# Curriculum Vitae Samuel G. B. Johnson

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### **Education**

ABD Ph.D., Yale University (Psychology)

Advisor: Frank C. Keil

2011 B.S., Northwestern University, magna cum laude

Thesis Advisors: Lance J. Rips (Cognitive Science) Fabrizio Cariani (Philosophy)

### **Peer-Reviewed Publications**

(\*Undergraduate that I mentored) (\*\*Joint first-authorship)

#### **Book Chapters**

**Johnson, S.G.B.**, & Ahn, W. (in press). Causal mechanisms. In M.R. Waldmann (Ed.). Oxford Handbook of Causal Reasoning. New York, NY: Oxford University Press.

#### **Journal Articles**

- Johnston, A.M.\*\*, **Johnson, S.G.B.**\*\*, Koven, M.L.\*, & Keil, F.C. (in press). Little Bayesians or little Einsteins? Probability and explanatory virtue in children's inferences. *Developmental Science*.
- **Johnson, S.G.B.**, Rajeev-Kumar, G.\*, & Keil, F.C. (2016). Sense-making under ignorance. *Cognitive Psychology*, 89, 39–70.
- Kim, N.S., Ahn, W., **Johnson, S.G.B.**, & Knobe, J. (2016). The influence of framing on clinicians' judgments of the biological basis of behaviors. *Journal of Experimental Psychology: Applied*, *22*, 39–47.
- **Johnson, S.G.B.**, & Ahn, W. (2015). Causal networks or causal islands? The representation of mechanisms and the transitivity of causal judgment. *Cognitive Science*, *39*, 1468–1503.
- **Johnson, S.G.B.**, & Rips, L.J. (2015). Do the right thing: The assumption of optimality in lay decision theory and causal judgment. *Cognitive Psychology*, 77, 42–76.
- **Johnson, S.G.B.**, & Keil, F.C. (2014). Causal inference and the hierarchical structure of experience. *Journal of Experimental Psychology: General*, *143*, 2223–2241.

### **Peer-Reviewed Conference Proceedings**

- Johnson, S.G.B. (2016). Explaining December 4, 2015: Cognitive science ripped from the headlines. In A. Papafragou, D. Grodner, D. Mirman, & J.C. Trueswell (Eds.), *Proceedings of the 38th Annual Conference of the Cognitive Science Society* (pp. 63–68). Austin, TX: Cognitive Science Society.
- Johnson, S.G.B., Kim, H.S.\*, & Keil, F.C. (2016). Explanatory biases in social categorization. In A. Papafragou, D. Grodner, D. Mirman, & J.C. Trueswell (Eds.), *Proceedings of the 38th Annual Conference of the Cognitive Science Society* (pp. 776–781). Austin, TX: Cognitive Science Society.
- **Johnson, S.G.B.**, Kim, K.\*, & Keil, F.C. (2016). The determinants of knowability. In A. Papafragou, D. Grodner, D. Mirman, & J.C. Trueswell (Eds.), *Proceedings of the 38th Annual Conference of the Cognitive Science Society* (pp. 1577–1582). Austin, TX: Cognitive Science Society.
- Johnson, S.G.B., Zhang, M.\*, & Keil, F.C. (2016). Decision-making and biases in causal-explanatory reasoning. In A. Papafragou, D. Grodner, D. Mirman, & J.C. Trueswell (Eds.), *Proceedings of the 38th Annual Conference of the Cognitive Science Society* (pp. 1967–1972). Austin, TX: Cognitive Science Society.
- de Freitas, J.\*\*, & **Johnson, S.G.B.**\*\* (2015). Behaviorist thinking in judgments of wrongness, punishment, and blame. In D.C. Noelle, R. Dale, A.S. Warlaumont, J. Yoshimi, T. Matlock, C.D. Jennings, & P.P. Maglio (Eds.), *Proceedings of the 37<sup>th</sup> Annual Conference of the Cognitive Science Society* (pp. 524–529). Austin, TX: Cognitive Science Society.
- Johnson, S.G.B., Merchant, T.\*, & Keil, F.C. (2015a). Argument scope in inductive reasoning: Evidence for an abductive account of induction. In D.C. Noelle, R. Dale, A.S. Warlaumont, J. Yoshimi, T. Matlock, C.D. Jennings, & P.P. Maglio (Eds.), *Proceedings of the 37<sup>th</sup> Annual Conference of the Cognitive Science Society* (pp. 1015–1020). Austin, TX: Cognitive Science Society.
- **Johnson, S.G.B.**, Merchant, T.\*, & Keil, F.C. (2015b). Predictions from uncertain beliefs. In D.C. Noelle, R. Dale, A.S. Warlaumont, J. Yoshimi, T. Matlock, C.D. Jennings, & P.P. Maglio (Eds.), *Proceedings of the 37<sup>th</sup> Annual Conference of the Cognitive Science Society* (pp. 1003–1008). Austin, TX: Cognitive Science Society.
- **Johnson, S.G.B.**, Rajeev-Kumar, G.\*, & Keil, F.C. (2015). Belief utility as an explanatory virtue. In D.C. Noelle, R. Dale, A.S. Warlaumont, J. Yoshimi, T. Matlock, C.D. Jennings, & P.P. Maglio (Eds.), *Proceedings of the 37<sup>th</sup> Annual Conference of the Cognitive Science Society* (pp. 1009–1014). Austin, TX: Cognitive Science Society.
- Johnston, A.M.\*\*, **Johnson, S.G.B.**\*\*, Koven, M.L.\*, & Keil, F.C. (2015). Probabilistic versus heuristic accounts of explanation in children: Evidence from a latent scope bias. In D.C. Noelle, R. Dale, A.S. Warlaumont, J. Yoshimi, T. Matlock, C.D. Jennings, & P.P. Maglio (Eds.), *Proceedings of the 37<sup>th</sup> Annual Conference of the Cognitive Science Society* (pp. 1021–1026). Austin, TX: Cognitive Science Society.
- **Johnson, S.G.B.**, Jin, A.\*, & Keil, F.C. (2014). Simplicity and goodness-of-fit in explanation: The case of intuitive curve-fitting. In P. Bello, M. Guarini, M. McShane, & B. Scassellati (Eds.), *Proceedings of the 36<sup>th</sup> Annual Conference of the Cognitive Science Society* (pp. 701–706). Austin, TX: Cognitive Science Society.

- **Johnson, S.G.B.**, Johnston, A.M., Toig, A.E.\*, & Keil, F.C. (2014). Explanatory scope informs causal strength inferences. In P. Bello, M. Guarini, M. McShane, & B. Scassellati (Eds.), *Proceedings of the 36<sup>th</sup> Annual Conference of the Cognitive Science Society* (pp. 2453–2458). Austin, TX: Cognitive Science Society.
- **Johnson, S.G.B.**, Rajeev-Kumar, G.\*, & Keil, F.C. (2014). Inferred evidence in latent scope explanations. In P. Bello, M. Guarini, M. McShane, & B. Scassellati (Eds.), *Proceedings of the 36<sup>th</sup> Annual Conference of the Cognitive Science Society* (pp. 707–712). Austin, TX: Cognitive Science Society.
- **Johnson, S.G.B.**, & Rips, L.J. (2014). Predicting behavior from the world: Naïve behaviorism in lay decision theory. In P. Bello, M. Guarini, M. McShane, & B. Scassellati (Eds.), *Proceedings of the 36<sup>th</sup> Annual Conference of the Cognitive Science Society* (pp. 695–700). Austin, TX: Cognitive Science Society.
- Johnson, S.G.B., & Rips, L.J. (2013). Good decisions, good causes: Optimality as a constraint on attribution of causal responsibility. In M. Knauff, M. Pauen, N. Sebanz, & I. Wachsmuth (Eds.), *Proceedings of the 35th Annual Conference of the Cognitive Science Society* (pp. 2662–2667). Austin, TX: Cognitive Science Society.

### **Manuscripts in Progress**

#### **Under Review**

- de Freitas, J.\*\*, & **Johnson, S.G.B.**\*\* Moral behaviorism. [revise/resubmit at *JEP: General*] **Johnson, S.G.B.**, Johnston, A.M., Koven, M.L.\*, & Keil, F.C. The natural order of mathematics is mirrored in the human mind. [revise/resubmit at *Psychological Science*]
- Johnston, A.M., Sheskin, M., **Johnson, S.G.B.**, & Keil, F.C. Preferences for explanation generality develop early in biology, but not physics. [revise/resubmit at *Child Development*]
- Kim, N.S., **Johnson, S.G.B.**, Ahn, W., & Knobe, J. When do people endorse biological explanations for behavior? The effect of abstract and concrete framing. [under review at *Cognitive Research: Principles and Implications*]

### **Working Papers**

- **Johnson, S.G.B.** Scrupulous stopping: Peeking at the data to reduce false positives.
- **Johnson, S.G.B.**, Jin, A.\*, & Keil, F.C. Complexity bias in a visual task: Abductive heuristics used in fitting curves to scatterplot data.
- **Johnson, S.G.B.**, & Keil, F.C. *Pluralism in causal learning strategies*.
- **Johnson, S.G.B.**, & Rips, L.J. Naive behaviorism: Predicting and understanding behavior without mental-state reasoning.
- Johnson, S.G.B., Zhang, J.\*, & Keil, F.C. Zero-sum thinking.

#### **Conference Presentations**

- **Johnson, S.G.B.** (2017). Zero-sum thinking. Poster presented at the 2017 Convention of the Society for Personality and Social Psychology. San Antonio, TX.
- **Johnson, S.G.B.** (2016). Explaining December 4, 2015: Cognitive science ripped from the headlines. Poster presented at the 38<sup>th</sup> Annual Conference of the Cognitive Science Society. Philadelphia, PA.
- **Johnson, S.G.B.**, Kim, H.S.\*, & Keil, F.C. (2016). Explanatory biases in social categorization. Poster presented at the 38<sup>th</sup> Annual Conference of the Cognitive Science Society. Philadelphia, PA.
- **Johnson, S.G.B.**, Kim, K.\*, & Keil, F.C. (2016). The determinants of knowability. Paper presented at the 38<sup>th</sup> Annual Conference of the Cognitive Science Society. Philadelphia, PA.
- **Johnson, S.G.B.**, Zhang, M.\*, & Keil, F.C. (2016). Decision-making and biases in causal-explanatory reasoning. Paper presented at the 38<sup>th</sup> Annual Conference of the Cognitive Science Society. Philadelphia, PA.
- Johnston, A.M., **Johnson, S.G.B.,** Koven, M.L., & Keil, F.C. (2016). Beyond truth-tracking: The development of explanatory preferences. Paper presented at the 2016 Budapest CEU Conference on Cognitive Development. Budapest, Hungary.
- Kim, N.S., Ahn, W., **Johnson, S.G.B.**, & Knobe, J. (2016). Framing influences clinicians' judgments of the biological and psychological bases of behaviors. Paper presented at the 2016 Meeting of the Eastern Psychological Association. New York, NY.
- Johnston, A.M., Sheskin, M., Johnson, S.G.B., & Keil, F.C. (2015). Development of explanation generality preferences across elementary and middle school. Poster presented at the 2015 Biennial Meeting of the Cognitive Development Society. Columbus, OH.
- de Freitas, J., & **Johnson, S.G.B.** (2015). Behaviorist thinking in judgments of wrongness, punishment, and blame. Poster presented at the 37<sup>th</sup> Annual Conference of the Cognitive Science Society. Pasadena, CA.
- **Johnson, S.G.B.**, Merchant, T.\*, & Keil, F.C. (2015). Argument scope in inductive reasoning: Evidence for an abductive account of induction. Poster presented at the 37<sup>th</sup> Annual Conference of the Cognitive Science Society. Pasadena, CA.
- **Johnson, S.G.B.**, Merchant, T.\*, & Keil, F.C. (2015). Predictions from uncertain beliefs. Paper presented at the 37<sup>th</sup> Annual Conference of the Cognitive Science Society. Pasadena, CA.
- **Johnson, S.G.B.**, Rajeev-Kumar, G.\*, & Keil, F.C. (2015). Belief utility as an explanatory virtue. Paper presented at the 37<sup>th</sup> Annual Conference of the Cognitive Science Society. Pasadena, CA.
- Johnston, A.M., **Johnson, S.G.B.**, Koven, M.L.\*, & Keil, F.C. (2015). Probabilistic versus heuristic accounts of explanation in children: Evidence from a latent scope bias. Poster presented at the 37<sup>th</sup> Annual Conference of the Cognitive Science Society. Pasadena, CA.

- **Johnson, S.G.B.**, Johnston, A.M., Koven, M.L. \*, & Keil, F.C. (2015). The explanatory function of mathematical knowledge. Poster presented at the 1st Annual International Convention of Psychological Science. Amsterdam, Netherlands.
- **Johnson, S.G.B.**, Jin, A. \*, & Keil, F.C. (2014). Simplicity and goodness-of-fit in explanation: The case of intuitive curve-fitting. Paper presented at the 36<sup>th</sup> Annual Conference of the Cognitive Science Society. Québec City, Canada.
- **Johnson, S.G.B.**, Johnston, A.M., Toig, A.E. \*, & Keil, F.C. (2014). Explanatory scope informs causal strength inferences. Poster presented at the 36<sup>th</sup> Annual Conference of the Cognitive Science Society. Québec City, Canada.
- **Johnson, S.G.B.**, Rajeev-Kumar, G.\*, & Keil, F.C. (2014). Inferred evidence in latent scope explanations. Paper presented at the 36<sup>th</sup> Annual Conference of the Cognitive Science Society. Québec City, Canada.
- **Johnson, S.G.B.**, & Rips, L.J. (2014). Predicting behavior from the world: Naïve behaviorism in lay decision theory. Paper presented at the 36<sup>th</sup> Annual Conference of the Cognitive Science Society. Québec City, Canada.
- **Johnson, S.G.B.**, & Rips, L.J. (2013). Good decisions, good causes: Optimality as a constraint on attribution of causal responsibility. Poster presented at the 35<sup>th</sup> Annual Conference of the Cognitive Science Society. Berlin, Germany.

### **Invited Talks**

2015 University of Chicago, Booth School of Business

# **Teaching and Mentoring Experience**

# Instructor, Yale University

2016	Developmental Psychology
	Course co-instructor (seminar style)
2015	Research Methods in Psychology
	Lectured, commented/graded papers, met with students

# **Teaching Fellow, Yale University**

2014	Statistics in Psychological Science (Instructor: Gregory Samanez-Larkin)
	Led lab section, met with students about projects and course content
2013	Developmental Psychology (Instructor: Frank Keil)
	Led group discussions, gave guest lecture, commented/graded papers
2013	Statistics in Psychological Science (Instructor: Jaime Napier)
	Led lab section, met with students about projects and course content
2012	Introduction to Psychology (Instructor: Paul Bloom)
	Held office hours, commented on reading responses

# Undergraduate Research Mentored (RAs, Interns, Thesis Students)

2016 Faith Hill (Vassar College '17)

"Explanatory inference in consumer behavior"

Clayton Olash (University of Kentucky '17)

"The ideological Turing test"

Amanda Royka (Yale University '18)

"Counterintuitive findings and folkscience"

J.J. Valenti (Johns Hopkins University '18)

"Simplicity and breadth of explanations"

Jiewen Zhang (University of California – Davis '19)

"Folk theories of economics"

2015 Haylie Kim (University of California – Berkeley '16)

"Stereotyping as sense-making"

Kristen Kim (Princeton University '16)

"Perceptions of the unknown"

Andrea Leal (Yale University '16)

"Principled abstention from controversial political issues"

Marianna Zhang (University of Chicago '18)

"Decision-making and explanatory reasoning"

2014 Nicole Burke (Northwestern University '15)

"Folk reductionism"

Marissa Koven (Emory University '15)

"Mathematical explanation"

Thomas Merchant (Brown University '17)

"Categories and explanation"

Greeshma Rajeev-Kumar (Yale University '16)

"Sense-making under ignorance"

2013 Andy Jin (University of North Carolina – Chapel Hill '15)

"Simplicity and complexity in intuitive curve-fitting"

Amy Toig (Wesleyan University '14)

"Explanatory power as a cue to causal strength"

# **Awards and Fellowships**

2011–17	Jack Kent Cooke Fellowship (\$50,000)
2016	SPSP Graduate Travel Award
2011-13	Sterling Prize Fellowship (\$5,000)
2011	Distinguished Senior Honors Thesis Award

### **Professional Affiliations**

American Psychological Association Association for Psychological Science Cognitive Science Society Society for Consumer Psychology Society for Personality and Social Psychology Society for Philosophy and Psychology

### **Professional Service**

Ad hoc journal reviewing:

British Journal of Social Psychology Cognition Cognitive Science Health Care Management Science Journal of Applied Statistics Review of Philosophy and Psychology

### Conference reviewing:

Cognitive Science Conference Society for Consumer Psychology Conference

### Program committee:

Cognitive Science 2016

#### **Institutional Service**

2013–16 Graduate Affiliate, Jonathan Edwards College, Yale University
 2012 Co-organizer, Graduate Interview Weekend, Yale Psychology Department

#### **Professional References**

Frank C. Keil Professor and Chair of Psychology, Yale University frank.keil@yale.edu, 203-432-2389

Lance J. Rips Professor of Psychology, Northwestern University rips@northwestern.edu, 847-491-5947

Dan Bartels
Associate Professor of Marketing, University of Chicago bartels@chicagobooth.edu, 773-702-8325

Woo-kyoung Ahn Professor of Psychology, Yale University woo-kyoung.ahn@yale.edu, 203-432-9626