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# ANDRAS MOLNAR, PH.D.

University of Michigan  
Department of Psychology  
530 Church Street  
Ann Arbor, MI 48109

Email address: [andrasm@umich.edu](mailto:andrasm@umich.edu)  
Homepage: [amolnar.com](http://amolnar.com)  
ResearchGate : [link](#)  
Google Scholar: [link](#)

## ACADEMIC POSITIONS

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**Assistant Professor** (2023–)  
University of Michigan, Department of Psychology

**Principal Researcher** (2021–2023)  
The University of Chicago Booth School of Business

## EDUCATION

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**Carnegie Mellon University** (2016–2020)  
Ph. D., Behavioral Decision Research  
Dissertation title: *“How what goes on in others’ minds affects our choices and well-being”* [LINK](#)

**Central European University, Hungary** (2012–2016)  
Ph. D., Cognitive Science (all but dissertation)

**University of Pécs, Hungary** (2006–2012)  
B.A. & M. A., Economics

## RESEARCH INTERESTS

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Motivated preferences for information (“belief-based utility”)  
Communication and information disclosure  
Social inference and social decision-making  
Generative AI

## PUBLICATIONS

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1. Molnar, A., & Paolacci, G. (2024). Competition increases the magnitude of dishonest reporting even when controlling for reward uncertainty. *Scientific Reports*, 14, 31980. [LINK](#)
2. Molnar, A., & Golman, R. (2024). Impatience for Information: Curiosity is here today, gone tomorrow. *Journal of Behavioral Decision Making*, 37(1), e2360. [LINK](#)
3. Molnar, A., Chaudhry, S. J., & Loewenstein, G. (2023). “It’s Not About the Money. It’s About Sending a Message!”: Avengers Want Offenders to Understand the Reason for Revenge. *Organizational Behavior and Human Decision Processes*, 174, 104207. [LINK](#)  
 — Awarded the Best Conference Paper Award at the 2021 IACM conference  
 — Press: [Chicago Booth Review](#)
4. Molnar, A., Moore, A., Fowler, C., & Wu, G. (2023). Seen and Not Seen: How People Judge Ambiguous Behavior During the COVID-19 Pandemic. *Journal of Risk and Uncertainty*, 66, 141–159. [LINK](#)
5. Molnar, A., & Loewenstein, G. (2022). Thoughts and players: An introduction to old and new economic perspectives on beliefs. In J. Musolino, J. Sommer, & P. Hemmer (Eds.). *The Cognitive Science of Belief* (pp. 321–350). Cambridge University Press. [LINK](#)
6. Molnar, A., & Loewenstein, G. (2022). Ideologies Are Like Possessions: A commentary on Gries, T., Müller, V., & Jost, J. T. The Market for Belief Systems: A Formal Model of Ideological Choice. *Psychological Inquiry*, 33(2), 84–87. [LINK](#)
7. Golman, R., Loewenstein, G., Molnar, A., & Saccardo, S. (2021). The Demand for, and Avoidance of, Information. *Management Science*, 68(9), 6454–6476. [LINK](#)
8. VanEpps\*, E. M., Molnar\*, A., Downs, J. S., & Loewenstein, G. (2021). Choosing the Light Meal: Real-time Aggregation of Calorie Information Reduces Meal Calories. *Journal of Marketing Research*, 58(5), 948–967. [LINK](#) \*joint first authors  
 — Awarded the Best Student Poster Award at the 2019 SJDM conference
9. Molnar, A. (2020). How to implement real-time interaction between participants in online surveys: A practical guide to SMARTRIQS. *The Quantitative Methods for Psychology*, 16(4), 334–354. [LINK](#)
10. Molnar, A. (2019). SMARTRIQS: A Simple Method Allowing Real Time Respondent Interaction in Qualtrics Surveys. *Journal of Behavioral and Experimental Finance*, 22, 161–169. [LINK](#)  
 — Awarded the Technology Innovator Award at the 2023 IACM conference
11. Loewenstein, G., & Molnar, A. (2018). The renaissance of belief-based utility in economics. *Nature Human Behaviour*, 2(3), 166–167. [LINK](#)
12. Heintz, C., Karabegovic, M., & Molnar, A. (2016). The co-evolution of honesty and strategic vigilance. *Frontiers in psychology*, 7, 1503. [LINK](#)

## WORKING PAPERS

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\*Indicates student mentee

13. Zhu, J.\*, & Molnar, A. (2025). The End of Writing as We Know It? Generative AI May Undermine the Social Signaling Function of Writing. *Under review*. [LINK](#)
14. Zhu, J.\*, & Molnar, A. (2025). Blissful (A)Ignorance: People form overly positive impressions of others based on their written messages, despite wide-scale adoption of Generative AI. *Revise & Resubmit, Computers in Human Behavior*. [LINK](#)
15. Molnar, A., & Mermelstein, I.\* (2025). Utilizing Generative AI to Boost Public Support for Carbon Pricing. *Under review*. (Manuscript available upon request.)
16. Wojtowicz, Z., Molnar, A., Golman, R., & Loewenstein, G. (2025). Willful Inattention. *Invited submission, Current Opinion in Psychology*.
17. Capraro, V., Globig, L., Rausch, Z., Rathje, S., Wormley, A. S., Olson, J., ... Molnar, A., ... & Van Bavel, J. J. (2025). A consensus statement on potential negative impacts of smartphone and social media use on adolescent mental health. *Under review*. [LINK](#)
18. Molnar, A., & Loewenstein, G. (2024). Disturbed by misbelief: People are upset and avoid others when they think others hold false beliefs, not simply different beliefs. *Under review*. [LINK](#)
19. Molnar, A., & Epley, N. (2024), Beliefs as Barriers: We Can't Forgive Those Who Don't Understand. (Manuscript available upon request.)
20. Molnar, A., & Chaudhry, S. J. (2020). The lesser of two evils: Explaining a bad choice by revealing the choice set. *PsyArXiv*. [LINK](#)
21. Molnar, A., & Heintz, C. (2016). Beliefs about people's prosociality eliciting predictions in dictator games. *CEU Working Papers, Department of Economics, Central European University*. [LINK](#)

## RESEARCH IN PROGRESS

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The Weaponized Science Effect: Using science to attack political opponents undermines the perceived quality of science (with Atakan Atamer\* & Sila Mutaf\*). *Manuscript in preparation*

Exploring the adoption and impact of Generative AI in communication: Insights from a nationally representative survey (2024-2025) (with Jiaqi Zhu\*). *Data collection in progress*

Apologizing, Fast and Slow: The disadvantage of apologizing too soon (with Hyeran Kang\*). *Data collection in progress*

Honor-Driven Revenge: A cross-cultural study of Turkey and the U.S. (with Sila Mutaf\*). *Data collection in progress*

## INVITED TALKS

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- 2025 – Mindworks, The University of Chicago (*virtual talk*)
- 2023 – Tuck School of Business, Hanover, NH  
University of Michigan, Ann Arbor, MI  
Boston College, Chestnut Hill, MA (*virtual talk*)
- 2022 – University of Michigan, Ann Arbor, MI  
INSEAD, Fontainebleau, France / Singapore (*virtual talk*)
- 2021 – College of William & Mary, Williamsburg, VA (*virtual talk*)  
Harvard Kennedy School, Cambridge, MA (*virtual talk*)  
Vanderbilt University, Nashville, TN (*virtual talk*)
- 2020 – The University of Chicago, Chicago, IL
- 2019 – University of Cologne, Cologne, Germany

## CONFERENCE PRESENTATIONS

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Regular talk unless stated otherwise

- 2024 – Society for Personality and Social Psychology, San Diego, CA (*symposium*)
- 2023 – International Association for Conflict Management, Thessaloniki, Greece  
Curiosity, Creativity and Complexity Conference, New York, NY (*poster*)
- 2022 – Society for Judgment and Decision Making, *virtual conference*  
Belief Based Utility Conference, Amsterdam, Netherlands
- 2021 – JDM preconference, Society for Personality and Social Psychology, *virtual conference*  
International Association for Conflict Management, *virtual conference (symposium)*  
APA Convention (Division 8: SPSP), *virtual conference (symposium)*

Prior to 2021:

- Society for Consumer Psychology Conference, Huntington Beach, CA
- NeuroPsychoEconomics, *virtual conference*
- Society for Judgment and Decision Making, *virtual conference (poster)*
- Early Career Behavioral Economics Conference, San Diego, CA
- Boston Judgment and Decision Making Day, Boston, MA
- Society for Judgment and Decision Making, Montréal, Canada
- Yale Whitebox Advisors Graduate Student Conference, New Haven, CT
- Society for Judgment and Decision Making, Vancouver, Canada (*poster*)
- Society for Judgment and Decision Making, Boston, MA
- Annual Meeting of the French Experimental Economics Association, Besançon, France
- Maastricht Behavioral and Experimental Economics Symposium, Maastricht, Netherlands
- Foundations of Utility and Risk, Rotterdam, Netherlands
- Economic Science Association European meeting, Prague, Czech Republic

## WORKSHOPS, PRECONFERENCES, AND SUMMERS SCHOOLS

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2025 – Misinformation & Belief Science 2025 Preconference at SPSP (*Co-chair*)

2024 – SPSP Free-Form Friday online workshop on SMARTRIQS and SurvConf, [LINK](#)

Tools for Studying Dyadic and Group Interactions in Online Experiments, SPSP Professional Developmental Workshop, San Diego, CA

2022 – The United States, Europe and World Order, Johns Hopkins SAIS Kissinger Center and Foreign Policy Institute, *virtual panel discussion*

2021 – Introducing SMARTRIQS to Negotiation and Conflict Management, IACM *virtual workshop*

Workshops and summer schools prior to 2021:

Running Social Interaction Studies Online, NYU *webinar*

BRIQ workshop on Beliefs, Bonn, Germany

DGPE workshop on “Belief-Dependent Preferences”, Copenhagen, Denmark

BRIQ Summer School on Behavioral Economics, Bonn, Germany

Behavioral Insights Group Doctoral Workshop, Boston, MA

SJDM Pre-Conference on Economic Inequality, Montréal, Canada

Workshop on Norms and Behavioral Change, Philadelphia, PA

Spring School in Behavioral Economics, San Diego, CA

Modelling Self on Other workshop, Budapest, Hungary

Norms, Actions, Games workshop, London, UK

## GRANTS AND AWARDS

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Rising Star of the Association for Psychological Science (2025)

IACM 2023 Technology Innovator Award

IACM 2021 Best Conference Paper Award

SJDM 2019 Best Student Poster Award

Presidential Fellowship, Carnegie Mellon University (2019) \$5,000

Graduate Student Teaching Award, CMU Dietrich College (2018)

Visiting Researcher Award, CMU (2015/16) \$10,000

Fulbright Visiting Student Researcher Scholarship (2015/16) \$6,700

Academic Achievement Award, Central European University  
(top first-year student in 2012/13)

Pro Communitate Studiorum Facultatis Oeconomiae award, University of Pécs  
(top student of the school of economics in 2010/11)

General Electric Scholar Leaders scholarship (2008–2011) \$3,000

## TEACHING EXPERIENCE

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### University of Michigan (as primary instructor):

Decision Making & A.I., PhD seminar series (Winter 2025), overall instructor evaluation\*: 4.93 / 5

Decision Processes, undergraduate (Winter 2025), overall instructor evaluation\*: 4.83 / 5

Advanced Decision Processes, PhD seminar (Winter 2024), overall instructor evaluation\*: 5.00 / 5

Decision Processes, undergraduate (Winter 2024), overall instructor evaluation\*: 4.87 / 5

*\*average of the three university-wide questions about instructors:*

*“seemed well prepared for class meetings”, “explained material clearly”, and “treated students with respect”*

### Other teaching experience (as teaching assistant & guest lecturer):

Designing a Good Life, MBA level (Booth School of Business, University of Chicago; 3 semesters)

Behavioral Economics & Public Policy (Carnegie Mellon University; 4 semesters)

Decision Analysis (Carnegie Mellon University; 4 semesters)

Behavioral Economics, PhD level (Carnegie Mellon University; 3 semesters)

Behavioral Economics (Carnegie Mellon University; 2 semesters)

## ADVISING & MENTORING

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### Advised PhD students, University of Michigan: (\*primary advisee)

Atakan Atamer, *expected graduation: 2028*

Hyeran Kang\*, *expected graduation: 2029*

Sila Mutaf\*, *expected graduation: 2029*

### Dissertation committees, University of Michigan:

Caroline Beckman (*expected graduation: 2028*)

Tanner Nichols (2025)

Jahla Osborne (2025)

Gregory Stanley (2025)

Yiyan (Rose) Wang (*expected graduation: 2026*)

### Advised Master's student, University of Chicago: (\*primary advisee)

Medha Raju\*, *post-graduation placement: Research Design Specialist, University of Michigan*

### Undergraduate students, University of Michigan:

Honor's thesis reader (3): Elizabeth Gass, Ilana Mermelstein, Hannah Feng

Supervised independent research (3): Maya Bojan, Rhea Karwal, Minnie Yuan

## PROFESSIONAL ACTIVITIES

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### **Organizational affiliations**

Association for Psychological Science  
Society for Judgment and Decision Making  
Society for Personality and Social Psychology

### **Ad-hoc reviewer**

Association of Computing Machinery CHI conference  
Behavioral Science & Policy  
International Association for Conflict Management  
Journal of the Association for Consumer Research  
Journal of Economic Psychology  
Justice Quarterly  
Management Science  
Organization Science  
Proceedings of the Royal Society B  
Scientific Reports  
Society for Judgment and Decision Making  
Society for Personality and Social Psychology  
The University of Chicago Press  
Zeitschrift für Psychologie

### **Contributions to crowd-sourced research projects**

#ManyDesignsCarbon ([LINK](#))  
A consensus statement on the impact of social media on adolescent mental health ([LINK](#))  
Reproducibility in Management Science ([LINK](#))

## LANGUAGES AND SKILLS

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Hungarian (native), English (fluent), German (advanced)  
Data analysis & modeling: R, SPSS, MatLab  
Experimental design: Qualtrics, Amazon Mechanical Turk, Prolific  
Programming & web design: JavaScript, PHP, HTML