

Jackson Phillip Trager

Jacksonptrager.com jackptrager@gmail.com

Education

- 2026 PhD Social Psychology (expected), *University of Southern California*, Thesis: Culture, Conflict, and Technology
- 2023 MA Social Psychology, *University of Southern California*, Thesis: Ideological Threat on Twitter and Prejudice
- 2017 MA Cognitive Anthropology, *Queen's University Belfast*, Northern Ireland, U.K., Thesis: Shifting Morality in Intergroup Conflict
- 2015 BA Psychology & Religious Studies, *CSU Northridge*, Cum Laude - Honors - Minor: Cultural Studies

Research Topics

Cultural Morality • Conflict • Threat • AI Ethics • Intersectional Prejudice • Fairness • Polarization & Bias • HCI

Research Methods and Skills

Behavioral Experiments • Social Media Experiments • Time-Series Analysis • Survey Design & Analysis
R Programming • Data Analysis • Anthropological Fieldwork • Qualitative Interviewing • Multilevel Modeling

Research Experience

- 2020 - **Behavioral Researcher**, [Morality and Language Lab - Computational Social Science](#), *University of Southern California*
- Led 5+ published research projects employing mixed methods—including behavioral experiments, survey analysis, and NLP computational methods—to explore culture, conflict, and technology within and across cultures
 - Directed the human-centered AI team for the Everyday Respect Project, building multi-perspective AI models that analyze LAPD body cam data to support transparency and accountability in sociotechnical system improvements with bias mitigation
 - Managed teams of 20+ annotators across multiple projects, developing diverse corpora with over 40,000 annotated posts in multiple languages focusing on subjective measurements of morality, hate, and misinformation
- 2016-18 **Cognitive Anthropology Researcher**, Institute of Cognition & Culture, *Queen's University Belfast, U.K.*
- Survey formulation and implementation, data analysis, and public opinion polling on shifting intergroup relations, trauma, threat perception, and cross-community outreach analysis of the Northern Irish conflict “The Troubles”
- 2014-15 **Psychology Research Assistant**, The Herczeg Institute, *Tel Aviv University, Israel*
- Data analysis of the 2013 World Happiness Report, hostile-world scenarios, well-being, sentiment, and narrative analysis concerning the Israeli-Palestinian conflict and the psychology of collective trauma
- 2013-15 **Cognitive Research Assistant**, Cognitive Science of Religion Lab, Cognitive Consultant Team, *CSU Northridge*
- Led a user-centric research project at the University Children's Center to assess and address the psychological needs of student parents, involving surveys, user interviews, data analysis, tool creation, and stakeholder engagement

Selected Publications

AI Alignment

“Secret Keepers: The Impact of LLMs on Linguistic Markers of Personal Traits” (2024) ([preprint](#))

“Perils and Opportunities in Using LLMs in Psychological Research” (2023) [PNAS NEXUS](#)

“Improving Communication in the Shadow of Power: New (AI) Technologies & Policing” (2023) (under review, NHB)

Morality Across Culture & Technology

“MFTCXplain: A Brazilian Election Hate Speech Morality Corpus with Human-Annotated Rationales” (2024) ([github](#))

“The Immorality of Excessive Wealth Across Culture” (2023) ([R&R PNAS NEXUS - arXiv](#))

“The Moral Foundations Reddit Corpus” (2022) ([arXiv](#))

“Moral values predict county-level COVID-19 vaccination rates in the US” (2022) [American Psychologist](#)

Online Conflict, Hate Speech, Misinformation

“Moral Alignment Shapes Responses to Shared Content” (2023) [Journal of Experimental Psychology](#)

“The (Moral) Language of Hate” (2023) [PNAS Nexus](#)

“Ideological Threat Influences Prejudice: Evidence from Twitter and Real World Events” (2024) ([arXiv](#))

Consulting & Teaching Experience

Adjunct Psychology Lecturer, *University of Southern California* – Los Angeles **2020-22**

- Psychological Statistics, Experimental Psychological Research Methods, Psych Science and Society, Cognitive Processes

Adjunct Anthropology Lecturer, *Pierce College, Harbor City College, Valley College* – Los Angeles **2018-21**

- Cultural Anthropology, Anthropology of Religion, Human Systems

Director of Curriculum, *The Antedote Initiative - A Wholeness Program for Adolescence* **2019-21**

- Led the development of a curriculum for a program addressing the complex emotional, psychological, and behavioral challenges in adolescence, focusing on managing anxiety, depression, and minor substance abuse

Culture Development Consultant, *WolfTribe* - Los Angeles, California **2019-21**

- Consulted on corporate workplace culture and team development for Sony, Dreamworks, USC Marshall Business School, Microsoft, Redbull's High Performance Department, SpaceX, Snapchat, Walt Disney, Paramount, Virgin Galactica, Mattel, NorthropGunman, Google, Statefarm

Culture Development Consultant/Team Building Facilitator, *Fulcrum Adventures* **2013-19**

- Led workshops on workplace culture, conflict resolution, and strategy implementation for LAUSD, UCLA, CSLA, USC, Apple, Universal, Medtronic, Fox, Farmers Insurance, Wounded Warriors

Interfaith Professional Fellow, *Newground's Muslim-Jewish Fellowship for Change*, Los Angeles **2015-16**

- Collaborated with the White House Advisory Council on Faith-Based & Neighborhood Partnership to combat digital hate

International Field Experience

LAPD Tech/Constitutional Policing (2023-24); Manilla, Philippines (2019); Belfast, Northern Ireland (2016-17); Malaysia-Myanmar (2016); Israel - Palestine (2015); Armenia (2015); Poland-Lithuania (2016)

Grants, Honors, & Scholarships

2024 Psychology Department Doctoral Research Grant Award

2024 Center for Computational Linguistics Studies Finalist

2024 Graduate Student Research Fellowship University of Southern California

2023 [USC Dornsife Dean's Emblem Award for Outstanding Scholarship in Diversity, Equity, Inclusion, & Belonging](#)

2023 Psychology Department Doctoral Research Grant Award

2022 Psychology Department Doctoral Research Grant Award

2021 Graduate Student Research Fellowship University of Southern California

2018 Distinction in Graduate Research Dissertation Queen's University Belfast

2016 LA Human Relations Commission Certificate of Community Engagement, International Postgrad Scholarship

2015 Newground's Muslim-Jewish Fellowship, Onward Israel JFed Grant, Religious Studies Scholar Award, CS Honors Conference Scholarship, AS Medallion, Mellon Foundation Representative

2014 CS AAR Religion Competition Award, US Society of Leadership & Success, JS Scholarship, IRA Scholarship

2013-15 Dean's List, CSU Northridge Crisis Helpline Certification

2010-15 Cal Grant Awardee, Dean's List College of Arts & Sciences Psychology

2009 Eagle Scout Boy Scouts of America

Ad-hoc Journal Reviewer

Nature Communications; Humanities & Social Sciences Communications; The Journal of Cognitive Science; Behavioral Research Methods