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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
Homepage: amolnar.com
ResearchGate : [link](#)
Google Scholar: [link](#)

ACADEMIC POSITIONS

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

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

EDUCATION

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

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

PEER-REVIEWED PUBLICATIONS

*Indicates student mentee

1. Molnar, A., & Loewenstein, G. (2026). The Misery of misbelief: People are upset and avoid others when they think others hold false beliefs, not simply different beliefs. *Political Psychology*, 47(3), 1–23. [LINK](#)
— Press: [Washington Post/Ripple](#), [Fortune](#), [PsyPost](#)
2. Atamer, A.*, Molnar, A., & Shah, P. (2026). Overrated Intuition and Underappreciated Deliberation: Reevaluating the Smart System-1 Account of Reasoning. *Cognition*, 276, 106640. [LINK](#)
3. Zhu, J.*, & Molnar, A. (2026). Blissful (A)Ignorance: Despite the widespread adoption of AI in communication, people do not suspect AI use in realistic contexts. *Computers in Human Behavior*, 108929. [LINK](#)
— Selected for SJDM Featured Research Papers, [June 2026](#)
— Press: [Michigan News](#), [Fast Company](#), [PsyPost](#)
4. Molnar, A., & Mermelstein, I.* (2026). Utilizing Generative AI to Boost Public Support for Carbon Pricing. *Proceedings of the 59th Hawaii International Conference on System Sciences* (pp. 768–777). [LINK](#)
5. Wojtowicz, Z., Molnar, A., Golman, R., & Loewenstein, G. (2025). Willful Inattention: Keeping Aversive Information Out of Mind. *Current Opinion in Psychology*, 66, 102116. [LINK](#)
6. Molnar, A., & Paolacci, G. (2024). Competition increases the magnitude of dishonest reporting even when controlling for reward uncertainty. *Scientific Reports*, 14, 31980. [LINK](#)
7. Molnar, A., & Golman, R. (2024). Impatience for Information: Curiosity is here today, gone tomorrow. *Journal of Behavioral Decision Making*, 37(1), e2360. [LINK](#)
8. 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](#)
9. 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](#)
10. 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](#)

11. Golman, R.,¹ Loewenstein, G.,¹ Molnar, A.,¹ & Saccardo, S.¹ (2021). The Demand for, and Avoidance of, Information. *Management Science*, 68(9), 6454–6476. [LINK](#)
¹Authors are listed in alphabetical order of last names.
 — Best Paper Award Honorable Mention (top 3 out of 44) at the 2025 SJDM conference
12. VanEpps, E. M.², Molnar, A.², 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](#)
²VanEpps and Molnar are joint first authors.
 — Awarded the Best Student Poster Award at the 2019 SJDM conference
13. 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](#)
14. 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
15. Loewenstein, G., & Molnar, A. (2018). The renaissance of belief-based utility in economics. *Nature Human Behaviour*, 2(3), 166–167. [LINK](#)
16. Heintz, C., Karabegovic, M., & Molnar, A. (2016). The co-evolution of honesty and strategic vigilance. *Frontiers in psychology*, 7, 1503. [LINK](#)

BOOK CHAPTER

17. 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](#)

PREPRINTS AND OTHER PUBLICATIONS

18. Holzknicht, A., Schwaiger, R., Blanco, E., Huber, J., Kirchler, M., ... Mermelstein, I.*, ... Molnar, A., ... (2026). Collective Evidence on Behavioral Interventions Targeting Carbon Pricing Support: A Many-Designs Approach with 55 Studies. *Conditionally Accepted, Nature Human Behaviour*. [LINK](#).
19. Molnar, A., & Loewenstein, G. (2026). The false and the furious: We aren't just bothered by different beliefs – we're bothered when we think others are wrong. *The Conversation*. [LINK](#)
20. Molnar, A. (2026). Most people do not realize when a personal message they receive was written by AI, study finds. *The Conversation*. [LINK](#)

21. Capraro, V., Globig, L., Rausch, Z., Rathje, S., Wormley, A. S., Olson, J., ... Molnar, A., ... & Van Bavel, J. J. (2025). A collective review on some potential negative impacts of smartphone and social media use on adolescent mental health: Results from a Delphi process. *PsyArXiv*. Under review. [LINK](#)
22. Zhu, J.*, & Molnar, A. (2025). The End of Writing as We Know It? Generative AI May Undermine the Social Signaling Function of Writing. *PsyArXiv*. [LINK](#)
23. Molnar, A., & Chaudhry, S. J. (2025). The lesser of two evils: Explaining a bad choice by revealing the choice set. *PsyArXiv*. [LINK](#)
24. 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

*Indicates student mentee

Molnar, A., & Zhu, J. (n.d.). In Words We Trust? Generative AI May Undermine the Social Signaling Function of Writing. *Revise & Resubmit, AI & Society*. (Manuscript available upon request.)

Kang, H.*, & Molnar, A. (n.d.). The asymmetric effect of AI-mediated communication: AI disclosure weakens positive, but not negative, social inferences. *Revise & Resubmit, Computers in Human Behavior Reports*. (Manuscript available upon request.)

Atamer, A.*, Mutaf, S.*, & Molnar, A. (n.d.). Political Weaponization of Science Undermines the Perceived Quality and Objectivity of Science. *Under review*. (Manuscript available upon request)

Molnar, A., & Zhu, J. (n.d.). A three-wave U.S. survey dataset on the adoption and perception of generative AI in communication, 2024–2026. *Under review*. (Manuscript available upon request.)

Molnar, A., & Epley, N. (n.d.). Belief-Based Barriers to Forgiveness. (Manuscript available upon request.)

Mutaf, S.*, & Molnar, A. (n.d.). Cultural and Motivational Pathways to Punishment Communication. (Manuscript available upon request.)

Yuan, M.*, & Molnar, A. (n.s.). Writing with AI: The Impact of Generative AI on Occupational Self-efficacy. (Manuscript in preparation)

Kang, H.*, & Molnar, A. (n.d.). Apologizing, Fast and Slow: The disadvantage of apologizing too soon. (Manuscript in preparation)

INVITED TALKS

- 2026 – (*forthcoming*) Climate Policy Workshop, University of Michigan, Ann Arbor, MI
- 2025 – Mindworks, The University of Chicago (*virtual talk*)
LIFE Academy, Ann Arbor, MI
- 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

Regular talk unless stated otherwise

- 2026 – (*forthcoming*) Society of Experimental Social Psychology, Montréal, Canada (*symposium*)
59th Hawaii International Conference on System Sciences, Maui, HI
Michigan Academy of Science, Arts, and Letters 2026 Conference, *virtual conference*
- 2025 – Society for Judgment and Decision Making, Denver, CO
Behavioral Economics: Retrospect and Prospect, Bellingham, WA
- 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)*

Presentations 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

- 2026 – (*forthcoming*) Teaching JDM in the College Classroom, SJDM workshop, San Diego, CA
 (*forthcoming*) Members of Psychonomics Are Researchers. But We Are Classroom Professors Too, Psychonomics workshop, San Diego, CA
- 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

AWARDS AND FELLOWSHIPS

Rising Star of the Association for Psychological Science (2025)	
SJDM 2025 Best Paper Award Honorable Mention (top 3 out of 44)	
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 Fellowship, Carnegie Mellon University (2015/16)	\$10,000
Fulbright Visiting Student Researcher Scholarship (2015/16)	\$6,700
General Electric Scholar Leaders scholarship (2008–2011)	\$3,000

TEACHING EXPERIENCE

Total number of students taught (as primary instructor): ~700 undergraduates; ~25 graduate students

University of Michigan (as primary instructor):

- Decision Processes, undergraduate (Fall 2026), overall instructor evaluation*: **TBA**
- Advanced Decision Processes, PhD seminar (Fall 2025), overall instructor evaluation*: **4.93 / 5**
- Decision Processes, undergraduate (Fall 2025), overall instructor evaluation*: **4.87 / 5**
- 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

(* indicates primary advisee)

Advised PhD students in Cognitive Psychology, University of Michigan:

Atakan Atamer, *expected graduation: 2028*

Hyeran Kang*, *expected graduation: 2029*

Sila Mutaf*, *expected graduation: 2029*

Zihan Yang*, *expected graduation: 2031*

PhD dissertation committees, University of Michigan:

Caroline Beckman, School for Environment and Sustainability (*expected graduation: 2028*)

Yuhan Li, Communication and Media (*expected graduation: 2028*)

Tanner Nichols, Cognitive Psychology (2025)

Jahla Osborne, Cognitive Psychology (2025)

Amelie Rossmair, Social Psychology (*expected graduation: 2026*)

Gregory Stanley, Cognitive Psychology (2025)

Yiyan (Rose) Wang, Developmental Psychology (2026)

Jordyn Young, School of Information (*expected graduation: 2028*)

Advised Master's students:

Medha Raju* (The University of Chicago, 2022)

Milena Stepanova (University of Michigan, 2026)

Undergraduate students, University of Michigan:

Honor's students: Maya Bojan*, Lila Ellman*, Hannah Feng, Elizabeth Gass, Aline Lu*, Ilana Mermelstein, Sally Mo*, Injin Park*, Olivia Pinto, Anita Tsai, Minnie Yuan*

Supervised independent research: Rhea Karwal, Alissa Vezikov, Lillian Wu

PROFESSIONAL ACTIVITIES & SERVICE

Organizational affiliations

Society for Judgment and Decision Making
 Society for Personality and Social Psychology

Ad-hoc reviewer

Assoc. of Computing Machinery CHI conference	Org. Behavior and Human Decision Processes
Behavioral Science & Policy	Organization Science
Hawaii International Conf. on System Sciences	Proceedings of the Royal Society B
International Assoc. for Conflict Management	Scientific Reports
Journal of the Assoc. for Consumer Research	Society for Judgment and Decision Making
Journal of Economic Psychology	Society for Personality and Social Psychology
Journal of Experimental Social Psychology	The Journal of Social Psychology
Justice Quarterly	The University of Chicago Press
Management Science	Thinking and Reasoning
Nature Communications	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](#))

Other service

2025–2026: *Chair*, Student Awards Committee, Department of Psychology (Cognition and Cognitive Neuroscience area), University of Michigan
 2025: *Organizer*, Decision-making and Artificial Intelligence seminar series, University of Michigan
 2024–2025: *Chair*, Graduate Admissions Committee, Department of Psychology (Cognition and Cognitive Neuroscience area), University of Michigan
 2024–2025: *Co-Chair*, Organizing Committee of the Misinformation & Belief Science 2025 Preconference at SPSP
 2021–2023: *Organizer*, Center for Decision Research Brown Bag seminar series, Booth School of Business, The University of Chicago