

Steve Rathje

Curriculum Vitae

Contact

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

Appointments

2022- **Postdoctoral Researcher**
New York University
Advisor: Jay Van Bavel

Education

2018-2022 **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: 2217

*Covered by 163 news outlets, including BBC, NBC, the Guardian, and Washington Post

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*.

*Named one of the Top 10 Insights from the “Science of a Meaningful Life” by “Greater Good”

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

*Covered by the New York Times

Roozenbeek, J., van der Linden, S., Golberg, B., **Rathje, S.**, Lewandowsky, S. Psychological inoculation improves resilience against misinformation on social media (2022). In Press at *Science Advances*.

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*.

Harris, E.*, **Rathje, S.***, Robertson, C., Van Bavel, J.J. (2022). The SPIR Model of Social Media and Polarization: Exploring the Role of Selection, Platform Design, Incentives, and Real-World Context. In Press at *International Journal of Communications*.

*co-first authors

Robertson, C. Pretus, C. **Rathje, S.**, Harris, E., Van Bavel, J.J. (2022). How social identity shapes conspiracy beliefs. *Current Opinion in Psychology*.

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., Sjästad, H., Nezlek, 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*.

Pavlović, T., Cichocka, A., Capraro, V., Sjästad, H., Nezlek, J. B., Alfano, M.,... **Rathje, S.**, ... Hudecek, M. F. C. (2021). Predicting attitudinal and behavioral responses to COVID-19 pandemic using machine learning. *PNAS Nexus*.

Manuscripts in Preparation

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

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

Rathje, S., Robertson, C., Brady, W., Van Bavel, J.J. The role of algorithms in the social media age. Invited Submission to *Perspectives on Psychological Science*.

Van Bavel, J.J., **Rathje, S.**, Robertson, C. Social Media and Morality. Invited Submission to *Annual Review of Psychology*.

Rathje, S., He, J., Harjani, T., Roozebeek, J., Van Bavel, J.J. & van der Linden, S (*In prep*). The causal effect of social media (unfollowing) behavior on polarization: results from an online field experiment.

Grants

- 2022 **Co-Investigator, Russel Sage Foundation Grant (\$175,000)**
- 2021 **Co-Investigator, Alliance for Decision Education Grant (\$180,000)**
- 2021 **Co-Investigator, Google Trust & Safety Team (\$160,000)**
- 2021 **Synergy Scholar, Center for the Science of Moral Understanding (\$50,000)**
- 2021 **Heterodox Academy (\$30,000)**
- 2019 **Psychology Department Field Work Funding (\$6,000)**

Awards

- 2021 **Psychology of Technology Institute Dissertation Award (\$1,000)**
- 2018 **Gates Cambridge Scholarship (Full PhD Funding)**
- 2018 **Louis and Valerie Freedman Studentship (Full PhD Funding)**
- 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 **1st Place, Trinity College Hooper Declamation Public Speaking Prize (£450)**

- 2020 **Bushwick Star Pet Project Grant (\$500)**
- 2018 **People’s Choice Award, California Cognitive Science Conference**
- 2017 **Oregon New Play Prize (\$10,000 Playwriting Award)**
- 2017 **Ozy Genius Award (\$10,000 Grant)**
- 2016 **Strauss Public Service Scholarship (\$10,000 Grant)**
- 2017 **Undergraduate Advising and Research Grant (\$7,000 Research Grant)**
- 2016 **Chappell-Lougee Scholarship (\$6,400 Research Grant)**
- 2016 **Finalist, Eugene O’Neill Playwriting Competition**
- 2014 **Winner, Psychology One Scholar Award**

Teaching Experience

- 2022 **Supervisor, Applied Behavioral Insights (Winter Term)**
Taught by Sander van der Linden at the University of Cambridge
- 2021 **Supervisor, Applied Behavioral Insights (Fall Term)**
Taught by Lee De-Wit at the University of Cambridge
- 2020 **Supervisor, Applied Behavioral Insights (Winter Term)**
Taught by Lee De-Wit at the University of Cambridge
- 2017-2018 **Stanford Psychology One Teaching Fellow**
Taught by James Gross (Fall Semester) and Jamil Zaki (Spring Semester)
- 2015-2017 **Stanford Oral Communication Tutor**
- 2016 **Stanford Splash Social Psychology Seminar**

Conference Presentations

- 2022 **Center for the Science of Moral Understanding**
Social Media and Moral Understanding
- 2022 **SPSP Psychology of Technology Pre-Conference**
Flash Talk: Rathje, S, Van Bavel, J & van der Linden, S. Outgroup animosity drives engagement on social media.
- 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

Talks

- 2022 **Mental Sciences Club**
- 2021 **Online Political Hostility Project Lab Meeting**
- 2021 **Designing for Empathy Summit**
- 2021 **Human Cooperation Lab Meeting, MIT**
- 2021 **How Theatre Teaches Empathy**
Conversation with Hamilton star Phillipa Soo and Professor Jamil Zaki about research on theatre and empathy.
- 2019 **Arts and Pro-Social Research Group, University of Kent**
- 2019 **Gates Day of Research, University of Cambridge**

Research Experience

- 2019-Present **Member, Cambridge Social Decision-Making Lab**
PI: Dr. Sander van der Linden

- 2020-2022 **Member, Social Identity and Morality Lab**
PI: Dr. Jay Van Bavel, NYU
- 2018 **Member, Social Neuroscience Lab**
PI: Jamil Zaki, Stanford University
- 2014-2018 **Research Assistant, Mind & Body Lab**
PI: Dr. Alia Crum, Stanford University

Selected Media Coverage

We're Staring at Our Phones, Full of Rage for 'the Other Side' (2022). *New York Times*.
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 (1 million+ 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*.

Selected 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

Science Advances
Journal of Personality and Social Psychology (Co-Reviewer)
PNAS Nexus
Cognition
Journal of Politics
Political Psychology
Cortex
Journal of Personality
Applied Developmental Science
Palgrave MacMillon
Applied Cognitive Psychology
Media Psychology

Skills

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

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

Communication & Writing: Writing, Public Speaking, Science Communication, 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)