

# Christopher Welker

Post-Doctoral Research Associate, Department of Psychology  
University of Virginia, Charlottesville, VA

## EDUCATION

- 
- Dartmouth College, Psychological and Brain Sciences**, Hanover, NH 2025  
Ph.D. in Psychological and Brain Sciences  
Advisor: Dr. Thalia Wheatley
- Cornell University, College of Arts & Sciences**, Ithaca, NY 2018  
Bachelor of Arts in Psychology *magna cum laude* with Distinction in All Subjects

## ACADEMIC POSITIONS

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- Post-Doctoral Researcher, Dr. Adrienne Wood**, University of Virginia July 2025 - Present  
**Lab Manager, Dr. Thalia Wheatley**, Dartmouth College July 2018-July 2019

## JOURNAL PUBLICATIONS

- 
- Shen, Y.\*, Hyon, R.\*, Wheatley, T., Kleinbaum, A., **Welker, C.**, & Parkinson, C. (2025). Neural similarity predicts whether strangers become friends. *Nature Human Behavior*.
- Welker, C.**, Wheatley, T., & Meyer, M. (2025). Reply to Izuma and Kakinuma: Conversation aligns self-views above and beyond noise reduction. *Proceedings of the National Academy of Sciences*, 122 (27) e2508437122.
- Welker, C.**, Wheatley, T., Cason, G., Gorman, C., & Meyer, M. (2024). Self-views converge during enjoyable conversations. *Proceedings of the National Academy of Sciences*, 121(43), e2321652121.
- Sievers, B., **Welker, C.**, Hasson, U., Kleinbaum, A. M., & Wheatley, T. (2024). Consensus-building conversation leads to neural alignment. *Nature Communications*, 15(1), 3936.
- Welker, C.**, Walker, J. T., Boothby, E. J., & Gilovich, T. (2023). Pessimistic assessments of ability in informal conversation. *Journal of Applied Social Psychology*. 1-15.

## PEER-REVIEWED CONFERENCE PROCEEDINGS

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- Mahaphanit, W.\*, **Welker, C.\***, Schmidt, H., Chang, L., & Hawkins, R. (2024). When and why does shared reality generalize? *Proceedings of the 46<sup>th</sup> Annual Conference of the Cognitive Science Society*.
- Mahaphanit, W., **Welker, C.**, Schmidt, H., Chang, L., & Hawkins, R. (2024). How does shared reality generalize? *Proceedings of the 2024 Conference on Cognitive Computational Neuroscience*.
- Xu, B., Chang, P.F., **Welker, C. L.**, Bazarova, N., & Cosley, D. (2016). Automatic archiving versus default deletion: What Snapchat tells us about ephemerality in design. Presented at *The 19th ACM Conference on Computer-Supported Cooperative Work and Social Computing (CSCW)*, San Francisco, USA.

## MANUSCRIPTS IN PREPARATION

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- Elfenbein, H. A., Jang, D., Kleinbaum, A., & **Welker, C.** (*under review*). The choice that chooses you back: Introducing social variety-seeking as a trait predicting greater network brokerage through building connections with previously disconnected others.
- Boker, S., **Welker, C.**, Jingyun, W., & Chadha, S. (*under review*). Software for parameter selection for Windowed Cross Correlation.
- Finn, K. R., **Welker, C.**, Atkisson, C., Nathman, A., Vandeleeest, D'Souza, R., & McCowan, B. (*under review*). Multilayer mating strategies: So you've got the moves but have you got the touch?
- Welker, C.**, Templeton, E., & Wheatley, T. (*in prep*). The affective benefits of social diversity.
- Mahaphanit, W.\*, **Welker, C.\***, Schmidt, H., Chang, L.J., & Hawkins, R.D. (*in prep*). When & why do we infer commonalities in social interactions?
- Welker, C.**, & Wheatley, T. (*in prep*). Trading faces: Complete computer generated faces seem more alive than those with human eyes. <https://psyarxiv.com/pykjr/>

\*Shared first author

Advisees are underlined

## INVITED TALKS

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- Welker, C.** (2026). Loneliness, social isolation, and health. Presented at Head for the Hills CME Conference, Marion, VA.
- Welker, C.** (2026). Connecting through conversation: How conversation facilitates social connection via belief alignment. Presented at Contagion Science Seminar Series, Biocomplexity Institute, University of Virginia.
- Welker, C.** (2026). Self-views converge during conversation. Presented at Behavioral Science Across Grounds Conference, Darden School of Business.
- Welker, C.** (2026). Connecting through conversation: How conversation facilitates social connection via belief alignment. Presented at Social Psychology Brown Bag, Department of Psychology, University of Virginia.
- Welker, C.** (2025). Conversation: A tool to normalize our thoughts. Presented at the Shared Reality Virtual Conference, virtual.
- Welker, C.** (2025). Self-views converge during enjoyable conversations. Presented to The Hebrew University of Jerusalem Social Cognitive Neuroscience Lab (PI – Anat Perry), virtual.
- Welker, C.** (2024). Self-views converge during enjoyable conversations. Presented to USC Social Connection Lab (PI – Elisa Baek), virtual.
- Welker, C.** (2022). Social flexibility within and across conversations. Presented to UVA Emotion and Behavior Lab (PI – Adrienne Wood), virtual.

## CONFERENCE TALKS

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- Welker, C.** (2026). Social Contexts Shape the Self Concept. Presented at the Society for Affective Science Annual Meeting, Pittsburgh, PA.
- Welker, C.,** Tsang, S., Park, S., Oishi, S., Wood, A. (2026). Building belonging: Friends of friends as a pathway to post-move well-being. Presented at the Happiness and Well-being Preconference at the Society for Personality and Social Psychology Annual Convention, Chicago, IL.
- Welker, C.\***, Mahaphanit, W.\*, Schmidt, H., Chang, L., & Hawkins, R. (2025). When and why does shared reality generalize? Presented at the Annual Meeting of the Academy of Management, Copenhagen, Denmark.
- Welker, C.\***, Mahaphanit, W.\*, Schmidt, H., Chang, L., & Hawkins, R. (2025). When and why does shared reality generalize? Presented at the Annual Conference of the International Association for Conflict Management, Burlington, VT.
- Welker, C.\***, Mahaphanit, W.\*, Schmidt, H., Chang, L., & Hawkins, R. (2024). When and why does shared reality generalize? Presented at the Shared Reality Virtual Conference, virtual.
- Welker, C.,** Wheatley, T., Cason, G., Gorman, C., & Meyer, M. (2024). Personalities temporarily align during enjoyable conversations. Presented at the Computational Psychology Preconference at the Society for Personality and Social Psychology Annual Convention, San Diego, CA.
- Welker, C.,** Wheatley, T., & Meyer, M. (2023). Personalities temporarily align during enjoyable conversations. Presented at the Shared Reality Preconference at the Society for Personality and Social Psychology Annual Convention, Atlanta, GA.
- Welker, C.,** Templeton, E., & Wheatley, T. (2023). The affective benefits of social diversity hinge on emotional stability. Presented at the Society of Personality and Social Psychology Annual Convention, Atlanta, GA.
- Welker, C.,** Walker, J. T., Boothby, E. J., & Gilovich, T. (2022). Pessimistic assessments of conversational ability. Presented at the Annual Conference of the International Association for Conflict Management, Ottawa, Canada.
- Fam, M., **Welker, C.,** & Wheatley, T. (2022). Comparing centrality and behavior between online and in-person social networks. Presented at Bringing Intragroup Processes back to Social Psychology Preconference at the Society for Personality and Social Psychology Annual Convention, virtual.
- Welker, C.,** Wheatley, T., France, D., Reid, G., & Rothkoph, J. (2020). Witness Protection with VFX and Machine Learning in "Welcome to Chechnya." Panel Discussion at Independent Filmmaker Project (IFP) Week 2020, virtual.
- Welker, C.** Walker, J. & Gilovich, T. (2018). Nice to meet you? The fraughtness of initial interactions and small talk. Presented at The Cornell Undergraduate Psychology (CUP) Conference, Ithaca, NY, USA.

## GUEST LECTURES

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- Welker, C.** (2025). Friendship. Guest lecture for PSYC2600, Charlottesville, VA.
- Welker, C.** (2025). Social networks and self-perceptions. Guest lecture for PSYC3500, Charlottesville, VA.
- Welker, C.** (2024). Personality in conversation. Guest lecture for PSYC1, Hanover, NH.
- Welker, C.** (2022). The anatomy of a paper. Guest lecture for PSYC177, Hanover, NH.
- Welker, C.** (2022). The anatomy of a paper. Guest lecture for PSYC63, Hanover, NH.
- Welker, C.** (2022). Personality in conversation. Guest lecture for PSYC1, Hanover, NH.
- Welker, C.** (2020). Correlation and regression. Guest lecture for PSYC10, Hanover, NH.
- Welker, C.** (2019). Identity disorders. Guest lecture for PSYC24, Hanover, NH.

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## GRANTS & AWARDS

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<b>Large Seed Grant (\$100,000)</b> , Thriving Youth in a Digital Environment Initiative	2025
<b>Travel Grant</b> , The Neukom Institute for Computational Science	2025
<b>Marie A. Center 1982 Award for Excellence in Teaching</b> , Dartmouth Department of Psychological and Brain Sciences	2024
<b>Guarini Travel Award</b> , Guarini School of Graduate and Advanced Studies	2024
<b>Student Professional Development Support Grant</b> , Dartmouth Graduate Student Council	2024
<b>Travel Grant</b> , The Neukom Institute for Computational Science	2023
<b>Guarini Travel Award</b> , Guarini School of Graduate and Advanced Studies	2022
<b>Student Professional Development Support Grant</b> , Dartmouth Graduate Student Council	2022
<b>Graduate Travel Award</b> , Society for Personality and Social Psychology	2022
<b>Einhorn Discovery Grant</b> , Cornell University	2018
<b>Halpern and Rosevear Undergraduate Research Grant</b> , Cornell University	2018

## ADDITIONAL EMPLOYMENT & RELATED EXPERIENCE

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<b>Research Assistant, Dr. Amy Krosch</b> , Cornell University	Aug. 2017-May 2018
<b>Lab Manager/Honors Student, Dr. Thomas Gilovich</b> , Cornell University	Aug. 2015 – May 2018
<b>Research Assistant, Dr. Natalie Bazarova</b> , Cornell University	Nov. 2014 – Jul. 2015

## SERVICE

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<b>Member of Annual Survey Committee</b> , Dartmouth College	Aug. 2021 – 2025
<b>Dartmouth PBS Peer Mentor</b> , Dartmouth College	Aug. 2020 – 2025
<b>Organizer/Founder of Research Assistant Lab Meetings</b> , Dartmouth College	Sept. 2018 – 2025
<b>Reviewer for SPSP Graduate Travel Award</b> , Virtual	Sept. 2022
<b>Co-organizer of Social Brain Talk Series (SBS)</b> , Dartmouth College	Aug. 2020 – Aug. 2021
<b>Co-organizer of Social Lab workshop series (SLAB)</b> , Dartmouth College	Aug. 2020 – Aug. 2021
<b>Co-leader of Graduate Research Roundtable (GRR)</b> , Dartmouth College	Aug. 2020 – Aug. 2021

## TEACHING EXPERIENCE

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Experimental Study of Human Interaction – TA  
Laboratory in Psychological Science – TA  
Experimental Design, Methodology, and Data Analysis Procedures – TA  
Abnormal Psychology – TA

## COURSES PREPARED TO TEACH

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Research Methods & Experimental Design; Graduate & Undergraduate Statistics; Social Psychology;  
Social & Affective Neuroscience; Social Network Analysis; Introduction to Programming in R and Python

## PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT

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<b>Future Faculty Series</b> , University of Virginia	2025
<b>Future Faculty Teaching Workshop Series</b> , Dartmouth College	2025
<b>MIND Summer School</b> , Dartmouth College	2023
<b>Center for Cognitive Neuroscience Workshop</b> , Dartmouth College	2019
<b>Center for Cognitive Neuroscience Workshop</b> , Dartmouth College	2018

## AD HOC REVIEWING

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Social Cognitive and Affective Neuroscience, Behavior Research Methods, Personality and Social Psychology Bulletin,  
Humanities and Social Sciences Communications, Journal of Theoretical Social Psychology, Academy of Management, New Ideas  
in Psychology

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