

# NADIA M. BRASHIER

## *Curriculum Vitae*

University of California, San Diego  
Department of Psychology  
La Jolla, California 92093

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🐦 [@nadiabrashier](https://twitter.com/nadiabrashier)

## POSITIONS

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- 2023- **University of California, San Diego**  
Assistant Professor of Psychology
- 2021-23 **Purdue University**  
Assistant Professor of Psychological Sciences
- 2018-21 **Harvard University**  
NIH and NSF SBE Postdoctoral Fellow, *Mentor*: Daniel Schacter

## EDUCATION

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- 2018 **Duke University**  
Ph.D. in Cognition & Cognitive Neuroscience
- 2015 **Duke University**  
M.A. in Cognition & Cognitive Neuroscience
- 2012 **Davidson College**  
B.S. in Psychology with Neuroscience Concentration  
*magna cum laude* with departmental honors, Phi Beta Kappa

## RESEARCH INTERESTS

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I study memory and judgment across the lifespan, with a specific focus on cognitive “shortcuts” people use to evaluate truth. My research identifies ways that young and older adults come to believe things that are not true, from fake news to common superstitions.

## AWARDS & FELLOWSHIPS

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- 2023 Psychonomic Society Fellow
- 2023 Favorite Faculty Award, Purdue University
- 2022 Association for Psychological Science Rising Star  
*recognizes outstanding psychological scientists in the earliest stages of their research career*


- 2020 National Institutes of Health Postdoctoral Diversity Supplement, \$241,315  
*supports scientists from socioeconomically disadvantaged backgrounds*
- 2018 National Science Foundation SBE Postdoctoral Research Fellow, \$165,000
- 2018 APA Div 20 Doctoral Dissertation Award in the Psychology of Aging  
*recognizes a doctoral student for exemplary research contributing to theory of adult development and aging*
- 2017 APA Dissertation Research Award, \$4,114  
*supports dissertation research that reflects excellence in scientific psychology*
- 2017 American Psychological Foundation 125<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Scholar, \$3,000
- 2017 Phillip Jackson Baugh Fellow, \$30,882  
*supports single Duke student's career in aging*
- 2016 Kavli Summer Institute in Cognitive Neuroscience Fellow
- 2015 Summer Institute on Bounded Rationality Fellow, Max Planck Institute for Human Development
- 2012 National Science Foundation Graduate Research Fellow, \$134,000
- 2012 William Gatewood Workman Award | *Davidson Psychology Department's highest honor*
- 2012 Phi Beta Kappa
- 2011 APA Div 20 Award for Completed Undergraduate Research in Adult Development and Aging  
*recognizes an undergraduate for exemplary research contributing to theory of adult development and aging*
- 2011 Howard Hughes Medical Institute Fellow, \$6,000
- 2010 Davidson Research Initiative Fellow, \$6,800
- 2008 National Merit Finalist


## PUBLICATIONS


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**Brashier, N. M.**, Ho, C. H., Hogue, T. K., & Schacter, D. L. (in press). Retrieval fluency inflates perceived preparation for difficult problems. *Memory*

**Brashier, N. M.** (2023). Do conspiracy theorists think too much or too little? *Current Opinion in Psychology* 

Ecker, U. K. H., Lewandowsky, S., Cook, J., Schmid, P., Fazio, L. K., **Brashier, N. M.**, Kendeou, P., Vraga, E. K., & Amazeen, M. A. (2022). The psychological drivers of misinformation belief and its resistance to correction. *Nature Reviews Psychology* 


Thakral, P. P., Devitt, A. L., **Brashier, N. M.**, & Schacter, D. L. (2021). Linking creativity and false memory: Common consequences of a flexible memory system. *Cognition* 

**Brashier, N. M.**, Pennycook G., Berinsky, A. J., & Rand, D. G. (2021). Timing matters when correcting fake news. *PNAS* 

- Brashier, N. M., & Fazio, L. K.** (2020). Why do older adults share more misinformation? We need social media data to find out. *The Harvard Kennedy School Misinformation Review* 
- Brashier, N. M., & Schacter, D. L.** (2020). Aging in an era of fake news. *Current Directions in Psychological Science* 
- Brashier, N. M., Eliseev, E. D., & Marsh, E. J.** (2020). An initial accuracy focus prevents illusory truth. *Cognition* 
- Brashier, N. M., & Marsh, E. J.** (2020). Judging truth. *Annual Review of Psychology* 
- \* one of Annual Review's [top 10 most downloaded articles](#) of 2020 in the social sciences
- Wang, W., **Brashier, N. M.**, Wing, E. A., Marsh, E. J., & Cabeza, R. (2018). Knowledge supports memory retrieval through familiarity, not recollection. *Neuropsychologia* 
- Wang, W., **Brashier, N. M.**, Wing, E. A., Marsh, E. J., & Cabeza, R. (2018). Neural basis of goal-driven shifts in access to knowledge. *European Journal of Neuroscience* 
- Brashier, N. M., & Multhaup, K. M.** (2017). Magical thinking decreases across adulthood. *Psychology and Aging* 
- Brashier, N. M., Umanath, S., Cabeza, R., & Marsh, E. J.** (2017). Competing cues: Older adults rely on knowledge in the face of fluency. *Psychology and Aging* 
- Marsh, E. J., Cantor, A. D., & **Brashier, N. M.** (2016). Believing that humans swallow spiders in their sleep: False beliefs as side effects of the processes that support accurate knowledge. *Psychology of Learning and Motivation* 
- Wang, W., **Brashier, N. M.**, Wing, E. A., Marsh, E. J., & Cabeza, R. (2016). On known unknowns: Fluency and the neural mechanisms of the illusory truth effect. *Journal of Cognitive Neuroscience* 
- Fazio, L. K., **Brashier, N. M.**, Payne, B. K., & Marsh, E. J. (2015). Knowledge does not protect against illusory truth. *Journal of Experimental Psychology: General* 
- Jiang, J., **Brashier, N. M.**, & Egner, T. (2015). Memory meets control in hippocampal and striatal binding of stimuli, responses, and attentional control states. *The Journal of Neuroscience* 

## MANUSCRIPTS

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- Brashier, N. M., & Rand, D. G.** (preprint). Illusory truth occurs even with incentives for accuracy. 
- \* covered by [CBS News](#) and the [Neiman Lab](#)
- Brashier, N. M.** (invited). Fighting fake news across the adult lifespan. *Current Opinion in Psychology*

## ACTIVE FUNDING

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| 2022 | ‘Neural Mechanisms of Memory Updating Across the Lifespan,’ Purdue Synergistic Connections Between Life and Social Sciences Award (PI), \$10,000 |
| 2021 | ‘Testing the Optimal Time to Correct Misinformation,’ Facebook (co-PI), \$50,000   |

## SELECT MEDIA COVERAGE

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- “Is ‘fake news’ creeping into your belief system?” *Forbes* [🔗](#)
- “Why do our brains believe lies?” *Washington Post* [🔗](#)
- “Kanye West, Twitter, and how to disengage from hate on social media” *USA Today* [🔗](#)
- “5 tips to spot misinformation and prevent its spread” *Washington Post* [🔗](#)
- “Getting wise to fake news” *The New York Times* [🔗](#)
- “Older people spread more fake news, a deadly habit in the COVID-19 pandemic” *LA Times* [🔗](#)
- “New research explains why Boomers share so much fake news” *Rolling Stone* [🔗](#)
- “Conspiracy theories: Why some people are susceptible and how to protect yourself” *Washington Post* [🔗](#)
- “What is the Internet doing to Boomers’ brains?” *Huffington Post* [🔗](#)
- “Study: Incentives ineffective on preventing fake news” *CBS* [🔗](#)
- “Why do we fall for fake news?” *Getting Curious* with Jonathan Van Ness from *Queer Eye* [🔗](#)
- “Older users share more misinformation. Your guess why might be wrong” *MIT Tech Review* [🔗](#)
- “The enduring allure of conspiracies” *Knowable Magazine* [🔗](#)
- “How to keep conspiracy theories from ruining your Thanksgiving” *PBS* [🔗](#)
- “When false claims are repeated, we start to believe them” *Research Digest* [37.8k upvotes on Reddit] [🔗](#)
- “How disinformation hacks your brain” *Scientific American* [🔗](#)
- “What makes people believe in conspiracy theories?” *Al Jazeera* [🔗](#)
- “Why we feel the need to knock on wood” *Discover Magazine* [🔗](#)
- “Trump’s Tweets and the creation of illusory truth” *The Atlantic* [🔗](#)
- “How liars create the illusion of truth” *BBC* [🔗](#)
- “The science behind why fake news is so hard to wipe out” *Vox* [🔗](#)
- “Losing relatives to fake news” *You’re Wrong About* podcast [🔗](#)
- “Navigating misinformation in crises” *790 KABC radio* [🔗](#)

## INVITED TALKS

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|------|--|
| 2024 | Northwestern University, Kellogg School of Management          |
| 2023 | Caltech, Center for Science, Society, and Public Policy        |
| 2022 | University of Pennsylvania, Social Action Colloquium           |
| 2022 | New York University, Center for Social Media and Politics      |
| 2022 | Northwestern University, Department of Psychology              |
| 2021 | Clemson University, NATO Workshop on Disinformation            |
| 2021 | Princeton University, Center for Information Technology Policy |

2021	Yale University, School of Management
2021	Max Planck Institute for Human Development, Center for Adaptive Rationality
2020	University of Virginia, Department of Psychology
2020	Tufts University, Department of Psychology
2020	University of California, Berkeley, Department of Psychology
2019	Stony Brook University, Department of Psychology and Osher Lifelong Learning Institute
2019	Harvard University, Department of Psychology, Social Lunch
2014	Duke University, Department of Psychology & Neuroscience, Developmental Psychology Talk Series
2011	University of North Carolina at Greensboro, Department of Psychology

## CONFERENCE TALKS

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- Brashier, N. M.** (2023). Do conspiracy theorists think too much or too little? Conspiracy Theory Conference, Miami, Florida.
- Brashier, N. M., Pennycook, G., Berinsky, A., & Rand, D. G.** (2022). Timing matters when correcting fake news. Annual Meeting of the Psychonomic Society, Boston, Massachusetts.
- Brashier, N. M.** (2022). Judging truth in an era of fake news. Kavli Frontiers of Science Symposium, Yogyakarta, Indonesia.
- Brashier, N. M.** (2022). Timing matters when correcting fake news. Misinformation in the Digital Age: Comparative Contexts and Policy Lessons Conference, Toulouse, France.
- Brashier, N. M.** (2022). Aging in a fake news era. Annual Meeting of the Midwestern Psychological Association, Chicago, IL.
- Brashier, N. M., Lang, J. D., & Schacter, D. L.** (2021). Emotion impacts belief in fake news, but not memory for its source. Annual Meeting of the Psychonomic Society.
- Brashier, N. M.** (2021). Aging in a fake news era. Association for Psychological Science Virtual Convention.
- Brashier, N. M., Pennycook, G., Berinsky, A., & Rand, D. G.** (2020). When should you correct fake news? Comparing prebunking, warning labels, and debunking. Annual Meeting of the Psychonomic Society.
- Brashier, N. M., Ho, C. H., Hogue, T., K., & Schacter, D. L.** (2019). Episodic retrieval and metacognition during problem solving. Annual Meeting of the Psychonomic Society, Montreal, Canada.
- Brashier, N. M., & Marsh, E. J.** (2019). Looking on the bright side: Affect, age, and perceptions of truth. Biennial Meeting of the Society for Applied Research in Memory and Cognition, Cape Cod, MA.

**Brashier, N. M.,** Eliseev, E. D., & Marsh, E. J. (2019). Sticking to what you know: Evaluating truth reduces later reliance on fluency. Biennial Meeting of the Society for Applied Research in Memory and Cognition, Cape Cod, MA.

**Brashier, N. M.,** & Marsh, E. J. (2018). Judging truth through “rose-tinted glasses”: Reliance on an affect heuristic. Annual Meeting of the Psychonomic Society, New Orleans, LA.

## MENTORING

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*PhD Students*      Phúc Lê, Cognitive Psychology, UCSD '27 ([Fredrick N. Andrews](#) Fellow)  
Payton Robinson, Neuroscience and Behavior, Purdue '28 ([Ross](#) Fellow)

*Dissertation Committees*      Nikita Salovich, Northwestern '22  
Garrett O'Day, Purdue '22

*Masters Committees*      Kimberly Gálvez-Ortega, Purdue '26  
Hailey Arreola, Purdue '25  
Alexa Bushinski, Purdue '25  
Andrea Zhong, University of Hong Kong '22

*Thesis Students*      Katie Allen, Purdue '24 (selected for [Research-Focused Honors Program](#))  
Catherine Ho, Harvard '21 (2019 [PRISE](#) Fellow, 2020 [HCRP](#) Fellow)  
Jenna Lang, Harvard '21 (2020 [BLISS](#) Fellow, [Psychology Faculty Prize](#) Winner)

*Research Assistants*      Natalie Hoffman, Purdue '25 | Alin Alshaheri, San Diego State '24 | Katie Allen, Purdue '24 | Anna Morehead, Purdue '24 | T'Ajmal Hogue, Harvard '21 | Ayesha Syed, Duke '21 | Stephanie Ng, Duke '19 | Sarah Turner, Duke '18 | Gabriella Rivera, Duke '18 | Julian Pino, Duke '18 | Tannya Cai, Duke '17 | Sophie Alman, Duke '17 | Mack Chandler, Duke '16

2023      Faculty Host, [Diversifying Psychology Event](#), UC San Diego

2023      Panelist, Hidden Curriculum in Psychological Sciences, Purdue University

2022      Mentor, [Summer Research Opportunities Program](#)  
*prepared undergraduates from underrepresented backgrounds for graduate study*

2021      Mentor, SPARK Society Speed Mentoring

2021      Mentor, Women in Cognitive Science Speed Mentoring




2019      [Certificate in Science Mentoring](#), Harvard University

2018      Honoree, [Celebrating Mentors](#) | *senior gift made to Duke in my honor*

2017, 18      Panelist, Supporting Undergraduates at Psychonomics Workshop

2014-16      Team Leader, Bass Connections [Aging and Heuristics Team](#)  
*supervised full-time interdisciplinary summer research and independent study*

*Mentorship of First-Generation College Students (outside of my lab)*

- 2022-23 Mentor, Horizons Faculty Mentor Program   
*provided academic and social support to Pell-eligible Purdue freshmen*
- 2020 Mentor, PPREP Program   
*guided underrepresented students as they applied to graduate school*
- 2018-21 Mentor, First Generation Harvard Alumni   
*advised first-generation, low-income Harvard freshmen*

*Panels for First-Generation College Students and their Mentors*

- 2022 Panelist, Horizons Academic Advice for First-Generation Students, Purdue University
- 2021 Panelist, 'Mentoring Matters,' Women in Cognitive Science  
*presented 'best practices' for recruiting and retaining first-gen, low-income college students interested in cognitive science*
- 2021 Panelist, Harvard Primus Women's Month Career Panel

**TEACHING**

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*Pedagogical Training*

- 2022 [IMPACT Faculty Fellowship](#), Purdue University, \$10,000
- 2018 [Certificate in College Teaching](#), Duke University

*Courses Taught*

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|---------|---|---|--|
| Fall 23 | <i>Extended Cognition</i><br>UC San Diego | Fall 21,<br>Spring 22,<br>Fall 22,<br>Spring 23 | <i>Introduction to Cognitive Psychology</i><br>Purdue University |
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**SERVICE**

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*To First-Generation College Students*

- 2023 Faculty Speaker, ['First in Research'](#) National First Gen Event, UC San Diego  
*gave Ted Talk style presentation on personal journey as first-generation college student turned professor*
- 2022 Faculty Representative, [First Generation Celebration Week](#), Purdue University  
*organized the College of Health and Human Sciences' inaugural First Gen Celebration Week*
- 2021-22 Team Member, [First-Generation Landscape Analysis Project](#), Purdue University  
*worked with the Office of the Provost to identify ways that Purdue can better serve first-gen students conducted focus groups with current students and communicated key findings (e.g., gaps in academic advising, problems with the financial aid office, food insecurity) to senior leadership*

*To Cognitive Science*

- 2024 Consulting Editor, *Psychology and Aging*
- 2022 Program Chair, APA Division 3 (*Experimental Psychology and Cognitive Science*)
- 2022 Committee Member, Cognitive Neuroscience Faculty Search, Purdue University
- 2021-23 Steering Committee Member, Center on Aging and the Life Course, Purdue University
- 2019-21 Outside Examiner, Davidson College

*To the Community*

- 2018-21 Volunteer, Haymarket People's Fund | *funds antiracist organizations in New England* ☞  
contributed to Ford Foundation grant, \$27,060
- 2016-18 Volunteer, Southern Coalition for Social Justice | *promotes racial equity in the South* ☞