

Abdo Elnakouri

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Academic Appointments

2025 -	Assistant Professor (<i>Incoming</i>) Department of Psychology University of Houston
2023 - 2025	SSHRC Banting Postdoctoral Fellow Kellogg School of Management, Northwestern University

Education

2023	PhD	Social Psychology University of Waterloo
2018	M.A.	Social Psychology University of Waterloo
2016	B.Sc.	Specialization in Human Kinetics and Minor in Psychology University of Ottawa

Awards and Scholarships

2023 – 2025	Social Science and Humanities Research Council – Banting Postdoctoral Fellowship - \$140,000
2021	Mark Zanna Graduate Scholarship, \$1,500
2021	SSHRC-PCH Initiative for Digital Citizen Research, \$10,000
2020 – 2023	Social Science and Humanities Research Council – Joseph-Armand Bombardier Canada Graduate Scholarship - Doctoral, \$105,000
2020 – 2023	President's Graduate Scholarship, \$30,000
2019	Psychology Senate Graduate Scholarship, \$700
2019	SPSP Runner-Up Poster Award, \$50
2019	Ernest Becker Foundation Diversity Travel Award, \$150
2018 – 2019	University of Waterloo Provost Graduate Scholarship, \$15,000
2018	Society for Personality and Social Psychology Diversity Travel Award, \$500
2017 – 2018	Social Science and Humanities Research Council – Joseph-Armand Bombardier Canada Graduate Scholarship-Master's, \$17,500
2017 – 2018	President's Graduate Scholarship, \$5,000

2016 – 2020	University of Waterloo Graduate Scholarship, \$23,706
2016 – 2020	Graduate Research Scholarship, \$12,900
2016 – 2017	University of Waterloo Special Graduate Student Entrance Award, \$3,600
2014 – 2015	Dean's Honour List

Publications

- Brady, W.J., **Elnakouri, A.**, Finkel, E.J., Jackson, J.C., Kteily, N., Parker, V., Puryear, C., Spelman, T., Teeny, J., & Torres, M. (accepted-in-principle registered report). Redesigning algorithms to intervene on social norm misperception during a national election. *Nature*
- Emery, L. F., McGorray, E. L., Hughes, E. K., & **Elnakouri, A.** (2025). Merging in close relationships. *Current Directions in Psychological Science*. [\[PDF\]](#)
- Elnakouri, A.**, Rossignac-Milon, A., Higgins, E. T., & Scholer, A. A. (2024). Goal-colored glasses: Goal instrumentality shapes when and with whom shared reality emerges. *Motivation Science* [\[PDF\]](#)[\[OSF\]](#)
- Elnakouri, A.**, Sharpinski, K., McGregor, I., & Scholer, A. A. (2024). Guided by God: Consulting divine omniscience during decision making. *The International Journal for the Psychology of Religion*, 34(3-4), 133-153. [\[PDF\]](#)[\[OSF\]](#)
- Elnakouri, A.**, Huynh, A.C., & Grossmann, I. (2024). Explaining contentious political issues promotes open-minded thinking. *Cognition*, 247, 105769 [\[PDF\]](#)[\[OSF\]](#)
- Elnakouri, A.**, Rossignac-Milon, A., Krueger, K., Forest, A. L., Higgins, E. T., & Scholer, A. A. (2023). In it together: Shared reality with instrumental others is linked to goal success. *Journal of Personality and Social Psychology*, 125(5), 1072–1095. [\[PDF\]](#)[\[OSF\]](#)
- Elnakouri, A.**, & McGregor, I. (2023). You can't reason with them: Dismissing religious defectors as irrational. *Asian Journal of Social Psychology*, 26(1), 84-98. [\[PDF\]](#)[\[OSF\]](#)
- McGregor, I., Tran, A., Auger, E., Britton, E., Hayes, J., **Elnakouri, A.**, Eftekhari, E., Sharpinski, K., Arbiv, O., & Nash, K. (2022). Higher power dynamics: How meaning search and self-transcendence inspires approach motivation and magnanimity. *Journal of Experimental Social Psychology*, 102, 104350. [\[PDF\]](#)
- Porter, T., **Elnakouri, A.**, Meyers, E.A., Shibayama, T., Jayawickreme, E., & Grossmann, I. (2022). Predictors and consequences of intellectual humility. *Nature Reviews Psychology*, 1(9), 524-536. [\[PDF\]](#)
- Elnakouri, A.**, Hubley, C., & McGregor, I. (2022). Hate and meaning in life: How collective, but not personal, hate quells threat and spurs meaning in life. *Journal of Experimental Social Psychology*, 98, 104227. [\[PDF\]](#)[\[OSF\]](#)
- [Forbes](#), [PsyPost](#), [Psychology Today](#)

Oakes, H., Brienza, J. P., **Elnakouri, A.**, & Grossmann, I. (2019). Wise reasoning: Converging evidence for the psychology of sound judgment. In R. J. Sternberg, & J. Glück (Eds.), *The Cambridge handbook of wisdom* (pp. 202–225). Cambridge, UK: Cambridge University Press. [\[PDF\]](#)

Baker, A., **Elnakouri, A.**, & Blanchard, C. (2019). The protective role of autonomous motivation against the effects of the “Muscular Ideal” on men’s self-objectification, appearance schema activation, and cognitive performance. *Media Psychology*, 22(3), 473-500. [\[PDF\]](#)

Elnakouri, A., McGregor, I., & Grossmann, I. (2018). The importance of environmental threats and ideology in explaining extreme self-sacrifice. *Behavioral and Brain Sciences*, 41, E201. [\[commentary PDF\]](#)

Manuscripts under revision/review

Spelman, T., **Elnakouri, A.**, Kteily, N., & Finkel, E.J. (invited R&R). Overestimating the social costs of political belief change.

Wood, A., Chadha, S., Liu, C., Yuan, Q., Davis, A., **Elnakouri, A.**, Scholer, A. A & Boker, S. (invited R&R). Laughter indicates perceived similarity among friends and strangers.

Elnakouri, A., Gordon, A.M., Luciani, M., & Finkel, E.J. (under review). Political phantoms and political antipathy: Delusions of value divergence predict political sectarianism among American partisans

Selected manuscripts in preparation

Elnakouri, A., Finkel, E.J., & Scholer, A. A. (in prep). Choosing our reality: Relational mobility increases shared reality with instrumental others.

Elnakouri, A., Doriscar, J. E., Spelman, T., Sharpinski, K., & Grossmann, I. (in prep). Do debates work? Consuming political debates increases intellectual humility.

Elnakouri, A., Brady, W. (in prep). Lack of social capital predicts political extremism in America and around the globe.

Presentations

Invited Talks

2025 (Winter)	<i>Climate Cognition Lab</i> , Stanford University, Stanford, CA
2025 (Winter)	<i>Psychology Seminar</i> , Texas A&M University, College Station, TX
2025 (Winter)	<i>Psychology Seminar</i> , University of Houston, Houston, TX
2024 (Fall)	<i>Psychology Seminar</i> , University of Virginia, Charlottesville, ON
2024 (Fall)	<i>Behavioral Science Lunch</i> , University of Chicago Booth School of Business, Chicago, IL
2024 (Fall)	<i>Psychology Seminar</i> , University of Toronto, Toronto, ON
2024 (Fall)	<i>Psychology Seminar</i> , Harvard University, Cambridge, MA

2024 (Fall)	<i>Social Psychology Brown Bag</i> , University of Illinois Urbana-Champaign, Champaign, IL
2023 (Fall)	<i>Social Psychology Brown Bag</i> , University of Chicago, Chicago, IL
2023 (Fall)	<i>Social Psychology Brown Bag</i> , University of Pittsburgh, Pittsburgh, PA

Chaired Conferences & Symposia

Miller, E., **Elnakouri, A.**, & Chang, L. (March, 2025). *Shared Reality*. Virtual Conference. *Speakers: Elisa Baek, Lydia Emery, Zoë Fowler, Maria Gendron, Robert Hawkins, Veronica Lamarche, Michael Tomasello, Chris Welker*

Elnakouri, A. (February, 2025). *Understanding false political pessimism: Intra- and inter-party dynamics and solutions*. In A. Elnakouri. Symposium presented at the Society for Personality and Social Psychology Conference. Denver, CO.

Vail, K. Landau, M., Rivera, G., & **Elnakouri, A.**, (February, 2025). *Existential Psychology: Isolation, uncertainty, and shared reality*. Preconference presented at the Society for Personality and Social Psychology Conference. Denver, CO.

Rossignac-Milon, M., Miller, E., & **Elnakouri, A.** (February, 2024). *Shared Reality*. Virtual Conference. *Speakers: Abby Boytos, Abdo Elnakouri, Barbara Fredrickson, E. Tory Higgins, Meghan Meyer, Garriy Shteynberg, Sanaz Talafar, Adrienne Wood.*

Elnakouri, A. & Spelman, T. (February, 2024). *Co-constructing coherence: How social processes and pressures affect sense-making*. In A. Elnakouri & T. Spelman. Symposium presented at the Society for Personality and Social Psychology Conference. San Diego, CA.

Conference Talks

Elnakouri, A., Gordon, A.M., Luciani, M., & Finkel, E.J. (February, 2025). *Fighting phantoms: Partisan (mis)perceptions of shared values predict political sectarianism*. In A. Elnakouri, *Understanding false political pessimism: Intra- and inter-party dynamics and solutions*. Presented at the Society for Personality and Social Psychology Conference. Denver, CO.

Elnakouri, A., Huynh, A.C., & Grossmann, I. (April, 2024). *Explaining contentious political issues promotes open-minded thinking*. Presented at the 2024 Midwestern Psychological Association Conference, Chicago, IL.

Elnakouri, A., Rossignac-Milon, M., Higgins, E. T., & Scholer, A. A. (February, 2024). *In it together: Shared reality with instrumental others is linked to goal success*. In Rossignac-Milon, M., Miller, E., Elnakouri, A., *Shared Reality*. Virtual Conference.

Elnakouri, A., Rossignac-Milon, M., Higgins, E. T., & Scholer, A. A. (February, 2024). *Under the influence: Shared reality with instrumental others is linked to goal success*. In A. Elnakouri & T. Spelman, *Co-constructing coherence: How social processes and pressures affect sense-making*. Presented at the Society for Personality and Social Psychology Conference. San Diego, CA.

- Elnakouri, A.**, Rossignac-Milon, M., Higgins, E. T., & Scholer, A. A. (October, 2023). *In it together: Shared reality with instrumental others is linked to goal success*. In K. Fujita & A.A. Scholer, *Advancing motivation science to advance social psychology*. Presented at the Annual Convention of the Society of Experimental Social Psychology. Madison, WI.
- Elnakouri, A.**, Sharpinski, K., Twardus, O., Jo, T., & Grossmann, I. (February, 2023). *Do debates work? Consuming political debates and intellectual humility*. Presented at the 2023 Society for Personality and Social Psychology Conference, Atlanta, Georgia.
- Elnakouri, A.**, Huynh, A.C., & Grossmann, I. (July, 2022). *Explanation-oriented (vs. unstructured) discussion promotes open-minded political reasoning*. Presented at the 2022 International Association for Conflict Management Conference, Ottawa, Ontario, Canada.
- Elnakouri, A.**, Rossignac-Milon, M., Higgins, E. T., & Scholer, A. A. (February, 2022). *Goals shape realities: Shared reality, instrumental others, and goal success*. Presented at the Shared Reality & Authenticity Preconference for the 2022 Society for Personality and Social Psychology Conference, San Francisco, California.
- Elnakouri, A.**, Hubley, C., & McGregor, I. (May, 2019). *Will to truth: Threats increase desire for unique truth*. Presented at the Western-Waterloo-Wilfred Laurier Social Psychology Conference, Waterloo, Canada.
- Elnakouri, A.**, Sharpinskyi, K., & McGregor, I. (March, 2018). *Religious empowerment after external threats among people with low trait approach motivation*. In K. Savani & A. Ma (Chair), *Interpersonal consequences of existential threats: Punishment, unethical behavior, religiosity, and stereotyping*. Presented at the 2018 Society for Personality and Social Psychology Conference, Atlanta, Georgia.

Conference Posters

- Elnakouri, A.**, Sharpinski, K., McGregor, I., & Scholer, A. A. (February, 2022). *Guided by God: The benefits of divine omniscience during decision making*. Presented at the 2022 Society for Personality and Social Psychology Conference, San Francisco, California.
- Elnakouri, A.**, Rossignac-Milon, M., Higgins, E. T., & Scholer, A. A. (May, 2021). *Sharing reality with instrumental others facilitates goal success*. Presented at the 2021 Society for the Science of Motivation Conference.
- Elnakouri, A.**, Hubley, C. & McGregor, I. (February, 2021). *Hate and meaning in life*. Presented at the 2021 Society for Personality and Social Psychology Conference.
- Elnakouri, A.** & McGregor, I. (February, 2020). *You can't reason with them: Dehumanization, rejection, and wisdom towards religious defectors*. Presented at the 2020 Society for Personality and Social Psychology Conference, New Orleans, Louisiana

Elnakouri, A., Scholer, A. A., Rossignac-Milon, M., & Higgins, E. T. (February, 2019). *The self-regulatory functions of sharing reality with instrumental others*. Presented at the 2019 Society for Personality and Social Psychology Conference, Portland, Oregon. *

*Won runner-up SPSP Poster award

Elnakouri, A. & McGregor, I. (February, 2019). *Will to truth: Mortality salience increases desire for truth*. Presented at the Existential Psychology Preconference for the 2019 Society for Personality and Social Psychology Conference, Portland, Oregon.

Moore, A., **Elnakouri, A.**, & McGregor, I. (May, 2018). *Shared beliefs and construal level: The proposed association between what a group believes and how they reason*. Presented at the Ontario Psychology Undergraduate Thesis Conference, Toronto, Ontario.

Elnakouri, A., Moore, A., & McGregor, I. (March, 2018). *Waking up or falling prey: Asymmetric attributions of deliberation, non-conscious causes, and personal control for religious defectors vs. joiners*. Presented at the Religion and Spirituality Preconference for the 2018 Society for Personality and Social Psychology Conference, Atlanta, Georgia.

Elnakouri, A., McGregor, I., Sharpinskyi, K., Britton, E., & Sasaki, J. (May, 2017). *In pursuit of meaning: Approach motivation as the foundation of meaning in life*. Presented at the Western-Waterloo-Wilfred Laurier Social Psychology Conference, London, Canada.

Elnakouri, A., Tanguay, A. N., Ramdeen, K. T., Adams, K. D., Hill, A., Taler, V., Davidson, P. S. R., & Renoult, L. (May, 2016). *The ERP correlates of over-general autobiographical memory in a non-clinical sample of participants with symptoms of depression*. Presented at the 5th Annual Interdisciplinary Conference in Psychology, Ottawa, Canada.

Tanguay, A. N., Ramdeen, K. T., **Elnakouri, A.**, Adams, K. D., Hill, A., Taler, V., Davidson, P. S. R., & Renoult, L. (March, 2016). *Are the ERP correlates of personal semantics different from those of general semantics?* Presented at British and French Neuropsychological Society Meeting, London, England.

Elnakouri, A., Adams, K., Drouin, H., & Davidson, P. S. R. (June, 2015). *Any effects of cognitive priming on object-location memory are smaller than originally reported*. Presented at the 25th Annual CSBACS Meeting, Ottawa, Ontario.

Adams, K., **Elnakouri, A.**, Drouin, H., & Davidson, P. S. R. (June, 2015). *Age-related encoding strategies in young and older adults' associative memory*. Presented at the 76th Annual Canadian Psychology Association Convention, Ottawa, Ontario.

Baker, A., Blanchard, C. M., **Elnakouri, A.** (June, 2015). *The 'muscular-ideal' and male body image: The influence of advertising on men's self-evaluations and cognitive performance*. Presented at the 76th Annual Canadian Psychological Association Convention, Ottawa, Ontario, Canada.

Professional Service

2025 –	Ad Hoc Reviewer for <i>Science Advances</i>
2025 –	Ad Hoc Reviewer for <i>Journal of Experimental Social Psychology</i>
2025 –	Ad Hoc Reviewer for <i>Journal of Research in Personality</i>
2024 –	Ad Hoc Reviewer for <i>Personality and Social Psychology Bulletin</i>
2021 – 2022	SPSP Student Committee Member-At-Large (<i>Mentorship Events Chair</i>)
2019	Contributing Writer for the SPSP eDialogue newsletter.
2019	Contributing Writer for the SPSP Character & Context Blog Contributor
2018 – 2020	Graduate Student Coordinator, University of Waterloo Social Psychology Brownbag
2017 – 2018	Canadian Psychological Association (CPA) Mentor
2017 – 2018	Society for Personality and Social Psychology Outstanding Research Award Reviewer
2016 – 2017	Society for Personality and Social Psychology Student Poster Award Reviewer

Popular Press Articles

- Elnakouri, A.** (2021). Is being a sports fan a waste of time? *Psychology Today*.
<https://www.psychologytoday.com/ca/blog/mind-large/202102/is-being-sports-fan-waste-time>
- Elnakouri, A.** (2019). Bringing social psychology to the policymakers. *Society for Personality and Social Psychology*. <http://spsp.org/news-center/member-newsletters/september-2019/social-psychology-policy-advocacy>
- Elnakouri, A.** (2019). Are you being more authentic when you eat the cookie or when you avoid it? *Society for Personality and Social Psychology*. <http://spsp.org/news-center/blog/cookie-authentic-self>
- Elnakouri, A.** (2019). No chance at compromise: Social group identities are intertwined with sacred values. *Society for Personality and Social Psychology*. <http://spsp.org/news-center/blog/sacred-values>
- Elnakouri, A.** (2019). Understanding America's political divide: New methods using Twitter and self-report data. *Society for Personality and Social Psychology*. <https://spsp.org/news-center/blog/politics-twitter-method>
- Elnakouri, A.** (2014). You're studying all wrong. *The Fulcrum*. <https://thefulcrum.ca/features/youre-studying-wrong/>

Volunteer Service

2017 - 2023	Community Volunteer - Hospice of Waterloo Region
2017 - 2018	Distress and Crisis Responder - Canadian Mental Health Association
2014 - 2016	DILA Youth Action Plan Facilitator - Youth Ottawa
2014 - 2015	Intern and Assistant Program Coordinator - Youth Futures Avenir Jeunesse
2014 - 2015	Staff Contributor - The Fulcrum Publishing Society
2014 - 2015	Volunteer at Cancer Ward - Canadian Cancer Society

Teaching and Mentoring

Courses Taught

2023 Undergraduate Political Psychology Seminar, Wilfred Laurier University

Teaching Certificates

2023 Fundamentals of University Teaching, University of Waterloo

2018 Speak like a Scholar, University of Waterloo

Teaching Assistantships

2022 Social Psychology (Chris Lok), University of Waterloo
 2021 Social Psychology (Dr. Richard Eibach), University of Waterloo
 2020 Intergroup Relations (Dr. Harrison Oakes), University of Waterloo
 2020 Introduction to Psychology (Dr. Richard Ennis), University of Waterloo
 2019 Cultural Psychology (Dr. Igor Grossmann), University of Waterloo
 2019 Interpersonal Relations (Dr. Denise Marigold), University of Waterloo
 2019 Personality (Dr. Ian McGregor), University of Waterloo
 2018 Personality (Dr. Ian McGregor), University of Waterloo
 2018 Social Psychology (Dr. Richard Eibach), University of Waterloo
 2017 Interpersonal Relations (Dr. Denise Marigold), University of Waterloo
 2017 Social Cognition (Dr. Abby Scholer), University of Waterloo
 2016 Political Psychology (Dr. Richard Eibach), University of Waterloo

Guest Lectures

2024 (Spring) Research Background and Political Misperceptions, GirlForward - Shadow a Scientist Day
 2022 (Spring) Close Relationships, "Relationship Perspectives", University of Waterloo
 2018 (Fall) "The Psychology of Personality", Hospice of Waterloo Region
 2017 (Fall) Cross-Cultural Psychology, "Morality and Culture", University of Waterloo
 2017 (Winter) Social Cognition, "Memory", University of Waterloo
 2017 (Winter) Social Psychology, "Morality", University of Waterloo
 2017 (Winter) Cross-Cultural Psychology, "Morality and Culture", University of Waterloo

Research Supervisor

2022-23 PSYCH 499 – Honours Thesis, University of Waterloo
 2020 (Fall) PSYCH 464 – Advanced Research Apprenticeship, University of Waterloo
 2018 (Fall) PSYCH 464 – Advanced Research Apprenticeship, University of Waterloo
 2017 (Winter) PSYCH 464 – Advanced Research Apprenticeship, University of Waterloo
 2017 (Winter) PSYCH 482 – Directed Studies – Social Science Advanced Psych, University of Waterloo

Professional Membership

2016 – Present	Association for Psychological Science (<i>Graduate Student Affiliate</i>)
2016 – Present	Society for Personality and Social Psychology (<i>Student Member</i>)
2015 – 2019	Canadian Psychological Association (<i>Student Affiliate</i>)
2015 – 2016	CPA: Social and Personality Psychology (<i>Member</i>)
2015 – 2016	Canadian Society for Brain, Behaviour and Cognitive Science (<i>Associate Member</i>)

Languages

- Arabic: Native or bilingual proficiency
- English: Native or bilingual proficiency
- French: Limited working proficiency

Software

- Statistics: SPSS, R
- Programming: Qualtrics, E-prime, MediaLab