

PSYC3030

Psychology Undergraduate Research Experience

Title of Project	Inner Speech and Social Identity Processes in Subjective Truth Determination
Supervisors	Prof Michael Platow, Dr Bradley Jack, Dr Li Qian Tay
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Expressions of Interest Due By	24 July 2026
Project Background	The illusory truth effect is a robust phenomenon in which people tend to judge repeated information as more true, regardless of its actual veracity. This tendency can potentially play a key role in the spread of lies and falsehoods—be it through social media, news sources, or everyday conversations. Nonetheless, much of the existing research remains silent on the role of social factors in this process. For this course, students will work with us to design and run a study to test whether the illusory truth effect is moderated by the social identity relevance of the claims in question. We will also investigate the cognitive mechanisms underlying this effect by examining the role of inner speech. This work can advance theoretical understandings of social and cognitive psychological processes and can provide insight into contemporary applied concerns regarding the nature of so-called partisan truth. For an introduction to subjective truth and inner speech, see: - Wang, C., Platow, M. J., & Newman, E. J. (2023). There is an 'I' in truth: How salient identities shape dynamic perceptions of truth. <i>European Journal of Social Psychology</i>, 53(2), 383-400. https://doi.org/10.1002/ejsp.2909 - Fernyhough, C., & Borghi, A. M. (2023). Inner speech as language process and cognitive tool. <i>Trends in cognitive sciences</i>, 27(12), 1180-1193. https://doi.org/10.1016/j.tics.2023.08.014
	We will meet collectively every semester week for two to three hours; additional time commitments will be required of students when data is being collected. Meetings and data collection will be strictly in-person on campus; there are no remote-delivery options. Meetings will be conducted in a seminar style, so there will be no lecture recordings nor lecture PowerPoint slides. Students will be expected to attend all meetings having completed the previous week's assignments (e.g., readings) and actively participate in group discussions.

Time and Duration of Project	Semester 2, 2026
Pre-requisites	Completion of PSYC2001 and PSYC2009
Proposed Assessment	Minimum requirements to pass this course: - Attend and actively engage in regular weekly meetings in a prepared manner. Graded assessments: - Research Ethics Application (individual mark) (30%) - Final Written Report (individual mark) (50%) - Professional Research Poster (group mark) (20%)
Any additional information	-
Places Available	5