

Curriculum Vitae

Professional Positions

Visiting Scholar , Institute of Personality and Social Research, <i>University of California Berkeley</i>	2015- 2016
Assistant Professor , Department of Psychology, <i>University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign</i>	2007-2015
Postdoctoral Fellow , Department of Psychology, <i>University of Western Ontario</i>	2005-2007

Education

PhD, Social Psychology , <i>Harvard University</i>	June 2005
AM, Psychology , <i>Harvard University</i>	June 2002
BA Honours, Psychology , <i>University of Winnipeg</i>	May 1999

Research Interests

Belief, Religion, Explanation, Meaning, Moral judgment

Grants, Fellowships, and Awards

Principal Investigator: "Exploring the cognitive science of religion and morality", <i>John Templeton Foundation</i> (\$260,550)	2012-2014
List of teachers ranked as excellent <i>University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign</i>	2012
Principal Investigator: "Religion or God primes and aggression toward the ingroup or outgroup" <i>Illinois Research Board Grant, UIUC</i> (\$18,500)	2010-2011
Postdoctoral Fellowship , <i>Social Sciences and Humanities Research Council of Canada</i> (\$80,000)	2005-2007
Doctoral Fellowship , <i>Social Sciences and Humanities Research Council of Canada</i> (\$40,000)	2002-2005
George W. Goethals Teaching Award <i>Psychology Department, Harvard University</i>	2002
Hodgson Research Award <i>Psychology Department, Harvard University</i> (\$1300)	2000

Research Fellowship	1999-2000
<i>Psychology Department, Harvard University (\$21,500)</i>	
Undergraduate Research Award	1997
<i>Natural Sciences and Engineering Research Council of Canada (\$5000)</i>	

Publications (*student first author)

- *Ritter, R. S., **Preston**, J. L., Salomon, E. S., & Johnson, D. R. (2015). Imagine no religion: Heretical disgust, anger, and the symbolic purity of mind. *Cognition and Emotion*.
DOI:10.1080/02699931.2015.1030334
- *Hernandez, I., **Preston**, J. L. Hepler, J. (2014). Timescale halo: Average-speed targets elicit more positive and less negative attributions than slow or fast targets. *PLOS One*, 9, e83320.
- *Ritter, R. S., **Preston**, J. L., & Hernandez, J.I. (2014). Happy Tweets: Christians are happier, more socially connected, and less analytical than Atheists on Twitter. *Social Psychological and Personality Science*, 5, 243-249.
- Preston**, J. L., Salomon, E., & Ritter, R. S. (2014). Religious prosociality: Personal, cognitive, and social factors. In V. Saroglou (Ed.), *Religion, Personality, and Social Behavior* (pp.149-169). New York, NY: Psychology Press.
- *Hernandez, I., & **Preston**, J. L. (2013). Disfluency disrupts the confirmation bias. *Journal of Experimental Social Psychology*, 49, 178-182.
- Preston**, J. L. & Ritter, R. S. (2013). Different effects of God and religion on prosociality with the ingroup and outgroup. *Personality and Social Psychology Bulletin*, 39, 1471-1483.
- Preston**, J. L., Ritter, R. S., & Hepler, J. (2013). Neuroscience and the soul: Competing explanations for the human experience. *Cognition*, 127, 31-37.
- *Ritter, R. S., & **Preston**, J. L. (2013). Representations of religious words: Insights for religious priming research. *Journal for the Scientific Study of Religion*, 52, 494-507.
- *Yang, Y. J. & **Preston**, J. L., & Hernandez, I. (2013). Partisan attitudes toward the Ground Zero Mosque are reduced by abstract construal. *Social Psychological and Personality Science*, 4, 244-250.
- Preston**, J. L. & Ritter, R. S. (2012). Cleanliness and godliness: Mutual association between two forms of personal purity. *Journal of Experimental Social Psychology*, 48, 1365-1368.
- Preston**, J. L. (2011). Religion is the opiate of the masses (but science is the methadone). *Religion, Brain, & Behavior*, 1, 231-233.
- Preston**, J. L., Ritter, R. S., & Wegner, D. M. (2011). Action embellishment: An intention bias in the perception of success. *Journal of Personality and Social Psychology*, 101, 233-244.
- *Ritter, R. S. & **Preston**, J. L. (2011). Gross gods and icky atheism: Disgust responses to rejected religious beliefs. *Journal of Experimental Social Psychology*, 47, 1225-1230.
- Preston**, J. L., Ritter, R. S., & Hernandez, J. I. (2010). Principles of religious prosociality: A review and reformulation. *Social and Personality Psychology Compass*, 4, 574-590.
- Preston**, J. & Epley, N. (2009). Science and God: An automatic opposition between ultimate explanations. *Journal of Experimental Social Psychology*, 45, 238-241.

- Preston, J., & Wegner, D. M.** (2009). Elbow grease: The experience of effort in action. In E. Morsella, J. A. Bargh, & P. M. Gollwitzer (Eds.), *The Oxford Handbook of Human Action*. (pp. 569-586). New York: Oxford University Press.
- Dijksterhuis, A., **Preston, J.**, Wegner, D. M., & Aarts, H. (2008). Effects of subliminal priming of self and God on judgments of authorship. *Journal of Experimental Social Psychology*, *44*, 2-9.
- Morewedge, C. K., **Preston, J.** & Wegner, D. M. (2007). Timescale bias in the attribution of mind. *Journal of Personality and Social Psychology*. *93*, 1-11.
- Preston, J.**, & Wegner, D. M. (2007). The eureka error: Inadvertent plagiarism by effort misattribution. *Journal of Personality and Social Psychology*, *92*, 575-588
- Preston, J.**, Gray, K., & Wegner, D. M. (2006). The Godfather of soul. *Behavioral and Brain Sciences*, *29*, 482-483.
- Preston, J.** & Epley, N. (2005). Explanations versus applications: The explanatory power of valuable beliefs. *Psychological Science*, *16*, 826-832. (Selected as Editor's Choice (2005). *Science*, *310*, 21.)
- Preston, J.**, & Wegner, D. M. (2005). Ideal agency: On perceiving the self as an origin of action. In A. Tesser, J. Wood, & D. Stapel (Eds.), *On building, defending, and regulating the self* (pp. 103-125). Philadelphia, PA: Psychology Press.

Chaired Symposia

- *Fresh new findings on the ancient topic of religion*. J. L. Preston (Chair). Invited Symposium for the Association for Psychological Science. New York, NY. May 2015. (Special invited symposium).
- *The variety of religious concepts: Implications for action and cognition*. J. L. Preston (Chair). Association for Psychological Science. Chicago, IL. May 2012.
- *Dirty, clean, balanced, and bitter: Embodiment perspectives on morality*. R.S. Ritter & J. L. Preston (Chairs). Association for Psychological Science. Chicago, IL. May 2012.
- *Science and religion: Complementary functions of existential belief systems*. J. L. Preston (Chair). Society for Experimental Social Psychology. Washington DC. October, 2011.

Conference Presentations

- Preston, J. L. (May, 2015). *Acts of God: the good, the bad, and the unlikely*. Association for Psychological Science, New York, NY. (Invited talk).
- Preston, J. L. (April, 2015). *Deus ex Machina: Gods and Souls in the Explanatory Gaps*. Breaking New Ground in the Science and Religion Dialogue. University of Texas at Austin, Austin, TX. (Invited talk).

- Preston, J. L. (January, 2015). *Explanatory Gaps and Metaphysical Fillers: Neuroscience and belief in the soul*. Lay Beliefs and Theories Preconference, Society for Personality and Social Psychology, Long Beach, CA. (Invited talk)
- Preston, J.L. (October, 2014). *Ghost vs. Machine: Explanatory Competition between Neuroscience and belief in the soul*. Society for Experimental Social Psychology, Columbus, OH.
- Preston, J. L. (July, 2014). *Brains and souls: Competing explanations for the experience of mind*. European Association for Social Psychology, Amsterdam, NL.
- Preston, J. L., & Ritter, R. S. (May, 2014). *Psychology of religious disgust*. Purity & Impurity Across Anthropology, Psychology & Religious Studies: Contaminating Disciplines, Cambridge, UK. (Invited talk).
- Salomon, E., Preston, J. L., & Tannenbaum, M. (May, 2014). *Efficacy Messages Increase Energy Conservation*. Paper presented at the annual Midwestern Psychological Association meeting. Chicago, IL.
- Preston, J. L. (August, 2013). *What do religion and God prime? Prosocial actions toward the ingroup and outgroup*. American Psychological Association, Honolulu, HI
- Ritter, R. S., Preston, J. L., & Hernandez, I. (May, 2013). *Following Christians vs. Atheists on Twitter: An investigation of happiness*. Paper presented at the Annual Meeting of the Midwestern Psychological Association, Chicago, IL.
- Ritter, R. S., Preston, J. L., & Hernandez, I. (January, 2013). *Twitter and religious cognition*. Paper presented at the Psychology of Religion and Spirituality Preconference, Society for Personality and Social Psychology, New Orleans, LA.
- Ritter, R. S., & Preston, J. L. (May, 2012). *Gross gods and icky atheism: Disgust responses to rejected religious beliefs*. Paper presented in R. S. Ritter (Chair), *Dirty, clean, balanced, and bitter: Embodiment perspectives on morality*. Association for Psychological Science, Chicago, IL.
- Ritter, R. S., Hernandez, J., & Preston, J. L. (May 2012). *Scary minds: Fear and unbalanced perceptions of agency and experience*. Paper presented at the Annual Meeting of the Midwestern Psychological Association, Chicago, IL.
- Preston, J. L., Ritter, R. S., & Hepler, J. (October, 2011). *Neuroscience and the soul: Competing explanations for the human experience*. Paper presented in J. L. Preston (Chair), *Science and religion: Complementary functions of existential belief systems*. Society for Experimental Social Psychology, Washington DC.
- Ritter, R. S., & Preston, J. L. (October 2011). *Gross gods and icky atheism: Disgust responses to rejected religious beliefs*. Paper presented at the Annual Meeting of the Society for the Scientific Study of Religion, Milwaukee, WI.

- Preston, J. L., Ritter, R. S., & Hepler, J. (July 2011). *Neuroscience and the soul: Competing explanations for the human experience*. Paper presented at the Annual Meeting of the Society for Philosophy and Psychology, Montreal, PQ.
- Ritter, R. S., & Preston, J. L. (May 2011). *Distaste of disbelief: Disgust responses to rejected religious beliefs*. Paper presented at the Annual Meeting of the Midwestern Psychological Association, Chicago, IL.
- Ritter, R. S., & Preston, J. L. (January 2011). *Gross gods and icky atheism: Disgust responses to rejected religious beliefs*. Paper presented at the Justice and Morality Preconference, Society for Personality and Social Psychology, San Antonio, TX.
- Preston, J. L., & Ritter, R. S. (October 2010). *What do religion and God prime? Prosocial actions toward the ingroup and outgroup*. Paper presented at the Society for Scientific Study of Religion, Baltimore, MD.
- Preston, J. L., & Ritter, R. S. (April 2010). *What do religion and God prime? Prosocial actions toward the ingroup and outgroup*. Invited paper presented at the Midwestern Psychological Association, Chicago, IL. (Invited talk)
- Preston, J. L., & Ritter, R. S. (January 2010). *What do religion and God prime? On helping the ingroup and outgroup*. Invited paper presented at the Religion and Spirituality Preconference, Society for Personality and Social Psychology, Las Vegas, NV.
- Preston, J., & Wegner, D. M. (January, 2008). The eureka error: Inadvertent plagiarism by effort misattribution. Society for Personality and Social Psychology, Albuquerque, NM.
- Preston, J., & Wegner, D. M. (May, 2007). The eureka error: Inadvertent plagiarism by effort misattribution. Paper presented at the Southern Ontario Behavior Decision Research Conference, London, ON.
- Preston, J., & Wegner, D. M. (November, 2006). The eureka error: Inadvertent plagiarism by effort misattribution. Paper presented at the Society for Judgment and Decision Making, Houston, TX.
- Preston, J., & Wegner, D. M. (May, 2006). Inadvertent plagiarism and the a-ha experience: Misattributions of effort in mental activity. Poster presented to the Association for Psychological Science, New York, NY.
- Wegner, D. M., Dijksterhuis, A., Preston, J., & Aarts, H. (January, 2006). Perceptions of divine agency in the self. Paper presented at the Society for Personality and Social Psychology Self & Identity Preconference, Palm Springs, CA.
- Morewedge, C. K., Preston, J., & Wegner, D. M. (January, 2005). Timescale bias: Anthropocentrism in the ascription of mental states. Paper presented at the Society for Personality and Social Psychology, New Orleans, LA.

- Epley, N., & Preston, J. (October, 2004). The explanatory utility of valuable beliefs. Paper presented in “On the psychology of culture: Selection mechanisms in culture and the marketplace of ideas.” C. Heath (Chair). Society for Experimental Social Psychology, Fort Worth, TX.
- Preston, J., & Epley, N. (May, 2004). The explanatory utility of valuable beliefs. Paper presented at the Conference on Selection in the Marketplace of Ideas and Culture, Fuqua School of Business, Duke University, Durham, NC.

Invited Talks and Colloquia

- | | |
|--|----------------|
| • University of California, Berkeley | March 2016 |
| • University of Kentucky | April 2015 |
| • Ohio University | January 2015 |
| • University College London | January 2015 |
| • Stanford Graduate School of Business | April 2014 |
| • Illinois State University Bloomington | April 2014 |
| • Booth School of Business University of Chicago | February 2013 |
| • Northwestern University | January 2011 |
| • Psi Chi Honors Society, University of Illinois | March 2009 |
| • New York University | November 2008 |
| • Champaign-Urbana Freethinkers | September 2008 |
| • Carnegie Mellon University | February 2008 |
| • Baruch College | March 2007 |
| • Guelph University | March 2007 |
| • New Mexico State University | February 2007 |
| • University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign | February 2007 |
| • University of Waterloo | January 2007 |
| • Wilfred Laurier University | November 2006 |
| • University of Windsor | November 2006 |
| • York University | October 2006 |
| • University of Western Ontario | October 2005 |

Media Coverage

My research has been highlighted in numerous outlets, including, but not limited to:

Atlantic Monthly, The Atlantic Wire, CBS, Chicago Tonight, CNN, Daily Mail UK, Discover, Friendly Atheist, Forbes, HGN, Huffington Post, Live Science, Montreal Gazette, MSNBC, New Scientist, Pacific Standard, Psychology Today, Science, Science & Religion Today, Science2.o, ScienceDaily, Toronto Star

Advising and Mentorship

PhD Dissertation Chair: Ryan Ritter (2014); Justin Hepler (2014); Michael Morrison (2012)

PhD Committee: Erika Salomon (2016); Melanie Tannenbaum (2015); Alison Earl (2012); Jennifer Rosner (2011); Amanda Vicary (2011); Steven Broomell (2010); Rachel Smallman (2010); Pelin Kesibir (2009); Florian Fessel (2009); Amy Summerville (2008)

Masters Thesis Chair: Faith Shin (2015); Erika Salomon (2013); Ivan Hernandez (2012); Ryan Ritter (2010)

Masters Thesis 2nd Reader: Emily Kim (2013); Melanie Tannenbaum (2011); Wei Wang (2010); Justin Hepler (2010); Michael Morrison (2008)

Bachelor Thesis Chair: Daniel Relihan-Johnson (2014); Jared Matthews (2013); Ryan Paroline (2013); Monika Badhan, (2007); Stefana Karadjamrili, (2007); Mariya Czubak, (2006); Adi Seitelcach (2006); Ricardo Alanis (2004); Jessica Harder (2002)

Graduate student supervision: Justin Hepler, Ivan Hernandez, Michael Morrison, Ryan Ritter, Erika Salomon, Melanie Tannenbaum, Daniel Yang

Advanced undergraduate research supervision: Dan Relihan-Johnson, Pin-Ya Tseng, Jonathan Hootman, Eli Kliejunas

Supervision of undergraduate research assistants: Too many to list!

Teaching Experience

University of Illinois - Instructor

<i>Course title</i>		<i>Most recent rating (1-5)</i>
Research Methods in Social Psychology	Lecture/ lab	4.4
Mind Perception (theory of mind)	Seminar	4.5
Writing and Professional Development	Seminar	5.0
Psychology of Religion	Seminar	4.7
Moral Judgment	Seminar	4.3
Judgment and Decision Making	Seminar	4.1
Readings in Social Psychology	Seminar	NA

Harvard University- Instructor

Contemporary Issues in Psychology	Seminar	4.6
-----------------------------------	---------	-----

Harvard University- Teaching Fellow: Introduction to Psychology, Social Psychology

University of Winnipeg- Teaching Assistant: Adult Development, Advanced Statistics

Teaching Interests

Undergraduate Level

- Social Psychology (Introductory and Advanced)
- Research Methods
- Introduction to Psychology
- Cognitive Psychology
- Culture and Diversity
- Psychology of Religion & Belief
- Theory of Mind and Agency
- Moral Psychology
- Introduction to Statistics in Psychology

Graduate Level

- Professional Development for Graduate Students
- Advanced Social Psychology
- Social Psychology of Culture
- Psychology of Religion & Belief
- Theory of Mind and Agency
- Morality and Moral Judgment

Teaching Awards

- **List of teachers ranked as excellent.** 2012
University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign (university wide)
- **George W. Goethals Teaching Award.** *Psychology Department,* 2002
Harvard University

Training

- **LAS Teaching Academy.** Seminar on teaching philosophy and practices. *University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign* 2010-2011

Professional Service

- **Graduate Admissions Committee** 2008-2013
Psychology Department, University of Illinois
- **Social/Personality/Organizational Brownbag Coordinator** 2007-09; 2013-14
Psychology Department, University of Illinois
- **Undergraduate Studies Committee** 2012-2013

Psychology Department, University of Illinois

- **Committee to Evaluate Teaching Units for Low Enrollment Courses** 2011-2012
Psychology Department, University of Illinois
- **Social Psychology Search Committee** 2010-2011
Psychology Department, University of Illinois
- **Student Travel Award Review Committee** 2010-2011
Society for Personality and Social Psychology
- **Social Psychology Hiring Review Committee** 2008-2009
Psychology Department, University of Illinois
- **Susan Stout Memorial Library Committee** 2007-2008
Psychology Department, University of Illinois
- **Psychology Concentration Advisor** 2001-2002
Psychology Department, Harvard University
- **Non-resident Psychology Tutor** 2001-2002
Kirkland House, Harvard University
- **Social Area Brownbag Committee** 1999-2001
Psychology Department, Harvard University

Ad-hoc Reviewer, journal submissions

Basic and Applied Social Psychology
 British Journal of Social Psychology
 Cognitive Science; Cognition;
 Consciousness and Cognition
 Evolutionary Psychology
 International Journal for the Psychology of Religion
 Journal of Cross-Cultural Psychology
 Journal of Experimental Psychology: General;
 Journal of Experimental and Social Psychology
 Journal of Personality and Social Psychology
 Journal for the Scientific Study of Religion
 Memory and Cognition
 Personality and Social Psychology Bulletin
 Psychological Bulletin
 Psychological Science
 Psychology of Religion and Spirituality
 Social Cognition
 Science and Education
 Social and Personality Psychology Compass
 Social Psychological and Personality Science

Editorial Boards

Journal of Experimental Social Psychology	2013
Personality and Social Psychology Bulletin	2012

Ad-hoc Reviewer, Grants

John Templeton Foundation

Ad-hoc Reviewer, conference submissions:

American Psychological Association Division 36 (Psychology of Religion)
Society for Personality and Social Psychology
Society for Philosophy and Psychology

Affiliations

- American Psychological Association
- Association for Psychological Science
- Society for Experimental Social Psychology
- Society for Personality and Social Psychology
- Society for Philosophy and Psychology
- Society for the Scientific Study of Religion