

Isaac Davis

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Employment and education

Yale University, <i>New Haven, CT</i> Lecturer in Cognitive Science	2022- Present
Yale University, <i>New Haven, CT</i> Postdoctoral associate, Department of Psychology Advisors: Yarrow Dunham & Julian Jara-Ettinger	2020- 2022
Carnegie Mellon University, <i>Pittsburgh, PA</i> Ph.D in Logic, Computation, & Methodology (2020) Advisor: David Danks M.S. in Logic, Computation, & Methodology (2017) Advisors: David Danks & Kevin Zollman	2014- 2020
Federal Reserve Bank of New York, <i>New York, NY</i> Research Associate, Money and Payment Systems research group	2011- 2014
University of Chicago, <i>Chicago, IL</i> Bachelor of Arts in Mathematics & Economics	2007- 2011

Awards & Grants

National Science Foundation, Behavioral and Cognitive Sciences (\$501,911) Program: Social Psychology & Human Networks Project title: A computational framework for complex latent structures Role: Co-PI	2025-2028
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Journal publications

(Under review) **Davis, I.**, Jara-Ettinger, J., & Dunham, Y. Inferring the internal structure of social collectives.

(Under review) Wang, Z., **Davis, I.**, & Jara-Ettinger, J. Modeling other Minds: Computational Perspectives on Social Cognition and its Development. *Invited submission, Annual Review of Developmental Psychology.*

(Under review) Richardson, E., **Davis, I.**, Keil, & F. Agenda setting and the emperor's new clothes: predicting information cascades and pluralistic ignorance in sequential voting.

(In revision) Aboody, R.,* **Davis, I.**,* Dunham, Y., & Jara-Ettinger, J. People can infer the magnitude of others' knowledge even when they cannot infer its contents. *Cognition (in revision)*

*Joint first-authorship

- (In revision) Asaba, M.,* **Davis, I.**,* Leonard, J., & Jara-Ettinger, J. Social bias detection as mental state inference. *Journal of Personality & Social Psychology (in revision)*.
- (2024) **Davis, I.** Rational representations of uncertainty: a pluralistic approach to bounded rationality. *Synthese*, 203(5), 142.
- (2024) Ongchoco, J., **Davis, I.**, Jara-Ettinger, J., & Paul, L.A. A computational framework for formalizing epistemically transformative experiences. *Open Mind (in press)*.
- (2023) **Davis, I.**, Carlson, R., Dunham, Y., & Jara-Ettinger, J. Identifying social partners through indirect prosociality: a computational account. *Cognition*, 240, 105580.
- (2023) Danks, D., & **Davis, I.** Causal inference in cognitive neuroscience. *Invited submission, Wiley Interdisciplinary Reviews: Cognitive Science*, e1650.
- (2021) **Davis, I.** How do we know what babies know? The limits of inferring cognitive representations from visual fixation data. *Philosophical Psychology*, 34(2), 1-28.
- (2020) **Davis, I.** A Framework for Pragmatic Reliability. *Philosophy of Science*, 87(4), 704-726.
- (2014) Copeland, A.M., **Davis, I.**, & Martin, A. An Empirical Analysis of the GCF Repo Service. *Economic Policy Review*, 2: 25-37.

Refereed conference publications

- (2023) Asaba, M., **Davis, I.**, Leonard, J. A., & Jara-Ettinger, J. Detecting social biases via mental state inference. *Proceedings of the 45th Annual Meeting of the Cognitive Science Society*.
- (2023) Richardson, E., **Davis, I.**, & Keil, F. Agenda setting and The Emperor's New Clothes: people infer that letting powerful agents make their opinion known early can trigger information cascades and pluralistic ignorance. *Proceedings of the 45th Annual Meeting of the Cognitive Science Society*.
- (2022) **Davis, I.**, Dunham, Y., & Jara-Ettinger, J. Inferring the internal structure of social collectives. *Proceedings of the 44th annual conference of the Cognitive Science Society*
- (2022) **Davis, I.**, & Jara-Ettinger, J. Hierarchical task knowledge constrains and simplifies action understanding. *Proceedings of the 44th annual conference of the Cognitive Science Society*
- (2021) **Davis, I.**, Carlson, R., Dunham, Y., & Jara-Ettinger, J. Reasoning about social attitudes with uncertain beliefs. *Proceedings of the 43rd annual conference of the Cognitive Science Society*
- (2021) Aboody, R., **Davis, I.**, Dunham, Y., & Jara-Ettinger, J. I can tell you know a lot, although I'm not sure what: Modeling broad epistemic inference from minimal action. *Proceedings of the 43rd annual conference of the Cognitive Science Society*
- (2017) **Davis, I.** Understanding the Role of Perception in the Evolution of Human Language. *Proceedings of the 39th annual meeting of the Cognitive Science Society*.

Conference presentations

- (2024) Cheung, J. (presenter), Asaba, M., Jara-Ettinger, J., & **Davis, I.** Poster presented at the 50th annual meeting of the Society for Philosophy and Psychology.
- (2023) **Davis, I.** (presenter), Jara-Ettinger, J., & Dunham, Y. Talk presented at the 49th annual meeting of the Society for Philosophy and Psychology.
- (2023) Richardson, E. (presenter), **Davis, I.**, & Keil, F. Talk presented at the 49th annual meeting of the Society for Philosophy and Psychology.

- (2023) Richardson, E. (presenter), **Davis, I.**, & Keil, F. Talk presented at the 45th annual conference of the Cognitive Science Society.
- (2023) Asaba, M. (presenter), **Davis, I.**, Leonard, J., & Jara-Ettinger, J. Poster presented at the 45th annual conference of the Cognitive Science Society.
- (2022) **Davis, I.** Poster presented at the 28th biennial meeting of the Philosophy of Science Association.
- (2022) **Davis, I.** (presenter), Jara-Ettinger, J., & Dunham, Y. Talk presented at the 44th annual conference of the Cognitive Science Society.
- (2022) **Davis, I.** (presenter) & Jara-Ettinger., J. Flash talk presented at the 44th annual conference of the Cognitive Science Society.
- (2021) **Davis, I.** (presenter), Carlson, R., Dunham, Y., & Jara-Ettinger., J. Talk presented at the 43rd annual conference of the Cognitive Science Society.
- (2020) **Davis, I.** Poster presentation at the 27th biennial meeting of the Philosophy of Science Association.
- (2020) **Davis, I.** Poster presented at the 20th annual convention of the Society for Personality and Social Psychology (*Origins of the social mind* pre-conference).
- (2018) **Davis, I.** Poster presented at the 26th biennial meeting of the Philosophy of Science Association.

Invited talks

- (2024) Department of Psychology, New School for Social Research
- (2024) Department of Psychology, American University
- (2023) Knobe Lab, Yale University
- (2022) Computational Social Cognition Lab, Yale University
- (2022) Department of Cognitive Science, Rensselaer Polytechnic Institute

Teaching experience

Instructor of Record: Yale University

- CGSC 491: CogSci Senior Seminar. Spring 2025
- CGSC 395: CogSci Junior Colloquium. Fall 2024
- CGSC 491: CogSci Senior Seminar. Spring 2024
- CGSC 395: CogSci Junior Colloquium. Fall 2023
- CGSC 491: CogSci Senior Seminar. Spring 2023
- CGSC 395: CogSci Junior Colloquium. Fall 2022

Instructor of Record: Carnegie Mellon University

- Phil 80-100: Introduction to Philosophy. Fall 2019
- Phil 80-100: Introduction to Philosophy. Spring 2019

TA/Grader: Carnegie Mellon University

- Phil 80-100: Introduction to Philosophy, Spring 2020 (Smith)
- Phil 80-100: Introduction to Philosophy, Fall 2018 (Cullen)
- Phil 80-150: Nature of Reason, Spring 2018 (Zhang)
- Phil 80-100: Introduction to Philosophy, Fall 2017 (Kayani)
- Phil 80-270: Philosophy of Mind, Fall 2016 (Wu)

Phil 80-381: Meaning in Language, Fall 2015 (Werner)

Phil 80-210: Logic & Proofs, Spring 2015 (Morris)

Undergraduate thesis advising

(2024)

- Steve Blanco. *The social Bouba-Kiki effect: the liking bias induced by face-name congruence in moral character assessments*
- Jessie Cheung. *Societal Evaluations of ChatGPT-generated Cultural Narratives*
- Ihtesham Khan. *Susceptibility To Sunk Cost Fallacy: Individualistic vs. Collectivist Cultures*
- Connor Lee. *Unveiling Moral Dimensions in Artificial Intelligence: A Comparative Analysis of Large Language Models and Human Perspectives*
- Felix Mebius. *Absentminded Selfishness? How Observed Time Pressure Influences Inference of Social Value Orientation*
- Danny Rodriguez. *A Neuroeconomic Analysis of Risk Aversion, Gambling Prevalence, and Delayed Gratification across Socioeconomic and Political Spectra*
- Elana Rothburg. *Why Buy a Birkin? How Quality, Status, and Heritage Affect Consumer Economic Valuation of Luxury Bags*
- Chris Song. *Analyzing the effects of ingroup/outgroup cognition in a church environment*
- Naheem Watson. *Technology and Trust: Using and Analyzing Digital Tools to Address ADHD Disparities in Black Communities.*
- Annie Yan. *Addressing disagreement on acquisition of disjunctive syllogism through an analysis of study design*

(2023)

- Dani Inojosa. *Toward a Cognitive Critique of Culture: Historicizing and Temporalizing Psychology Through Living Indigenous Relationalities*
- Kincaid MacDonald. *Metaphors as Conceptual Compressions*
- Nichales Marinaj. *The Relationship between Need for Cognition and Framing Effects in Financial Decision-Making*

Service

Reviewing

Ad Hoc reviewer for: (41st-45th) Annual meetings of the Cognitive Science Society, British Journal for Philosophy of Science, Journal of Teaching Philosophy, Journal of Experimental Child Psychology, Journal of Experimental Psychology: General, Open Mind, Cognition, Cognitive Science, TiCS, Pattern Analysis and Applications

University service

2024 Yale CogSci Glushko thesis prize committee

2023 Yale CogSci Glushko thesis prize committee

2018 CMU Philosophy PhD Candidate Search

2018 CMU Philosophy 2018 Job Search (assistant professor in philosophy)