MADALINA VLASCEANU, PHD

CONTACT | *E-mail:* mov@stanford.edu *Website:* https://mvlasceanu.com *GitHub:* github.com/mvlasceanu

ACADEMIC
APPOINTMENTS

Assistant Professor of Environmental Behavioral Sciences — 2024-present
Stanford University

Assistant Professor of Psychology — 2022-2024
New York University

Provost's Postdoctoral Fellow — 2022
New York University

EDUCATION

Ph.D. in Psychology & Neuroscience — 2021
Princeton University
Advisors: Alin Coman, Elizabeth Levy Paluck, Kenneth Norman
Dissertation: Cognitive Processes Shaping Individual and Collective Belief Systems

M.A. in Psychology — 2018
Princeton University
Thesis: Mnemonic Influence: Memory Impacts Emotion, Reason, and Action

B.A. in Psychology & Economics — 2016
University of Rochester
Magna Cum Laude, with Highest Distinction

HONORS &
AWARDS

APA Young Investigator Award, Society for Experimental Psychology and Cognitive Science	2023
APA Division 21 Raymond S. Nickerson Best Paper of the Year in *JEP:A* Award	2023
APS Student Research Award, Association for Psychological Science	2020
Cognitive Science Fellowship, Princeton University	2018
Herbert L. Zimmer Research Award, University of Rochester	2016
Student of the Year: LSRS, Romanian Student League	2015
Iota Book Award for Student Excellence, University of Rochester	2013
Renaissance and Global Full Tuition Scholarship, University of Rochester	2012 - 2016
Handler Scholarship, Complete Financial Support, University of Rochester	2012 - 2016

RESEARCH
INTERESTS

General Areas: Cognitive and behavioral science, collective cognition

Current Topics: Individual and collective beliefs and behaviors

Techniques: Behavioral experiments, social network analysis, megastudies

Applications: Climate action, climate misinformation correction

RESEARCH GRANTS

US Department of Defense, Multidisciplinary University Research Initiative (co-PI) — 2024-2029
- Belief Resonance and AI Narratives - $7,499,998 (subaward: $806,808)

New York University Research Catalyst Prize (PI) — 2023
- Algorithmic Effects on Climate Perception and Action - $14,343

Google Jigsaw Grant (co-PI) — 2022

- Understanding Climate Awareness and Action Globally - $100,000

Climate Change Initiative (co-PI)   2022
- Global Collaboration for Climate Action - $10,000

Research Grant, Program in Cognitive Science, Princeton University (PI)   2017-2020
- Cognitive Mechanisms of Belief Change - $15,000

PUBLICATIONS

30. Goldwert, D., Bao, Y. E., Doell, K. C., Van Bavel, J. J., & **Vlasceanu, M.** (in review). The Effects of Climate Action Interventions along Cultural Individualism-Collectivism (preprint)

29. Goldwert, D., Doell, K., Van Bavel, J. J., & **Vlasceanu, M.** (in review) Climate change terminology does not influence willingness to take climate action (preprint)

28. Doell, K. C.*, Todorova, B.*, **Vlasceanu, M.**,*, et al. (in review). The International Climate Psychology Collaboration: Climate change-related data collected from 63 countries (preprint)

27. Berkebile-Weinberg, M.*, Goldwert, D.*, Doell, K., van Bavel, J.J., & **Vlasceanu, M.** (accepted, *Nature Communications*) The Differential Impact of Climate Interventions along the Political Divide in 60 Countries (preprint)
- Featured in *TIME*: "How to Overcome Polarization on Climate Action " (website)

26. **Vlasceanu, M.**,*, Doell, K.*, Van Bavel, J.J. et al. (2024) Addressing Climate Change with Behavioral Science: A Global Intervention Tournament in 63 Countries, *Science Advances* (paper)
- Featured in *NYU News*: "New Psychology Study Unearths Ways to Bolster Global Climate Awareness and Climate Action " (website)
- Featured in *Scientific American*: "Beyond the Doom and Gloom, Here's How to Stimulate Climate Action" (website)
- Featured in *Science Magazine*: "Psychology study unearths ways to bolster global climate awareness and climate action " (website)
- Featured in *Science Daily*: "Psychology study unearths ways to bolster global climate awareness and climate action "(website)
- Featured in *Anthropocene*: "The first megastudy of climate messages hints at what motivates different audiences" (website)
- Featured in *Futurity*: "Tool highlights best messages to kickstart climate action" (website)
- Featured in *The Conversation*: "How psychology can help people live more climate-friendly lives – lessons from around the world" (website)

25. Van Bavel, J.J., Rathje, S., **Vlasceanu, M.**, Pretus, C. (2024). Updating the Identity-based Model of Belief: From False Belief to the Spread of Misinformation. *Current Opinion in Psychology* (paper)

24. Berkebile-Weinberg, M., Tang, R., Gao, R., & **Vlasceanu, M.** (in review) How Internet Search Outputs Propagate Climate Change Sentiment and Can Stimulate Support for Action

23. **Vlasceanu, M.**, Dyckovsky, A. M., Coman, A. (2023). A Network Approach to Investigate the Dynamics of Individual and Collective Beliefs. *Perspectives on Psychological Science* (paper)

22. Van Bavel, J., Pretus, C., Rathje, S., Parnamets, P., **Vlasceanu, M.**, Knowles, E. (2023). The costs of polarizing a pandemic: Antecedents, Consequences, and Lessons *Perspectives on Psychological Science* (paper)

21. Azevedo, F., (. . .), **Vlasceanu, M.**, et al. (2023). Social and moral psychology of COVID-19 across 69 countries. *Nature Scientific Data* (paper)

20. Goldwert, D., & **Vlasceanu, M.** (in press). Changes in Political Beliefs. In K. Taku, & T. K. Shackelford (Eds.), *The Routledge International Handbook of Changes in Human Perceptions and Behaviors.* Routledge. (paper)

19. Uddenberg, S., Thompson, B. D., **Vlasceanu, M.**, Griffiths, T. L., & Todorov, A. (2023). Iterated learning reveals stereotypes of facial trustworthiness that propagate in the absence of evidence. *Cognition*, 237, 105452. (paper)

18. **Vlasceanu, M.**, McMahon, C., Van Bavel, J.J., Coman, A. (2023) Political and non-political belief change elicits behavioral change. *Journal of Experimental Psychology: Applied* (paper)

17. **Vlasceanu, M.**, Amodio, D.M. (2022) The Propagation of Gender Inequality by Internet Search Algorithms. *Proceedings of the National Academy of Sciences* 119(29). (paper)

- Featured in *NPR Academic Minute*: "Bias in AI: Causes and consequences of gender biases in Google search results" (website)
- Featured in *Forbes*: "How Biased Google Search Results Affect Hiring Decisions" (website)
- Featured in *Science Magazine* : "Gender bias in search algorithms has effect on users, new study finds" (website)
- Featured in *Science News*: "Gender bias in search algorithms has effect on users, new study finds" (website)
- Featured in *The Hill*: "Study uncovers search engine gender bias and its potential real-world implications" (website)

16. Tomislav, P., (. . .), **Vlasceanu, M.**, et al. (2022). Predicting attitudinal and behavioral responses to COVID-19 pandemic using machine learning. *PNAS Nexus* 1(3), 93. (paper)

15. **Vlasceanu, M.**, Coman, A. (2022) The effects of dyadic conversations on Coronavirus-related belief change. *Applied Cognitive Psychology* 1-10. (paper)

14. **Vlasceanu, M.**, Momennejad, I., Dudik, M. (2022) Network Structure, Gender Diversity, and Interdisciplinarity Predict the Centrality of Artificial Intelligence Organizations. *ACM Conference on Fairness, Accountability, and Transparency (ACM FAccT)* (paper)

13. **Vlasceanu, M.**, Reinero, D., Van Bavel, J.J. (2022) Adversarial Collaborations in Behavioral Science: Benefits and Boundary Conditions. *Journal of Applied Research in Memory and Cognition* 11(1), 23–26 (paper)

12. Van Bavel, J.J., ... **Vlasceanu, M.**, ..., Boggio, P.S. (2022) National identity predicts public health support during a global pandemic. *Nature Communications* 13, 517 (paper)

11. **Vlasceanu, M.**, Coman, A. (2022) Information sources differentially trigger Coronavirus-related belief change. *International Journal of Data Science and Analytics* 13, 287–298 (paper)

10. **Vlasceanu, M.**, Morais, M. J., Coman, A. (2021). Network structure impacts the synchronization of collective beliefs. *Journal of Cognition and Culture* 21(5), 431-448. (paper)

9. **Vlasceanu, M.**, Coman, A. (2021) The impact of social norms on health-related belief update. *Applied Psychology: Health and Wellbeing*, 1-12. (paper)

8. **Vlasceanu, M.**, Morais, M.J., Coman, A. (2021) The effect of prediction error on belief update across the political spectrum. *Psychological Science* 32(6), 916-933. (paper)

- Featured in *PsyPost*: "Psychologists have found that triggering large prediction errors helps to change false beliefs" (website)

7. **Vlasceanu*, M.**, Tachihara*, K., Goldberg, A., Coman, A. (2020) Lexical associations in a native and non-native language affect retrieval induced forgetting. *Proceedings of the Annual Meeting of the Cognitive Science Society* (paper)

6. **Vlasceanu, M.**, Goebel, J., Coman, A. (2020) The emotion-induced belief amplification effect. *Proceedings of the Annual Meeting of the Cognitive Science Society* (paper)

5. **Vlasceanu, M.**, Morais, M.J., Duker, A., Coman, A. (2020) The synchronization of collective beliefs: From dyadic interactions to network convergence. *Journal of Experimental Psychology: Applied.* 26(3), 453–464. (paper)

- Featured in *Princeton Insights*: "How do our beliefs converge?" (website)

4. **Vlasceanu, M.**, Morais, M.J. (2019) A possible neural mechanism of intentional forgetting. *Journal of Neuroscience - Journal Club* 39(39): 7642-7644. (paper)

3. **Vlasceanu, M.**, Coman, A. (2018) Mnemonic accessibility affects statement believability: the effect of listening to others selectively practicing beliefs, *Cognition* 180, 238-245 (paper)

- Featured in *Science Daily*: "To dispel myths, redirect the belief, study says" (website)
- Featured in *Psychology Today*: "Are you persuasive enough to change someone's mind?" (website)

2. **Vlasceanu, M.**, Enz, K., Coman, A. (2018) Cognition in a social context: A social-interactionist approach to emergent phenomena. *Current Directions in Psychological Sciences* 27(5), 369-377 (paper)

1. **Vlasceanu, M.**, Drach, R., Coman, A. (2018) Suppressing my memories by listening to yours: the effect of socially-triggered context-based prediction error on memory. *Psychonomic Bulletin & Review* 1-7 (paper)

TEACHING		
Regression and Multilevel Modeling, Instructor (course eval. 4.8/5.0) **New York University**		2023
Psychological Science and Society, Instructor (course eval. 4.6/5.0) **New York University**		2023
Climate Change: Causes-Effects-Solutions, Instructor **New York University, Science Exploration Program**		2023
Psychology for Policy Analysis and Implementation, Assistant Instructor **Princeton University**, Prof. Alin Coman, Prof. Emily Pronin		2021
The Psychology of Decision-Making and Judgement, Assistant Instructor **Princeton University**, Prof. Eldar Shafir		2020
Research Methods, Assistant Instructor **Princeton University**, Prof. Johannes Haushofer		2019
Developmental Psychology, Assistant Instructor **Princeton University**, Prof. Casey Lew-Williams		2018
Introduction to Psychology, Assistant Instructor **Princeton University**, Prof. Joel Cooper		2017

	Social Psychology and Individual Differences, Teaching Assistant **University of Rochester**, Prof. Andrew Eliot	2015
	Introduction to Economics, Teaching Assistant **University of Rochester**, Prof. Steven Landsburg	2015
TALKS AND CONFERENCES (SELECTED)	American Psychological Association Convention, Seattle, WA	2024
	Association for Psychological Science, Science for Society	2024
	University of Chicago Booth School of Business, BDRM Conference, Chicago, IL	2024
	Imperial College Business School, Management & Entrepreneurship Conversations	2024
	World Resources Institute, Washington DC	2024
	Cambridge University Social Psychology Seminar Series	2024
	AAAS Annual Convention, Denver, CO	2024
	Stanford University, Environmental Behavioral Sciences Seminar	2024
	Governance Initiative, Multidisciplinary Governance Research Meeting, London, UK	2023
	SESP Postconference on Social Science & Sustainability Solutions, Madison, Wisconsin	2023
	CUNY Basic and Applied Social Psychology	2023
	NYUConcats Speaker Series	2023
	Big Team Science Conference, Psychological Science Accelerator [keynote]	2023
	Simons Foundation NYU Science Explorations Program, New York, NY	2023
	International Conference on Environmental Psychology (ICEP) Aarhus, Denmark	2023
	Open Minds Conference, Florence, Italy	2023
	Fathm Climate Reporting Bootcamp, Bonn, Germany	2023
	International Convention of Psychological Science (ICPS), Brussels, Belgium	2023
	Stanford University, Environmental Behavioral Sciences Seminar	2023
	Columbia University, Social & Affective Processes Seminar	2023
	London School of Economics, Seminar Series	2023
	SPSP Symposium, Atlanta, GA	2023
	SPSP Preconference: Political Psychology	2023
	SPSP Preconference: Diversifying Sustainability Psychology	2023
	SPSP Professional Development Symposium: Demystifying Tenure	2023
	Stanford University, Organizations and Environmental Sustainability Conference, CA	2023
	ACM FAccT, Seoul, South Korea	2022
	APS Annual Convention. Chicago, IL	2022
	Indian Institute of Technology IIT Delhi, CogSci Colloquium Series	2022
	Dartmouth University, Brain and Cognitive Sciences, Consortium for Interacting Minds	2022
	University of Virginia, Social Psychology Brown Bag	2022
	Princeton University, Measuring Belief Systems Conference	2022
	Microsoft Research (MSR NYC) Speaker Series	2022
	Princeton University, What is Belief Seminar Series	2022
	Quebec AI Institute (Mila), Reinforcement learning & decision-making (RLDM)	2022
	SPSP Preconference on Collective Cognition, San Francisco, CA	2022
	Cognitive Science: Comparative Cognition, Vienna, Austria	2021
	APS Virtual Convention	2021
	University of Colorado Boulder, Clauset Lab Meeting	2021
	Association for Psychological Science, Virtual Convention	2021
	Cognitive Seminar, Princeton University, NJ	2021
	Cognitive Science: Learning in Humans, Animals, and Machines, Canada	2020

32nd APS Annual Convention Society, Chicago, IL	2020
Central European University, Research Seminar, Vienna, Austria	2020
Cognitive Science Conference, Toronto, Canada	2020
Princeton University, Judgement and Decision Making class, NJ	2020
Humboldt Universität zu Berlin, Collective Information Processing workshop,	2020
International Convention of Psychological Science, Paris, France	2019
Princeton University, Cognitive Seminar, NJ	2019
Princeton University, Cognitive Science Seminar, NJ	2019
30th APS Annual Convention Society, San Francisco, CA	2018
Rutgers University, Cognitive Grad Seminar, New Brunswick, NJ	2018
Princeton University, Cognitive Seminar, NJ	2018
Princeton University, Five College Conference, NJ	2018
Princeton University, Cognitive Seminar, NJ	2018
Cognitive Science: Computational Foundations of Cognition, London, UK	2017
Five College Conference, New York, NY	2017
Princeton University, Cognitive Seminar, NJ	2017
Society for Personality and Social Psychology (SPSP), San Diego, CA	2016
Eastern Washington University, NCUR, Spokane, WA	2015

ACADEMIC SUPERVISION

Ph.D. students: Michael Berkebile-Weinberg (NYU), Danielle Goldwert (NYU), Ali Javeed (NYU), Nick Fendinger (NYU), Evelina Bao (NYU), Andrea Scatolon (University of Trento)

M.A. students: Ke Fang (NYU), Rebekah Zhang (NYU)

B.A students: Yash Patel (NYU), Runji Gao (NYU), Angel Xing (NYU), Olivia Sun (NYU), Rachel Tang (NYU), Debby Cheng (Princeton), Tife Aladesuru (Princeton), Arielle Mindel (Princeton), Dana Harris (Princeton), Paula Gradu (Princeton), Charlotte Notaras (Princeton), Lila Abreu (Princeton), Rebecca Blevins (Princeton), Maygen Kerner (Princeton), Vansh Bansal (Princeton)

High School students: Cristian Dinuta, Denisa Vlasceanu, Sebasstian Adriano, Abigail Lin

SERVICE

Associate Editor   2022-present
- Computational Social Psychology – *Frontiers in Social Psychology*

Guest Editor   2024
- *Current Opinion in Behavioral Sciences*

Panels
- Psychology Coalition at the United Nations (PCUN)   2024
- SPSP United Nations Committee   2024
- International Panel on the Information Environment (IPIE)   2023
- SPSP Demystifying Tenure professional development panel   2023
- Princeton University Academic Careers professional development panel   2023
- NYU Diversity Equity, and Inclusion workshop for doctoral applicants   2022
- NYU Doctoral Application workshop for master's students   2022
- Anti-Racist Psychological Research Conference, Princeton University   2021
- Emerging Scholars of Psychological Science, Princeton Talk Series   2021
- Good Judgement, Princeton University   2018

Committees

- NYU PhD dissertation committee   2022-2024
  - Rachel Leshin
  - Aashna Poddar
  - Jeffrey Berg
  - Oana Dumitru
  - Michael Berkebile-Weinberg
  - SunYoung Kim
  - Nick Fendinger
  - Claire Roberson
  - Katherine Mason
  - Danielle Goldwert
  - Kayley Okst
- NYU Education Policy Committee   2024
- NYU Psychology Social Cognition Faculty Search Committee   2024
- NYU Psychology Social Faculty Search Committee   2023
- NYU Psychology Cognition and Perception Faculty Search Committee   2023
- DURF (Dean's Undergraduate Research Fund) Psychology selection committee   2022
- NYU Psychology PhD application selection committee   2021
- Graduate Student Government Executive Board, Princeton University 2020
- Code of Conduct committee, Princeton University   2019
- Graduate Fellow, Program in Cognitive Science, Princeton University   2018
- Graduate student interview organizing committee, Princeton University   2017

Invited Reviewer   2020-present
- *Nature Communications, Nature Human Behaviour, PNAS, PNAS Nexus, Psychological Science, Journal of Experimental Psychology: General, Perspectives on Psychological Science, Topics in Cognitive Science, Scientific Reports, British Journal of Social Psychology, Global Environmental Change, Climate Policy, Social Cognitive and Affective Neuroscience, Memory, Memory and Cognition, Journal of Applied Research in Memory and Cognition, Cognitive Science, Social Influence, Group Processes & Intergroup Relations, Personality and Social Psychology Bulletin, Applied Psychology: Health and Well-Being, Journal on Data Science, PLOS One, Applied Cognitive Psychology, Humanities and Social Sciences Communications, Scientific Data, Behavior Research Methods*

OTHER WORK EXPERIENCE	Research mentor for students with underrepresented backgrounds **Polygence**	2020-2021
	Research intern **Microsoft Research NYC**	summer 2021

SKILLS		
	Softwares:	R, Python, LATEX, HTML, Qualtrics, Microsoft Office, Keynote, OSF
	Tools:	Project management, experimental design, scientific writing, fMRI
	Languages:	English (fluent), Spanish (fluent), Romanian (native)