
JEFFREY S. ROBINSON

Postdoctoral Fellow

University of Toronto

I am a social psychologist currently working as a Postdoctoral Fellow at the University of Toronto. I am interested in how a range of psychological processes influence the types of moral values and beliefs people internalize and how this impacts their moral judgments and behaviour. As an extension, my research focuses on harnessing our knowledge of the moral mind to devise interventions that increase the quality, tone, and effectiveness of moral rhetoric while reducing feelings of polarization.

INFORMATION AND CONTACT DETAILS

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ACADEMIC POSITIONS

September 2018 **Postdoctoral Fellow**
University of Toronto, Toronto, ON
Supervisor: Jason E. Plaks

EDUCATION

2017 **PhD in Psychology**
University of Toronto, Toronto, ON
Dissertation: Beyond 'passion versus reason': Identifying person and feature attributes that predict deontological and consequentialist moral judgment
Supervisor: Jason E. Plaks
Committee: Yoel Inbar, William A. Cunningham, David A. Pizarro, Cendri Hutcherson, Matthew Feinberg

2012 **MA in Psychology**
University of Toronto, Toronto, ON
Thesis: The consequentialist scale: Elucidating the role of deontological and utilitarian beliefs in moral judgments

2009 **HBSc in Psychology (with High Distinction)**
University of Toronto

RESEARCH FELLOWSHIPS & SCHOLARSHIPS

2015-2017 **SSHRC Doctoral Fellowship**
Social Sciences and Humanities Research Council (\$40,000)

2016 **Faculty of Arts & Science Doctoral Completion Award**
University of Toronto, Faculty of Arts and Science (\$3,100)

2012-2013 **Social Sciences & Humanities Conference Grant**
School of Graduate Studies, University of Toronto (\$800)

2012-2016 **Faculty of Arts & Science Fellowship**
University of Toronto, Faculty of Arts and Science (\$15,500)

2012-2016 **Faculty of Arts & Science Tuition Fellowship**
University of Toronto, Faculty of Arts and Science (\$33,300)

PUBLICATIONS

PEER REVIEWED PUBLICATIONS

Robinson, J. S., Xu, X., & Plaks, J. E. (*in press*). Disgust and deontology: Trait sensitivity to contamination promotes a preference for order, hierarchy, and rule-based moral judgment. *Social Psychological and Personality Science*, <https://doi.org/10.1177/1948550617732609>

Robinson, J. S., Page-Gould, E., & Plaks, J. E. (2017). I appreciate your effort: Asymmetric effects of actors' exertion on observers' consequentialist versus deontological judgments. *Journal of Experimental Social Psychology*, *73*, 50–64.

Plaks, J. E., & **Robinson, J. S.** (2017). Proximal and distal intent: Toward a new folk theory of intentional action. *Review of General Psychology*, *21*(3), 242–254.

Plaks, J. E., Fortune, J. L., Liang, L. H., & **Robinson, J. S.** (2016). Effects of culture and gender on judgments of intent and responsibility. *PLoS ONE*, *11*(4), 1–19. <https://doi.org/10.1371/journal.pone.0154467>

Plaks, J. E., & **Robinson, J. S.** (2015). Construal level and free will beliefs shape perceptions of actors' proximal and distal intent. *Frontiers in Psychology*, *6*(777). <https://doi.org/10.3389/fpsyg.2015.00777>

Robinson, J. S., Joel, S., & Plaks, J. E. (2015). Empathy for the group versus indifference toward the victim: Effects of anxious and avoidant attachment on moral judgment. *Journal of Experimental Social Psychology*, *56*, 139–152.

MANUSCRIPTS UNDER REVIEW OR IN PREPARATION

- Robinson, J.S.,** Forbes, R., & Plaks, J.E. (in prep). Appealing to emotion: People use more sadness language when justifying harming one person to save many.
- Robinson, J.S.,** & Plaks, J.E. (in prep). Meta-moral foundations: The role of moral expansion, impartiality, and motivation in moral judgment and behaviour.
- Robinson, J.S.,** Hutcherson, C., & Plaks, J.E. (in prep). Information accumulation during moral judgment: Differential search patterns predict moral judgments.
- Robinson, J.S.,** & Plaks, J.E. (in prep). Moral humility decreases extremity of moral judgments and increases perceived persuasiveness.

PRESENTATIONS

CONFERENCE TALKS

- Robinson, J.S.,** & Plaks, J.E. (2014). Beyond intentional versus unintentional: Varieties of intent in moral judgment. Presented at the annual convention of the Canadian Psychological Association, Vancouver, British Columbia, Canada.
- Robinson, J.S.** (2013). Beyond dual-process models in moral cognition: An individual differences approach. Presented at the annual meeting of YUTSPA, Toronto, Ontario, Canada.

POSTER PRESENTATIONS

- Friesdorf, R., **Robinson, J.S.,** & Conway, P. (2018). The morality of dating multiple people: The influence of cognitive deliberation, moral rules, and integrating emotion with cognition on moral judgments and behavioral intentions. Presented at the annual meeting of the Society for Personality and Social Psychology, Atlanta, GA, USA.
- Robinson, J.S.,** Plaks, J.E. (2016). I appreciate your effort: Asymmetric effects of actors' effort on observers' evaluations of deontological versus consequentialist decisions. Presented at the annual meeting of the Society for Personality and Social Psychology, San Diego, CA, USA.
- Robinson, J. S.,** Joel, S., & Plaks, J. E. (2015). Empathy for the group versus indifference toward the victim: Effects of anxious avoidant attachment on moral judgment. Presented at the Justice & Morality Pre-conference of the annual meeting of the Society for Personality and Social Psychology, Long Beach, CA, USA.
- Robinson, J.S.,** & Plaks, J.E. (2015). The angry deontologist and the sad utilitarian: Discrete emotions predict moral judgments. Presented at the annual meeting of the Society for Personality and Social Psychology, Long Beach, CA, USA.
- Robinson, J.S.,** & Plaks, J.E. (2014). The role of emotion in utilitarian moral judgement. Poster presented at the annual convention of the Canadian Psychological Association, Vancouver, British Columbia, Canada.
- Robinson, J.S.,** & Plaks, J.E. (2014). Moral deontologists are more likely to flip flop. Poster presented at the annual meeting of the Society for Personality and Social Psychology, Austin, TX, USA.
- Robinson, J.S.,** Joel, S., & Plaks, J.E. (2013). Attachment insecurity predicts moral judgments. Poster presented at the annual convention of the Canadian Psychological Association, Quebec City, Quebec, Canada.

Robinson, J.S., & Plaks, J.E. (2013). Emotionality and deontological beliefs independently predict moral judgments. Poster presented at the annual meeting of the Association for Psychological Science, Washington, D.C., USA.

Robinson, J.S. & Plaks, J.E. (2013). Why do conservatives and religious people make more severe moral judgments? Mediating effects of deontological and utilitarian beliefs. Poster presented at the annual meeting of the Society for Personality and Social Psychology, New Orleans, LA, USA.

TEACHING EXPERIENCE

INVITED GUEST LECTURES

Spring 2017

Moral Cognition

PSY326 – Social Cognition, University of Toronto

TEACHING ASSISTANTSHIPS

UNIVERSITY OF TORONTO, ST. GEORGE CAMPUS

Fall 2011

PSY414 – Moral Development

Fall 2012, Spring 2015, Fall 2015,
Spring 2016, Summer 2016

PSY426 – Motivation

Summer 2012, Fall 2013, Fall 2014

PSY320 – Attitudes

Spring 2013, Spring 2017

PSY326 – Social Cognition

Spring 2014

PSY332 – Organizational Behaviour

Spring 2016

PSY329 – Social Psychology Laboratory

Fall 2016

PSY321 – Cultural Psychology

UNIVERSITY OF TORONTO, MISSISSAUGA CAMPUS

Fall 2012, Fall 2013

PSY220 – Introduction to Social Psychology

PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT

October 2016

What is Open Science and how do I do it? University of Toronto

Hosted by Dr. Lorne Campbell

September 2016

Bayesian Cognitive Modeling, University of Toronto

Hosted by Drs. Michael Lee & Joachim Vandekerckhove

June 2016

Good research practices and Open Science, University of Toronto

Hosted by Dr. Daniël Lakens

December 2015

R workshop, University of Toronto

Hosted by Dr. Elizabeth Page-Gould

March 2014

Mediation and moderation, University of Toronto

Hosted by Dr. Andrew Hayes

January 2014

Multilevel Modeling, University of Toronto

Hosted by Dr. David A. Kenny

