Christopher Welker

Post-Doctoral Research Associate, Department of Psychology
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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

RESEARCH EXPERIENCE

Post-Doctoral Research Associate, Dr. Adrienne Wood (Social Psychology), University of Virginia   July 2025 - Present

Lab Manager, Dr. Thalia Wheatley (Social Neuroscience), Dartmouth   July 2018-July 2019

Research Assistant, Dr. Amy Krosch (Social Neuroscience), Cornell   Aug. 2017-May 2018

Lab Manager/Honors Student, Dr. Thomas Gilovich (Social Psychology), Cornell   Aug. 2015 – May 2018

Research Assistant, Dr. Natalie Bazarova (Communications), Cornell   Nov. 2014 – Jul. 2015

JOURNAL PUBLICATIONS

Shen, Y.*, Hyon, R.*, Wheatley, T., Kleinbaum, A., **Welker, C.**, & Parkinson, C. (*in press*). 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.

PUBLISHED CONFERENCE PROCEEDINGS

Mahaphanit, W.*, **Welker, C.***, Schmidt, H., Chang, L., & Hawkins, R. (2024). When and why does shared reality generalize? *Proceedings of the 46th 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.

*Shared first author
Advisees are underlined

MANUSCRIPTS UNDER REVIEW

Elfenbein, H. A., Jang, D., Kleinbaum, A., & **Welker, C.** (2025). The choice that chooses you back: Introducing social variety-seeking as a trait predicting greater network brokerage through building connections with previously disconnected others.

Finn, K. R., **Welker, C.**, Atkisson, C., Nathman, A., Vandeleest., D'Souza, R., & McCowan, B. (2025). Multilayer mating strategies: So you've got the moves but have you got the touch?

MANUSCRIPTS IN PREPARATION

Welker, C., Templeton, E., & Wheatley, T. (expected 2025). The affective benefits of social diversity.

Mahaphanit, W.*, **Welker, C.***, Schmidt, H., Chang, L.J., & Hawkins, R.D. (expected 2025). When & why do we infer commonalities in social interactions?

PREPRINTS

Welker, C., & Wheatley, T. (2020). Trading faces: Complete computer generated faces seem more alive than those with human eyes.

TALKS

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. (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. (2024). Self-views in conversation. Guest lecture for PSYC1, Hanover, NH.

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. (2022). The anatomy of a paper. Guest lecture for PSYC177, Hanover, NH.

Welker, C. (2022). Personality in conversation. Guest lecture for PSYC1, Hanover, NH.

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.

Welker, C. (2022). Social flexibility within and across conversations. Presented to UVA Emotion and Behavior Lab (PI – Adrienne Wood), virtual.

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.

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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.

Wood, A., **Welker, C**., Kleinbaum, A., & Wheatley, T. (2020). Using behavior at a cocktail party to predict future social network position. Presented at the Society of Personality and Social Psychology Annual Convention, New Orleans, LA.

Sievers, B., **Welker, C**., Kleinbaum, A., & Wheatley, T. (2019). Tracking neural alignment due to natural conversation. Presented at the Society for Neuroscience Annual Meeting, Chicago, IL.

Boothby, E., Walker, J., **Welker, C**., & Gilovich, T. (2019, February). The fraughtness of everyday conversation: Other-serving attributions for the high and low points of informal conversation. Presented at the Society of Personality and Social Psychology Annual Convention, Portland, OR.

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.

POSTERS

Welker, C. & Wheatley, T. (2025). Recalling diverse conversations makes people feel part of a larger social network. Presented at the Social Cognition Preconference at the Society for Personality and Social Psychology Annual Convention, Denver, CO, USA.

Welker, C., Wheatley, T., & Meyer, M. (2023). Personalities temporarily align during enjoyable conversations. Presented at the Self & Identity Preconference at the Society for Personality and Social Psychology Annual Convention, Atlanta, GA, USA.

Welker, C., Templeton, E., & Wheatley, T. (2022). The affective benefits of social diversity. Presented at the 2022 Society for Affective Science Annual Meeting, virtual.

Welker, C., Templeton, E., & Wheatley, T. (2022). The affective benefits of diversified social interaction. Presented at the 2022 Society for Personality and Social Psychology Annual Convention, San Francisco, CA, USA.

Welker, C., Wheatley, T., & Meyer, M. (2021). When two become one: Personalities align when conversation partners connect. Presented at the 2021 Society for Personality and Social Psychology Annual Convention, Virtual.

Welker, C. & Wheatley, T. (2020). Two distinct routes to friendship: Concentrated and diversified social interaction patterns predict social centrality. Presented at the 2020 Society for Personality and Social Psychology Annual Convention, New Orleans, LA, USA.

Welker, C. Walker, J. and 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.

Welker, C. Walker, J. and Gilovich, T. (2018). Silence is not golden: The fraughtness of everyday conversation. Presented at the Judgement and Decision Making Preconference of the 2018 Society for Personality and Social Psychology Annual Convention, Atlanta, GA, USA.

GRANTS & AWARDS

Travel Grant, The Neukom Institute for Computational Science	2025
Marie A. Center 1982 Award for Excellence in Teaching, Dartmouth Department of Psychological and Brain Sciences	2024
Guarini Travel Award, Guarini School of Graduate and Advanced Studies	2024
Student Professional Development Support Grant, Dartmouth Graduate Student Council	2024
Travel Grant, The Neukom Institute for Computational Science	2023
Guarini Travel Award, Guarini School of Graduate and Advanced Studies	2022
Student Professional Development Support Grant, Dartmouth Graduate Student Council	2022
Graduate Travel Award, Society for Personality and Social Psychology	2022
Einhorn Discovery Grant, Cornell University	2018
Halpern and Rosevear Undergraduate Research Grant, Cornell University	2018

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SERVICE

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

TEACHING EXPERIENCE

Experimental Study of Human Interaction – TA

Laboratory in Psychological Science – TA

Experimental Design, Methodology, and Data Analysis Procedures – TA
Abnormal Psychology – TA

PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT

Future Faculty Teaching Workshop Series, Dartmouth College	2025
MIND Summer School, Dartmouth College	2023
Center for Cognitive Neuroscience Workshop, Dartmouth College	2019
Center for Cognitive Neuroscience Workshop, Dartmouth College	2018

AD HOC REVIEWING

Social Cognitive and Affective Neuroscience, Behavior Research Methods, Humanities and Social Sciences Communications, Journal of Theoretical Social Psychology, Academy of Management

SKILLS

Experienced with R, Python, Bash, and Matlab • fMRI data collection & analysis • Proficient in Qualtrics, PsychoPy, & Prolific

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