

NADIA M. BRASHIER

Curriculum Vitae

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

✉ nbrashier@ucsd.edu
🌐 nadiabrashier.com
🦋 @nadiabrashier

POSITIONS

- 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

- 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

I study memory and judgment across the lifespan, with a 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. See [Google Scholar](#) | [Sage Policy Profile](#) for impact metrics.

Brashier, N. M. (2024). Fighting misinformation among the most vulnerable users. *Current Opinion in Psychology* 

- Brashier, N. M.**, Ho, C. H., Hogue, T. K., & Schacter, D. L. (2024). 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* 
- * most cited paper in *Cognition* since 2020
- 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 (16 journals total)
- 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. S. (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.**, & Rand, D. G. (preprint). Illusory truth occurs even with incentives for accuracy. 
 * covered by [CBS News](#) and the [Neiman Lab](#)
- Lê, P. H. & **Brashier, N. M.** (under review). Conspiracy beliefs reflect predictable memory errors.

HONORS & AWARDS

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|------|---|
| 2025 | Elected American Psychological Association Fellow |
| 2025 | Psychonomic Society Early Career Award
<i>recognizes scientists who have made excellent scientific contributions to the field of cognitive psychology early in their careers</i> |
| 2025 | Disinformation Summer Institute Early Career Attendee |
| 2023 | Elected Psychonomic Society Fellow |
| 2023 | Favorite Faculty Award, Purdue University |
| 2022 | Association for Psychological Science Rising Star
<i>recognizes outstanding psychological scientists in the earliest stages of their research career</i> |
| 2018 | APA Div 20 Doctoral Dissertation Award in the Psychology of Aging
<i>recognizes a doctoral student for exemplary research contributing to theory of adult development and aging</i> |
| 2016 | Summer Institute in Cognitive Neuroscience Fellowship, Kavli Foundation |
| 2015 | Summer Institute on Bounded Rationality Fellowship, Max Planck Institute for Human Development |
| 2012 | William Gatewood Workman Award <i>Davidson Psychology Department's highest honor</i> |
| 2012 | Phi Beta Kappa |
| 2011 | APA Div 20 Award for Completed Undergraduate Research in Adult Development and Aging
<i>recognizes an undergraduate for exemplary research contributing to theory of adult development and aging</i> |

2008 National Merit Scholarship

FUNDING

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 Grant (co-PI), \$50,000

2020 National Institutes of Health Postdoctoral Diversity Supplement, \$241,315
supports scientists from socioeconomically disadvantaged backgrounds

2018 **National Science Foundation SBE Postdoctoral Research Fellowship**, \$165,000

2017 APA Dissertation Research Award, \$4,114
supports dissertation research that reflects excellence in scientific psychology

2017 American Psychological Foundation 125th Anniversary Scholarship, \$3,000

2017 Phillip Jackson Baugh Fellowship, \$30,882
supports single Duke student’s career in aging

2012 **National Science Foundation Graduate Research Fellowship**, \$134,000

2011 Howard Hughes Medical Institute Fellow, \$6,000

2010 Davidson Research Initiative Fellow, \$6,800

SELECT MEDIA COVERAGE

“As more seniors head online, efforts are needed to help their digital media literacy skills” *CBC* 

“When fighting disinformation, even the best tools are not enough” *The New York Times* 

“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

2025	University of Arizona, Cognitive Science Colloquium
2025	Victoria University of Wellington, New Zealand, School of Psychological Sciences and School of Science in Society
2025	University of Waikato, New Zealand, School of Psychological and Social Sciences
2025	Nanyang Technological University, Singapore, ‘Truth in the Machine’ Symposium
2024	New York University, Department of Psychology and Neural Science
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

- Brashier, N. M., & Rand, D. G. (2025).** Illusory truth occurs even with incentives for accuracy. Annual Meeting of the Psychonomic Society, Denver, Colorado.
- Brashier, N. M. (2025).** Illusory truth occurs even with incentives for accuracy. Association for Psychological Science Annual Convention, Washington, D.C.
**chairing invited symposium 'Memory in an Era of Misinformation'*
- Brashier, N. M. (2025).** Fighting fake news among the most vulnerable users. Misinformation and Belief Science Preconference of the Annual Meeting of the Society for Personality and Social Psychology, Denver, Colorado.
- Brashier, N. M. (2024).** Timing matters when correcting fake news. Annual Meeting of the Society for Philosophy and Psychology, West Lafayette, Indiana.
- 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

<i>PhD Students</i>	Phúc Lê, Cognitive Psychology, UCSD '28 (APAGS/Psi Chi Junior Scientist Fellow, Fredrick N. Andrews Fellow) Katie Allen, Cognitive Psychology, UCSD '29 (Norman Henry Anderson Fellow, NSF Graduate Research Fellowship Honorable Mention) Jae Kwon, Cognitive Psychology, UCSD '29 (Norman Henry Anderson Fellow) Payton Robinson, Neuroscience and Behavior, Purdue '28 (Ross Fellow primarily advised by Sydney Trask)
<i>Thesis Students</i>	Katie Allen, Purdue '24 (selected for Research-Focused Honors Program, Undergraduate Research Funding Award Winner) Catherine Ho, Harvard '21 (2019 PRISE Fellow, 2020 HCRP Fellow) Jenna Lang, Harvard '21 (2020 BLISS Fellow, Psychology Faculty Prize Winner)
<i>Research Assistants</i>	Mishka Richards, Spelman '25 Natalie Hoffman, Purdue '25 Alin Alshaheri, San Diego State '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
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 <i>senior gift made to Duke in my honor</i>
2017, 18	Panelist, Supporting Undergraduates at Psychonomics Workshop
2014-16	Team Leader, Bass Connections Aging and Heuristics Team <i>supervised full-time interdisciplinary summer research and independent study</i>

One-on-One 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
- 2018-21 Mentor, [First Generation Harvard Alumni](#)
advised first-generation, low-income Harvard freshmen

Programs Preparing First-Generation College Students for Graduate School

- 2025 Mentor, [McNair Program](#)
preparing first-generation students to pursue doctoral degrees and careers in research
- 2024 Mentor, Summer Training Academy for Research Success ([STARS](#)) Program
prepared Spelman College students for doctoral study in the University of California system
- 2023, 24 Faculty Host, [Diversifying Psychology Event](#), UC San Diego (over 200 attendees)
- 2022 Mentor, [Summer Research Opportunities Program](#)
prepared undergraduates from underrepresented backgrounds for graduate study
- 2020 Mentor, [PPREP Program](#)
guided underrepresented students as they applied to graduate school

Panels for First-Generation College Students and their Mentors

- 2025 Panelist, Psi Beta Day, UC San Diego
provided academic advice to community college students interested in transferring to the UC system
- 2025 Panelist, Hidden Curriculum in Psychology, UC San Diego
- 2023 Panelist, Hidden Curriculum in Psychological Sciences, Purdue University
- 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

Pedagogical Training

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

Courses Taught

- 2024 Myths and Mysteries of Memory undergraduate lecture course
evaluations average 4.85/5

2024-25	Belief in Weird Things <i>evaluations average 4.77/5</i>	undergraduate lecture course
2023-25	Extended Cognition <i>evaluations average 4.81/5</i>	graduate seminar
2021-23	Intro to Cognitive Psychology	undergraduate lecture course

SERVICE

To First-Generation College Students

2023	Faculty Speaker, ‘First in Research’ National First Gen Event, UC San Diego <i>gave Ted Talk style presentation on personal journey as first-generation college student turned professor</i>
2022	Faculty Representative, First Generation Celebration Week , Purdue University <i>organized the College of Health and Human Sciences’ inaugural First Gen Celebration Week</i>
2021-22	Team Member, First-Generation Landscape Analysis Project , Purdue University <i>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</i>

To Cognitive Psychology and Neuroscience

2025-28	Member-at-Large, APA Division 20 (<i>Adult Development and Aging</i>)
2025-	Consulting Editor, <i>Psychology and Aging</i>
2022	Program Chair, APA Division 3 (<i>Experimental Psychology and Cognitive Science</i>)
2019-21	Outside Examiner, Davidson College

To My Department and University

2025-26	Colloquium Committee, University of California, San Diego
2022	Committee Member, Cognitive Neuroscience Faculty Search, Purdue University
2021-23	Steering Committee Member, Center on Aging and the Life Course, Purdue University

To the Community

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

As of August 2025