

Jackson Phillip Trager - CV

[Google Scholar](#) | [LinkedIn](#) | [Email](#) | [Jacksonptrager.com](#)

Education

- 2026 PhD Social Psychology, *University of Southern California*, Thesis: Culture, Conflict, Threat, 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: Ethics in Intergroup Conflict
- 2015 BA Psychology & Religious Studies, *CSU Northridge*, Cum Laude - Honors - Minor: Cultural Studies

Research Experience

- 2025 **Summer Research Associate - AI, Culture, & Government**, [RAND Corporation](#), Santa Monica & Washington, D.C.
- Analyzed perceptions and impacts of emerging technologies and AI across communities and cultures for the Science and Technology Dept, Dept of Homeland Security Research Division, and the National Security Research Division
- 2020- **Behavioral Researcher**, [Morality and Language Lab - Computational Social Science](#), *University of Southern California*
- Led 8+ 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
 - Managed teams of 20+ annotators across multiple projects, developing diverse LLM training corpora with over 40,000 annotated posts in multiple languages, focusing on subjective measurements of morality, hate, and information spread
- 2021- **Human-Centered AI Researcher for Sociotechnical Systems**, [Everyday Respect LAPD Project](#), *USC*
- 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
- 2024 **LLM Integration - User Experience Researcher**, AgentGrow, Los Angeles
- Led UX research leveraging user feedback surveys, behavioral metrics, LLM fine-tuning strategies, and prompt engineering to enhance product design, address ethical concerns, and improve trust and safety
- 2022 **Annotation Project Manager**, Google Jigsaw + USC
- Led a team of 8 annotators to label 16,099 comments for hate-based rhetoric to utilize for LLM fine-tuning and evaluation
- 2016-18 **Applied Anthropology Researcher**, Institute of Cognition & Culture, *Queen's University Belfast, U.K.*
- Mixed-methods research on shifting intergroup relations and cross-community outreach of the Northern Irish conflict
- 2015 **Psychology Research Assistant**, The Herczeg Institute, *Tel Aviv University, Israel*
- Data analysis of hostile-world scenarios, well-being, and narrative/sentiment on the collective trauma of Israelis/Palestinians
- 2013-15 **Cognitive Research Assistant**, Cognition and Society 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](#)

[31] Sourati, Z., Ozcan, M., McDaniel, C., Ziabari, A., **Trager, J.**, Wen, N., Tak, A., ... & Dehghani, M. (2025). "The Shrinking Landscape of Linguistic Diversity in the Age of Large Language Models" ([R&R Nature Human Behavior](#))

[30] **Trager, J.** Narayanan, S., Graham, B., & Dehghani, M. (2025). "Teaching Humans to Teach AI to Analyze Police Footage: A Human-Centered Framework for Responsible Subjective AI in Sociotechnical Systems" (In prep)

[29] **Trager, J.**, Vargas, F., Agrawal, A., Alves, D., Guida, M., Romero, R., (2025) "MFTCXplain: A Multilingual Benchmark Dataset for Evaluating the Moral Reasoning of LLMs through Hate Speech Multi-hop Explanation" [Findings of the Association for Computational Linguistics: EMNLP](#)

[28] **Trager, J.** & Atari, M., "The Immorality of Excessive Wealth Across Cultures" (2025) [PNAS Nexus](#)

[27] **Trager, J.**, Omrani, A., Ziabari, A.S, Sorenson, J., Dehghani, M., "The Hateful Rhetoric of Uncivil Comments - A Google Jigsaw Corpus" (2025) (Available upon request)

[26] Ma, M., Johnson, C., Bridges, N., **Trager, J.**, Chochklakis, G., Narayanan, S. (2025) "Authors Should Annotate: Chatbot User Experience Study" ([Under review, ACL](#))

[25] Malekabadi, F., **Trager, J.**, ... (2025) "Theory Trace Card for LLM Socio-Cognitive Evaluation" (Under review, ACL)

- [24] Chochklakis, G., **Trager, J.**, ... Narayanan, S. (2025) “Semantic F1 Scores: Fair Evaluation Under Fuzzy Class Boundaries” ([Under Review, ICLR](#))
- [23] Golazizian, P., Rahmati, E., **Trager, J.**, ...& Dehghani, M. (2025) “The Subjectivity of Respect in Police Traffic Stops: Modeling Community Perspectives in Body-Worn Camera Footage” (Under Review, ACL)
- [22] Kommineni, A., **Trager, J.**, ... & Dehghani, M. (2025) “BWCSpeech: A Benchmark for Noisy, Egocentric Police-Citizen Interaction Audio” (In prep)
- [21] Jandaghi, P., **Trager, J.**, Golazizian, P. ... & Dehghani, M. (2025) “Evaluating LLM Video Summarization” (2026, In Prep)
- [20] Vargas, F.*, **Trager, J.***, Agrawal, A., Alves, D., Guida, M., Smart, A., Romero, R., Dementieva, D., Nozza, D. (2025) “Self-Explaining Hate Speech Detection with Moral Rationales: Explainable Contextual LLM Evaluations” (Under review, ACL)
- [19] Alves, D.*, **Trager, J.***, Agrawal, A., Guida, M., Romero, R., Vargas, F. (2025) “HateBRMoralXplain: Socio Political Analysis of Portuguese Brazilian Political Hate Speech on Instagram” (Under review, ACL)
- [18] Hejabi, P., Padte, A., Golazizian, P., Hebbbar, R., **Trager, J.**, ...Dehghani, M., (2025) “CVAT-BWV: A Web-Based Video Annotation Platform for Police Body-Worn Video” [International Joint Conference on Artificial Intelligence: ICJAI](#)
- [17] **Trager, J.**, Ziabari, A.S., Davani, A.M., Golazizian, P.,... (2025). “The Moral Foundations Reddit Corpus” ([arXiv](#))
- [16] **Trager, J.** (2025) “Is it wrong to have too much money? Your answer may depend on deep-seated values – and your country’s economy”, [The Conversation](#); republished by [Yahoo News](#), [Salon](#), [Phys.org](#), [Chron](#) and the McClatchy Newspapers network (including the *Miami Herald*, *Sacramento Bee*, *Kansas City Star*, *Charlotte Observer*, *Ft. Worth Star-Telegram*, *Lexington Herald-Leader* and others)
- [15] **Trager, J.**, Boudreaux, B., Yeung, D., (2025). “Using AI to Understand Public Perceptions: How LLMs Could Help the USG Anticipate Views of Emerging Technologies” RAND Perspective
- [14] Steratore, R., Wilson, K., **Trager, J.**, Boudreaux, B., Yeung, D. (2025) “A Social Science Methods Toolkit for the U.S.G. to Gauge Public Perception of Technologies Across Development Cycle” RAND Report
- [13] Beaghley, S., **Trager, J.**, Walsh, S., Maslov, N., Brown, R., Yeung, D. (2025). “Beyond Borders: Improving Personnel Vetting for International Applicants” RAND Report
- [12] Alcocer, J. Brown, L., Delorme, R., Graham, B., Hulburd, K., Muttram, H., Sierra-Arevalo, **Trager, J.**, Weller, N., .., “Police as Policymakers: How Experiences with policy implementation shape policy representation”(2024) ([Under review, American Political Science Review](#))
- [11] Osborne, M., Omrani, A., F., Abdurahman, S., **Trager, J.**, Dehghani, M., (2024) “Two Wrongs Is What Makes It Right: How Retaliatory Incivility Earns Social Rewards” ([R&R, JESP](#))
- [10] **Trager, J.**, ... Narayanan, S. (2024) “Everyday Respect Project Phase 2 Manual: Detailed Subjective and Objective Time- Phase Annotation” ([Public Annotation Manual](#))
- [9] **Trager, J.**, ... Narayanan, S. (2024) “Everyday Respect Project Phase 1B Manual: Diverse Demographic Labeling” (2024) ([Public Annotation Manual](#))
- [8] **Trager, J.**, ... Narayanan, S. (2024) “Everyday Respect Project Phase 1A Manual: Tagging Officers, Civilians, and Key Objects” (2024) ([Public Annotation Manual](#))
- [7] **Trager, J.**, ... Narayanan, S. (2024) “Everyday Respect Project Phase 0 Manual: Improving Automated Transcripts” ([Public Annotation Manual](#))
- [6] **Trager, J.**, Malekabadi, F., Abdurahman, S., Dehghani, M. (2023) “Hate Is Justified When Values Are Threatened: Evidence from Ideologically Threatening Tweets and Real World Events” ([under review, Plos One](#))
- [5] Abdurahman, S., Atari, M., Malekabadi, F., **Trager, J.**, Park, P., Golazizian, P., Omrani, A., Dehghani, M. (2023) “Perils and Opportunities in Using Large Language Models in Psychological Research” [PNAS Nexus](#)
- [4] Graham, B., Brown, L., Choklakis, G., Dehghani, M., Delorme, R., Friedman, B., Graeden, E., Golazizian, P., Hebbbar, R., Hejabi, P., Kommeneni, A., Salinas, M., Sierra-Arevalo, M., **Trager, J.**, Weller, N., Narayanan, S. (2023) ”Improving Communication in the Shadow of Power: What Possibilities Do New (AI) Technologies Hold?” ([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. (2023) “Moral Alignment Shapes Responses to Shared Content” [Journal of Experimental Psychology: General](#)
- [2] Kennedy, B., Golazizian, P., **Trager, J.**, Atari, M., Hoover, J., Davani, AM, Dehghani, M. (2023) “The (Moral) Language of Hate” [PNAS Nexus](#)
- [1] Karimi-Malekabadi, F., Reimer, N. K., Atari, M., **Trager, J.**, Kennedy, B., Graham, J., & Dehghani, M. (2022). “Moral values predict county-level COVID-19 vaccination rates in the United States” [American Psychologist](#)

Academic Presentations

- [28] **Trager, J., (2025).** A Human-Centered Framework for Responsible Subjective AI in Sociotechnical Systems. Presentation at the Workshop on Evaluating AI in Practice, NeurIPS Sidelines, San Diego
- [27] **Trager, J., (2025).** A Human-Centered Framework for Responsible Subjective AI in Sociotechnical Systems. Presentation at the Psychology of Technology Conference, Washington D.C.
- [26] **Trager, J., (2025).** MFTCXplain: A Multilingual Benchmark Dataset for Evaluating the Moral Reasoning of LLMs through Hate Speech Multi-hop Explanation. Presentation at the [Association for Computational Linguistics: EMNLP, Suzhou, China](#)
- [25] **Trager, J. (2025).** Using AI to Understand Public Perceptions: How LLMs Could Help the USG Anticipate Views of Emerging Technologies. RAND Seminar, Santa Monica Campus
- [24] **Trager, J. (2025).** Applications of AI in Sociotechnical Systems Across & Within Cultures: Engaging Stakeholders throughout Tech Development. Presentation at The Responsible Enterprise: Real Social Impact in Today’s Markets and Technology at Virginia Tech’s Innovation Campus
- [23] **Trager, J. (2025).** How to Teach Humans to Teach AI: Human-Centered Multi-Perspective Multimodal Analysis of Bodycam Footage. Presentation at SHOWCAIS. USC Center for AI and Society
- [22] **Trager, J. (2025).** The Influence of Politics in Social Media Bios. Presentation at SPSP 2025, Denver, Colorado
- [21] **Trager, J. (2025).** Teaching AI to Analyze Police Body-Cam Footage: Enhancing Accountability through Multi-Perspective Multimodal Machine Learning. Presentation at SPSP 2025, Media and Technology, Denver, Colorado
- [20] **Trager, J. (2025).** Teaching AI to Analyze Police Body-Cam Footage: Enhancing Accountability through Multi-Perspective Multimodal Machine Learning. Presentation at SPSP 2025, Advancing Policing, Denver, Colorado
- [19] **Trager, J. (2024).** Gathering Subjective Human Data from Unconventional Sources: A Platform Demonstration for Analyzing Cross-Cultural Conflict Footage with Community Insight. Presentation at the Innovation Days by Solutions Lab and Arnold Ventures, Marshall School of Business, USC
- [18] **Trager, J. (2024).** How AI in Sociotechnical Systems *Can* Impact Society and How Society *Should* Impact AI Systems to Mitigate Bias and Create Fair and Responsible Technologies: Lessons from the LAPD Annotation Room. Presentation at the Technology, Race and Prejudice Lab, Virginia Tech
- [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. & Deghani, 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., & Deghani, 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., & Deghani, 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 (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 (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, SpaceX, Snapchat, Walt Disney, 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, Paramount, Virgin Galactica

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 (5 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 + Online (12 sections)
- Anthropology 111: Human Biological Evolution Lab + Online (6 sections)
- Anthropology 121: Anthropology of Religion + Online (8 sections)

Los Angeles Harbor City College – Wilmington, CA

- Anthropology 101: Human Biological Evolution + Online (6 sections)
- Anthropology 102: Cultural Anthropology+ Online (5 section)
- 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 Anthropological Field Experience (See jacksonptrager.com)

LAPD Tech/Constitutional Policing (2023-25); Manila, Philippines (2019); Belfast, Northern Ireland (2016-17); Malaysia-Myanmar (2016); Israel-Palestine (2015); Armenia (2015); Poland-Lithuania (2014)

Grants, Honors, & Scholarships

2025 Plurality Institute Grant Award for LLMs Improving Democratic Discourse
 2025 Technology Race and Prejudice (TRAP) Conference Awardee
 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](#)
 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

- 2014 CSU Northridge Crisis Helpline Certification
- 2010 Cal Grant Awardee (4 years)
- 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

References

Dr. Morteza Dehghani (PhD Advisor)

Associate Professor of Psychology, Computer Science, Brain and Creativity Institute, USC
Director of the Morality and Language Lab
Director of the Center for Computational Language Sciences
Senior Research Scientist @ Apple
mdehghan@usc.edu

Dr. Shrikanth Narayanan

Niki and Max Nikias Chair in Engineering and University Professor of Electrical and Computer Engineering, Computer Science, Linguistics, Psychology, Pediatrics, and Otolaryngology at USC Viterbi School of Engineering
Chief Scientist @ Behavioral Signal Technologies
shri@ee.usc.edu

Dr. Benjamin Graham

Associate Professor of International Relations, USC
Board of Advisors - Center for Public Safety and Justice, University of Virginia
Coordinating Principal Investigator - Everyday Respect Research Project
Fellow at the Future Policing Institute
Research Director - Law Enforcement Work Inquiry System (LEWIS)
Co-Founder - Security and Political Economy (SPEC) Lab
benjamag@usc.edu

Dr. Douglas Yeung (RAND Advisor)

Senior Behavioral and Social Scientist @ RAND corporation
Associate Director (Personnel and Workforce); Management, Technology, & Capabilities Program (MTC)
dyeung@rand.org

Dr. Benjamin Boudreaux (RAND Advisor)

Policy Researcher - AI and Society @ RAND Corporation
Professor of Public Policy Pardee RAND Graduate School
bboudrea@rand.org

Dr. Francielle Vargas

Researcher in Computer Science and Explainable Responsible AI
University of Sao Paulo, Brazil
franciellealvargas@gmail.com

Dr. Claire White

Professor at the Religious Studies Department at California State University, Northridge
Director of the Cognitive Science of Religion Lab
claire.white@csun.edu

Dr. Ameeta Agrawal

Assistant Professor Computer Science
Director of the NLP lab
Portland State University
ameeta@pdx.edu