

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* **28**

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* **144**

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* **35**

MANUSCRIPTS

Brashier, N. M., & Rand, D. G. (preprint). Illusory truth occurs even with incentives for accuracy. **28**
 * covered by [CBS News](#) and the [Neiman Lab](#)

Lê, P. H. & **Brashier, N. M.** (under review). Conspiracy beliefs reflect predictable memory errors.

HONORS & AWARDS

2026 **Quad-L Early Career Award**, University of New Mexico
for significant contributions to the field of learning, memory, and cognition

2025 Elected American Psychological Association Fellow

2025 **Psychonomic Society Early Career Award**
recognizes scientists who have made excellent scientific contributions to the field of cognitive psychology early in their careers

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**
recognizes outstanding psychological scientists in the earliest stages of their research career

2018 APA Div 20 Doctoral Dissertation Award in the Psychology of Aging
recognizes a doctoral student for exemplary research contributing to theory of adult development and aging

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 | *Davidson Psychology Department's highest honor*

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 <i>supports scientists from socioeconomically disadvantaged backgrounds</i>
2018	National Science Foundation SBE Postdoctoral Research Fellowship , \$165,000
2017	APA Dissertation Research Award, \$4,114 <i>supports dissertation research that reflects excellence in scientific psychology</i>
2017	American Psychological Foundation 125 th Anniversary Scholarship, \$3,000
2017	Phillip Jackson Baugh Fellowship, \$30,882 <i>supports single Duke student’s career in aging</i>
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

2026	Stanford University, Center for Advanced Study in the Behavioral Sciences
2026	University of New Mexico, Quad-L Early Career Award Lecture
2026	University of Pennsylvania, Mind Center for Outreach, Research and Education
2025	University of Arizona, Cognitive Science Colloquium
2025	University of Otago, New Zealand, Department of Psychology
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

Neuner, S. E., Withall, M. M., **Brashier, N. M.**, & Rapp, D. N. (2026). Watching expert performance makes novices overconfident even after warnings. Annual Meeting of the Midwestern Psychological Association, Chicago, Illinois.

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

PhD Students 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)

Thesis Students 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)

Research Assistants 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](#) | *senior gift made to Duke in my honor*
- 2017, 18 Panelist, Supporting Undergraduates at Psychonomics Workshop
- 2014-16 Team Leader, Bass Connections [Aging and Heuristics Team](#)
supervised full-time interdisciplinary summer research and independent study

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 undergraduate lecture course
evaluations average 4.77/5

2023-25 Extended Cognition graduate seminar
evaluations average 4.81/5

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
gave Ted Talk style presentation on personal journey as first-generation college student turned professor

2022 Faculty Representative, [First Generation Celebration Week](#), Purdue University
organized the College of Health and Human Sciences' inaugural First Gen Celebration Week

2021-22 Team Member, [First-Generation Landscape Analysis Project](#), Purdue University
*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*

To Cognitive Psychology and Neuroscience

2025-28 Member-at-Large, APA Division 20 (*Adult Development and Aging*)

2025- Consulting Editor, *Psychology and Aging*

2022 Program Chair, APA Division 3 (*Experimental Psychology and Cognitive Science*)

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](#) | *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*