

NADIA M. BRASHIER

Curriculum Vitae

Department of Psychology
Harvard University
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EDUCATION & TRAINING


- 2018 - **Harvard University**
NIH Postdoctoral Research Fellow, *Mentor*: Dr. Daniel Schacter
- 2018 **Duke University**
Ph.D., Cognition & Cognitive Neuroscience
- 2015 **Duke University**
M.A., Cognition & Cognitive Neuroscience
- 2012 **Davidson College**
B.S., Psychology with Neuroscience Concentration
magna cum laude with departmental honors, Phi Beta Kappa


RESEARCH INTERESTS


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.


PUBLICATIONS


Click  to read

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*. 

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

- Brashier, N. M.**, Pennycook G., Berinsky, A. J., & Rand, D. G. (invited revision under review). When to correct fake news. *PNAS*.
- Brashier, N. M.**, & Fazio, L. K. (invited submission under review). “Dream research:” What misinformation researchers could do, with platforms’ collaboration. *The Harvard Kennedy School Misinformation Review*.
- Thakral, P. P., Devitt, A. L., **Brashier, N. M.**, & Schacter, D. L. (under review). Linking creativity and false memory: Common consequences of a flexible memory system. *Journal of Memory and Language*.

FUNDING

- | | |
|------|---|
| 2020 | NIH Postdoctoral Diversity Supplement, \$241,315 <i>for scientists from disadvantaged backgrounds</i> 🔗 |
| 2018 | NSF SBE Postdoctoral Research Fellowship , \$138,000 🔗 |
| 2017 | APA Dissertation Research Award, \$4,114 🔗 |
| 2017 | APF 125 th Anniversary Scholarship, \$3,000 🔗 |
| 2017 | Phillip Jackson Baugh Fellowship, \$30,882 <i>supports single Duke student’s career in aging</i> 🔗 |
| 2012 | NSF Graduate Research Fellowship , \$134,000 |
| 2011 | Howard Hughes Medical Institute Fellowship, \$6,000 |
| 2010 | Davidson Research Initiative Fellowship, \$6,800 |

HONORS & AWARDS

- 2018 **APA Division 20 (Adult Development and Aging) Doctoral Dissertation Award** in the Psychology of Aging [🔗](#)
- 2012 William Gatewood Workman Award | *Davidson Psychology Department's highest honor*
- 2012 Phi Beta Kappa
- 2011 **APA Division 20 (Adult Development and Aging) Award for Completed Research** at the Undergraduate Level
- 2008 National Merit Scholar

TRAINING FELLOWSHIPS

- 2021 Summer School in Social Neuroscience and Neuroeconomics, *Duke University*
- 2020 Beyond the Ivory Tower Writing Workshop, *Templeton Foundation*
- 2017 Training Course in fMRI, *University of Michigan*
- 2017 Tools of the Trade: Human Neuroimaging Methods and Best Practices, *UCLA*
- 2016 Kavli Summer Institute in Cognitive Neuroscience, *UC Santa Barbara*
- 2015 Summer Institute on Bounded Rationality, *Max Planck Institute for Human Development*

SELECT MEDIA COVERAGE

- “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*
- “Older users share more misinformation. Your guess why might be wrong.” [🔗](#) *MIT Tech Review*
- “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]
- “Cognitive ability and vulnerability to fake news.” *Scientific American* [🔗](#)
- “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* [🔗](#)

TALKS

- Brashier, N. M.** (2021). Aging in a fake news era. Center for Adaptive Rationality’s Seminar Series, Max Planck Institute, Berlin, Germany.

- 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.** (2020). Judging truth in a fake news era. University of Virginia's Cognitive Lunch Series, Charlottesville, VA.
- Brashier, N. M.** (2020). Retrieval fluency and overconfidence during problem solving. Tufts University's Cognitive Brain Sciences Series, Cambridge, MA.
- Brashier, N. M.** (2020). Judging truth in a fake news era. University of California, Berkeley's Psychology Colloquium Series, Berkeley, CA.
- 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.** (2019). Aging in a fake news era. Stony Brook University Psychology Talk Series and Osher Lifelong Learning Institute, Stony Brook, NY.
- 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.** (2019). Going with our guts: Heuristics in a "post-truth world." Harvard University's Social Lunch, Cambridge, 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.
- Brashier, N. M.** (2014). Aging and susceptibility to illusory truth. Duke University's Developmental Psychology Talk Series, Durham, NC.
- Brashier, N. M.**, & Multhaup, K. S. (2011). Do aging and distraction increase magical thinking? An evaluation of the attentional resources account. University of North Carolina at Greensboro's Hard Data Café, Greensboro, NC.

SELECT POSTERS

- Brashier, N. M.** & Marsh, E. J. (2018). Judging truth through "rose-tinted glasses": Reliance on affect with age. Cognitive Aging Conference, Atlanta, GA.
- Brashier, N. M.**, Drew, E. E., & Marsh, E. J. (2017). Sticking to what you know: Evaluating truth prompts later reliance on knowledge. Annual Meeting of the Psychonomic Society, Vancouver, Canada.

- Brashier, N. M.**, Wang, W., Wing, E. A., Marsh, E. J., & Cabeza, R. E. (2016). Interpreting ease as truth: Fluency and the neural mechanisms of illusory truth. Annual Meeting of the Psychonomic Society, Boston, MA.
- Brashier, N. M.**, Pino, J., Rivera, G. S., Turner, S. L., Fitzsimons, G. J., & Marsh, E. J. (2016). Reading “control weight” and remembering “lose weight”: Aging, knowledge, and memory for inferences. Cognitive Aging Conference, Atlanta, GA.
- Brashier, N. M.**, Mullet, H. G., Newman, E. J., & Marsh, E. J. (2015). Why do we ‘go with our guts?': Heuristics for judging truth. Annual Meeting of the Psychonomic Society, Chicago, IL.
- Brashier, N. M.**, Umanath, S., Cabeza, R. E., & Marsh, E. J. (2013). Prior knowledge protects older adults from illusory truth. Annual Meeting of the Psychonomic Society, Toronto, Canada.
- Brashier, N. M.**, Dew, I. T., Ritchey, M., LaBar, K. S., & Cabeza, R. (2013). Perceptual processing enhances the effect of emotion on retrieval: An fMRI study. Cognitive Neuroscience Society Annual Meeting, San Francisco, CA.
- Brashier, N. M.**, Wyse, A. N., & Multhaup, K. S. (2012). Does older adults‘ positivity bias extend to the cognitive revision of health-related beliefs? North Carolina Cognition Conference, Chapel Hill, NC.
- Brashier, N. M.**, & Multhaup, K. S. (2011). Effects of divided attention and age on magical thinking and semantic categorization. Annual Meeting of the Psychonomic Society, Seattle, WA.






RECENT PUBLIC OUTREACH

The psychology of misinformation | *First Draft webinar aimed at journalists and tech professionals* 

Navigating misinformation in crises | *790 KABC radio interview* 

MENTORING

In the past five years, I mentored **12 research assistants**. I am currently supervising two thesis students, Catherine Ho (2019 [PRISE](#) fellow, 2020 [HCRP](#) fellow) and Jenna Lang (2020 [BLISS](#) fellow).

- 2020 Mentor, PPREP Program | *helping underrepresented students apply to graduate school* 
- 2019 Certificate in Science Mentoring, *Harvard University* 
- 2018-2018 Mentor, First Generation Harvard Alumni | *supporting first-generation Harvard freshmen* 
- 2018 Honoree, Celebrating Mentors | *senior gift made to Duke in my honor* 
- 2017-18 Panelist, Supporting Undergraduates at Psychonomics Workshop
- 2014-16 Mentor, Bass Connections **Aging and Heuristics Team** 
supervised full-time interdisciplinary summer research and independent study

TEACHING

- 2018 Certificate in College Teaching, *Duke University* 

- 2014-15 Teaching Assistant, *Duke University*
Research Methods, Developmental Psychology, Alcohol: Brain, Individual, & Society
- 2009-12 Tutor, Math and Science Center, *Davidson College*
math, biology, chemistry

SERVICE

Professional

- 2019- Outside Examiner, *Davidson College*
- 2015 Coordinator, graduate student evaluations for external review, *Duke University*
- 2014 Organizer, North Carolina Cognition Group Conference
- 2014 Coordinator, graduate recruitment, *Duke University*

Community

- 2018- 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* ☞