

Overview of Beyond Conflict's Engagement with Brain and Behavioral Science

Since 2010, Beyond Conflict has led the way in bringing together the fields of brain and behavioral science, conflict resolution, and peacebuilding to foster new frameworks to address intractable conflict, violence, and social cohesion.

Beyond Conflict started this work in partnership with MIT and organized major conferences at the MIT media lab with leading scientists, practitioners, and policy makers.

Reports from the Beyond Conflict/MIT Conferences at the MIT Media Lab

- [Neuroscience and Social Conflict](#): Identifying New Approaches for the 21st Century. February 9-11, 2012
- [Dehumanization in Conflict](#). February 16-17, 2013
- [Norms, Narratives, and Neurons](#). March 15-16, 2014
- [Neuroscience and Peacebuilding](#): Reframing How We Think About Conflict and Prejudice. January 21-22, 2015

MIT Press Related to our Partnership

- [Seeking the neurological roots of conflict](#). MIT neuroscientists explore how longstanding conflict influences empathy for others. Anne Trafton, MIT News Office. January 23, 2012
- [Melissa Nobles named dean of SHASS](#). Political scientist and department head to lead School of Humanities, Arts, and Social Sciences. Peter Dizikes, MIT News Office. May 21, 2015
- [MRIs for a more peaceful world](#). Neuroscientists and political scientists join together to advance peace and reconciliation. Liz Karagianis, MIT Spectrum. July 9, 2015
- [It's all in our heads](#). Political science PhD student Marika Landau-Wells is using psychology and neuroscience to better understand political behavior. Sarah C. Baldwin, Department of Political Science. February 23, 2016

Research Initiated and Funded by Beyond Conflict:

Starting in 2010, Beyond Conflict started to engage brain and behavioral scientists to better understand what shapes human behavior with a focus on conflict and reconciliation. Over the past decade, BC focused this engagement on a set of critical challenges with the goal of initiating new research that can shape strategies and interventions, including:

1. Development of racial bias in children

- Developmental origins of anti-Black bias in White children in the United States: Exposure to and beliefs about racial inequality. Michael T. Rizzo, Tobias C. Britton, and Marjorie Rhodes. November 15, 2022
- Beliefs about social norms and racial inequalities predict variation in the early development of racial bias. Michael T. Rizzo, Emily R. Green, Yarrow Dunham, Emile Bruneau, Marjorie Rhodes. August 23, 2021

2. Deepening Identity-Based Polarization

- Biased Meta-Perceptions about Out-Partisans' Support for Democratic Characteristics May Erode Democratic Norms. Pasek, M.H., Ankori-Karlinsky, L. Levy-Vene, A., & Moore-Berg, S.L. 2022
- Christian no more: Christian Americans are threatened by their impending minority status. Rosemary L Al-Kire, MH. Pasek, JA Tsang, WC Rowatt. 2021
- Neural polarization and routes to depolarization.. Moore-Berg, S.L., Parelman, J.M., Lelkes, Y., & Falk, E. 2020
- The Partisan Penumbra: Political Partisans' Exaggerated Meta-Perceptions Predict Intergroup Hostility. Samantha L. Moore-Berg, Lee-Or Ankori-Karlinsky, Boaz Hameiri, Emile Bruneau. 2020
- Exaggerated meta-perceptions predict intergroup hostility between American political partisans. Samantha L. Moore-Berg, Lee-Or Ankori-Karlinsky, Boaz Hameiria, and Emile Bruneau. 2020
- The prime psychological suspects of toxic political polarization. Samantha L Moore-Berg, Boaz Hameiri and Emile Bruneau. 2020

3. Islamophobia, Anti-Immigration, and Collective Blame

- Reducing Islamophobia: An assessment of psychological mechanisms that underlie anti-Islamophobia media interventions. Samantha L. Moore-Berg, Boaz Hameiri, Emily Falk and Emile Bruneau. 2022
- Protecting America's borders: Christian nationalism, threat, and attitudes toward immigrants in the United States. R. L. Al-Kire, M. H. Pasek, J. Tsang, J. Leman, W. Rowatt. 2021
- Empathy, Dehumanization, and Misperceptions: A Media Intervention Humanizes Migrants and Increases Empathy for Their Plight but Only if Misinformation About Migrants Is Also Corrected. Samantha L. Moore-Berg, Boaz Hameiri, and Emile G. Bruneau. 2021
- The collective praise intervention: A brief intervention highlighting prosocial behavior reduces hostility towards Muslims. Roman A. Gallardo, Boaz Hameiri, Samantha L. Moore-Berg and Emile Bruneau. 2021
- Interventions Highlighting Hypocrisy Reduce Collective Blame of Muslims for Individual Acts of Violence and Assuage Anti-Muslim Hostility. Emile Bruneau, Nour Kteily, and Emily Falk. 2018
- Developmental origins of anti-Black bias in White children in the United States: Exposure to and beliefs about racial inequality. Michael T. Rizzo, Tobias C. Britton, and Marjorie Rhodes. November 15, 2022
- Beliefs about social norms and racial inequalities predict variation in the early development of racial bias. Michael T. Rizzo, Emily R. Green, Yarrow Dunham, Emile Bruneau, Marjorie Rhodes. August 23, 2021

4. Decoding Dehumanization

- Blatant dehumanization in the mind's eye: Prevalent even among those who explicitly reject it?. Christopher D Petsko, Ryan F Lei, Jonas R Kunst, Emile Bruneau, Nour Kteily. 2021
- Empathy, Dehumanization, and Misperceptions: A Media Intervention Humanizes Migrants and Increases Empathy for Their Plight but Only if Misinformation About Migrants Is Also Corrected. Samantha L. Moore-Berg, Boaz Hameiri, and Emile G. Bruneau. 2021

Research Initiated and Funded by Beyond Conflict:

4. Decoding Dehumanization cont.

- The Marionette's Threads: How the Tugs of Empathy and Dehumanization Can Lead to Intergroup Conflict. Emile Bruneau. In *The Brains That Pull the Triggers*. 2020
- Beyond dislike: Blatant dehumanization predicts teacher discrimination. Emile Bruneau, Hanna Szekeres, Nour Kteily, Linda R. Tropp and Anna Kende. 2020
- Intergroup Contact Reduces Dehumanization and MetaDehumanization: Cross-Sectional, Longitudinal, and Quasi-Experimental Evidence From 16 Samples in Five Countries. Emile Bruneau, Boaz Hameiri, Samantha L. Moore-Berg, and Nour Kteily. 2020
- Denying humanity: The distinct neural correlates of blatant dehumanization. Emile Bruneau, Nir Jacoby, Nour Kteily, Rebecca Saxe. 2018
- The Unique Effects of Blatant Dehumanization on Attitudes and Behavior towards Muslim Refugees during the European 'Refugee Crisis' Across Four Countries. Emile Bruneau, Nour Kteily, Lasse Laustsen. 2017

5. Research on Empathy, Narratives, and Identity

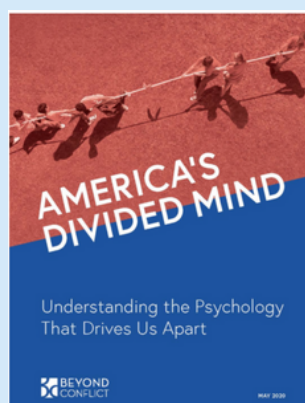
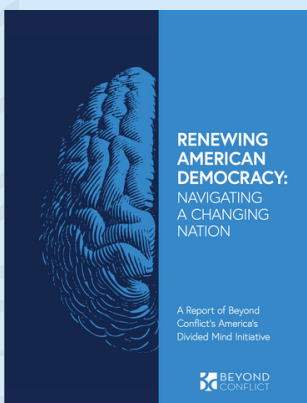
- Using Narrative Messages to Promote Prosocial Beliefs and Behaviors During the COVID-19 Pandemic. Andrews, M., Mattan, B.D., Richards, K., Moore-Berg, S.L., Falk, E. 2022
- When a Sense of "We" Is Lost: Investigating the Consequences of a Lost Common Identity Among Druze in Israel. Saguy, T., Sobol-Sarag, D., Halabi, S., Stroebe, K., Bruneau, E., & Hasan-Aslih, S. 2020
- Parochial Empathy Predicts Reduced Altruism and the Endorsement of Passive Harm. Emile G. Bruneau, Mina Cikara, and Rebecca Saxe. 2017

6. Case Studies on Cross-Sector Collaboration - Translating Science for Peace

- Translating science for peace: Benefits, challenges, and recommendations for conducting translational research. Moore-Berg, S.L., Bernstein, K., Gallardo, R., Hameiri, B., Littman, R., O'Neil, S., & Pasek, M.H. 2022

Reports and Publications

- "Decoding Dehumanization Policy Brief for Policymakers and Practitioners" Beyond Conflict, May 2019
- "America's Divided Mind: Understanding the Psychology That Drives Us Apart" Beyond Conflict, June 2020
- "Renewing American Democracy: Navigating A Changing Nation" Beyond Conflict, 2022
- "Story, Science, and Self-Care in a Refugee Community: Initial Impact of The Field Guide for Barefoot Psychology." Beyond Conflict, October 2020
- Jonathan Pinckney, Ph.D., Michael Niconchuk, Sarah Ryan "Motives, Benefits, and Sacred Values: Examining the Psychology of Nonviolent Action and Violent Extremism" Peaceworks, November 9, 2021
- "Issue Spotlight: Authoritarianism" Beyond Conflict, November 2021
- Bernstein, Karen and Barsa, Michelle "Brain and Behavioral Science-Informed Peacebuilding" in "Countering Hate and Violent Extremism" Peace Science Digest, Special Issue 2021
- "Integrating Mental Health and Psychosocial Support into Peacebuilding" Guidance Note, UNDP, May 2022



Beyond Conflict's Key Scientific Partners:

Beyond Conflict Research and Policy Advisory Committee

- Joshua Greene, Professor of Psychology at Harvard University
- Rebecca Saxe, Neuroscientist at MIT
- Linda Tropp, Director of the Intergroup Relations and Social Justice Lab and Professor of Social Psychology at UMass Amherst
- Judy Barsalou, President of the El-Hibri Foundation
- Melanie Cohen Greenberg, Director of Peacebuilding at Humanity United
- Rose McDermott, David and Mariana Fisher University Professor of International Relations at Brown University and a Fellow in the American Academy of Arts and Sciences
- Philip Rubin, President of the Federation of Associations in Behavioral and Brain Sciences

Beyond Conflict Innovation Fellows

- Emile G. Bruneau, University of Pennsylvania
- Marika Landau-Wells, Assistant Professor of Political Science at the University of California, Berkeley
- Evan DeFilippis, PhD Candidate in Organizational Behavior and Psychology at Harvard
- Elizabeth Herman, Borders and Boundaries postdoctoral fellow at the University of Pennsylvania
- Michael Niconchuk
- James Walsh, Postdoc Fellow at Harvard University's Moral Psychology Research Lab

Research Partners

Beyond Conflict is working with a distinguished group of social scientists, carrying out cutting edge research and developing real-world interventions.

Development of Racial Preference

- Michael T. Rizzo, Assistant Professor, University of Illinois
- Marjorie Rhodes, Professor of Psychology at NYU
- Steven O. Roberts, Associate Professor of Psychology at Stanford

Deepening Identity-Based Polarization

- Michael Pasek, Assistant Professor at the University of Illinois Chicago
- Samantha L. Moore-Berg, University of Pennsylvania
- Joshua Greene, Professor of Psychology at Harvard University
- Evan DeFilippis, PhD Candidate in Organizational Behavior and Psychology at Harvard
- Alex Landry, Ph.D. student at Stanford's Graduate School of Business
- Trisha Dehrone, PhD candidate at UMass Boston, Social Psychology
- James Walsh, Postdoc Fellow at Harvard University's Moral Psychology Research Lab
- Nir Eisikovits, Director of the Applied Ethics Center and Professor of Political Philosophy at UMass Boston
- Dana Miranda, Associate Professor of Philosophy at UMass Boston
- Fiery Cushman, Director of Harvard's Moral Psychology and Research Lab and Professor of Psychology
- Eric Knowles, NYU Assistant Professor of Psychology, Director of NYU Politics and Intergroup Relation Lab (PIRL)
- Nour Kteily, Northwestern University Professor of Management & Organizations, focus of conflict resolution
- Sam Perry, Associate Professor of Sociology at University of Oklahoma
- Larry Bobo, Harvard University Dean of Social Science, W. E. B. Du Bois Professor of the Social Sciences
- Diana Mutz, UPenn Samuel A. Stouffer Professor of Political Science and Communication, and Director of the Institute for the Study of Citizens and Politics
- Ashley Jardina, Associate Professor of Political Science at George Mason University
- Lilliana Mason, SNF Agora Institute Associate Professor of Political Science at Johns Hopkins University
- Justin Gest, Associate Professor of Policy and Government at George Mason University's Schar School of Policy and Government
- Jennifer Richeson, Yale Philip R. Allen Professor of Psychology, Director Social Perception and Communication Lab, member of President Biden's Council of Advisors on Science and Technology
- Maureen Craig, NYU Assistant Professor of Psychology, Director of Diversity and Social Process lab
- Clara Wilkins, Director of the Social Perceptions and Intergroup Relations lab and Associate Professor at the University of Washington

Decoding Dehumanization

- Emile G. Bruneau, University of Pennsylvania
- Rebecca Littman, Assistant Professor of Psychology. University of Illinois Chicago
- Boaz Hameiri, Tel Aviv University

Decoding Dehumanization cont.

- Nour Kteily, Northwestern University Professor of Management & Organizations, focus of conflict resolution
- Linda Tropp, Director of the Intergroup Relations and Social Justice Lab and Professor of Social Psychology at UMass Amherst
- Alexandra Scacco, Senior Research Fellow and Vice Director of the Institutions and Political Inequality unit at the Berlin Social Science Center

Trauma

- Wendy d'Andrea, The New School
- Sarah Bernabaum, The New School
- Veronika Engert, Max Planck Institute
- Biz Herman, Borders and Boundaries postdoctoral fellow at the University of Pennsylvania
- Bessel van der Kolk, professor of Psychiatry at Boston University School of Medicine and president of the Trauma Research Foundation
- Licia Sky, Co-Founder and CEO of the Trauma Research Foundation
- Sarah Ryan, social psychology lab manager at the University of Illinois, Chicago

Empathy, Narratives, and Identity

- Rebecca Saxe, Neuroscientist at MIT
- Marika Landau-Wells, Assistant Professor of Political Science at the University of California, Berkeley
- Susan Fiske, Eugene Higgins Professor of Psychology and Public Affairs in the Department of Psychology at Princeton University