

# Joseph Heffner, Ph.D.

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## APPOINTMENTS

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2022-Present Post-Doctoral Associate, Yale University  
Department of Psychology

## EDUCATION

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2022 Ph.D., Psychology  
Brown University. Providence, RI.

2009 B.S., Psychology and B.A., Philosophy  
University of Chapel Hill at North Carolina. Chapel Hill, NC.

## PUBLICATIONS

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1. Gunsilius, C.\*, **Heffner, J.\***, Bruinsma, S., Corinha, M., Cortinez, M., Dalton, H., Duong, E., Lu, J., Omar, A., Long, L., Owen, W., Nazario Roarr, B., Tang, K., Petzschner, F. (2024). SOMAScience: A novel platform for multidimensional, longitudinal pain assessment, *JMIR mHealth and uHealth*. \*shared first authorship
2. Vives, M., **Heffner, J.**, & FeldmanHall, O. (2023). Conceptual representations of uncertainty predict risky decision making. *Cognitive, Affective, and Behavioral Neuroscience*.
3. FeldmanHall, O., & **Heffner, J.** (2022). A generalizable framework for assessing the role of emotion during choice. *American Psychologist*.
4. **Heffner, J.**, & FeldmanHall, O. (2022). A probabilistic map of emotional experiences during competitive social interactions. *Nature Communications*.
5. **Heffner, J.**, Son, J., & FeldmanHall, O. (2021). Emotion prediction errors guide socially adaptive behavior. *Nature Human Behavior*.
6. **Heffner, J.**, & Vives, M., & FeldmanHall, O. (2021). Anxiety, gender, and social media consumption predict COVID-19 emotional distress. *Humanities and Social Science Communications*.

7. **Heffner, J.**, & Vives, M., & FeldmanHall, O. (2021). Emotional responses to prosocial messages increase willingness to self-isolate during the COVID-19 pandemic. *Personality and Individual Differences*.
8. **Heffner, J.**, & FeldmanHall, O. (2019). Why we don't always punish: Preference for non-punitive responses to moral violations. *Scientific Reports*.
9. FeldmanHall, O., Son, J., & **Heffner, J.** (2018). Norms and the flexibility of moral action. *Personality Neuroscience*.
10. Schaich Borg, J., Srivastava, S., Lin, L., **Heffner, J.**, Dunson, D., Dzirasa, K., & Lecesa, L. (2017). Rat intersubjective decisions are encoded by frequency-specific oscillatory contexts. *Brain and Behavior*.
11. Strohminger, N., Gray, K., Chituc, V., **Heffner, J.**, & Heagins, T. B. (2016). The MR2: A multi-racial, mega-resolution database of facial stimuli. *Behavior Research Methods*.

## **IN REVISION & UNDER REVIEW**

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12. **Heffner, J.**, Frömer, R., Nassar, M., & FeldmanHall, O. (2024). Dissociable neural signals for reward and emotion prediction errors. *bioRxiv*.

## **INVITED TALKS**

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- 2024 *Dissociable neural dynamics of emotion and reward prediction errors*. Society for Affective Science Conference. New Orleans, LA.
- 2024 *A computational model of regret*. Society for Affective Science Conference. New Orleans, LA.
- 2024 *Effects of conversational agents on wellbeing*. Google DeepMind. London, UK.
- 2023 *Using word embeddings in psychology research*. Yale University. Department of Psychology. New Haven, CT.
- 2023 *Study proposal - Effects of conversational agents on wellbeing*. Google DeepMind. London, UK.
- 2023 *Emotion prediction errors guide socially adaptive behaviour*. University College London. London, UK.
- 2022 *A generalizable framework for measuring emotion's role in social decision-making*. Harvard University. Department of Psychology. Cambridge, MA.
- 2022 *Economic inequality corrupts moral standards*. Research Matters. Graduate School at Brown University, Providence RI.
- 2022 *Modeling emotions using computational tools and machine learning*. Society for Affective Science Conference. Methods workshop. Virtual.
- 2021 *Emotional experiences shape social decisions*. Yale University. Department of Psychology. New Haven, CT.
- 2021 *Reverse engineering emotions during social interactions*. Society for Affective Science. Virtual.

- 2020 *Emotion prediction errors guide socially adaptive behavior*. Brown University. Social and Cognitive Brown Bag Series. Providence, RI.
- 2020 *Emotion prediction errors guide socially adaptive behavior*. Society for Neuroeconomics. Virtual.
- 2020 *Emotion prediction errors guide socially adaptive behavior*. Harvard University. New England Research on Decision-Making. Cambridge, MA.
- 2020 *Emotional mechanisms support prosocial, but not threat, appeals regarding COVID-19*. SocialBRIDGES Conference. Virtual.
- 2020 *Emotion prediction errors guide socially adaptive behavior*. Brown University Unconference. Providence, RI.
- 2019 *Development of wealth-based obligations*. Brown University. Developmental Brown Bag Series. Providence, RI.
- 2019 *The power of emotion prediction errors (and not reward) in biasing social choice*. Northeastern University. Department of Psychology. Boston, MA.
- 2018 *Emotion prediction errors motivate decisions to punish*. Harvard University. New England Research on Decision-Making. Providence, RI.
- 2017 *The power of turning the other cheek: The utility of non-punitive responses to fairness violations*. Brown University. New England Research on Decision-Making. Providence, RI.

## POSTER PRESENTATIONS

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- 2022 *A computational model of counterfactual regret and its implications*. Computational Psychiatry Conference, Dublin, Ireland.
- 2022 Variation in emotion representations predict prosocial choice. Society for Affective Science Conference, Virtual.
- 2019 *The joy of punishment: Early emotional reactions predict decisions to restore justice*. Social and Affective Neuroscience Society, Miami, FL.
- 2018 *Emotion prediction errors predict decisions to punish*. Mind Brain Research Day, Brown University, Providence RI.
- 2018 *The power of turning the other cheek: The limited value of punishment*. Society for Personality and Social Psychology, Atlanta, GA.
- 2017 *Turning the other cheek: The limited utility of punishment*. Mind Brain Research Day, Brown University, Providence RI.
- 2013 *Relevance of emotions in morality: Emotion differentiation moderates influences of disgust on moral judgments*. Celebration of Undergraduate Research, University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill, NC.

## GRANTS AND AWARD

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- 2023 Society for Neuroeconomics (SNE) Best Dissertation Award
- 2020 – 2021 Graduate Award in Brain Science at Brown University (\$57,000)
- 2020 Carney Institute Brain Science Reproducible Paper Prize at Brown University
- 2018 Travel Award Society for Personality and Social Psychology Annual Convention
- 2015 – 2016 Duke Institute for Brain Science (DIBS) Incubator Award (\$75,000)

- Measure Implicit Moral Attitudes Renewal*; Cowrote with Dr. Walter Sinnott-Armstrong
- 2014 – 2015 Duke Institute for Brain Science (DIBS) Incubator Award (\$120,000)  
*Measure Implicit Moral Attitudes*; Cowrote with Dr. Walter Sinnott-Armstrong

## **TEACHING EXPERIENCE**

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- 2022 Making Decisions – Teaching Assistant and Guest Lecturer  
 Brown University, Cognitive, Linguistics, and Psychological Sciences Department
- 2021 Research Methods – Teaching Assistant and Guest Lecturer  
 Brown University, Cognitive, Linguistics, and Psychological Sciences Department
- 2018 Core Concepts in Cognitive and Psychological Sciences II – Teaching Assistant and Guest Lecturer  
 Brown University, Cognitive, Linguistics, and Psychological Sciences Department
- 2018 Human Cognition – Teaching Assistant and Guest Lecturer  
 Brown University, Cognitive, Linguistics, and Psychological Sciences Department
- 2017 Making Decisions – Teaching Assistant and Guest Lecturer  
 Brown University, Cognitive, Linguistics, and Psychological Sciences Department
- 2011 – 2013 Psychological and Philosophical Summer Studies – Teaching Assistant  
 Duke University, Duke Talent Identification Program

## **SERVICE**

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- 2023 – 2024 Sneak Peak mentor for underrepresented minorities applying to Ph.D. programs, Yale University
- 2023 – 2024 Committee on Racial Equity and Justice member, Yale University
- 2023 – 2024 Department Committee on Diversity and Inclusiveness member, Yale University
- 2020 – 2022 Member of Diversity and Inclusion Action Plan, Brown University
- 2019 – 2020 Colloquium Organizer, Brown University
- 2018 – 2019 Social Cognitive Science Seminar Organizer, Brown University
- 2018 – 2019 Graduate Student Council (GSC) Representative, Brown University

## **AD HOC REVIEW (\* indicates co-reviewer)**

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NSF Decision, Risk, and Management Sciences

Applied Cognitive Psychology

Biological Psychology\*

Current Directions in Psychological Science\*  
Evolution and Human Behavior  
Journal of Experimental Psychology: General  
Judgment and Decision Making\*  
Neuropsychopharmacology\*  
Psychological Review  
Scientific Reports

Cyberpsychology  
IJHPM  
Journal of Experimental Social Psychology  
Nature Human Behaviour\*  
PNAS\*  
Psychological Science\*

## **MENTORING**

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2022 – Present

**Yale University**, New Haven, CT

*Abigail Ricketts – Sneak Peak undergraduate mentee working on PhD / masters applications, now studying clinical social work at University of Connecticut*

2016 – 2022

**Brown University**, Providence, RI

*Grace Dennings – Honors thesis, Winner of Muriel Fain Sher Premium For Excellent in psychology for this work*

*Willy Lee – Honors thesis*

*Skye Harris – Independent research study affiliated with Princeton Day High School*

*Eleanor Gorham – Independent research study affiliated with School Without Walls High School*

*Deeksha Cirigadi – Action Potential Advising Program high school mentee*

*Gregory Wu – Action Potential Advising Program high school mentee*