
Kurt Gray

Department of Psychology
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Employment:

Assistant Professor, University of Maryland (2010 –)

Education:

Harvard University, Cambridge, MA (2004 – 2010)
Ph.D, Social Psychology
Advisor: Daniel Wegner

University of Waterloo, Waterloo, ON (1999 – 2003)
Honors BSc. Psychology, Earth Science Minor
Alumni Gold Medal

Research Interests:

Moral Judgment, Mind Perception, Decision Making, Pain, Religion, Evolution of Cooperation

Peer-Reviewed Publications:

Gray, K., Young, L., Waytz, A. (in press). Mind perception is the essence of morality.
Psychological Inquiry. [target article]

Gray, K. (in press). The power of good intentions: Perceived benevolence soothes pain,
increases pleasure, and improves taste. *Social Psychological and Personality Science*.

Cushman, F., Gray, K., Gaffey, A. & Mendes, W. B. (in press). Simulating murder: The aversion to
harmful actions. *Emotion*.

Gray, K., Knobe, J., Sheskin, M., Bloom, P. & Barrett, L. F. (2011). More than a body: Mind
perception and the surprising nature of objectification. *Journal of Personality and Social
Psychology*, 101(6), 1207-1220.

Gray, K., Knickman, A. & Wegner, D. M. (2011). More dead than dead: Perceptions of people in
persistent vegetative states. *Cognition*, 121, 275-280.

Gray, K. & Wegner, D. M. (2011). Dimensions of moral emotions. *Emotion Review*, 3(3), 227-229.

- Gray, K. & Wegner, D. M. (2011). To escape blame, don't be a hero – be a victim. *Journal of Experimental Social Psychology*, 47, 516-519.
- Gray, K., Jenkins, A. C., Heberlein, A. S., & Wegner, D. M. (2011). Distortions of mind perception in psychopathology. *Proceedings of the National Academy of Sciences*, 108(2), 477 -479.
- Gray, K. (2010). Moral transformation: Good and evil turn the weak into the mighty. *Social Psychological and Personality Science*, 1(3), 253-258
- Watz, A., Gray, K., Epley, N. & Wegner, D. M. (2010). Causes and consequences of mind perception. *Trends in Cognitive Science*, 14, 383-388.
- Gray, K. & Wegner, D. M. (2010). Blaming God for our pain: Human suffering and the divine mind. *Personality and Social Psychology Review*, 14(1) 7-16.
- Gray, K. & Wegner, D. M. (2010). Torture and judgments of guilt. *Journal of Experimental Social Psychology*, 46(1), 233-235.
- Gray, K. & Wegner, D. M. (2009). Moral typecasting: Divergent perceptions of moral agents and moral patients. *Journal of Personality and Social Psychology*, 96(3), 505-520.
- Gray, K. & Wegner, D. M. (2008). The sting of intentional pain. *Psychological Science*, 19, 1260-1262.
- Gray, H. M., Gray, K. & Wegner, D. M. (2007). Dimensions of mind perception. *Science*, 315, 619.

Other Publications:

- Gray, K. & Schein, C. (2011). When Your Life is on the Line, Be a Victim, Not a Hero. *The Jury Expert*, 28(6), 1-7.
- Gray, K. & Wegner, D. M. (2011). Morality takes two: Dyadic morality and mind perception. In P. Shaver & M. Mikulincer (Eds.), *The Social Psychology of Morality*. APA Press.
- Schwartz, C.E., Quaranto, B.R. & Gray K. (in press) Altruism and health: Theoretical perspectives. In: Efklides, A. and Moraitou, D. (Eds.) *Quality of Life: A Positive Psychology Perspective*. New York, NY: Springer.
- Morewedge, C. K., Gray, K. & Wegner, D. M. (2010). Perish the forethought: Premeditation engenders misperceptions of personal control. In R. Hassin, K. Ochsner, & Y. Trope (Eds.), *Self control in society, mind, and brain*. Oxford University Press.
- Gray, K. & Wegner, D. M. (2007). Apparent mental causation. In R. Baumeister, & K. Vohs (Eds.) *The Encyclopedia of Social Psychology*. Thousand Oaks, CA: Sage Publications.
- Preston, J., Gray, K. & Wegner, D. M. (2006). The Godfather of soul. *Behavioral and Brain Sciences*, 29(5), 482-483.

Manuscripts Under Review or Revision:

Gray, K., Ward, A., & Norton, M. (under revision). *Paying it forward: Greed and generosity in indirect reciprocity*.

Gray, K. & Wegner, D. M. (under review). *Feeling Robots and Human Zombies: Mind Perception and the Uncanny Valley*.

Gray, K., & Ward, A. (under review). *The harm hypothesis: Perceived harm unifies moral judgments*.

Manuscripts In Preparation:

Gray, K. & Schein, C. *Mind perception defines morality, and makes utilitarianism and deontology irreconcilable*.
Invited for a special issue of Review of Philosophy and Psychology.

Gray, K. & Schein, C. *How we see morality*.

Gray, K., Rand, D. G., Ert, E., Lewis, K., Hershman, S., & Norton, M. *The inevitability of us and them: Three simple conditions for the spontaneous emergence of groups and intergroup conflict*.

Grants and Awards:

Eliot Fellowship (\$25,000) (2009-2010)

Harvard University

· Top tier of dissertation completion grants

Restricted Funds Research Grant (\$3,500) (2007,08,09)

Harvard Psychology Department (awarded 3 times)

Humane Studies Fellowship (\$5,000) (2007,08,09)

Institute for Humane Studies (awarded 3 times)

· Awarded to support research examining rights and responsibilities

Next Generation Grant (\$5,000) (2007)

Harvard Program on Negotiation

· Used to support empirical research on negotiation

SSHRC Postgraduate Scholarship (\$80,000) (2005-2009)

Social Sciences and Humanities Research Council

· Supported research on moral decision making

NSERC Postgraduate Scholarship (\$18,000) (2004)

Natural Science and Engineering Research Council

· Supported research on judgments and decision making

Alumni Gold Medal, Faculty of Science (2003)

University of Waterloo

· Highest honor for an undergraduate student at Waterloo

NSERC Undergraduate Student Research Award (\$5,000) (2002, 2003)
Natural Science and Engineering Research Council (awarded twice)
Held at the University of Waterloo, supervisor: Dr. Phil Merikle

Chaired Conferences and Symposia

Gray, K. & Waytz, A. (2012). *Mind Perception*. Pre-Conference at the Annual Meeting of the Society for Personality and Social Psychology (SPSP), San Diego, CA. Speakers: Thalia Wheatley, Jason Mitchell, Rebecca Saxe, Liane Young, Alison Gopnik, Joshua Knobe, Ara Norenzayan and Jonah Lehrer.

Graham, J. & Gray, K. (2011). *The power of virtue: How goodness transforms and compels*. Speakers: Benoit Monin, David Pizarro, Dan McAdams. Symposium to be presented at the Annual Meeting of the Society for Personality and Social Psychology (SPSP), San Antonio, TX.

Gray, K. (2010). *Finding Mind: Attributing (and Denying) Inner Life to People, Machines and Gods*. Speakers: Nick Epley, Nick Haslam, Jesse Bering. Symposium presented at the Annual Meeting of the Society for Personality and Social Psychology (SPSP), Las Vegas, NV.

Conference Presentations:

Gray, K. (2012). *Mind perception is the essence of morality*. Paper presented at the Mind Perception Preconference held at the Annual Meeting of the Society for Personality and Social Psychology (SPSP), San Diego, CA.

Gray, K. & Ward, A. F. (2011). *The harm hypothesis: Perceived harm unifies morality*. Paper presented at the Annual Meeting of the Society for Experimental Social Psychology (SESP), Washington, DC.

Gray, K. (2011). *Mind perception as the basis for morality*. Paper presented at the 18th Annual Association for Psychological Science Convention, Washington, DC.

Gray, K. (2011). *Mind perception as the basis for morality*. Paper presented at the Second Annual Experimental Philosophy Conference (NYU), New York, NY. Invited talk.

Gray, K. (2011). *Moral transformation: Virtue (and vice) increase agency*. Paper presented at the Annual Meeting of the Society for Personality and Social Psychology (SPSP), San Antonio, TX.

Gray, K. (2010). *Conniving livestock and cruel gods: Perceiving moral agents to make sense of suffering*. Paper presented at the Annual Meeting of the Society for Experimental Social Psychology (SESP), Minneapolis, MN.

Gray, K., Ward, A. F. & Norton, M. (2010). *Greed – but not generosity – is paid forward*. Paper presented at the Annual Meeting of the Association for Consumer Research (ACR), Jacksonville, FL.

Gray, K. & Wegner, D. M. (2010). *Perceiving the Mind of God: the Ultimate Moral Agent*. Paper presented at the Annual Meeting of the Society for Personality and Social Psychology (SPSP), Las Vegas, NV.

Gray, K. & Wegner, D. M. (2009). *Torture and judgments of guilt*. Paper presented at the Annual Meeting of the Society for Judgment and Decision Making (SJD), Boston, MA.

Gray, K. & Wegner, D. M. (2009). *Malice Aforethought: Intention and the Experience of Pain*. Paper presented at the Annual Meeting of the Society for Experimental Social Psychology (SESP), Portland, MN.

Gray, K. & Wegner, D. M. (2008). *Moral Typecasting: Heroes don't cry and orphans get away with murder*. Paper presented at the Ninth Annual Meeting of the Society for Personality and Social Psychology (SPSP), Albuquerque, NM.

Invited Talks:

UC – Irvine	Irvine, CA	January, 2012
UC – San Diego	San Diego, CA	January, 2012
University of North Carolina	Chapel Hill, NC	January, 2012
TEDx San Diego	San Diego, CA	November, 2011
Harvard University/Wegstock	Cambridge, MA	September, 2011
University of Waterloo	Waterloo, ON	June, 2011
MIT/Kavli Program	Cambridge, MA	June, 2011
Georgetown University	Washington, DC	March, 2011
Princeton University	Princeton, NJ	November, 2010
TEDx San Diego	San Diego, CA	November, 2010
Carnegie-Mellon University	Pittsburgh, PA	October, 2010
Chicago Booth School of Business	Chicago, IL	January, 2010
University of Maryland	College Park, MD	December, 2010
University of Toronto	Toronto, ON	November, 2009
Yale University	New Haven, CT	November, 2009
Dartmouth College/Minary	Holderness, NH	August, 2009
Northeastern University	Boston, MA	February, 2009
Amherst College	Amherst, MA	October, 2008

Teaching Experience:

Instructor, Mind Perception (2011)
Graduate seminar

Instructor, Advanced Social Psychology (2011)
Designed and implemented undergraduate lecture course of 40
Teaching rating: 3.8/4.0

Head Teaching Fellow, Introductory Psychology (2009)
Harvard University, instructor: Daniel Gilbert

Teaching Fellow, Research Methods (2007 – 2008)
Harvard University, instructor: Wendy Mendes

Instructor, Sophomore Tutorial in Social Psychology (2006 – 2007)
Harvard University

Teaching Fellow, Introduction to Statistics (2005 – 2006)
Harvard University, instructor: Ron Butzlaff

Specialized Training

Advanced Statistical Methods Workshop (2008-2009)
Instructors: Dave Kenny, Bill Simpson, Gary King
Topics: Factor analysis, Dyadic data analysis, Causal inference

Statistics for the Social Sciences (2008)
Instructor: Bill Simpson – Principle Statistician, HBS
Topics: multiple regression, logistic regression, count models
Geometric approaches to multivariate analysis.

Summer Institute in Social Psychology (2007)
Instructor: Sam Gosling, Will Fleeson
Topics: Novel Experimental Methods

Professional Memberships:

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

Ad Hoc Reviewer:

Journal of Personality and Social Psychology
Social Psychology and Personality Science
Personality and Social Psychology Bulletin
Journal of Experimental Social Psychology
Psychological Science
Social Cognition
Cognitive Science
British Journal of Social Psychology
Behavioral and Brain Sciences
Biological Psychology
Cognition
Consciousness and Cognition

Selected Press Coverage:

[Daily Mail](#) Jan, 2012
[Wired](#) Nov, 2011
[LA Times](#) Aug, 2011
[The Economist](#) Aug, 2011
[Daily Mail](#) Feb, 2011

[Boston Globe](#) July, 2010
[Harvard Magazine](#) April, 2010
[Boston Globe](#) April, 2010
[New York Times](#) Dec, 2008
[The Economist](#) Dec, 2008