

Sylvia Morelli, Ph.D.

CONTACT

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EMPLOYMENT AND EDUCATION

University of Illinois at Chicago, 2016 – Present
Assistant Professor of Psychology

Stanford University, 2012 – 2015
Postdoctoral Fellow in the Stanford Social Neuroscience Lab
Advisor: Jamil Zaki

University of California, Los Angeles, 2007 – 2012
Ph.D. in Psychology
Advisors: Matthew Lieberman & Naomi Eisenberger

University of California, Los Angeles, 2007 – 2008
M.A. in Psychology
Advisor: Matthew Lieberman

Stanford University, 2005 – 2007
Lab Manger of the Life-Span Development Lab
Advisor: Laura Carstensen

Princeton University, 2001 – 2005
B.A. in Psychology with a certificate in Neuroscience
Advisors: Jonathan Cohen & Joshua Greene

AWARDS

2017	Travel Award for Tools of Trade Workshop: Human Neuroimaging Methods and Best Practices
2012	Top Cited Article 2007-2011 in <i>Cognition</i>
2012	Shelley E. Taylor Dissertation Award
2012	Dena Chertoff Graduate Student Service Award
2011	APA Student Travel Award: APF Ungerleider/Zimbardo Travel Scholarship
2011	Psychology Graduate Students Association Peer Mentoring Award
2010	Harold H. Kelley Award for Best Basic Science Research Paper
2009	Quality of Graduate Education Travel Award
2005	Don Betterton Unsung Hero Award

FELLOWSHIPS

2015	NIH Neuroimaging Advanced fMRI Summer Program at UCLA
2012	NIMH National Research Service Award Postdoctoral Fellowship
2010	NIH Training Course in fMRI at University of Michigan
2009	NSF Graduate Research Fellowship Program Honorable Mention
2008	NSF IGERT Interdisciplinary Relationship Science Predoctoral Fellowship
2008	UCLA Graduate Summer Research Mentorship Award
2007	UCLA University Fellowship

GRANTS

2017-2020	Brain predictors of social network structure and function Army Research Office Co-PI
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COMPLETED GRANTS

2015	Neural markers of empathy: A tool for predicting individuals' ability to boost social network well-being Stanford Cognitive Neuroscience Institute Innovation Grant Co-PI
2014	Relationships as psychological protective factors: Neural and behavioral markers Stanford Cognitive Neuroscience Institute Innovation Grant Co-PI
2013	Close other bias in older adults: Effects on prosocial decision-making NIA/Center on Advancing Decision Making in Aging Seed Grant (AG024957-09) Co-PI
2012-2014	Vicarious reward: A neural marker for beneficial social relationships NIMH National Research Service Award Postdoctoral Fellowship (F32 MH098504)
2012	Vicarious reward: A neural marker for beneficial social relationships Stanford Cognitive Neuroscience Institute Innovation Grant Co-PI

PUBLICATIONS

Morelli, S.A., Ong, D.C., Makati, R., Jackson, M.O. & Zaki, J. (in press). Empathy and well-being correlate with centrality in different social networks. *Proceedings of the National Academy of Sciences*.

Nook, E.C., Ong, D.C., Morelli, S.A., Mitchell, J.P., & Zaki, J. (2016). Prosocial conformity: Prosocial norms generalize across behavior and empathy. *Personality and Social Psychology Bulletin*, 42(8), 1045-1062.

Morelli, S.A., Lee, I.A., Arnn, M.E., & Zaki, J. (2015). Emotional and instrumental support provision interact to predict well-being. *Emotion*, 15(4), 484-493.

Morelli, S.A., Sacchet, M.D., & Zaki, J. (2015). Common and distinct neural correlates of personal and vicarious reward: A quantitative meta-analysis. *NeuroImage*, 112, 244-253.

Morelli, S.A., Lieberman, M.D., & Zaki, J. (2015). The emerging study of positive empathy. *Social and Personality Psychology Compass*, 9(2), 57-68.

Morelli, S.A., Torre, J.B., & Eisenberger, N.I. (2014). The neural bases of feeling understood and not understood. *Social Cognitive and Affective Neuroscience*, 9(12), 1890-1896.

Morelli, S.A., Rameson, L.T., & Lieberman, M.D. (2014). The neural components of empathy: Predicting daily prosocial behavior. *Social Cognitive and Affective Neuroscience*, *9*(1), 39-47.

Morelli, S.A., & Lieberman, M.D. (2013). The role of automaticity and attention in neural processes underlying empathy for happiness, sadness, and anxiety. *Frontiers in Human Neuroscience*, *7*, doi: 10.3389/fnhum.2013.00160.

Falk, E.B., Morelli, S.A., Welbourn, B.L., Dambacher, K., & Lieberman, M.D. (2013). Creating buzz: The neural correlates of effective message propagation. *Psychological Science*, *24*(7), 1234-1242.

Muscattell, K.A., Morelli, S.A., Falk, E.B., Way, B.M., Pfeifer, J.H., Galinsky, A.D., Lieberman, M.D., Dapretto, M., & Eisenberger, N.I. (2012). Social status modulates neural activity in the mentalizing network. *NeuroImage*, *60*, 1771-1777.

Rameson, L.T., Morelli, S.A., & Lieberman, M.D. (2012). The neural correlates of empathy: Experience, automaticity, and prosocial behavior. *Journal of Cognitive Neuroscience*, *24*(1), 235-245.

Masten, C.L., Morelli, S.A., & Eisenberger, N.I. (2011). An fMRI investigation of empathy for 'social pain' and subsequent prosocial behavior. *NeuroImage*, *55*(1), 381-388.

Spreng, N.R., Rosen, H.J., Strother, S., Chow, T.W., Diehl-Schmid, J., Freedman, M., Graff-Radford, N.R., Hodges, J.R., Lipton, A.M., Mendez, M.F., Morelli, S.A., et al. (2010). Occupation attributes relate to location of atrophy in frontotemporal lobar degeneration. *Neuropsychologia*, *48*, 3634-3641.

Greene, J.D., Morelli, S.A., Lowenberg, K., Nystrom, L.E., & Cohen, J.D. (2008). Cognitive load selectively interferes with utilitarian moral judgment. *Cognition*, *107*, 1144 -1154.

Ram, N., Morelli, S., Lindberg, C., & Carstensen, L.L. (2008). From static to dynamic: The ongoing dialectic about human development. Invited chapter in K. W. Schaie & R. P. Abeles (Eds.), *Social structures and aging individual: Continuing challenges* (pp. 115-130). New York, NY: Springer Publishing Company.

MANUSCRIPTS UNDER REVIEW

Morelli, S.A., Knutson, B.K., & Zaki, J. (invited revision). Neural sensitivity to personal and vicarious reward differentially relate to prosociality and well-being.

Williams, W.C., Morelli, S.A., Ong, D.C. & Zaki, J. (invited revision). Interpersonal emotion regulation: Implications for affiliation, perceived support, relationships, and well-being.

Morelli, S.A., Leong, Y.C., Carlson, R.W., Kullar, M., & Zaki, J. (under review). Neural detection of socially valued community members.

Morelli, S.A., Lieberman, M.D., Telzer, E.H., & Zaki, J. (under review). Positive empathy: Its structure and relation to prosociality, social connection, and well-being.

Wondra, J.D. & Morelli, S.A. (under review). Limitations of the evidence that perspective taking increases empathy.

CHAIRED SYMPOSIA

Morelli, S.A. (2017). Insights into how individual differences shape social network dynamics. *Society for Personality and Social Psychology Conference*, San Antonio, TX.

Morelli, S.A. (2014). Providing effective support in close relationships: Neural, behavioral, and physiological predictors and consequences. *Society for Personality and Social Psychology Conference*, Austin, TX.

Morelli, S.A., & Lieberman, M.D. (2012). Modulating empathy: The neural bases of empathic accuracy, biases, and behavior. *Social Affective Neuroscience Conference*, New York, NY.

Morelli, S.A., & Lieberman, M.D. (2012). The power of connecting with others: Investigating empathy, admiration, compassion, and social connection in the brain. *Society for Personality and Social Psychology Conference*, San Diego, CA.

Morelli, S.A. & Lieberman, M.D. (2011). From brain to behavior: Neural activity predicts judgment and behavior in response to social cues. *American Psychological Association Convention*, Washington, DC.

INVITED AND CONFERENCE TALKS

2018

Midwestern Psychological Association

2017

University of Illinois at Chicago (Clinical)
University of Illinois at Chicago (Behavioral Neuroscience)
Loyola University (Neuroscience)
Northwestern University
Society for Personality and Social Psychology Conference

2016

Loyola University (Social)
Princeton University
NSF Conference on Network Science in Economics
Society for Affective Science, Positive Emotions Preconference

2015

University of Colorado Boulder
Society for Neuroscience Meeting
University of Massachusetts Amherst

2014

University of Illinois at Chicago (Social)
Texas A & M
Society for Personality and Social Psychology Conference

2013

Social Affective Neuroscience Conference
Society for Personality and Social Psychology Conference
Social Affective Neuroscience Conference

2012

Stanford CCARE Compassion Consortium
Stanford Affective Science Seminar
Caltech Emotion and Social Cognition Lab & UCLA SCAN Lab Joint Meeting
Society for Personality and Social Psychology Conference

2011

American Psychological Association Convention

2009

UCLA

TEACHING

2017	Course Instructor , UIC, Social Psychology Laboratory
2016	Course Instructor , UIC, Social Psychology
2016	Course Instructor , UIC, Emotion (Graduate Level)
2011	Course Instructor , UCLA, Psychology Research Opportunities Program
2011	Teaching Assistant , UCLA, Computational Methods for Neuroimaging (Graduate Level)
2010	Workshop Instructor , UCLA, SPM8 Neuroimaging Methods
2010	Teaching Assistant , UCLA, Intimate Relationships
2009	Teaching Assistant , UCLA, Social Psychology Laboratory
2005	Research Instructor , Stanford University, Research on Aging

PROFESSIONAL ASSOCIATIONS AND ACTIVITIES

Editorial Boards

Consulting Editor for *Emotion*

Ad Hoc Reviewer (<http://goo.gl/1uis8t>)

Biological Psychology

Brain and Cognition

Cognition

Cerebral Cortex

Current Biology

Developmental Cognitive Neuroscience

Developmental Neuroscience

Emotion

Frontiers in Human Neuroscience

Human Brain Mapping

Journal of Cognitive Neuroscience

Journal of Experimental Psychology: General

Journal of Media Psychology

Nature Communications

Nature Scientific Reports

NeuroImage

Personality and Social Psychology Bulletin

Perspectives on Psychological Science

Proceedings of the National Academy of Sciences

Psychological Science

Psychological Bulletin

Social and Personality Psychology Compass

Social Cognitive and Affective Neuroscience

Society Memberships

Society for Personality and Social Psychology

Social and Affective Neuroscience Society

Society for Social Neuroscience

Society for Affective Science

Cognitive Neuroscience Society

Association for Psychological Science

MEDIA MENTIONS

1. Vedantam, S. The perils of power. *The Hidden Brain Podcast*. <http://goo.gl/6Bvd5w>
2. Zaki, J. Kindness contagion. *Scientific American*. <http://goo.gl/tLt2bs>
3. Zaki, J. The feel-good school of philanthropy. *New York Times*. <http://nyti.ms/1PMua5Z>
4. DiSalvo, D. Your brain on buzz: Why some ideas go viral and others go nowhere. *Forbes*. <http://onforb.es/14z9Oms>
5. Kotz, D. Do you have the brain power to detect a hot idea and make it go viral? *Boston Globe*. <http://b.globe.com/17503wE>
6. Kaufman, S.B. The neuroscience of social influence. *Scientific American*. <http://bit.ly/1dedfRx>
7. How the brain creates the 'buzz' that helps ideas spread. *Science Daily*. <http://bit.ly/14wCb4H>
8. Why your brain was built for Facebook. *MSN News*. <http://on-msn.com/15qTscR>
9. Brain creates 'buzz' to spread ideas. *Business Standard*. <http://bit.ly/14KNJTE>
10. Kluger, J. The happiness of pursuit. *Time Magazine*, 24-33. <http://ti.me/1fhZKRG>

SERVICE

Psychology Department

2017 Hiring Priorities Committee
2017 Henry Eron Award Committee
2016-2017 Diversity Advancement Committee
2016 Python Workshop (taught by Mowafak Allaham)
2016 Henry Eron Award Committee
2016 Cross-Disciplinary Program Poster Reviewer

College

2016-2019 Graduate College Awards Committee, Behavioral and Social Science Division

STUDENT ADVISING, SUPERVISION, & MENTORING

Awards

2017 Quinasia Douglas, College of Liberal Arts Undergraduate Research Initiative Award
2017 Mowafak Allaham, Student Travel Award for NetSci Conference
2017 Humza Khan, UIC Psychology Dept Hirshberg Award for Undergraduate Research
2017 Mowafak Allaham, 1st prize in Yale Datahack
2016 Brittany Torrez, Zajonc Award for Excellence in Psychology Honors Research

Post-Doctoral Fellows

2016-2017 Kesong Hu

Ph.D. Students

2017- Ian Kwok
2016- Mowafak Allaham
2016-2017 Joshua Wondra (Visiting Student from University of Michigan)

Lab Staff

2016-2017 Rucha Makati

Undergraduate Students

Samantha Rheins	Rachael Warren	Daniel Stopka
Yaraly Andersen	Maria Jaramillo	Isaly Palacios
Sophia Ou	Nicholas Oliva	Raolat Odeyale
Taelar Scott	Cory Patton	Anoosheh Ghazanfari
Humza Khan	David Klemballa	Quinasia Do
Liz Deitemyer	Adelina Socite	

Thesis/Dissertation Committees

2017 Kendal Wong, Dissertation
2017 Zachary Melton, Masters
2017 Drexler James, Preliminary Exam
2017 Kendal Wong, Preliminary Exam
2016 Allison Mueller, Preliminary Exam
2016 Jacklynn Fitzgerald, Dissertation