

Abigail (Abby) Cassario

PhD Student in Social/Personality Psychology
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Current Position

Graduate Student, The Belief Systems Lab, Department of Psychology, Michigan State University

Research Interests

Attitudes, Beliefs, Belief Systems, Survey Research, Observational Causal Inference, Computational Social Science

Education

- 2021 M.A. in Political Science, University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill
2019 B.A. in Political Science and Psychology, University of North Carolina at Asheville

Grants, Honors & Awards

- 2025 PolNet-PaCSS 2025 Graduate Student Fellowship
2022-2023 MSU Graduate Merit Assistantship

Publications

PEER REVIEWED PUBLICATIONS

- 2025 Wetherell, G., Thompson, J. L., **Cassario, A. L.**, Brandt, M. J., Gnall, S., Rice, S., Solanki, P., Vallabha, S., & Carrillo, A. (in press). Do mismatches between individual and target group personality predict prejudice? *Collabra: Psychology*.
- 2024 **Cassario, A. L.**, Vallabha, S., Thompson, J. L., Carrillo, A., Solanki, P., Gnall, S. A., Rice, S., Wetherell, G., & Brandt, M. J. (in press). Cognitive ability but not cognitive reflection predicts political animosity and favouritism. *British Journal of Social Psychology*.

- 2024 **Cassario, A. L.,** & Brandt, M. J. (in press). Testing theories of threat, individual difference, and ideology: Little evidence of personality-based individual differences in ideological responses to threat. *Social Psychological and Personality Science*.
- 2023 **Cassario, A. L. (2023).** Perceived vulnerability to infectious disease and perceived harmfulness are as predictive of citizen response to COVID-19 as partisanship. *Politics and the Life Sciences*, 42(2), 277–290.
- 2019 Cox, K. S., Hanek, K. J., & **Cassario, A. L.** (2019). Redemption in a single low point story longitudinally predicts well-being: The incremental validity of life story elements. *Journal of Personality*, 87(5), 1009–1024.

EDITOR REVIEWED PUBLICATIONS

- 2023 Brandt, M. J., & **Cassario, A. L.** (2023). Distinguishing between worldview conflict and shared alliances: Commentary on Pinsof, Sears, and Haselton. *Psychological Inquiry*, 34(3), 168–174.

ACCEPTED STAGE I REGISTERED REPORTS

- 2023 Thompson, J. L., **Cassario, A. L.,** Rice, S., Gnall, S. A., Carrillo, A., Solanki, P., Vallabha, S., Brandt, M. J., & Wetherell, G. (2023). Registered report: Stress testing predictive models of ideological prejudice. *PLOS ONE*.

UNDER REVIEW

- 2023 Rice, S., **Cassario, A.L.,** Solanki, P., Gnall, S.A., Thompson, J.L., Carrillo, A., Vallabha, S., Brandt, M.J., & Wetherell, G. (National) pride predicts prejudice towards a variety of social groups.
- 2024 **Cassario, A.L.,** Triki, A.[†], & Brandt, M.J., Threat exposure does not predict increased conservatism in three large experiments: Evidence from the U.S.

[†]Denotes mentored undergraduate student.

Current Projects

- 2025 **Cassario, A. L.,** Vallabha, S., & Brandt, M. J. (Ongoing). Central attitudes are more resistant to change.
- 2025 **Cassario, A. L.,** & Hawke, S. (Ongoing). Towards optimal resource allocation: Exploring resource optimization at the intersection of sample size vs. measurement precision in original survey research.
- 2024 **Cassario, A. L.,** & Brandt, M. J. (Ongoing). Conviction cascades: Moral conviction transmits through belief system network ties.

- 2024 Cassario, A. L., & Brandt, M. J. (Ongoing). Exploring the effects of downward mobility on attitudes, behaviors, and life outcomes.
- 2024 Cassario, A. L., Mulwa, K., & Brandt, M. J. (Ongoing). Does a competitive presidential campaign increase interest in, desire to consume, and desire to share misinformation?
- 2024 Cassario, A. L., Mulwa, K., & Brandt, M. J. (Ongoing). Asymmetrical perceptions? Do co- and out-partisans view Republicans as more likely to believe and be interested in misinformation?

Invited Talks

- 2025 Cassario, A. L. (2025, Spring). Moral conviction transmits through belief system ties. Invited talk at the Interdisciplinary Consortium on Moral Decision Making, Pennsylvania State University, State College, PA.
- 2025 Cassario, A. L. (2025, Spring). Moral conviction transmits through belief system ties. Invited talk at the Inequality Working Group Meeting (virtual).

Conference Presentations

- 2024 Cassario, A. L. (2024, February). Testing theories of threat, individual difference, and ideology: Little evidence of personality-based individual differences in ideological responses to threat. Poster presented at the *Society for Personality and Social Psychology (SPSP) Annual Convention*, San Diego, CA.
- 2023 Cassario, A. L., & Brandt, M. J. (2023, July). What is central to within-subjects political belief systems? Paper presented at the *International Society of Political Psychology (ISPP) Annual Conference*, Montreal, Canada.
- 2023 Cassario, A. L., & Brandt, M. J. (2023, May). What is central to within-subjects political belief systems? Paper presented at the *Midwest Psychological Association Annual Meeting*, Chicago, IL.
- 2023 Cassario, A. L., & Brandt, M. J. (2023, February). What is central to within-subjects political belief systems? Talk presented at the *SPSP Political Psychology Preconference*, Atlanta, GA.
- 2022 Cassario, A. L. (2022, July). Do distinct emotions reliably predict political engagement? Testing predictions from affective intelligence theory, basic emotions theories, causal appraisal theories, and psychological constructionism. Paper presented at the *ISPP Annual Meeting*, Athens, Greece.
- 2022 Cassario, A. L. (2022, April). Not all motivated reasoning is partisan: Personality and harm perceptions limit the influence of partisanship in shaping citizens' perceptions of COVID-19. Paper presented at the *Midwest Political Science Association (MPSA) Annual Meeting*, Chicago, IL.

- 2021 Cassario, A. L. (2021, July). Not all motivated reasoning is partisan: PVD and perceived harm limit partisan motivated reasoning about COVID-19. Virtual presentation at the *ISPP Annual Meeting*, Montreal, QC, Canada.
- 2020 Cassario, A. L. (2020, March). Moral partisan stereotypes vs. policy stereotypes in candidate evaluation. Accepted for presentation at the *North Carolina Cognition Society Annual Meeting*, Durham, NC (Canceled due to COVID-19).
- 2018 Cassario, A. L. (2018, March). Does the right-wing authoritarianism scale function differently in White American and African American samples? Maybe so. Poster presented at the *SPSP Political Psychology Preconference*, Atlanta, GA.

Teaching

Introduction to Social Psychology (MSU, instructor)
 Introduction to Personality Psychology (MSU, instructor)
 Psychology of Women (MSU, TA)
 Introduction to R Programming and Statistics (MSU, TA, section instructor)
 Introduction to American Politics (UNC, TA, section instructor)
 Introduction to R Programming and Statistics (UNC, Grader)
 Race, Innocence and the Death Penalty (UNC, TA, instructor)

Reviewer

Legislative Studies Quarterly
Political Behavior
American Journal of Political Science
Journal of Personality and Social Psychology
British Journal of Social Psychology
Politics and the Life Sciences
Psychological Science
Social Psychological and Personality Science
Journal of Personality
Analysis of Social Issues and Public Policy

Computer Skills

R (Advanced)
 Qualtrics (Advanced)
 SAS (Intermediate)
 SPSS (Intermediate)
 MATLAB (Beginner)
 Github (Beginner)

Python (Beginner)
L^AT_EX