

ALEXANDER C. WALKER

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Education

Doctor of Philosophy in Psychology 2018 – 2023

University of Waterloo, Waterloo, Ontario, Canada

Advisors: Dr. Jonathan Fugelsang and Dr. Derek Koehler

Master of Arts in Psychology 2015 – 2017

University of Waterloo, Waterloo, Ontario, Canada

Advisors: Dr. Jonathan Fugelsang and Dr. Derek Koehler

Bachelor of Arts (Honours) in Psychology 2010 - 2015

University of Manitoba, Winnipeg, Manitoba, Canada

Advisor: Dr. Launa Leboe-McGowan

Employment

Banting Postdoctoral Fellow 2023 – Present

Brown University, Providence, Rhode Island, USA

Advisor: Dr. Oriel FeldmanHall

Consultant 2020 – 2024

HumanSystems Incorporated

Academic Scholarships and Awards Research Funding: \$295,130

Governor General's Gold Medal 2024

SSHRC Banting Postdoctoral Fellowship (Full Two-Year Scholarship; \$140,000) 2023

Moral Narratives Workshop Fellow (\$500) 2022

Queen Elizabeth Scholarship in Science & Technology (\$15,000) 2021

President's Graduate Scholarship (\$5,000) 2021

Donald O. Hebb Graduate Student Award for Best Paper Presentation Runner-Up (\$100) 2018

NSERC Postgraduate Scholarship-Doctoral (\$63,000) 2017

President's Graduate Scholarship (\$35,000) 2017

NSERC Alexander Graham Bell Canada Graduate Scholarship-Master's (\$17,500) 2016

President's Graduate Scholarship (\$5,000) 2016

University of Manitoba Undergraduate Research Award (\$6,000) 2014

Psychology Undergraduate Research Experience Award (\$6,000), Declined 2014

University of Manitoba Students' Union (UMSU) Scholarship (\$700) 2014

Isbister Scholarship in Arts (\$330) 2014

Faculty of Arts Dean's Honour List Special Recognition 2014

University of Manitoba Students' Union Scholarship (\$750)	2012
University of Manitoba Merit Award (\$250)	2012

Publications

Citations: 1,064 | H-Index: 15 | I10-Index: 21

* Denotes equal contribution

Google Scholar: <https://scholar.google.ca/citations?user=l42Vv2wAAAAJ&hl=en>

29. van der Valk, A., **Walker, A. C.**, Fugelsang, J. A., & Koehler, D. J. (2025). Disclosing sample bias fails to fully correct judgments of partisan extremity. *Cognition*, 256, 106050.
28. **Walker, A. C.**, Fugelsang, J. A., & Koehler, D. J. (2025). Partisan language in a polarized world: In-group language provides reputational benefits to speakers while polarizing audiences. *Cognition*, 254, 106012.
27. Azevedo, F., Pavlovic, T., Rego, G. G., Ay, F. C., Gjoneska, B., Etienne, T., ... **Walker, A. C.**, ... Sampaio, W. M. (2023). Social and moral psychology of COVID-19 across 69 countries. *Scientific Data*, 10(1), 272.
26. **Walker, A. C.**, Stange, M., Dixon, M. J., Fugelsang, J. A., & Koehler, D. J. (2023). Push outcomes bias perceptions of scratch card games. *Journal of Gambling Studies*, 39(1), 49-73.
25. **Walker, A. C.**, Stange, M., Dixon, M. J., Fugelsang, J. A., & Koehler, D. J. (2023). Using icon arrays to communicate gambling information reduces the appeal of scratch card games. *Journal of Gambling Studies*, 39(1), 363-382.
24. Mandel, D. R., Collins, R. C., **Walker, A. C.**, Fugelsang, J. A., Risko, E. F. (2022). Hypothesized drivers of the bias blind spot: Cognitive sophistication, introspection bias, and conversational processes. *Judgment and Decision Making*, 17(6), 1392-1421.
23. Pavlovic, T., Azevedo, F., De, K., Riano-Moreno, J. C., Maglic, M., Gkinopoulos, T., ... **Walker, A. C.**, ... Van Bavel, J. J. (2022). Predicting attitudinal and behavioral responses to COVID-19 pandemic using machine learning. *PNAS Nexus*, 1(3), 1-15.
22. Kara-Yakoubian, M., **Walker, A. C.**, Sharpinskyi, K., Assadourian, G., Fugelsang, J. A., & Harris, R. (2022). Beauty and truth, truth and beauty: Chiastic structure increases the subjective accuracy of statements. *Canadian Journal of Experimental Psychology*, 76(2), 144-155.
21. Majima, Y., **Walker, A. C.**, Turpin, M. H., & Fugelsang, J. A. (2022). Culture as a moderator of epistemically suspect beliefs. *Frontiers in Psychology*, 13, 745580.

20. Van Bavel, J. J., Cichocka, A., Capraro, V., Sjastad, H., Nezlek, J. B., Pavlovic, T., ... **Walker, A. C.**, ... Boggio, P. S. (2022). National identity predicts public health support during a global pandemic. *Nature Communications*, *13*, 1-14.
19. Gretton, J. D., Meyers, E. A., **Walker, A. C.**, Fugelsang, J. A., & Koehler, D. J. (2021). A brief forewarning intervention overcomes negative effects of salient changes in COVID-19 guidance. *Judgment and Decision Making*, *16*(6), 1549-1574.
18. **Walker, A. C.***, Turpin, M. H.*, Fugelsang, J. A., & Białek, M. (2021). Better the two devils you know, than the one you don't: Predictability influences moral judgments of immoral actors. *Journal of Experimental Social Psychology*, *97*, 104220.
17. Turpin, M. H.*, **Walker, A. C.***, Fugelsang, J. A., Sorokowski, P., Grossmann, I., & Białek, M. (2021). The search for predictable moral partners: Predictability and moral (character) preferences. *Journal of Experimental Social Psychology*, *97*, 104196.
16. **Walker, A. C.**, Turpin, M. H., Meyers, E. A., Stolz, J. A., Fugelsang, J. A., & Koehler, D. J. (2021). Controlling the narrative: Euphemistic language affects judgments of actions while avoiding perceptions of dishonesty. *Cognition*, *211*, 104633.
15. Stange, M., **Walker, A. C.**, Fugelsang, J. A., Koehler, D. J., & Dixon, M. J. (2021). Unclaimed prize information increases the appeal of scratch card games. *International Gambling Studies*, *21*(1), 119-132.
14. Turpin, M. H.*, Kara-Yakoubian, M.*, **Walker, A. C.**, Walker, H. E. K., Fugelsang, J. A., & Stolz, J. A. (2021). Bullshit ability as an honest signal of intelligence. *Evolutionary Psychology*, *19*(2), 1-10.
13. Walker, H. E. K., **Walker, A. C.**, Muda, R., Turpin, M. H., Trick, L. M., Fugelsang, J. A., & Białek, M. (2021). Improving the public's perception of autonomous vehicles by communicating the consistency of autonomous vehicle algorithms. *Proceedings of the 30th Annual Canadian Association of Road Safety Professionals / 14th Annual La Prévention Routière Internationale Joint Conference*.
12. Meyers, E. A., **Walker, A. C.**, Fugelsang, J. A., & Koehler, D. J. (2020). Reducing the number of non-naïve participants in Mechanical Turk samples. *Methods in Psychology*, *3*, 1-8.
11. Muda, R.*, **Walker, A. C.***, Pienkosz, D., Fugelsang, J. A., & Białek, M. (2020). Foreign language does not affect gambling-related judgments. *Journal of Gambling Studies*, *36*(2), 633-652.

10. Turpin, M. H., Meyers, E. A., **Walker, A. C.**, Białek, M., Stolz, J. A., & Fugelsang, J. A. (2020). The environmental malleability of base rate neglect. *Psychonomic Bulletin & Review*, 27(2), 385-391.
9. Turpin, M. H., **Walker, A. C.**, Kara-Yakoubian, M., Gabert, N. N., Fugelsang, J. A., & Stolz, J. A. (2019). Bullshit makes the art grow profounder. *Judgment and Decision Making*, 14(6), 658-670.
8. **Walker, A. C.**, Stange, M., Dixon, M. J., Koehler, D. J., & Fugelsang, J. A. (2019). Graphical depiction of statistical information improves gambling-related judgments. *Journal of Gambling Studies*, 35(3), 945-968.
7. **Walker, A. C.**, Turpin, M. H., Fugelsang, J. A., & Koehler, D. J. (2019). Intuition speed as a predictor of choice and confidence in point spread predictions. *Judgment and Decision Making*, 14(2), 148-155.
6. **Walker, A. C.**, Turpin, M. H., Stolz, J. A., Fugelsang, J. A., & Koehler, D. J. (2019). Finding meaning in the clouds: Illusory pattern perception predicts receptivity to pseudo-profound bullshit. *Judgment and Decision Making*, 14(2), 109-119.
5. Stange, M., **Walker, A. C.**, Koehler, D. J., Fugelsang, J. A., & Dixon, M. J. (2018). Exploring relationships between problem gambling, scratch card gambling, and individual differences in thinking style. *Journal of Behavioral Addictions*, 7(4), 1022-1029.
4. **Walker, A. C.**, Stange, M., Fugelsang, J. A., Koehler, D. J., & Dixon, M. J. (2018). Unclaimed prize information biases perceptions of winning in scratch card gambling. *Journal of Gambling Studies*, 34(4), 1355-1375.
3. Alards-Tomalin, D., **Walker, A. C.**, Nepon, H., & Leboe-McGowan, L. C. (2017). Dual-task interference effects on cross-modal numerical order and sound intensity judgments: The more the louder? *The Quarterly Journal of Experimental Psychology*, 70(9), 1943-1963.
2. Alards-Tomalin, D., **Walker, A. C.**, Kravetz, A., & Leboe-McGowan, L. C. (2016). Numerical context and time perception: Contrast effects and the perceived duration of numbers. *Perception*, 45(1-2), 222-245.
1. Alards-Tomalin, D., **Walker, A. C.**, Shaw, J. D. M., & Leboe-McGowan, L. C. (2015). Is 9 louder than 1? Audiovisual cross-modal interactions between number magnitude and judged sound loudness. *Acta Psychologica*, 160, 95-103.

Manuscripts-in-Progress

1. **Walker, A. C.**, Son, J. Y., Teoh, Y. Y., & FeldmanHall, O. (Invited Resubmission). The emotional costs of political engagement. *Emotion*.
2. **Walker, A. C.**, Collins, R. N., Walker, H. E. K., Fugelsang, J. A., & Mandel, D. R. (Invited Resubmission). Everyone I don't like is biased: Affective evaluations and the bias blind spot. *Personality and Social Psychology Bulletin*.
3. Kara-Yakoubian, M., Fugelsang, J. A., & **Walker, A. C.** (Pre-Print). Between law and conscience: The role of legality in moral decision-making.
4. **Walker, A. C.**, de Bruin, D., Teoh, Y. Y., & FeldmanHall, O. (In Prep). (Mis)Perceptions of peers' ideology shapes ideological change.
5. **Walker, A. C.***, Gretton, J. D.*, Meyers, E. A., Fugelsang, J. A., Chuong, J., & Koehler, D. J. (In Prep). Statistical reasoning regarding possible adverse outcomes of vaccination.
6. Gasimova, Z.*, Aggarwal, A. S.*, Fugelsang, J. A., & **Walker, A. C.** (In Prep). Moral judgments of partial and impartial actors.

Teaching Experience

Instructor – University of Waterloo

PSYCH 390 Research in Cognition and Perception

Winter 2020

Tutorial Instructor – University of Waterloo

PSYCH 391 Advanced Data Analysis

Fall 2016

Teaching Assistant – University of Waterloo

PSYCH 470 Psychology of Economic Decisions

Winter 2022

PSYCH 390 Research in Cognition and Perception

Winter 2021

PSYCH 394 Research in Cognition and Perception

Spring 2016 & Winter 2019

PSYCH 253 Social Psychology

Winter 2018

PSYCH 211 Developmental Psychology

Winter 2016

PSYCH 207 Cognitive Processes

Fall 2015

Mentorship

Honours Theses Co-Supervised

Nicholas Lee – Nothing but the truth? The effect of euphemistic language on sentencing judgments

2022 – 2023

Zuleykha Gasimova – *Perceptions of profit motive: Can messaging affect beliefs about profit-seeking*

2020 – 2021

Amiya Aggarwal – <i>Source information and doublespeak: How source cues influence moral judgments</i>	2019 – 2020
Garni Assadourian – <i>Ambiguity as a driving factor of the effectiveness of doublespeak</i>	2018 – 2019
Dorothy Chan – <i>Personality and the illusion of truth</i>	2017 – 2018
Jorjena Dankha – <i>The role of intuitive and analytic thinking on the illusion of truth</i>	2016 – 2017

Research Assistants

Mane Kara-Yakoubian	Garni Assadourian	Jacob Pavicic
Nina Gabert	Zuleykha Gasimova	Emma Rosenthal
Dorothy Chan	Amiya Aggarwal	Kaleigh Danowski
Jorjena Dankha	Ashley Watterson	Nicole Barkan

Professional Service

Member of the Psychology Equity, Diversity, and Inclusion Mentoring Program	2022 – 2023
Member of the Research Ethics and Integrity Advisory Committee	2017 – 2022
Faculty Liaison for the Undergraduate Psychology Students' Association	2013 – 2015

Select Media Coverage

More biased = more trustworthy? New research uncovers a troubling trend among Democrats and Republicans. *PsyPost*, February 6th, 2025. URL: <https://www.psypost.org/more-biased-more-trustworthy-new-research-uncovers-a-troubling-trend-among-democrats-and-republicans/>

Culture moderates beliefs that are inconsistent with established scientific evidence. *PsyPost*, May 16th, 2022. URL: <https://www.psypost.org/2022/05/culture-moderates-beliefs-that-are-inconsistent-with-established-scientific-evidence-63149>

Euphemistic language can sway opinions while avoiding the reputational costs of outright lying, study finds. *PsyPost*, October 28th, 2021. URL: <https://www.psypost.org/2021/10/euphemistic-language-can-sway-opinions-while-avoiding-the-reputational-costs-of-outright-lying-study-finds-62032>

Good at blagging? You may be smarter than others, too. *The Guardian*, June 29th, 2021. URL: <https://www.theguardian.com/science/2021/jun/29/good-at-blagging-you-may-be-smarter-than-others-too>

Bluffing is a sign of being clever (no BS). *The Times*, May 20th, 2021. URL: <https://www.thetimes.co.uk/article/bluffing-is-a-sign-of-being-clever-no-bs-ss2hp2xj5>

The truth about doublespeak: Is it lying or just being persuasive? *Waterloo News*, April 8th, 2021. URL: <https://uwaterloo.ca/news/media/truth-about-doublespeak-it-lying-or-just-being-persuasive>

Abstract art with “pseudo-profound” BS titles seen as more meaningful. *Ars Technica*, March 10th, 2020. URL: <https://arstechnica.com/science/2020/03/abstract-art-with-pseudo-profound-bs-titles-seen-as-more-meaningful/>

How we are fooled by pretentious titles on art. *The Times*, November 30th, 2019. URL: <https://www.thetimes.co.uk/article/how-we-are-fooled-by-pretentious-titles-on-art-slsrj78d>

“Perceptive” people often believe nonsense: study. *Waterloo News*, April 11, 2019. URL: <https://uwaterloo.ca/news/news/perceptive-people-often-believe-nonsense-study>

Invited Talks

Walker, A. C. (2022). Controlling the narrative: Euphemistic language shapes judgments of actions while avoiding perceptions of dishonesty. Presented to Dr. Oriel FeldmanHall’s Laboratory. Brown University, Providence, RI.

Walker, A. C. (2021). Controlling the narrative: How euphemistic language shapes judgments of actions while avoiding perceptions of dishonesty. Presented to Dr. Molly Crockett’s Laboratory. Yale University, New Haven, CN.

Walker, A. C. & Meyers, E. A. (2018). The basics of Mechanical Turk. Presented to the Office of Research Ethics. University of Waterloo, Waterloo, ON.

Walker, A. C. (2017). An investigation into Amazon’s Mechanical Turk. Presented to the Research Ethics and Integrity Advisory Committee. University of Waterloo, Waterloo, ON.

Select Conference Presentations

Oral Presentations

Walker, A. C., Fugelsang, J. A., & Koehler, D. J. (July 2023). Partisan Language Provides Reputational Benefits to Individuals while Strengthening Partisan Divides. *The Canadian Society for Brain, Behaviour and Cognitive Science Annual Meeting*, Guelph, ON, Canada. (national; oral) [symposium presentation]

Walker, A. C., Turpin, M. H., Meyers, E. A., Stolz, J. A., Koehler, D. J., & Fugelsang, J. A. (July 2022). Controlling the narrative: Euphemistic language affects judgments of actions while avoiding perceptions of dishonesty. *Annual Meeting of the Cognitive Science Society*, Toronto, ON, Canada. (international; oral)

Walker, A. C., Turpin, M. H., Grossmann, I., Fugelsang, J. A., & Białek, M. (October 2021). Better the two devils you know, than the one you don't: Predictability influences judgments of moral character. *International Wisdom Summit*, online. (international; oral)

Walker, A. C., Turpin, M. H., Białek, M., & Fugelsang, J. A. (June 2021). Better the devil you know than the one you don't: Predictability influences moral judgments. *International Conference on Thinking*, online. (international; oral) [symposium presentation]

Walker, A. C., Turpin, M. H., Fugelsang, J. A., & Białek, M. (June 2021). The perceived predictability of immoral actors guides judgments of their moral character. *The Canadian Society for Brain, Behaviour and Cognitive Science Annual Meeting*, online. (national; oral)

Walker, A. C., Turpin, M. H., Meyers, E. A., Assadourian, G., Stolz, J. A., Koehler, D. J., & Fugelsang, J. A. (June 2019). The good, the bad, and the manipulative: An initial investigation into the effectiveness of doublespeak. *The Canadian Society for Brain, Behaviour and Cognitive Science Annual Meeting*, Waterloo, ON, Canada. (national; oral)

Walker, A. C., Turpin, M. H., Stolz, J. A., Fugelsang, J. A., & Koehler, D. J. (July 2018). Finding meaning in the clouds: Illusory pattern perception predicts bullshit receptivity. *The Canadian Society for Brain, Behaviour and Cognitive Science Annual Meeting*, St. John's, NL, Canada. (national; oral) [symposium presentation]

Poster Presentations

Walker, A. C., Turpin, M. H., Meyers, E. A., Stolz, J. A., Koehler, D. J., & Fugelsang, J. A. (May 2022). Controlling the narrative: Euphemistic language affects judgments of actions while avoiding perceptions of dishonesty. *APS Annual Convention*, Chicago, IL, USA. (international; poster)

Walker, A. C., Turpin, M. H., Białek, M., & Fugelsang, J. A. (November 2019). Better the devil you know than the devil you don't: Predictability influences moral judgments. *Society for Judgment and Decision Making Annual Conference*, Montreal, QB, Canada. (international; poster)

Walker, A. C., Stange, M., Dixon, M. J., Koehler, D. J., & Fugelsang, J. A. (November 2019). Graphical depiction of statistical information improves gambling-related judgments. *Psychonomics Society Annual Conference*, Montreal, QB, Canada. (international; poster)

Walker, A. C., Turpin, M. H., Białek, M., & Fugelsang, J. A. (June 2019). Better the devil you know than the devil you don't: Predictability influences moral judgments. *The Canadian Society*

for Brain, Behaviour and Cognitive Science Annual Meeting, Waterloo, ON, Canada. (national; poster)

Walker, A. C., Meyers, E. A., Turpin, M. H., Stolz, J. A., Fugelsang, J. A., & Koehler, D. J. (November 2018). The good, the bad, and the manipulative: An initial investigation into the effectiveness of doublespeak. *Psychonomics Society Annual Conference*, New Orleans, LA, USA. (international; poster)

Walker, A. C., Turpin, M. H., Stolz, J. A., Fugelsang, J. A., & Koehler, D. J. (November 2018). Finding meaning in the clouds: Illusory pattern perception predicts bullshit receptivity. *Society for Judgment and Decision Making Annual Conference*, New Orleans, LA, USA. (international; poster)

Walker, A. C., Stange, M., Dixon, M. J., Koehler, D. J., & Fugelsang, J. A. (September 2018). Graphical Depiction of Statistical Information Improves Gambling-Related Judgments. *BEworks Summit for Science in Financial Services*, Toronto, ON, Canada. (national; poster)

Walker, A. C., Stange, M., Dixon, M. J., Koehler, D. J., & Fugelsang, J. A. (July 2018). The biasing effects of unclaimed prize information: Investigating the harms and reducing the bias. *The Canadian Society for Brain, Behaviour and Cognitive Science Annual Meeting*, St. John's, NL, Canada. (national; poster)

Walker, A. C., Stange, M., Koehler, D. J., Fugelsang, J. A., & Dixon, M. J. (November 2017). Unclaimed prize information biases perceptions of winning in scratch card gambling. *Society for Judgment and Decision Making Annual Conference*, Vancouver, BC, Canada. (national; poster)

Walker, A. C., Fugelsang, J. A., & Koehler, D. J. (November 2016). Intuitive confidence reflects speed of initial responses in point spread predictions. *Society for Judgment and Decision Making Annual Conference*, Boston, MA, USA. (international; poster)

Walker, A. C., Fugelsang, J. A., & Koehler, D. J. (June 2016). Intuitive confidence in a sports betting domain. *The Canadian Society for Brain, Behaviour and Cognitive Science Annual Meeting*, Ottawa, ON, Canada. (national; poster)

Walker, A. C., Alards-Tomalin, D., Kravetz, A., & Leboe-McGowan, L. C. (June 2015). Numerical context and time perception: Contrast effects and the perceived duration of numbers. *The Canadian Society for Brain, Behaviour and Cognitive Science Annual Meeting*, Ottawa, ON, Canada. (national; poster)

Walker, A. C., Alards-Tomalín, D., & Leboe-McGowan, L. C. (November 2014). Is 9 louder than 1? An audiovisual cross-modal interaction between number magnitude and sound amplitude. *Auditory Perception, Cognition, and Action Meeting*, Long Beach, CA, USA. (international; poster)

Reviewer

Journal of Experimental Psychology: General / Emotion / Personality and Social Psychology Bulletin / Journal of Experimental Social Psychology / Journal of Experimental Psychology: Learning, Memory, and Cognition / Computers in Human Behavior: Artificial Humans / Journal of Behavioral Decision Making / Journal of Economic Psychology / Current Psychology / Journal of Gambling Issues / Social Influence

Professional Associations

Association for Psychological Science / Canadian Society for Brain, Behaviour, and Cognitive Science / Psychonomic Society / Society for Judgment and Decision Making