

JULIAN DE FREITAS

Department of Psychology
William James Hall 730
33 Kirkland Street
Cambridge, MA, 02138

Email: defreitas@g.harvard.edu
Website: www.juliandefreitas.com

BIOGRAPHICAL INFORMATION

Born March 16, 1990, Witbank, South Africa
South African and Portuguese Citizen

EDUCATION

- PhD** **Harvard University**, 2021 (expected)
Psychology (Advisor: George Alvarez & Steven Pinker)
- MSc** **University of Oxford**, 2016
Experimental Psychology (Advisors: A. Nobre & G. Humphreys)
Rhodes Scholar
- BA** **Yale University**, 2013
Cognitive Science (wt. Distinction, Advisor: B. J. Scholl)
Magna Cum Laude

APPOINTMENTS

- Visiting Researcher **Stanford University**, Summer 2018
Psychology Department
Stanford Neuro AI Lab (PI: Daniel L. K. Yamins)

HONORS AND AWARDS

- | | |
|---|------|
| Goethals Teaching Prize, Harvard, Spring | 2020 |
| Goethals Teaching Prize, Harvard, Fall | 2019 |
| Travel Award, Society of Philosophy & Psychology | 2019 |
| Bok Center Certificate of Teaching Excellence, Harvard, Spring | 2019 |
| Goethals Teaching Prize, Harvard, Spring | 2019 |
| Goethals Teaching Prize, Harvard, Fall | 2018 |
| Bok Center Certificate of Teaching Excellence, Harvard, Spring | 2018 |
| Bok Center Certificate of Teaching Excellence, Harvard, Fall | 2018 |
| Travel Award, Society of Philosophy & Psychology | 2018 |
| Travel Award, Human Behavior & Evolution Society | 2015 |
| Alpheus Henry Snow Award, Yale University, \$20,000 | 2013 |
| Albert E. Angier Prize, Psychology Department, Yale University | 2013 |
| Friends of Music at Yale Prize, Music Department, Yale University | 2013 |
| Rhodes Scholar, Southern Africa-at-Large | 2012 |
| Summer Fellowship, Psychology Department, Yale University | 2012 |
| Richter Summer Fellowship, Yale University | 2012 |
| National Honor Society in Psychology Fellow, Psi Chi | 2012 |
| Saybrook College Summer Research Fellowship, Yale University | 2011 |

ORLO English Writing Award, English Department, Yale University 2010

GRANTS

Sackler grant, Harvard University, \$12,375 2019
 Title: *Do deficits in intrinsic curiosity explain patterns of animate attention in toddlers with autism spectrum disorder?*

PAPERS UNDER REVIEW

[24] Gan, C., Schwartz, J., Alter, S., Schrimpf, M., Traer, J., De Freitas, J., Bhandwaldar, A., Sano, M., Kim, K. H., Wang, E., Mrowca, D., Lingelbach, M., Curtis, A., Feiglis, K., Haber, N., Gutfreund, D., Cox, D., DiCarlo, J., McDermott, J., Tenenbaum, J., Yamins, D. L. K. ThreeDWorld: A Platform for interactive multi-modal physical simulation. **Under review.**

[23] Prinzing, M., De Freitas, J., & Fredrickson, B. L. The lay concept of a meaningful life: The role of subjective and objective factors in attributions of meaning. **Under review. Under review.**

[22] De Freitas, J., & Cikara, M. Deliberately prejudiced self-driving cars elicit the most outrage. **Under review.**

[21] De Freitas, J., Censi, A., Anthony, S. E., Di Lillo, L., & Frazzoli, E. From driverless dilemmas to more practical ethics tests for autonomous vehicles. **Under review.**

[20] De Freitas, J., Rips, L., & Alvarez, G. A. The limit of active self-representation. **Under review.**

PUBLICATIONS

[19] Sano M., De Freitas J., Haber N., & Yamins D. L. K. (in press). Learning in social environments with curious neural agents. **Proceedings of the 42nd Annual Conference of the Cognitive Science Society.**

[18] Kim, K. H., De Freitas, J., Haber, N., Sano, M. & Yamins, D. L. K (in press). Active world model learning with progress curiosity. **International Conference on Machine Learning.**

[17] De Freitas, J., Anthony, S. A., & Alvarez, G. A. (in press). Doubting driverless dilemmas. **Perspectives on Psychological Science.**

[16] De Freitas, J., Thomas, K. A., DeScioli, P., & Pinker, S. (2019). Common knowledge, coordination, and strategic mentalizing in social life. **Proceedings of the National Academy of Sciences.**

[15] De Freitas, J., DeScioli, P., Thomas, K. A., & Pinker, S. (2019). Maimonides' ladder: States of mutual knowledge and the perception of charitability. **Journal of Experimental Psychology: General**, 148(1), 158–173.

[14] De Freitas, J.*, & Johnson, S.G.B.* (2018). Optimality bias in moral judgment. **Journal of Experimental Social Psychology**, 79, 149–163.

- [13] De Freitas, J., Cikara, M., Grossmann, I., & Schlegel, R. (2018). Moral goodness is the essence of personal identity. **Trends in Cognitive Sciences**.
- [12] De Freitas, J., & Alvarez, G. A. (2018). Your visual system provides all the information you need to make moral judgments about generic visual events. **Cognition**, 178, 133–146.
- [11] De Freitas, J., & Cikara, M. (2018). Deep down my enemy is good: Thinking about the true self reduces intergroup bias. **Journal of Experimental Social Psychology**, 74, 307–316.
- [10] De Freitas, J., Sarkissian, H., Newman, G. E., Grossman, I., De Brigard, F., Luco, A., & Knobe, J. (2018). Consistent belief in a good true self in misanthropes and three interdependent cultures. **Cognitive Science**, 42, 134–160.
- [9] De Freitas, J., Cikara, M., Grossmann, I., & Schlegel, R. (2017). Origins of the belief in morally good true selves. **Trends in Cognitive Sciences**, 21(9), 634–636.
- [8] Phillips, J., De Freitas, J., Mott, C., Gruber, J. & Knobe, J. (2017). True happiness: The role of morality in the concept of happiness. **Journal of Experimental Psychology: General**, 146(2), 165–181.
- [7] De Freitas, J., DeScioli, P., Nemirow, J., Massenkoff, M., & Pinker, S. (2017). Kill or die: Moral judgment alters linguistic coding of causality. **Journal of Experimental Psychology: Learning, Memory, and Cognition**, 43(8), 1173–1182.
- [6] DeScioli, P., Karpoff, R., & De Freitas, J. (2017). Ownership dilemmas: The case of finders versus landowners. **Cognitive Science**, 41, 502–522.
- [5] De Freitas, J., Tobia, K., Newman, J. E., & Knobe, J. (2017). Normative judgments and individual essence. **Cognitive Science**, 41, 382–402.
- [4] De Freitas, J.*, Thomas, K. A.*, DeScioli, P., & Pinker, S. (2016) Recursive mentalizing and common knowledge in the bystander effect. **Journal of Experimental Psychology: General**, 145(5), 621–629.
- [3] De Freitas, J., Myers, N. E., & Nobre, A. C. (2016). Tracking the changing feature of a moving object. **Journal of Vision**, 16(3), 1–21.
- [2] Newman, J. E., De Freitas, J., and Knobe, J. (2015). Beliefs about the true self explain asymmetries based on moral judgment. **Cognitive Science**, 39(1), 96–125.
- [1] De Freitas, J., Liverence, B., & Scholl, B. J. (2014). Attentional rhythm: A temporal analogue of object-based attention. **Journal of Experimental Psychology: General**, 143(1), 71–76.

CHAired CONFERENCES AND SYMPOSIA

De Freitas, J., DeScioli, P., Nemirow, J., Massenkof, M., & Pinker, S. (2016). Mutual constraints in moral cognition and language. Talk symposium given at the *International*

Conference on Thinking, 08/04/16, Brown University, Providence, RI, USA. Speakers: Julian De Freitas, Lera Boroditsky, Laura Niemi, Ana Gantman, and John Voiklis.

SUBMITTED PRESENTATIONS

- [30] Sano, M., De Freitas, J., Haber, N., & Yamins, D. L. K. (2020). Learning in social environments with curious neural agents. Talk to be presented at the *Cognitive Science Society*, Toronto, Canada.
- [29] Kim, K-H., Sano, M., De Freitas, J., Haber, N., & Yamins, D. L. K. (2020). Towards modeling the developmental variability of human attention. Presented at the *International Conference on Learning Representations*, Addis Ababa, Ethiopia.
- [28] Kim, K-H., Sano, M., De Freitas, J., Haber, N., & Yamins, D. L. K. (2020). Active world model learning with progress-driven exploration. Presented at the *International Conference on Learning Representations*, Addis Ababa, Ethiopia.
- [27] Kim, K-H., Sano, M., De Freitas, J., Haber, N., & Yamins, D. L. K. (2020). Learning world models with progress-driven exploration. Submitted to the *International Conference on Machine Learning*, Vienna, Austria.
- [26] Tarhan, L., De Freitas, J., Alvarez, G. A., & Konkle, T. (2020). Semantic embeddings of verbal descriptions predict action similarity judgments. Submitted to the *Vision Sciences Society*, St. Pete Beach, FL, USA.
- [25] De Freitas, J., Rips, J. L., Alvarez, G. A. (2020). The capacity limit of personal identity. Submitted to the *Vision Sciences Society*, St. Pete Beach, FL, USA.
- [24] De Freitas, J., Rips, J. L., Alvarez, G. A. (2020). The limit of personal identity. Submitted to the *Society for Philosophy & Psychology*, Princeton University, Princeton, NJ, USA.
- [23] De Freitas, J. (2019). Capacity limits for higher-level thought? The self as a case study. Talk presented at *Cognition, Brain, & Behavior Seminar*, Harvard University, Cambridge, MA, USA.
- [22] De Freitas, J. (2019). Identity and morality without mind. Talk presented at the *Society for Philosophy & Psychology*, San Diego, CA, USA.
- [21] De Freitas, J., Kim, K. H., Haber, N., Conwell, C., Alvarez, G. A., & Yamins, D. L. K. (2019). Intrinsic curiosity may give rise to animate attention. Talk presented at the *Vision Sciences Society*, St. Pete Beach, FL, USA.
- [20] De Freitas, J. (2018). Strategic mentalizing and common knowledge in social life. Talk presented at *Social Brownbag Talk Series*, Harvard University, Cambridge, MA.
- [19] De Freitas, J. (2018). From pixels to moral judgment: Extracting morally relevant information in minds and machines. Talk presented at *Cognition, Brain, & Behavior Seminar*, Harvard University, Cambridge, MA, USA.
- [18] De Freitas, J., Hafri, Alvarez, G. A., Yamins, D. L. K. (2018). Learning to recognize

objects provides category-orthogonal features for social inference and moral judgment. Talk presented at *Society for Philosophy & Psychology*, University of Michigan, MI, USA.

[17] De Freitas, J., Hafri, Alvarez, G. A., Yamins, D. L. K. (2018). From pixels to moral judgment: Extracting morally relevant information in minds and machines. Poster presented at the *Vision Sciences Society*, St. Pete Beach, FL, USA.

[16] De Freitas, J., DeScioli, P., Thomas, K., & Pinker, S. (2017). The ladder of charity. Talk given at *Human Behavior and Evolution Society*, Boise State University, Boise, ID.

[15] De Freitas, J., and Johnson, S. G. B. (2017). The efficiency principle in moral judgment. Talk presented at *Society for Philosophy and Psychology*, John's Hopkins University, Baltimore, MD.

[14] De Freitas, J., and Alvarez, G. A. (2017). Changing moral judgments by exploiting the visual system. Poster presented at *Vision Sciences Society*, St. Pete Beach, FL, USA.

[13] De Freitas, J., and Alvarez, G. A. (2016). Moral psychophysics. Talk presented at *Society for Philosophy and Psychology*, Austin, Tx, USA.

[12] De Freitas, J., and Alvarez, G. A. (2016). Moral psychophysics. Poster presented at *Vision Sciences Society*, St. Pete Beach, FL, USA.

[11] De Freitas, J., Thomas, K. A., DeScioli, P., & Pinker, S. (2015). The strategic bystander: Recursive theory of mind and common knowledge in decisions to help. Talk presented at *Human Behavior and Evolution Society*, Columbia, Missouri, USA.

[10] De Freitas, J., Sarkissian, H., Grossmann, I., De Brigard, F., Luco, A., Newman, G. E., and Knobe, J. (2015). Is there universal belief in a good true self? Talk presented at *European Society for Philosophy and Psychology*, University of Tartu, Estonia.

[9] De Freitas, J., and Johnson, S. G. B. (2015). Behaviorist thinking in judgments of wrongness, punishment, and blame. Poster presented at *Cognitive Science Society*, Pasadena, CA, USA.

[8] De Freitas, J., Sarkissian, H., Grossmann, I., De Brigard, F., Luco, A., Newman, G. E., and Knobe, J. (2015). Is there universal belief in a good true self? Talk presented at *Society for Philosophy and Psychology*, Durham, NC, USA.

[7] De Freitas, J., Myers, N. E., and Nobre, A. C. (2015). Mental tracking of dynamic features. Talk presented at *Vision Sciences Society*, St. Pete Beach, FL, USA.

[6] Phillips, J., Mott, C., De Freitas, J., Gruber, J., and Knobe, J. (2015). Is that all there is to happiness? Poster presented at *Society for Personality and Social Psychology*, Austin, Tx, USA.

[5] De Freitas, J., and Nobre, K. (2014). Feature extrapolation in mental tracking. Poster presented at *2nd Year DPhil Students Poster Event*, University of Oxford, Oxfordshire, UK.

- [4] De Freitas, J., Tobia, K., Newman, J. E., and Knobe, J. (2014). The good ship Theseus: The effect of valence on object identity judgments. Poster presented at *Cognitive Science Society*, Quebec City, Canada.
- [3] Newman, J. E., De Freitas, J., and Knobe, J. (2014). Beliefs about the true self explain asymmetries based on moral judgment. Poster presented at *Society for Philosophy and Psychology*, Vancouver, Canada.
- [2] De Freitas, J., Liverence, B. M., and Scholl, B. J. (2013). Visual and auditory object-based attention driven by rhythmic structure over time. Poster presented at *Vision Sciences Society*, Naples, FL, USA.
- [1] De Freitas, J., Liverence, B., and Scholl, B. J. (2012). Attentional rhythm: A temporal analogue of object-based attention. Poster presented at the annual meeting of the *Vision Sciences Society*, Naples, FL, USA

INVITED PRESENTATIONS

LMC Workshop MK40, London, UK	2020
Causality in Cognition Lab, Stanford University, Palo Alto, CA	2020
Deep Neural Networks Reading Group, Harvard, Boston, MA	2019
Language and Mind Lab, Northeastern, Boston, MA	2019
Brown University Social Brownbag Talk Series, Providence, RI	2019
MIT Media Lab (Human Dynamics Group), MIT, Cambridge, MA (2 of 2)	2019
Moral Psychology Lab, Psychology Department, Harvard University	2019
Visual Attention Lab, Brigham & Women's Hospital, Cambridge, MA	2019
MIT Media Lab (Human Dynamics Group), MIT, Cambridge, MA (1 of 2)	2019
Morality Lab, Boston College, Boston, MA	2019
NCARAI Symposium Series, Naval Research Laboratory, Washington DC	2018
Post-Simian Seminar, The Bahamas	2018
Moral Psychology Lab, Psychology Department, Harvard University	2018
Language and Thought Workshop, Jean Nicod, Paris	2017
Boston Area Morality Group, Harvard University	2016
Morality Lab, Boston College	2016
Harvard Intergroup Neuroscience Lab, Harvard University	2016
Moral Psychology Research Group, Cambridge MA	2016
Jean Nicod, Paris	2015
Northeast Music Cognition Group, New York University	2013
Senior Essay Prize Talk, Yale University	2013
New England Sequencing and Timing Conference, Amherst MA	2013
Northeast Music Cognition Group, Boston University	2012
Northeast Music Cognition Group, New Haven CT	2012

TEACHING EXPERIENCE

Becoming a Brain Scientist, with Jessica Schwab, Harvard University	2020
Sophomore Tutorial in Psychology, Harvard University	2020
Guest speaker, Moral Psychology Seminar by Liane Young, Boston Uni.	2019
Sophomore Tutorial in Psychology, Harvard University	2019
Sophomore Tutorial in Neuroscience & Evo Psych, Harvard University	2019
Sophomore Tutorial in Psychology, Harvard University	2018
Social Psychology, with Fiery Cushman, Harvard University	2018
Introduction to Psychology, with Daniel Gilbert, Harvard University	2017

Deep Learning Workshop, Vision Science Lab, Harvard University

2016

ADVISING EXPERIENCE (selected)

Jasper Hajonides (adm. to PhD, Oxford University)	2013-2014
Simas Sakinas (computer science major, Harvard University)	2019
Michelle Zhao (adm. Masters, Harvard Ed School & PhD, Hong Kong Uni)	2018-2020
Fenil Doshi (adm. to PhD, Harvard University)	2019
Pechthida Kim (Harvard psychology major)	2020-ongoing
Xilin Zhoun (Harvard computer science major)	2020-ongoing

MEDIA APPEARANCES

Ricardo Lopez on the "Dissenter" podcast	(to appear)
Harvard Alumni Magazine	(to appear)
Rabbi Geoff Mitelman, Director of Sinai & Synapses	2019
Keith Shaw of Robotics Business Review	2019
Ed Niedermeyer of The Drive "Merge" podcast	2019
Marcus Baram of Fast Company	2019

PROFESSIONAL SERVICE

Ad hoc reviewer for:

Behavioral & Brain Sciences, Cognition, Cognitive Science, Cognitive Science Society, Frontiers in Psychology, Journal of Experimental Psychology: General, Journal of Experimental Social Psychology, Journal of Vision, Journal of Moral Education, NeurIPS Workshop, Oxford Studies in Experimental Philosophy, Personality & Social Psychology Bulletin, Philosophical Psychology, Society for Philosophy & Psychology, Social Psychological & Personality Science, Review of Philosophy & Psychology

PROFESSIONAL AFFILIATIONS

Society for Philosophy & Psychology
 Vision Sciences Society
 Human Behavior & Evolution Society
 Cognitive Science Society

ACADEMIC RECOMMENDERS

George Alvarez, Harvard University, alvarez@wjh.harvard.edu
 Mina Cikara, Harvard University, mcikara@fas.harvard.edu
 Joshua Knobe, Yale University, joshua.knobe@yale.edu
 Steven Pinker, Harvard University, pinker@wjh.harvard.edu
 Peter DeScioli, Stony Brook University, pdescioli@gmail.com
 Daniel L. K. Yamins, Stanford University, yamins@stanford.edu

COMPUTER SKILLS

Javascript (incl. JQuery and React) HTML, CSS, Python (incl. Tensorflow and Pytorch), R, Matlab, MongoDB, Unity, VR, basic Robotics