** Billet, M. I., Stewart, B., & Norenzayan, A. (2022). The role of anthropomorphism, spirituality, and gratitude in pro-environmental attitudes. *Manuscript in preparation.*

## 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	2018 - 2019

*Do You Believe in Magical Objects? The Importance of Artifacts in Ritual Success*

John Templeton Foundation seed grant (\$11,200) 2018 - 2019  
 Co-investigators: Jordan P. LaBouff, Kathleen H. Corriveau, Jennifer M. Clegg, Kurt Gray  
*It's only weird if it doesn't work: The role of intentions and emotions in magical thinking*

**OTHER GRANT-WRITING ACTIVITY**

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

**FELLOWSHIPS AND AWARDS**

Morris Belkin Prize for best dissertation (\$1,200) 2021  
 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) 2017 - 2020  
*The developmental origins, mental representation, and behavioural consequences of belief in karma*  
 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

- 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 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**

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

### **Mentorship**

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

## **AD HOC JOURNAL REVIEWER**

*Psychological Science; Nature Human Behaviour; 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*

## **GRANT REVIEWER/ADJUDICATOR**

John Templeton Foundation  
 York University, Norm Endler Research Fellowship

## COMMITTEES

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

## CONTRACTOR WORK

Statistical and Survey Design Consultant  
Munro Thompson Communications Inc. 2019-2020

## 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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