

Christopher Welker

Postdoctoral 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 <i>magna cum laude</i> with Distinction in All Subjects	

ACADEMIC POSITIONS

Postdoctoral Research Associate , University of Virginia	July 2025 – Present
Lab Manager , Dartmouth College	July 2018 – July 2019

JOURNAL PUBLICATIONS

- Jang, D., **Welker, C.**, & Le, D. Q. (2026). Negotiation across the social sciences: An interdisciplinary review. *Current Opinion in Psychology*, 73, 102384.
- Shen, Y.*, Hyon, R.*, Wheatley, T., Kleinbaum, A., **Welker, C.**, & Parkinson, C. (2025). Neural similarity predicts whether strangers become friends. *Nature Human Behaviour*, 9(11), 2285–2298.
- 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*, 53, 555–569.

PEER-REVIEWED 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. *Proceedings of the 19th ACM Conference on Computer-Supported Cooperative Work and Social Computing (CSCW)*.

UPCOMING MANUSCRIPTS

- Mahaphanit, W.*, **Welker, C.***, Schmidt, H., Chang, L., & Hawkins, R. (*under review*). Generalized shared reality arises in brief interactions from structured social inferences about commonality. https://osf.io/preprints/psyarxiv/3xzpe_v2
- Boker, S., **Welker, C.**, Wu, J., & Chadha, S. (*under review*). Software for parameter selection for windowed cross-correlation.
- 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. https://papers.ssrn.com/sol3/papers.cfm?abstract_id=4575592
- Welker, C.**, Tsang, S., Park, S., Oishi, S., & Wood, A. (*in prep*). Building belonging: Friends of friends as a pathway to post-move well-being.
- Welker, C.***, Vyas, A.*, Wheatley, T., & Meyer, M. (*in prep*). Deep conversations reduce perceived interpersonal distance among lonely people.
- Welker, C.**, Hughes, B., & Wood, A. (*in prep*). Social relationships shape the self-concept.
- Welker, C.**, Templeton, E., & Wheatley, T. (*in prep*). The affective benefits of social diversity.
- Welker, C.**, France, D., Henty, A., & 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

- Welker, C.** (2026). Loneliness, social isolation, and health. Presented at the Head for the Hills CME Conference, Marion, VA.
- Welker, C.** (2026). Connecting through conversation: How conversation facilitates social connection via belief alignment. Presented at the Contagion Science Seminar Series, Biocomplexity Institute, University of Virginia.
- Welker, C.** (2026). Self-views converge during conversation. Presented at the 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 the 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 the USC Social Connection Lab (PI – Elisa Back), virtual.
- Welker, C.** (2022). Social flexibility within and across conversations. Presented to the UVA Emotion and Behavior Lab (PI – Adrienne Wood), virtual.

CONFERENCE TALKS

- Welker, C.** (2026). Social interactions and relationships shape the self-concept. Presented at the Society of Experimental Social Psychology Annual Meeting, Montreal, Canada.
- 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 for 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 the 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., & Rothkopf, 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.

GUEST LECTURES

- 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

Second Place Speaker , UVA & Virginia Tech Postdoctoral Research Symposium Lightning Talk Competition	2026
Large Seed Grant (\$100,000) , Thriving Youth in a Digital Environment Initiative	2025
'Good Life' Data Challenge Awardee , Swiss Centre of Expertise in Life Course Research	2025
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

ADDITIONAL EMPLOYMENT & RELATED EXPERIENCE

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

SERVICE

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

TEACHING EXPERIENCE

Experimental Study of Human Interaction – TA , Dartmouth College	2022
Delivered guest lecture, held independent office hours, supervised student project groups	
Laboratory in Psychological Science – TA , Dartmouth College	2021
Held independent office hours, supervised student project groups, graded tests/assessments	
Experimental Design, Methodology, and Data Analysis Procedures – TA , Dartmouth College	2020
Delivered guest lecture, held independent office hours, supervised student project groups, graded tests/assessments	
Abnormal Psychology – TA , Dartmouth College	2019
Delivered guest lecture, held independent office hours, designed and graded tests/assessments	

COURSES PREPARED TO TEACH

Introductory Psychology; Social Psychology; Research Methods & Experimental Design; Statistics;
Social & Affective Neuroscience; Social Network Analysis; The Science of Connection

PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT

Future Faculty Series , University of Virginia	2025
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

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

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