

Steve Rathje

Curriculum Vitae

Contact

University of Cambridge
Department of Psychology
Downing Street
Cambridge CB2 3EB
srathje@stanford.alumni.edu

Education

- 2018-present **University of Cambridge (Trinity College)**
PhD student in Psychology
Supervisor: Sander van der Linden
Gates Cambridge Scholar
Louis and Valerie Freedman Studentship for the Medical Sciences
- 2014-2018 **Stanford University (4.07 GPA)**
BA in Psychology (with Honors and Distinction)
Minor in Symbolic Systems
Junior Phi Beta Kappa
J.E. Wallace Sterling Award for Scholastic Achievement

Publications

Rathje, S., Van Bavel, J.J. & van der Linden, S. (2021) Out-group animosity drives engagement on social media. *Proceedings of the National Academy of Sciences*.

*Altmetric Score: 2199

*Covered by 149 news outlets, including BBC, NBC, the Guardian, and Washington Post

*88th top research output from *PNAS* of all time according to Altmetric

Rathje, S., Roozenbeek, J., Steenbuch Traberg, C., Van Bavel, J.J., & van der Linden, S. (2021) Meta-analysis reveals that accuracy nudges have little to no effect for US conservatives: Regarding Pennycook et al. (2020). *Psychological Science*.

Rathje, S., Hackel, L, Zaki, J. (2021). Attending live theatre improves empathy, changes attitudes, and leads to pro-social behavior. *Journal of Experimental Social Psychology*.

Van Bavel, J. J., **Rathje, S.,** Harris, E., Robertson, C., & Sternisko, A. (2021). How social media shapes polarization. *Trends in Cognitive Sciences*.

Van Bavel, J. J., Harris, E. A., Pärnamets, P., **Rathje, S.,** Doell, K., & Tucker, J. A. (2021). Political psychology in the digital (mis)information age. *Social Issues and Policy Review*.

Van der Linden, S., Roozenbeek, J., Basol, M., Kacha, O., Martins, R., **Rathje, S.**, Traberg, C. (2021). The Psychology of Fake News: A New Field and Research Agenda. *Spanish Journal of Social Psychology*.

Fong, A., Roozenbeek, J., Goldwert, D., **Rathje, S.**, & van der Linden, S (2021). The language of conspiracy: A psychological analysis of speech used by conspiracy theorists and their followers on Twitter. *Group Processes and Intergroup Relations*.

Van Bavel, J. J., Cichocka, A., Capraro, V., Sjøstad, H., Nezelek, J. B., Alfano, M.,... **Rathje, S.**, ... Hudecek, M. F. C. (2021). National identity predicts public health support during a global pandemic: Results from 67 nations. *Nature Communications*.

Rathje, S., Shariff, A., & Schnall, S. (2022). Ideology Trumps Self-Interest: Continued Support for a Political Leader Despite Disappointing Tax Returns. *Journal of Elections, Public Opinion, and Parties*.

Projects: In-Progress

Rathje, S., Roozebeek, Van Bavel, J.J., & van der Linden, S. Online social networks associated with vaccine hesitancy. Under review at *PNAS Nexus*.

Rathje, S., Van Bavel, J.J. & van der Linden, S. Accuracy and social incentives shape belief in (mis)information. Under review at *Nature Human Behavior*.

Rathje, S., Roozebeek, J., Van Bavel, J.J. & van der Linden, S (*In prep*). Online social networks that contribute to polarization: a longitudinal Twitter field study.

Rathje, S., Van Bavel, J, van der Linden, S (*In prep*). Have I shared fake news? A feedback-based intervention for reducing the spread of misinformation.

Rathje, S., Roozebeek, J., Van Bavel, J & van der Linden, S (*In prep*). Does social media increase polarization by amplifying divisive content?

Awards and Grants

2021 **Psychology of Technology Institute Dissertation Award (\$1,000)**
Annual award for best dissertation on the psychology of technology.

2021 **Increasing Open Inquiry Grant (\$30,000)**
Grant from Heterodox Academy to conduct research on social media.

2021 **Synergy Scholar - Center for the Science of Moral Understanding (\$50,000)**
Post-doctoral salary and research expenses.

2021 **Alliance for Decision Education Grant (\$110,000)**

Post-doctoral salary and research expenses.

- 2021 **Google Trust & Safety Team (\$50,000)**
Research expenses for projects on misinformation and polarization.
- 2018 **Gates Cambridge Scholarship (Full PhD Funding)**
Full scholarship to Cambridge awarded by the Bill and Melinda Gates Foundation.
- 2018 **Louis and Valerie Freedman Studentship (Full PhD Funding)**
Full scholarship awarded to one member of Trinity College, Cambridge.
- 2018 **J.E. Wallace Sterling Award for Scholastic Achievement**
Awarded to top 25 graduating seniors at Stanford University.
- 2017 **Phi Beta Kappa (Elected as a Junior)**
Awarded to top 2% of Stanford students.
- 2015 **President's Award for Academic Excellence**
Awarded to top 5% of Stanford's freshman class.
- 2019 **Psychology Department Field Work Funding (\$6,000)**
Awarded to study as a visiting researcher at NYU with Jay Van Bavel.
- 2019 **1st Place, Hooper Declamation Prize (£450)**
First Prize in Trinity College speaking competition.
- 2020 **Bushwick Star Pet Project Grant (\$500)**
Grant to support playwriting projects.
- 2018 **People's Choice Award, California Cognitive Science Conference**
Awarded for poster "How the subtle use of metaphorical framing shapes mindsets"
- 2017 **Oregon New Play Prize (\$10,000 Award)**
Selected out of 150 scripts to receive commission for development of new play.
- 2017 **Ozy Genius Award (\$10,000 Award)**
Grant awarded to develop free playwriting festival in Portland, OR.
- 2016 **Strauss Public Service Scholarship (\$10,000 Award)**
Grant awarded to develop free playwriting festival in Portland, OR.
- 2017 **Undergraduate Advising and Research Grant (\$7,000 Award)**
Funding for undergraduate honors research.
- 2016 **Chappell-Lougee Scholarship (\$6,400 Award)**
Funding to write a play based on psychology research.

- 2016 **Finalist, Eugene O'Neill Playwriting Competition**
Selected out of more than 1,500 scripts.
- 2014 **Winner, Psychology One Scholar Award**
Awarded to top 3% of Psychology One students at Stanford.

Teaching Experience

- 2021 **Supervisor, Applied Behavioral Insights (Fall Term)**
Teaching Assistant (Supervisor) for Cambridge Undergraduate Course
Taught by Lee De-Wit
- 2020 **Supervisor, Applied Behavioral Insights (Winter Term)**
Teaching Assistant (Supervisor) for Cambridge Undergraduate Course
Taught by Lee De-Wit
- 2017-2018 **Psychology One Teaching Fellow**
Department of Psychology, Stanford University
Taught by James Gross (Fall Semester) and Jamil Zaki (Spring Semester)
- 2015-2017 **Oral Communication Tutor**
Hume Center for Writing and Speaking, Stanford University.
- 2016 **Stanford Splash**
Taught a seminar for high school students on social psychology.

Talks

- 2021 **Online Political Hostility Project**
Accuracy and social incentives shape perception of misinformation.
- 2021 **Designing for Empathy Summit**
Attending live theatre improves empathy and increases charitable donations.
- 2021 **Human Cooperation Lab, MIT**
Accuracy and social incentives shape perception of misinformation.
- 2021 **How Theatre Teaches Empathy**
Public conversation (via Zoom) with Hamilton star Phillipa Soo about research on theatre and empathy.
- 2019 **Arts and Pro-Social Research Group, University of Kent**
Presented original research on link between theatre and pro-social behavior.
- 2019 **Gates Day of Research, University of Cambridge**

Presented original research in talk called “Can art change minds?”

2019 **Hooper Declamation Prize, Trinity College Cambridge**

Presented original research on art and pro-social behavior.

*Winner, Best Speaker Award, £450 Prize

Conference Presentations

2022 **Society for Personality and Social Psychology**

Poster Presentation: Rathje, S, Van Bavel, J & van der Linden, S. Accuracy and Social Motivations Shape Perceptions of (Mis)Information.

2021 **Association for Psychological Science**

Flash Talk: Rathje, S, Van Bavel, J & van der Linden, S. Accuracy and Social Motivations Shape Perceptions of (Mis)Information.

2021 **Society for Personality and Social Psychology**

Single Presenter Panel: Rathje, S, Van Bavel, J & van der Linden, S. Outgroup animosity drives engagement on social media.

2020 **Association for Psychological Science (APS) Annual Convention**

Poster Presentation: Rathje, S, Hackel, L, Zaki, J. Seeing theatre improves empathy, changes attitudes, and leads to pro-social behavior.

2018 **Association for Psychological Science (APS) Annual Convention**

Poster Rathje, S, Santoro, E, Dweck, C, Crum, A. How the subtle use of metaphorical language shapes our mindsets.

2018 **California Cognitive Science Conference**

Rathje, S, Santoro, E, Dweck, C, Crum, A. How the subtle use of metaphorical language shapes our mindsets.

*Winner of the “Best Poster” People’s Choice Award

Research Experience

2019-Present **Member, Cambridge Social Decision-Making Lab**

PI: Dr. Sander van der Linden

2020-2022 **Visiting Researcher, Social Identity and Morality Lab**

PI: Dr. Jay Van Bavel, NYU

2014-2018 **Research Assistant, Mind & Body Lab**

PI: Dr. Alia Crum, Stanford University

Selected Media Coverage

Political trolling twice as popular as positivity, study suggests (2021). *BBC*.
How to go viral on social media? Attack a political opponent, study says (2021). *NBC*.
A Surprising Reason Why You Should Attend Live Theater (2021). *Wall Street Journal*.
From viral videos to Fox News: how rightwing media fueled the critical race theory panic (2021). *The Guardian*.

Science Communication

2020-Present **Verified Content Creator on TikTok (995,000+ followers)**.
@stevepsychology on TikTok.

2018-Present **Contributor at Psychology Today**
Contributor for blog “Words Matter.”

Op-Ed: Why Facebook really, really doesn’t want to prevent extremism (2021). *Washington Post*.
Op-Ed: Why theater makes us better people. Bring it back (2021). *Los Angeles Times*.
The Science of Live Theatre (2021). *Psychology Today*.
The Psychology of Live Theatre: Can Seeing Theatre Increase Empathy? (2021). *SPSP Blog*.
The power of framing: it’s not what you say, it’s how you say it (2017). *The Guardian*.
Metaphors can change our opinions in ways we don’t even realize (2018). *Quartz*.
Will the Coronavirus Bring Us Together or Pull Us Apart? (2020). *Psychology Today*.
Why People Ignore Facts (2018). *Psychology Today*.
You Know Less Than You Think (2019). *Psychology Today*.
How to Get More People to Vote (2018). *Psychology Today*.
Do We Need a Common Enemy? (2018). *Psychology Today*.
The Danger of Searching for One True Cause (2019). *Psychology Today*.
When Correcting a Lie, Don’t Repeat It. Do This Instead (2018). *Psychology Today*.
Can Art Change Minds? (2019). *Gates Scholars Magazine*.

Podcasts:

Why is the U.S. Media So Negative? (2021). *Freakonomics*.
How Animosity Drives Social Media Engagement with Steve Rathje (2021) *Break Thru Radio*.
Steve Rathje on Identity and Reason (2019). *Know Thyself History Podcast*.
Lab Lockdown #3: Steve Rathje (2020). *Cognitive Revolution Podcast*.

Ad-Hoc Reviewer

PNAS Nexus
Journal of Politics
Political Psychology
Cortex
Journal of Personality
Applied Developmental Science
Palgrave MacMillon

Skills

Programming Languages: R (Advanced), Java, JavaScript, HTML, CSS, Python, Java, C++

Research and Coding Skills: Social Media Data Analysis (Twitter and Facebook Data), Experimental Design (Survey & Field Experiments, Qualtrics, Prolific Academic, MTurk), Statistical Analysis, Web & Chrome Extension Development, Shiny App Development, Database management (MongoDB).

Communication & Writing: Writing (Academic, Popular Science, Creative Writing, Playwriting), Public Speaking, Teaching, Editing, Project and Team Management, Peer Counseling (QPR Suicide Protocol Training certified).

Professional Memberships

Member, Society for Personality and Social Psychology (SPSP)

Member, Association for Psychological Science (APS)