

Ali Hajian

135 Hicks Way, Amherst, MA 01003 | ahajian@umass.edu | ali-hajiann.github.io

Education

University of Massachusetts Amherst, Ph.D., Social Psychology	Expected May 2029
University of Massachusetts Amherst, M.A., Social Psychology	Expected Summer 2026
University of Tehran, B.A., Psychology	January 2024

Publications

Peer-Reviewed Papers

Ruggeri, K., Stock, F., ... **Hajian, A.**, ... Willder, R. (2024). A synthesis of evidence for policy from behavioural science during COVID-19. *Nature*, 625(7993), 134–147. <https://doi.org/10.1038/s41586-023-06840-9>

Ruggeri, K., Panin, A., ... **Hajian, A.**, ... Vdovic, M. The globalizability of temporal discounting. (2022). *Nature Human Behavior*, 6(10), 1386–1397. <https://doi.org/10.1038/s41562-022-01392-w>

Manuscripts In Preparation

Zewail, A., Setia, A., Mohammadsadegh, R., Şeker, F., **Hajian, A.**, Sosa, H., Morhayim, L., Reddy, S., & Atari, M. (*Under Review*). The Cultural and Moral Expressions in Language (CAMEL) corpus.

Hajian, A., Liu, G., Seker, F., Zewail, A., Mohammadsadegh, R., Graham, J., Haidt, J., Atari, M. (*In Preparation; target: Personality and Social Psychology Bulletin*). Developing the Short Version of Moral Foundations Questionnaire-2 (MFQ-2-S)

Hajian, A., Tropp, L., Atari, M. (*In Preparation*). Anti-Muslim and Anti-Jewish Bias after October 7th, 2023

Hajian, A. & Atari, M. (*In Preparation*). Moral Rhetoric and Political Competition in the United States

Research Experience

Culture and Morality Lab (CaM-L) <i>Graduate Research Assistant</i>	Amherst, MA September 2024 – Present
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- Working with Telegram and VKontakte APIs to collect Russian language posts and messages to assess moral language use via NLP in the context of the Russo-Ukrainian conflict as part of my Master's thesis
- Conducted an empirical study to develop a short version of Moral Foundations Questionnaire-2, validating it across 10 populations
- Mentored Undergraduate RAs for the Culture and Moral Expressions in Language Annotation Project

Summer Institute in Computational Social Science <i>Summer Research Intern, University of Pennsylvania</i>	Philadelphia, PA June 2025 - July 2025
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- Attended lectures and workshops on computational methods, including natural language processing (NLP), machine learning, and network analysis
- Collaborated on a group research project using focusing on LLM accuracy in modeling cultural tightness-looseness

Social, Moral, and Political Psychology Lab <i>SPUR Research Intern, University of Toronto</i>	Toronto, Canada (Remote) June 2023 – December 2023
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- Collaborated on a project exploring how different risk attitudes are related to low-level bodily experience and high-level social beliefs (e.g., ideology)
- Presented preliminary results in Social-Personality Undergraduate Research Program (SPUR) conference at the end of the program

Junior Researcher Program; jSchool <i>Research Intern</i>	Remote July 2021 – April 2024
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- Attended workshops and professional development sessions as part of jSchool (lasting three weeks)

- Collaborated on an international project on perceived polarization in behavioral policy interventions (nudges)

Teaching Experience

University of Massachusetts Amherst	Amherst, MA
<i>Teaching Assistant, Methods of Inquiry in Psychology</i>	Fall 2024 & 2025
• Instructed and assessed 42 undergraduate students on formulating research questions and hypotheses, conducting statistical analyses, and mastering scientific writing techniques • Graded weekly assignments and final projects, and provided consistent feedback throughout the semester	
<i>Teaching Assistant, Forensic Psychology</i>	Spring 2025
<i>Teaching Assistant, Social Psychology; Group Processes and Intergroup Relations</i>	Spring 2026
• Oversaw lectures, held review sessions, proctored exams, and graded weekly assignments	

Conference Presentations

Hajian, A., Atari, M. (2025, February). The Moderating Effect of Gender on the Relationship Between Moral Foundations and Political Opinion in the U.S.. SPSP Annual Convention, Denver, CO. [Poster Presentation].	
Hajian, A., Tropp, L., Atari, M. (2026, February). How Violent Political Shocks Affect Outgroup Attitudes of Non-Involved Parties. SPSP Historical Psychology Preconference, Chicago, IL. [Poster Presentation].	
Hajian, A., Liu, G., Seker, F., Zewail, A., Mohammadsadegh, R., Graham, J., Haidt, J., Atari, M. (2026, February). Measuring Moral Pluralism Efficiently: Developing the Short Version of the Moral Foundations Questionnaire-2 (MFQ-2-S). SPSP Personality Science Preconference, Chicago, IL. [Poster Presentation].	
Hajian, A., Tropp, L., Atari, M. (2026, February). Anti-Jewish and Anti-Muslim Prejudice in the United States after October 7th, 2023. SPSP Annual Convention, Chicago, IL. [Poster Presentation].	

Ad-Hoc Reviewer

<i>Nature Communications</i>	2025
<i>PNAS Nexus</i>	2026

Service

Graduate Studies Committee, University of Massachusetts Amherst	Amherst, MA
<i>Member</i>	2025-2026
• Represented graduate students in departmental decision-making regarding policies and procedures	
Brownbag/SPAM Committee, University of Massachusetts Amherst	Amherst, MA
<i>Organizer</i>	2025-2026
• Found potential speakers for 2025-2026 Brownbag which align with department and student needs and priorities, organized visiting speakers' calendars and scheduled their travel and visitation itinerary	
Student Scientific Association of Psychology, University of Tehran	Tehran, Iran
<i>Director</i>	Fall 2020 - Fall 2022
• Oversaw and organized student orientations, scientific methods workshops, and social psychology journal clubs, in addition to inviting speakers to Association-held seminars	

Work Experience

VisaMondial	Tehran, Iran
<i>Immigrant Counselor</i>	March 2024 - August 2024
• Mental health and general counseling services for Iranian clients immigrating to Canada, in addition to content production (e.g., manuals and working papers, blogposts, podcast scripts)	

Honors & Awards

Edna M. Dahlquist Scholarship	Fall 2024
<i>Recipient</i>	

UMass GSG Research & Travel Grant

Spring 2025

Recipient

SPSP Jenessa Shapiro Graduate Research Award

Summer 2026

Recipient

Professional Affiliations

Society for Personality and Social Psychology (SPSP)

2024 - Present

International Society for Moral Psychology

2026 - Present