

# Jackson Phillip Trager

Jacksonptrager.com jackptrager@gmail.com

## Education

---

- 2026 **PhD Social Psychology** (expected)  
*University of Southern California*, Los Angeles  
Advisor Dr. Morteza Dehghani, Minor: Quantitative Psychology  
Thesis: The Psychology of Culture, Conflict, and Technology
- 2023 **MA Social Psychology**  
*University of Southern California*, Los Angeles  
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 (With Distinction)
- 2015 **BA Psychology & Religious Studies**  
*California State University Northridge*, Los Angeles  
Cum Laude - Honors General Education - Minor: Cultural Studies

## 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 in relation to 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

## Academic Publications [\(Google Scholar\)](#)

---

- [13] Sourati, Z., Ozcan, M., McDaniel, C., Ziabari, A., **Trager, J.**, Wen, N., Tak, A., ... & Dehghani, M. (2024). Secret Keepers: The Impact of LLMs on Linguistic Markers of Personal Traits. ([arXiv](#))
- [12] **Trager, J.**, Omrani, A., Ziabari, A.S, Sorenson, J., Dehghani, M., “The Hateful Rhetoric of Uncivil Comments - A Google Jigsaw Corpus” (2024) (Available upon request)
- [11] **Trager, J.**, Vargas, F., Agrawal, A., Alves, D., Guida, M., Romero, R., Dehghani, M., “MFTCXplain: A Brazilian Election Hate Speech Morality Corpus with Human-Annotated Rationales” (2024)  
(<https://franciellevargas.github.io/pages/MFTCXplain.html>)
- [10] Hejabi, P., Padte, A., Golazizian, P., Hebbar, R., **Trager, J.**, ...Dehghani, M., “CVAT-BWV: A Web-Based Video Annotation Platform for Police Body-Worn Video” (2024) ([International Joint Conference on Artificial Intelligence](#))

- [9] Osborne, M., Omrani, A., F., Abdurahman, S., **Trager, J.**, Dehghani, M., “Two Wrongs Is What Makes It Right: How Retaliatory Incivility Garners Social Rewards” (2024) ([under review, JPSP](#))
- [8] **Trager, J.**, Malekabadi, F., Abdurahman, S., Dehghani, M., “Ideologically Relevant Threats on Twitter and Real-world Events Influence Outgroup Prejudice” (2023) ([under review, Political Psychology](#))
- [7] **Trager, J.** & Atari, M.(2023) “The Morality of Excessive Wealth Across Cultures” (2023)([R&R PNAS NEXUS - arXiv](#))
- [6] **Trager, J.**, Ziabari, A.S., Davani, A.M., Golazazian, P., Karimi-Malekabadi, F.,... “The Moral Foundations Reddit Corpus” (2022) ([arXiv](#))
- [5] Abdurahman, S., Atari, M., Malekabadi, F., **Trager, J.**, Park, P., Golazizian, P., Omrani, A., Dehghani, M., “Perils and Opportunities in Using Large Language Models in Psychological Research” (2023) [PNAS NEXUS](#)
- [4] Graham, B., Brown, L., Choklakis, G., Dehghani, M., Delerme, R., Friedman, B., Graeden, E., Golazazian, P., Hebban, R., Hejabi, P., Kommeneni, A., Salinas, M, Sierra-Arevalo, M., **Trager, J.**, Weller, N., Narayanan, S. ”Improving Communication in the Shadow of Power: What Possibilities Do New (AI) Technologies Hold?” (2023) ([under review, Nature Cities](#))
- [3] Abdurahman, S., Reimer, N.K., Golazizian, P., Baek, E., Shen, Y., **Trager, J.**, Lulla, R., Kaplan, J., Parkinson, C., Dehghani, M. “Moral Alignment Shapes Responses to Shared Content” (2023) ([Journal of Experimental Psychology: General](#))
- [2] Kennedy, B., Golazizian, P., **Trager, J.**, Atari, M., Hoover, J., Davani, AM, Dehghani, M., “The (Moral) Language of Hate” (2023) [PNAS Nexus](#)
- [1] Karimi-Malekabadi, F., Reimer, N. K., Atari, M., **Trager, J.**, Kennedy, B., Graham, J., & Dehghani, M. “Moral values predict county-level COVID-19 vaccination rates in the United States” (2022) [American Psychologist](#)

## Academic Presentations

---

- [17] **Trager, J. (2024)**. How to Teach Humans to Teach AI: Human-Centered Multi-Perspective Multimodal Analysis of Bodycam Footage. Presentation at the Psychology of Technology Conference, Boston University
- [16] **Trager, J. (2024)**. Presenting and Teaching Culturally Contentious Topics in a Digital Age. Panel Discussion at the PhD Academy, University of Southern California
- [15] **Trager, J. (2024)**. Ideologically Threat Influences Political Prejudice: Evidence from Twitter and Real World Events. Poster presented at SPSP 2024, San Diego, California.
- [14] **Trager, J. (2023)**. Ideologically Threatening Events Influence Group Prejudice. Poster presented at the Psychology of Technology Conference. Marshall School of Business, University of Southern California.
- [13] **Trager, J. (2023)**. The Moral Foundations Reddit Corpus. Poster presented at the Psychology of Technology Conference. Marshall School of Business, University of Southern California.
- [12] **Trager, J. & Golazizian, P. (2023)** Artificial Intelligence and Police-Citizen Interaction; Utilizing Diverse Stakeholder Perspectives. Presentation at the National Science Foundation, Washington DC
- [11] **Trager, J. & Dehghani, M. (2023)**. Relevant Threatening Tweets and Outgroup Prejudice - The Moral Psychology of Ideological Threat on Twitter. Lecture presented at the Morality and Language Lab. University of Southern California

- [10] **Trager, J.**, Atari, M., Lai, M., & Dehghani, M. (2022). Is Elon Musk Disgusting? The Morality of Excessive Wealth Across Cultures. Lecture presented at the Social Psychology Brown Bag Series. University of Southern California
- [9] **Trager, J.**, Abdurhaman, S. (2022). Fighting Fire with Fire: How groups incentivize incivility on social media platforms Poster presented at the Psychology of Technology Conference. Wharton School of Business, University of Pennsylvania.
- [8] **Trager, J.**, Atari, M., Lai, M., & Dehghani, M. (2022). The Moralization of Excessive Wealth Across Cultures [Pre-Conference Presentation - Data Blitz]. Justice and Morality Pre-Conference, SPSP Conference, San Francisco, CA
- [7] **Trager, J** (2020). “Political Humility: The Psychology of Morality, Politics, and Polarization”. Lecture at University of Southern California.
- [6] **Trager, J** (2018). “Multi-Religious Identity: Children of Mixed Religious Homes”. Discussion Panel at Southern California Parliament of the World’s Religions, at Chapman University.
- [5] **Trager, J** (2017). “Do Liberals Involved in Extended Intergroup Conflict Endorse a Conservative Morality?” Presentation and discussion at the Institute of Cognition and Culture, Queen's University Belfast.
- [4] **Trager, J** (2015). "Religious Practices Influencing Religious Beliefs." Lecture and discussion presented at Cal State Honors Conference at California State University Chico.
- [3] **Trager, J** (2015). “Religion in The Outdoors: an overview of various religious perceptions of worship, practice, and belief concerning outdoor experiences.” Lecture and discussion presented at the Western Regional Outdoor Leadership Conference at California State University Northridge
- [2] **Trager, J.**, & Christie, C., & Cortez, A. (2014). “The Importance of Program Diversification: Staff Diversity, Curriculum Diversity, Participation Diversity.” Lecture and discussion presented at the Western Regional Outdoor Leadership Conference at the University of California Santa Cruz
- [1] **Trager, J.**, & Christie, C. (2013). “California Our Backyard: Comprehending State Potential and Taking Advantage of Available Opportunities.” Lecture and discussion presented at the Western Regional Outdoor Leadership Conference at the University of California San Diego

## Consulting Work Experience

---

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

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

2018-21 **Culture Development Consultant**, WolfTribe - Los Angeles, California

- 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

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

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

2012-15 **Primary Team Building Facilitator**, Associated Students – Outdoor Adventures

- Developed 35+ student leaders in both technical and interpersonal skills needed for guiding outdoor experiences
- Facilitated skill-based seminars, team-building workshops, and one-on-one training

- Developed marketing strategies, policies on safety/risk management, oversaw hiring/training, and formulated a curriculum focusing on the identity issues facing incoming students

2013-15 **W.R.O.L.C. Committee Board Member**, Associated Students – California State University Northridge

- From concept to completion, we petitioned for, planned, marketed, and ran the 2015 Western Regional Outdoor Leadership Conference
- Headed interdisciplinary discussions amongst 25+ Universities with over 400 attendees

## Teaching Experience

---

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

- Psychology 100: Introduction to Psychology Lab (8 sections)
- Psychology 165: Drugs, Behavior, and Society (2 sections)
- Psychology 195: CORE Psychological Science and Society (1 section)
- Psychology 274: Psychological Statistics (3 sections)
- Psychology 314: Experimental Psychological Research Methods Lab (4 sections)
- Psychology 301: Cognitive Processes (2 sections)
- Psychology 360: Abnormal Psychology (1 section)

2018-21 **Adjunct Anthropology Lecturer**

*Pierce College – Woodland Hills, CA*

- Anthropology 101: Human Biological Evolution (6 sections)
- Anthropology 101 OL: Human Biological Evolution Online (6 sections)
- Anthropology 111: Human Biological Evolution Lab (2 sections)
- Anthropology 111 OL: Human Biological Evolution Lab (4 sections)
- Anthropology 121: Anthropology of Religion (3 sections)
- Anthropology 121 OL: Anthropology of Religion Online (4 sections)

*Los Angeles Harbor City College – Wilmington, CA*

- Anthropology 101: Human Biological Evolution (3 sections)
- Anthropology 101 OL: Human Biological Evolution Online (3 sections)
- Anthropology 102: Cultural Anthropology (1 section)
- Anthropology 102 OL: Cultural Anthropology Online (2 sections)
- Anthropology 111: Human Biological Evolution Lab (3 sections)

*Los Angeles Valley College – Los Angeles, CA*

- Anthropology 102: Cultural Anthropology (1 section)

2015-18 **Religious Theory Teacher**, *Ohr HaTorah School – Los Angeles, CA*

- Curriculum taught tradition as philosophical anthropology and practical psychology, as opposed to dogma

2014 **Teaching Assistant**, *Cal State University Northridge*

- Dr. Linda Lam-Easton - Religious Studies 395: Religious Theory and Method

## International Field Experience (See [jacksonptrager.com](http://jacksonptrager.com))

---

LAPD Tech/Constitutional Policing (2023-24); Manila, 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

## Volunteer Work

---

- 2015-16 **Interfaith Professional Fellow**, Newground's Muslim-Jewish Fellowship for Change – Los Angeles, California
- Newground is a Jewish/Muslim community-building organization. As a Fellow, I participated in and studied the dynamics of sociocultural identities and interfaith relations in LA, emphasizing solutions to foster closer relations.
  - With partner Ali Jakvani, we developed the MiND\_Kit project, an initiative that provided necessary and innovative skills and computer resources to 80 middle school children in South Central Los Angeles.
  - Collaborated with the White House Advisory Council on Faith-Based & Neighborhood Partnership to combat digital hate
- 2015 **Refugee Education Aid**, ASSAF – Aid Organization for Refugees and Asylum Seekers in Israel – South Tel-Aviv, Israel
- Organized learning exercises and games with 50 refugee children from Sudan/Eritrea (Ages: 1 mo. - 4 yrs.)
  - Orchestrated trips to Holot Detention Center, meeting with the detained parents, connecting families and shed light on the difficulties of asylum seekers and refugees in Israel with the local media
- 2013-14 **Crisis Helpline Listener**, CSUN Crisis Helpline – Northridge, California
- Completed a 12-week training program covering active listening, Mental Health First Aid, Applied Suicide Intervention Skills Training, and legal practices for those in psychological distress or substance abuse
  - Served as psychological support listener for the local Los Angeles community

## Ad-hoc Journal Reviewer

---

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