

Robert Thorstad

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- EDUCATION** *Emory University* 2014-present
PhD student in Psychology
Advisor: Phillip Wolff
- Haverford College* 2012
BA in Philosophy with high honors
- JOURNAL PUBLICATIONS** **Thorstad, R.** & Wolff, P. (2018). A big data approach to future thinking and decision-making. *Proceedings of the National Academy of Sciences*, 115(8): E1740-E1748.
- Wolff, P. & **Thorstad, R.** (2017). Force dynamics. In M. Waldman (Ed.) *Oxford Handbook of Causal Reasoning*. Oxford, UK: Oxford University Press.
- REFEREED CONFERENCE PROCEEDINGS** **Thorstad, R.** & Wolff, P. (2018). Using Big Data Methods to Identify Conceptual Frameworks. In T.T. Rogers, M. Rau, X. Zhu, & C. W. Kalish (Eds.) *Proceedings of the 40th Annual Meeting of the Cognitive Science Society*. Austin, TX: Cognitive Science Society.
- Thorstad, R.** & Wolff, P. (2016). What causal illusions might tell us about the identification of causes. In A. Papafragou, D. Grodner, D. Mirman, & J.C. Tieswell (Eds.), *Proceedings of the 38th Annual Meeting of the Cognitive Science Society*. Austin, TX: Cognitive Science Society.
- Thorstad, R.** & Wolff, P. (2016). Temporal horizons and decision-making: a big data approach. In A. Papafragou, D. Grodner, D. Mirman, & J.C. Tieswell (Eds.), *Proceedings of the 38th Annual Meeting of the Cognitive Science Society*. Austin, TX: Cognitive Science Society.
- Thorstad, R.**, Nie, A., & Wolff, P. (2015). Representations of time affect willingness to wait for future rewards. *Proceedings of the 37th Annual Meeting of the Cognitive Science Society*. (pp. 2392-2397). Austin, TX: Cognitive Science Society.
- MANUSCRIPTS** **Thorstad, R.** & Wolff, P. (Revise and resubmit). Predicting Future Mental Illness from Social Media: A Big Data Approach.
- Thorstad, R.** & Wolff, P. (In Prep.). What causal illusions might tell us about the identification of causes.
- TALKS** **Thorstad, R.** "Mental Disorders and Natural Language: A Big Data Approach." Presentation at Emory University Institute Graduate Research Team of Interdisciplinary Scholars (GRITS). February 2018. Atlanta, GA
- Thorstad, R.** Combining Big Data and the Lab to Study Future Thinking and

Decision-Making. Presentation at Emory University Institute for Quantitative Theory and Methods. March 2017. Atlanta, GA.

Graci, M., **Thorstad, R.**, Waters, T., Fivush, R., & Wolff, P. Insights into narrative coherence and wellbeing using neural networks. Symposium presentation. January 2017. SARMAC, Sydney, Australia.

Thorstad, R. & Wolff, P. Temporal horizons and decision-making: a big data approach. Presentation at the 38th Annual Meeting of the Cognitive Science Society. August 2016. Philadelphia, PA.

Thorstad, R. & Wolff, P. What causal illusions might tell us about the identification of causes. Presentation at the 38th Annual Meeting of the Cognitive Science Society. August 2016. Philadelphia, PA.

Wolff, P., Shepard, J., & **Thorstad, R.** Social media and people's representations of the future: a big data approach. Presentation at the International Conference on Thinking & Reasoning. August 2016. Providence, RI.

POSTERS

Graci, M., **Thorstad, R.**, Haardoerfer, R., & Fivush, R. (2018, May). Extracting Emotional Arcs from Distressing Memories Using Deep Recursive Sentiment Analysis. Association for Psychological Science, San Francisco, CA.

Thorstad, R. & Wolff, P. (2017) Predicting future behaviors from social media: the effect of time horizon on decision-making. Poster presented at 4th Annual Mechanisms of Learning Forum. Queretaro, Mexico.

Graci, M., **Thorstad, R.**, Waters, T., Fivush, R., & Wolff, P. (2017). Deriving semantic coherence of personal memory using neural networks. Poster presented at 4th Annual Mechanisms of Learning Forum. Queretaro, Mexico.

Thorstad, R. & Wolff, P. (2016). Temporal horizons and decision-making: a big data approach. Poster presented at Emory University Psychology Department Research Festival. Atlanta, GA.

Thorstad, R. & Wolff, P. (2016). The Temporal Dynamics of Causal Illusions. Poster presented at 3rd Annual Mechanisms of Learning Forum. Atlanta, GA.

Graci, M., **Thorstad, R.**, Fivush, R., & Wolff, P. (2016). Extracting Coherence of Trauma Memories Using Neural Networks. Poster presented at 3rd Annual Mechanisms of Learning Forum. Atlanta, GA.

Wolff, P., Copley, B., Agichtein, E., **Thorstad, R.**, Nie, A., & Kilgore, R. (2015). Future Orientation and Wellbeing at the Population Level: A Preliminary Analysis based on Twitter Posts. Poster presented at Atlanta Computational Social Science Workshop. Atlanta, GA.

Thorstad, R. & Wolff, P. (2015). The Temporal Dynamics of Causal Illusions. Poster presented at the Psychonomics Society Annual Meeting. Chicago, IL.

Thorstad, R., Nie, A., & Wolff, P. (2015). Representations of Time Affect Willingness to Wait for Future Rewards. Poster presented at Annual Meeting of the Cognitive Science Society. Pasadena, CA.

AWARDS	<i>Emory College Collaborative Research Catalyst Award in Neural and Behavioral Mechanisms of Learning</i>	2016-2018
	2 year funded research fellowship , total \$3,500 for research and travel on big data approaches to psychology.	
	<i>Travel Award: Cognitive Science Society Annual Meeting</i>	2016
	<i>Phi Beta Kappa</i>	2012
	<i>Departmental Prize in Philosophy</i> Haverford College	2012
	<i>Magill-Rhoads (Merit) Scholarship</i>	2009-2012
	Haverford College	
TEACHING EXPERIENCE	<i>Graduate Co-Instructor</i>	Fall 2016-Spring 2017
	Mechanisms of Learning Graduate Training Grant Seminar	
	<i>Lab Instructor</i>	Fall 2016
	Research Methods. Emory University	
	<i>Teaching Assistant</i>	Spring 2016
	Introduction to Psychology. Emory University	
	<i>Teaching Assistant</i>	Fall 2015
	Perception and Action. Emory University.	
OUTREACH	<i>Abstract Review</i>	2007
	Emory University STEM Symposium	
	<i>Poster Judge</i>	2015, 2017, 2018
	Emory University undergraduate research presentations. Emory University STEM Symposium (Fall 2017)	
	<i>Poster Judge</i>	2017
	Spelman College undergraduate research presentations.	
	<i>Brainy Days Elementary Education Program</i>	2016-present
	Volunteer science teaching for Atlanta elementary-school children.	
SERVICE	<i>Python Programming Group</i>	2018-present
	Founder and leader. Scientific programming group for graduate students and postdocs at Emory University.	
	<i>Emory Undergraduate Research Grant Review</i>	2018-present
	3x/year review of undergraduate research grant applications.	
	<i>Graduate Research Interdisciplinary Team of Scientists (GRITS)</i>	2016-present
	Emory University. Graduate student committee to organize interdisciplinary graduate student lecture series.	
	<i>Ethics Committee</i>	2016-present
	Emory University. Psychology department ethics committee.	

Data Fest Volunteer
Emory University undergraduate data festival.

2018

PEER REVIEW Reviews for: Journal of Economic Psychology

SKILLS

Computer Programming

Strong proficiency with Python, both machine learning libraries (scikit-learn) and data manipulation libraries (PANDAS) as well as manipulating large natural language datasets. Moderate proficiency with Java, especially natural language processing with Stanford CoreNLP.

Animation

Animation creation for psychology experiments in 3D studio MAX advanced animation software, proficient with Mental Ray and VRAY advanced rendering.

**NON-
ACADEMIC
WRITING**

Contract Bridge Articles

Thorstad, R. (2018). Dhir, Jeng Quality for World Youth Teams. District 7 Bridge Bulletin 16(2).

Thorstad, R. (2017). GT Wins Collegiate Bridge Bowl. District 7 Bridge Bulletin 15(5).

Thorstad, R. (2017). A Game Swing from Orlando. District 7 Bridge Bulletin 15(1).