

# SHOKO WATANABE

[Website](#) | [ResearchGate](#) | [Google Scholar](#) | [OSF](#) | [ORCID](#)

Department of Psychology  
University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign  
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Office: Psychology Building (Room 305)

## EDUCATION

- 2018-Present      Ph.D., Social Psychology, Minor in Quantitative Psychology  
*University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign*  
Dov Cohen (Dissertation Advisor), Sean Laurent (Advisor)
- 2021-2022      Attendee, Boston Colloquium on the Scientific Study of Religion  
*Center for Mind and Culture, Boston University*
- 2016-2018      M.S., Psychology  
*University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign*  
Sean Laurent (Thesis Advisor/Chair), Dolores Albarracín (Thesis Co-Advisor)
- 2017      Attendee, International Summer School on Social Cognition & Neuroscience  
*Julius-Maximilians-Universität Würzburg, Germany*
- 2012-2015      M.S., Educational Psychology  
*Oklahoma State University*
- 2004-2008      B.A., Theological-Historical Studies (Graduated Summa Cum Laude)  
*Oral Roberts University*

## CURRENT RESEARCH AND INTERESTS

Moral Psychology | Religious Doubts | Deconversion | Just-World Belief | Worldview Threat |  
Theodicy | Forgiveness | Reconciliation | Hypocrisy | Punishment | Schadenfreude | In-Group Trust

## AWARDS AND HONORS

- 2022      Sarah C. Mangelsdorf Outstanding Female Graduate Student Award, *University of Illinois* (\$1,000)
- 2022      Diversity in Existential Psychology Student Registration Award, *Cleveland State University* (\$50)
- 2020      Conference Travel Award (top-ranked within program), *University of Illinois* (\$200)
- 2016-2021      Psychology Alumni Advisory Board Graduate Student Travel and Research Award, *University of Illinois* (\$1,900)
- 2019      Student Travel Award, *Society for Personality and Social Psychology* (\$500)
- 2018      Student Travel Scholarship, *Center for Mind and Culture* (\$836)

2016-2018	List of Teachers Ranked as Excellent (top 10% campus-wide), <i>University of Illinois</i>
2015	Excellence in Teaching English Language Learners Award, <i>Union Public School</i>
2008	Outstanding Senior Paper Award, <i>Oral Roberts University</i>
2004-2008	McKinley Foundation Scholarship, <i>Oral Roberts University</i> (\$24,000)
2004-2007	Honors Program Scholarship, <i>Oral Roberts University</i> (\$18,000)

## PUBLICATIONS

\* undergraduate student I mentored; † shared first-authorship

Hoogeveen, S., Sarafoglou, A., ... **Watanabe, S.**, ... van Elk, M., & Wagenmakers, E.-J. (in press). A many-analysts approach to the relation between religiosity and well-being. *Religion, Brain & Behavior*. <https://doi.org/10.1080/2153599X.2022.2070255>

**Watanabe, S.**, & Laurent, S. M. (in press). Past its prime? A methodological overview and critique of religious priming research in social psychology. In A. W. Geertz, L. Ambasciano, E. Eidinow, L. H. Martin, K. L. Nielbo, N. P. Roubekas, V. van Mulukom, & D. Xygalatas (Eds.), *Studying the religious mind: Methodology in the cognitive science of religion*. Equinox Publishing. (Original work published 2021). doi: 10.1558/equinox.43007

**Watanabe, S.**, Weiner D. S., & Laurent, S. M. (2022). Schadenfreude for undeserved misfortunes: The unexpected consequences of endorsing a strong belief in a just world. *Journal of Experimental Social Psychology*. <https://doi.org/10.1016/j.jesp.2022.104336>

Gupta, S.<sup>†\*</sup>, **Watanabe, S.**<sup>†</sup>, & Laurent, S. M. (2021). Psychological predictors of vaccination intentions among U.S. undergraduates and online panel workers during the 2020 COVID-19 Pandemic. *PLOS ONE* 16(11): e0260380. <https://doi.org/10.1371/journal.pone.0260380>

**Watanabe, S.**, & Laurent, S. M. (2021). Volition speaks louder than action: Offender atonement, forgiveness, and victim valuation in the minds of perceivers. *Personality and Social Psychology Bulletin*, 47(6): 1020-1036. <https://doi.org/10.1177/0146167220953996>

**Watanabe, S.**, & Laurent, S. M. (2021). Past its prime? A methodological overview and critique of religious priming research in social psychology. *Journal for the Cognitive Science of Religion*, 6(1-2): 31-55. <https://doi.org/10.1558/jcsr.38411>

**Watanabe, S.**, & Laurent, S. M. (2021). Disgust toward interracial couples: Mixed feelings about Black-White race mixing. *Social Psychological and Personality Science*, 12(5): 769-779. <https://doi.org/10.1177/1948550620939411>

**Watanabe, S.**, & Laurent, S. M. (2020). Feeling bad and doing good: Forgiveness through the lens of uninvolved third parties. *Social Psychology*, 51(1): 35-49. <https://doi.org/10.1027/1864-9335/a000390>

## SELECTED MANUSCRIPTS UNDER REVIEW OR IN PREPARATION

**Watanabe, S.**, & Todd, N. R. (writing stage). Religious engagement, doubt, and disaffiliation: A latent class growth modeling approach.

**Watanabe, S., & Laurent, S. M.** (in preparation). How various degrees and types of costly atonement are associated with perceived victim valuation, forgivability, and offender reintegration.

**Watanabe, S., Han, D., & Laurent, S. M.** (writing stage). People believe that the advantaged think the world is fair but that the disadvantaged aren't so sure: Perceived associations between advantage and just-world beliefs.

Laurent, S. M., & **Watanabe, S.** (writing stage). Intention and desire for actions and outcomes.

Laurent, S. M. & **Watanabe, S.** (writing stage). Consistency be damned! The roles of hypocrisy, partisan attitudes, and moral convictions in predicting political support.

Seo, M., **Watanabe, S.**, Kim, Y-H., & Laurent, S. M. (writing stage). Interdependent versus independent inconsistency: Cultural differences in how people in Korea and U.S. attribute hypocrisy.

## PROJECTS IN PROGRESS

- Theodicy [2 studies ongoing]
- Dual-Proscription Hypocrisy [5 studies completed]
- Perceptions of Vaccine Hesitancy [2 studies completed]
- Atypical Hypocrisy [3 studies completed]
- In-Group Trust [2 studies completed]

## CONFERENCE TALKS

Seo, M., **Watanabe, S.**, Kim, Y-H., & Laurent, S. M. (2021, February). *Hypocrisy is everywhere, for different reasons: When and why East Asian and Western cultures attribute hypocrisy*. Talk presented at the Society for Personality and Social Psychology Pre-conference on Justice and Morality. Virtual Conference.

Weiner, D. S., **Watanabe, S.**, & Laurent, S. M. (2020, February). *Automatically activated perceived associations between advantage and just world beliefs*. Talk presented at the annual convention of the Society for Personality and Social Psychology. New Orleans, LA.

**Watanabe, S.**, & Laurent, S. M. (2018, August). *Vengeance is God's, not mine: The effect of divine and secular retribution concepts on third-party punishment*. Talk presented at the biennial meeting of the International Association for the Cognitive Science of Religion. Boston, MA.

## CONFERENCE POSTERS

\* undergraduate student I mentored

**Watanabe, S.** & Todd, N. R. (2022, February). *Longitudinal patterns of religious doubt predict subsequent disaffiliation: A latent class growth modeling approach*. Poster presented at the Society for Personality and Social Psychology Pre-Conference on Existential Psychology. Virtual Conference.

**Watanabe, S.**, Weiner, D. S., & Laurent, S. M. (2022, February). *Schadenfreude for undeserved*

*misfortunes: The unexpected consequences of expressing a just-world belief.* Poster presented at the annual convention of the Society for Personality and Social Psychology. San Francisco, CA.

Gupta, S. \*, **Watanabe, S.**, Laurent, S. M. (2021, February). *Predictors of COVID-19 vaccine intentions among U.S. undergraduates and non-student adults.* Poster presented at the annual convention of the Society for Personality and Social Psychology. Virtual Conference.

Seo, M. J., **Watanabe, S.**, Kim, Y. H., & Laurent, S. M. (2020, February). *Instrumental inconsistency: Reasons for hypocrisy affect its attributions across cultures.* Poster presented at the annual convention of the Society for Personality and Social Psychology. New Orleans, LA.

**Watanabe, S.** & Laurent, S. M. (2020, February). *Volition speaks louder than action: Offender atonement and victim valuation in the minds of perceivers.* Poster presented at the annual convention of the Society for Personality and Social Psychology. New Orleans, LA.

**Watanabe, S.** & Cheng, J. T. (2019, May). *Individuals in real-world social groups display a 'cooperative phenotype': Longitudinal evidence of the stability of trust in naturalistic work teams.* Poster presented at the annual convention of the Human Behavior and Evolution Society. Boston, MA.

**Watanabe, S.** & Laurent, S. M. (2019, February). *Vengeance is God's, not mine: The effect of divine and secular retribution concepts on third-party punishment.* Poster presented at the annual convention of the Society for Personality and Social Psychology. Portland, OR.

## INVITED TALKS

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*Psychological predictors of COVID-19 vaccine intentions among U.S. undergraduates and non-student adults.* (2020, November). Social-Personality-Organizational Psychology Brownbag, University of Illinois.

*Poetic (in)justice? When misfortunes befall just-world believers.* (2019, March). Social-Personality-Organizational Psychology Brownbag, University of Illinois.

*Vengeance is God's, not mine: Priming divine retribution reduces third-party punishment.* (2018, April). Social-Personality-Organizational Psychology Brownbag, University of Illinois.

*Pelagian controversy revisited: The roles of grace, repentance, and atonement in promoting forgiveness.* (2017, March). Social-Personality-Organizational Psychology Brownbag, University of Illinois.

## MEDIA MENTIONS

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[PsyPost](#): Study suggests the link between disgust and interracial romance is not strong or widespread.

## TEACHING EXPERIENCE

- 2018 Instructor, *University of Illinois*, Champaign, IL  
Introductory Psychology | Teaching Effectiveness: 4.4/5.0
- 2016-2018 Instructional Teaching Assistant, *University of Illinois*, Champaign, IL  
Social Methods Lab | Teaching Effectiveness: 4.7/5.0, 4.8/5.0  
Social Psychology in Society Lab | Teaching Effectiveness: 4.9/5.0
- 2016 Instructor, *Tulsa Community College*, Tulsa, OK  
Developmental Psychology | Teaching Effectiveness: 3.7/4.0
- 2013-2015 8<sup>th</sup> Grade Mathematics Teacher, *Union Public School*, Tulsa, OK
- 2013 K-12 Mathematics and Reading Instructor, *Kumon of Tulsa*, Tulsa, OK
- 2006-2007 Biblical Greek Honor's Teaching Assistant, *Oral Roberts University*, Tulsa, OK

## MENTORING EXPERIENCE

- 2020-2021 SPSP Peer Advising Program, *Society for Personality and Social Psychology*
- 2018-2021 Undergraduate Research Projects Advising, *University of Illinois*  
Yujia (Grace) Bai (2020-2021) | Suryaa Gupta (2019-2021) | Pranav Pamidighantam (2018-2019)
- 2016-2021 Undergraduate Research Assistants Supervised, *University of Illinois*  
Duoduo Qi (2019-2021) | Jiyou Song (2019-2020) | Nici Despinich (2020) | Julian Acabal (2020) | Austin Eichhorn (2019-2020) | Giovana Mete (2019-2020) | Ariana Daneshbodi (2019-2020) | Koh Kobayashi (2018-2020) | Emma Schwartz (2019) | Hailey Gaba (2018-2019) | Kiley Breen (2017-2019) | Aboorva Sivasankaran (2017-2019) | Saheli Sheth (2017-2019) | Leslie Pardo (2018) | Alyssa Castronovo (2017-2018) | Jose Gonzalez Abreu (2016-2018) | Priyanka Patel (2016-2018) | Jessica Vega (2016-2018) | Jessica Resnick (2017) | Lucy Park (2016-2017) | Carol Zhou (2016-2017)

## DEPARTMENT SERVICES & ASSISTANTSHIPS

- 2022 Diversity Advocate Assistant, Office for Access and Equity, *University of Illinois*
- 2019-2022 Subject Pool Coordinator, Department of Psychology, *University of Illinois*
- 2019-2022 Human Subjects Committee Member, Department of Psychology, *University of Illinois*

## PROFESSIONAL SERVICES & AFFILIATIONS

### Ad Hoc Journal Reviewer

Journal of Experimental Psychology: General | Personality and Social Psychology Bulletin |  
Journal for the Cognitive Science of Religion | Psychological Bulletin | Developmental  
Psychology

### Professional Organization Member

Society for Personality and Social Psychology (SPSP)  
International Association for the Cognitive and Evolutionary Sciences of Religion (IACESR)  
Institute for the Bio-Cultural Study of Religion (IBCSR)  
International Society for the Science of Existential Psychology (ISSEP)  
The International Society for Self and Identity (ISSI)

## SKILLS

**Language:** English (fluent) | Japanese (native) | Spanish (conversational)

**Statistical Tools:** R | Mplus | SPSS | SAS

**Survey Tools:** Qualtrics | MediaLab | DirectRT | Inquisit | MTurk | CloudResearch | Prolific | SONA

## SELECTED COURSEWORK

Covariance Structure & Factor Models | Structural Equation Modeling | Hierarchical Linear Modeling |  
Longitudinal Data Analysis | Analysis of Messy Data in Structural Equation Modeling | Multivariate  
Statistics | Categorical Data Analysis | Quasi-Experimental Design & Analysis

## CERTIFICATION

### Oklahoma Standard Teaching Certification

Advanced & Intermediate Mathematics (6-12) | Mid-Level Math for High School Credit (5-8)

## REFERENCES

**Dov Cohen**, Professor  
Department of Psychology  
University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign  
[dovcohen@illinois.edu](mailto:dovcohen@illinois.edu)

**Sean M. Laurent**, Assistant Professor  
Department of Psychology  
Pennsylvania State University  
[slaurent@psu.edu](mailto:slaurent@psu.edu)

**Nathan R. Todd**, Associate Professor  
Department of Psychology  
University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign  
[ntodd2@illinois.edu](mailto:ntodd2@illinois.edu)

**Joey T. Cheng**, Assistant Professor  
Department of Psychology  
York University  
[chengjt@yorku.ca](mailto:chengjt@yorku.ca)