Benjamin M. Silver

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EDUCATION AND RESEARCH EXPERIENCE

2025– **Columbia University**, Postdoctoral Research Scientist
Center for Justice; Psychology Department
Advisor: Geraldine Downey, Ph.D.

2019–2025 **Columbia University**, Ph.D. in Psychology
SCAN Lab; Psychology Department
Advisor: Kevin N. Ochsner, Ph.D.
Secondary advisor: Chris Baldassano, Ph.D.
Dissertation: *Changing my mind: The socio-affective mechanisms underlying impression updating*
Certificate: Teaching Development Program – Advanced Track (awarded by the Center for Teaching and Learning)

2017–2019 **Weill Cornell Medical College,** Research Coordinator
Jones Lab; Sackler Institute for Developmental Psychobiology
Advisor: Rebecca M. Jones, Ph.D.
Secondary advisor: Jonathan D. Power, M.D., Ph.D.

2013–2017 **Brown University**, Honors Sc.B in Cognitive Neuroscience, 3.95 GPA
Developmental Cognitive Neuroscience Lab; Cognitive, Linguistic & Psychological Sciences Department
Honors thesis: *The relationship between pretend play and working memory in preschool aged children*
Advisor: Dima Amso, Ph.D.

AWARDS AND FUNDING

Research

2026 Grant recipient (Fellowship Host Site), Civic Science Fellowship
2025 Fellowship, Diverse Intelligences Summer Institute
2024 Doctoral Dissertation Grant, Incite Institute at Columbia University
2024 Graduate Travel Award, Psychology Department
2023 Conference Matching Travel Award, Graduate School of Arts and Sciences
2023 Student Travel Grant, Arts and Sciences Graduate Council
2022 Fellowship, Kavli Summer Institute in Cognitive Neuroscience
2022 Seed Grant, Columbia University Zuckerman Institute
2021 Neurohackademy participant
2016 Undergraduate Teaching and Research Award, Brown University
2015 BrownConnect LINK Award, Brown University
2013 Semifinalist, INTEL Science Talent Search Competition

Teaching/outreach

2026 Innovative Teaching Award, Society for the Psychological Study of Social Issues

2024 Teaching Scholars Fellowship, Columbia Graduate School of Arts and Sciences
2023 Teaching Fund Small Grant, Association for Psychological Science
2023 Career Development Grant, Professional and Organizational Development Network
2023 Fellowship, ComSciCon Flagship Workshop
2021 Teaching Observation Fellowship, Columbia University Center for Teaching and Learning
2020 Lead Teaching Fellowship, Columbia University Center for Teaching and Learning

PUBLICATIONS

Manuscripts in prep/under review

DiGiovanni, A.M., Karsting, H., Valshtein, T.J., **Silver, B.M.**, Peters, B.J., Concepcion, C., Laurenceau, J., Bolger, N. (under review). Examining co-rumination and political action surrounding the 2024 U.S. presidential election.

Silver, B.M., Williams-Ceci, S., Naaman, M. (under review). Perceptions of AI as a misinformation moderator: The roles of argument type and group chat size. https://doi.org/10.31234/osf.io/r9aew_v1

Silver, B.M., Corbani, F., Muskin, P.R., Davachi, L., Ochsner, K.N. (in prep). Investigating hypnosis as a tool for emotion regulation during fMRI.

Silver, B.M., Meyer, M.L., Davachi, L., Ochsner, K.N. (in prep). Changes in self-views in response to the 2020 U.S. presidential election. https://doi.org/10.31234/osf.io/pq4k5

Daniels, J., **Silver, B.M.,** McGee, D., Downey, G. (in prep). Project Restore: A community violence intervention informed by ecological systems theory.

Remnick, N., Muhammad, M., Tineo, M., **Silver, B.M.,** Downey, G. (in prep). Avoiding carceral logic in the prison classroom through collaborative teaching and co-creation of curricula. Special issue of *Tertiary Education and Management.*

McGee, D., **Silver, B.M.,** Inose, S., Rudolph, K., Downey, G. (in prep). Detecting reductions in gun violence after a community violence intervention using the synthetic control method.

Published/in press

Yu, W., **Silver, B.M.**, Ochsner, K.N., Davachi, L. (in press). Causal bridges and agentic engagement shape temporal memory for a virtual escape room game. https://doi.org/10.31234/osf.io/zprmw_v1

Silver, B.M., Baldassano, C., Davachi, L., Ochsner, K.N. (2026). The mentalizing network updates neural representations of romantic interest in response to social feedback. https://doi.org/10.1093/scan/nsag074

Kamdem, A., Bouché, V., **Silver, B.M.,** Freeman, N., and Euteneier, J. (2026). Behind the Screen: Online Sex Buyer Networks and the Organized Criminal Promotion of Exploitation. *Dignity: A Journal of Analysis of Exploitation and Violence*. https://doi.org/10.23860/dignity.2026.11.02.09

Silver, B.M., Williams-Ceci, S., Naaman, M. (2025). AI is Perceived as Less

Trustworthy and Less Effective when Using Emotional Arguments to Moderate Misinformation. In *CHI EA '25: Extended Abstracts of the CHI Conference on Human Factors in Computing Systems* (Association for Computing Machinery). https://doi.org/10.1145/3706599.3720008

Silver, B.M., Yu, W., Bolger, N., Davachi, L., Ochsner, K.N. (2025). What are my friends really like? How we change our perceptions of familiar others' traits and actions. *Personality and Social Psychology Bulletin.* https://doi.org/10.1177/01461672251320476

Silver, B.M., Ochsner, K.N. (2024). Changes in Online Moral Discourse About Public Figures During #MeToo. *Affective Science*. https://doi.org/10.1007/s42761-024-00250-4

Top-rated abstracts from the 2022 Annual Meeting of the Society for Affective Science. *Affective Science* (2023). https://doi.org/10.1007/s42761-022-00175-w

Bos, D.J., Barnes, E.D., **Silver, B.M.,** Ajodan, E.L., Clark-Whitney, E., Scult, M.A. Power, J.D., Jones, R.M. (2021). An effort-based social feedback paradigm reveals aversion to popularity in socially anxious participants and increased motivation in adolescents. *PLOS ONE.* https://doi.org/10.1371/journal.pone.0249326

Lynch, C.J., Voss, H., **Silver, B.M.**, Power, J.D. (2021). On measuring head motion and effects of headmolds during fMRI. *Neuroimage.* https://doi.org/10.1016/j.neuroimage.2020.117494

Silver, B.M., Conte, M.M., Victor, J.D., Jones, R.M. (2020). Visual search for circumscribed interests in autism is similar to that of neurotypical individuals. *Frontiers in Psychology.* https://doi.org/10.3389/fpsyg.2020.582074

Lynch, C.J., **Silver, B.M.**, Dubin, M.J., Martin, A., Jones, R.M., Power, J.D. (2020). A prevalent, sex-biased respiratory pattern influences functional connectivity MRI in young adults. *Nature Communications.* https://doi.org/10.1038/s41467-020-18974-9

Bos, D.J., **Silver, B.M.**, Barnes, E., Ajodan, E.L., Silverman, M.R., Clark-Whitney, E., Tarpey, T., Jones, R.M. (2019). Adolescent-specific motivation deficits in autism versus typical development. *Journal of Autism and Developmental Disorders.* https://doi.org/10.1007/s10803-019-04258-9

Power, J.D., Lynch, C. J., Dubin, M.J., **Silver, B.M.**, Martin, A., Jones, R.M. (2019). Characteristics of respiratory measures in young adults scanned at rest, including systematic changes and "missed" deep breaths. *Neuroimage.* https://doi.org/10.1016/j.neuroimage.2019.116234

Power, J.D., Lynch, C.J., **Silver, B.M.**, Dubin, M.J., Martin, A., Jones, R.M. (2019). Distinctions among real and apparent respiratory motions in human fMRI data. *Neuroimage*. https://doi.org/10.1016/j.neuroimage.2019.116041

Bos, D.J., Silverman, M.R., Ajodan, E.L., Martin, C., **Silver, B.M.**, Brouwer, G., Di Martino, A., Jones, R.M. (2019). Rigidity coincides with reduced cognitive

control to affective cues in children with autism. *Journal of Abnormal Psychology.* https://doi.org/10.1037/abn0000423

Power, J.D., **Silver, B.M.**, Silverman, M.R., Ajodan, E.L., Bos, D.J., Jones, R.M. (2019). Customized head molds reduce motion during resting state fMRI. *Neuroimage.* https://doi.org/10.1016/j.neuroimage.2019.01.016.

UNIVERSITY TEACHING AND MENTORING EXPERIENCE

Instructor of record

2026, Fall PSYC1495: Research Methods: Data Science, Justice, and Social Change
- Course syllabus here

2026, Spring PSYC4890: Laboratory in Justice Data Science
- Redesigned existing seminar course to be taught at Sing Sing Correctional Facility

2025, Fall PSYC1495: Research Methods: Data Science, Justice, and Social Change
- Redesigned existing seminar course as a research methods course
- Course syllabus here

2024, Fall PSYC3830: Psychology and the Internet
- Developed and taught course as part of Columbia's Teaching Scholars program
- Course syllabus here

Lab section instructor

2022, Fall PSYC1450: Research Methods: Social Cognition and Emotion

2022, Spring PSYC1450: Research Methods: Social Cognition and Emotion

2021, Spring PSYC1455: Research Methods: Social/Personality

Teaching assistant

2025, Spring PSYC2235: Thinking and Decision Making

2024, Spring PSYC2435: Social Neuroscience
- Guest lecture: Social neuroscience and social media

2020, Summer PSYC2630: Social Psychology
- Guest lecture: Attitudes and Consistency

2020, Spring PSYC2235: Thinking and Decision Making
- Guest lecture: The Cognitive Neuroscience of Decision Making

Other

2023 Participant, Center for Teaching and Learning Innovative Course Design Workshop
- Five-week workshop devoted to creating and designing an original undergraduate course with innovative elements
- Designed a course entitled "Psychology and the Internet"

2022–2024 Teaching Consultant – Center for Teaching and Learning

- Conduct in-class observations, mid-course reviews, and practice teaching sessions for graduate student instructors across the university
- Consult with graduate students on teaching materials and teaching statements for the academic job market

2021 Instructor, Summer Internship Program in Psychological Science
- Taught undergraduate students in R programming, the scientific method, and science communication

2020 Assistant Instructor – Columbia Psychology coding bootcamp

Mentored students

2026– Sciana Vertusma: Undergrad research assistant
2025– Nicoh Koehly: Undergrad research assistant, former student
2025– Mya Santos de Jesus: Undergrad research assistant, former student
2025– Jason Bostic: Senior honors thesis project
2025–2026 Ava Kamdem: Undergrad/postbac research assistant, former student
2021–2024 Arielle Clark: Senior honors thesis project, undergrad research assistant
2022–2024 Jessie Lin: Undergrad research assistant, summer research project
2023 Duygu Cakmur: Undergrad research assistant
2022 Brena Bessa: Post-bac research assistant
2021–2022 Jana Jaran: Senior honors thesis project, undergrad research assistant
2021–2022 Monica Boose: Undergrad research assistant
2021 Charlotte Cassidy: Post-bac research assistant, summer research project

PRESENTATIONS

(Co)-chaired symposia

2026 Silver, B.M. *Engaging incarcerated students when teaching psychology in prison.* Society for the Teaching of Psychology's Annual Conference on Teaching. St. Louis, MO.

2026 Silver, B.M. and Downey, G. *Ecological Systems Theory and Community Violence Interventions: A multi-level framework for design and evaluation.* Society for the Psychological Study of Social Issues. New Orleans, LA.

2026 Silver, B.M. and Downey, G. *Evaluating the psychological impact of a community violence intervention.* American Psychological Association. Washington, D.C.

Talks and workshops

2026 Silver, B.M., McGee, D., Inose, S., Rudolph, K., Downey, G. *Estimating neighborhood-level violence outcomes using synthetic control methods*. Symposium talk presented at The Society for the Psychological Study of Social Issues. New Orleans, LA.

2026 Silver, B.M., McGee, D., Inose, S., Rudolph, K., Downey, G. *Using synthetic control groups to measure community-wide violence*. Symposium talk presented at the American Psychological Association. Washington, D.C.

2026 Silver, B.M., Meyer, M.L., Davachi, L., Ochsner, K.N. *Self-views and memory*

across U.S. presidential elections. Symposium talk presented at The Society for Personality and Social Psychology. Chicago, IL.

2025 Silver, B.M., Williams-Ceci, S., Naaman, M. *Perceptions of AI moderators in private group chats.* Flash talk presented at the 6 College Conference. New York, NY.

2025 Invited guest speaker, Cognition in Collectives Lab (Alin Coman) lab meeting

2025 Invited guest speaker, Suffern High School science research symposium

2024 Awardee lunch talk, Incite Institute

2024 Invited guest speaker, Impression in Action Lab (Chujun Lin) lab meeting

2024 Invited guest speaker, Social Computation Representation and Prediction Lab (Mark Thornton) lab meeting

2024 Silver, B.M., Williams-Ceci, S., Naaman, M. *Perceptions of AI moderators and the spread of misinformation in closed group chats.* Flash talk presented at the Psychology of Technology conference. Boston, MA.

2024 Panelist, Zuckerman Institute Neuroethics Teacher Institute

2024 Invited guest speaker, Social Learning and Choice Lab (Leor Hackel) lab meeting

2024 Co-facilitator, Teaching observation workshop, Center for Teaching and Learning

2022 Silver, B.M., Ochsner, K.N. *Morality and #MeToo: Motivated impression updating on Twitter.* Flash talk presented at the Society for Affective Science. Online.
- Denoted as "High-ranking abstract"; invited to submit abstract as conference publication

2020 Silver, B.M., Li, D.H., Mayers, A., Croxson, P.L. *Neuroscience education from home: Challenges and opportunities.* Interactive talk presented at the Neuromatch conference. Online.

2017 Silver, B.M. *The relationship between pretend play and working memory in preschool aged children;* Oral undergraduate honors thesis presentation. Providence, RI.

Posters: First author

2024 Silver, B.M., Baldassano, C., Davachi, L., Ochsner, K.N. *Always on my mind: The role of the dmPFC in responding to social feedback from potential romantic partners.* Poster presented at the Social and Affective Neuroscience Society. Toronto, ON.

2024 Silver, B.M., Corbani, F., Muskin, P.R., Davachi, L., Ochsner, K.N. *You are enjoying this poster: Investigating hypnosis as a tool for emotion regulation during fMRI*. Poster presented at the Society for Affective Science. New Orleans, LA.

2023 Silver, B.M., Baldassano, C., Davachi, L., Ochsner, K.N. *Do you like me back? Motivated perceptions and cognitive effort for potential romantic partners.* Poster presented at the Social and Affective Neuroscience Society. Santa Barbara, CA.

2023 Silver, B.M., Yu, W., Davachi, L., Ochsner, K.N. *What are my friends really like?*

Motivated perceptions after completing a virtual escape room. Poster presented at the Society for Affective Science. Long Beach, CA.

2022 Silver, B.M., Baldassano, C., Davachi, L., Ochsner, K.N. *Romantic remembering: Social information determines individualized reward value and motivates memory.* Poster presented at the Social and Affective Neuroscience Society. Online.

2019 Silver, B.M., Lynch, C.J., Clark-Whitney, E., Barnes, E., Power, J.D., Jones, R.M. *Longitudinal resting-state fMRI using individual-specific analyses in autism.* Poster presented at the FLUX Congress. New York, NY.

2019 Silver, B.M., Barnes, E., Clark-Whitney, E., Conte, M.M., Victor, J.D., Jones, R.M. *Developing a novel visual search task personalized for individual interests.* Poster presented at the INSAR Conference. Montreal, Canada.

2018 Silver, B.M., Bos, D.J., Ajodan, E., Silverman, M., Power, J.D., Jones, R.M. *Preferred interests interfere with self-control in autism*; Poster presented at The Social and Affective Neuroscience Society Conference. Brooklyn, NY.

Posters: Middle author

2023 Li, D.H., Gumnit, M., Shah, A., Bravo, I., **Silver, B.M.,** Patel, P., Miller, M., Remole, K.E., Imbimbo, J., Shohamy, D., Croxson, P.L., Mayers, A.M. *Brain Research Apprenticeships In New York At Columbia (BRAINYAC) strengthens STEM identity and self-efficacy in high school students through coursework and mentored research.* Poster presented at the Society for Neuroscience Annual Meeting. Washington, D.C.

2021 Li, D.H., **Silver, B.M.,** Patel, P., Remole, K.E., Imbimbo, J., Mayers, A.M., Shohamy, D., Croxson, P.L. *Advancing high school research exposure through BRAINYAC: Brain Research Apprenticeships In New York At Columbia.* Poster presented at the Society for Neuroscience Annual Meeting. Online

2021 Croxson, P.L., Li, D.H., **Silver, B.M.,** Patel, P., Remole, K.E., Imbimbo, J., Mayers, A., Shohamy, D. *Advancing high school research exposure through Brain Research Apprenticeships in New York at Columbia (BRAINYAC).* Poster presented at BRAIN Initiative Investigators Meeting. Online

2019 Barnes, E., **Silver, B.M.**, Clark-Whitney, E., Ajodan, E.L., Scult, M., Jones, R.M. *Studying teen choices on social media: validation of a novel social decision-making task.* Poster presented at the FLUX Congress. New York, NY.

2019 Jones, R.M., Barnes, E., Ajodan, E.L., **Silver, B.M.**, Clark-Whitney, E., Scult, M. *Behavioral and neural correlates of adolescent-specific social motivations: Implications for psychosocial treatments.* Talk presented at the Anxiety and Depression Conference. Chicago, IL.

2019 Bos. D.J., Ajodan, E.L., Silverman, M.R., **Silver, B.M.**, Martin, C., Di Martino, A., Jones, R.M. *Similarities and differences in cognitive control to motivating cues in autism and (co-morbid) ADHD.* Poster presented at the INSAR Conference. Montreal, Canada.

2019 Bos. D.J., Tarpey, T., **Silver, B.M.**, Ajodan, E.L., Silverman, M.R., Martin, C., Jones, R.M. *Absence of adolescent-specific sensitivity to motivating cues in Autism.* Poster presented at the INSAR Conference. Montreal, Canada.

2018 Bos. D.J., Silverman, M.R., Ajodan, E.L., Martin, C., **Silver, B.M.**, Di Martino, A., Jones, R.M. *Cognitive control to affective cues across neurodevelopmental disorders;* Poster presented at the Eunethydis Conference. Edinburgh, Scotland.

2018 Ajodan, E., **Silver, B.M.**, Silverman, M., Southerland, A., Chanda, K., Stubbs, E.A., Lord, C., Rehg, J., Rozga, A., Jones, R.M. *Gaze patterns during parent-child versus clinician-child interactions;* Poster presented at the INSAR Conference. Rotterdam, Netherlands.

2018 Bos, D.J., Silverman, M., Ajodan, E., Martin, C., **Silver, B.M.**, Di Martino, A., Jones, R.M. *Reconciling the co-occurrence of impulsivity and insistence on sameness in ASD;* Talk presented at the INSAR Conference. Rotterdam, Netherlands.

2017 Freier, L., Gunther, K., **Silver, B.M.**, Badre, D., Amso, D. *3- to 7-year-olds' use of working memory gating strategies in a naturalistic task;* Poster presented at the Society for Research in Child Development Conference. Austin, TX.

RELEVANT RESEARCH SKILLS

- Neuroimaging analysis – NIPY suite, FSL, SPM, AFNI, Freesurfer, Connectome Workbench
- Data analysis/organization – Python, R, Matlab, bash/tcsh, SPSS, Excel, REDCap
- Experimental design – PsychoPy3, PsychToolbox, Qualtrics, E-Prime
- Video and gaze coding – Interact, Datavyu, Yarbus, Boris

GENERAL AUDIENCE PUBLICATIONS

"Elodie Freyman, Primatologist" *Muse Magazine* (April 2024 issue)
"Facebook and campus mental health" *Center for Brain Mind and Society* (September 26, 2023)
"Executive Functioning" *Center for Brain Mind and Society* (September 26, 2023)
"Is mind reading possible?" *Muse Magazine* (September 2023 issue)
"Something Magical" *Muse Magazine* (May/June 2023 issue)
"Laura Lewis, PhD" *Scientist on the Subway* (April 10, 2023)
"Sarah Woolley, Neuroscientist" *Muse Magazine* (November/December 2022 issue)
"Dr. Uraina Clark" *Scientist on the Subway* (March 21, 2022)
"Anita Burgos, PhD" *Scientist on the Subway* (September 13, 2021)
"Shivon Robinson, PhD" *Scientist on the Subway* (November 30, 2020)

SERVICE AND OUTREACH EXPERIENCE

Volunteer peer reviewer: Autism Research, Social Cognitive and Affective Neuroscience, Emotion, BMC Psychology, Behavior & Information Technology
Society member: Social Affective Neuroscience Society, The Society for Affective Science, The Society for Personality and Social Psychology, American Psychological Association, The Society for the Psychological Study of Social Issues

2026 Lead coordinator, Current Directions in Neuroscience and the Law

- Neuroscience conference for legal professionals (public defenders, government officials, judges)
- Co-designed program, invited speakers, oversaw logistics

2024 Mentor, BioBus
- Advised high school students on a science research project during weekly after-school sessions
- Provided guidance on research questions, procedures, data analysis, and presentations

2023 Instructor, Genspace
- Taught a two-day workshop for the general public entitled "Neurohacking 101: Analyzing and visualizing brain networks"

2023 Instructor, Double Discovery Center
- Created and taught a 7-week course on science communication for high school students in a college prep program

2022-2023 Coordinator, BraiNY Bunch
- Organized and facilitated a virtual journal club for high school and undergraduate students from around the world

2020-2022 Instructor, Brain Research Apprenticeships in New York at Columbia
- Taught neuroscience to high school students, helped build course curriculum, mentored students during summer internships
- Served as Senior Instructor 2021-2022

2020-2023 Writer/Outreach coordinator, Scientist on the Subway (SciSub)
- Interviewed neuroscientists from underrepresented backgrounds, write articles
- Developed curricula based on SciSub articles, coordinate partnerships with science education programs

2020-2022 Psychology Department Monday Seminar Coordinator
- Organized weekly seminar series for department with both external and internal speakers, as well as panels

2021-2023 Instructor, Summer Internship Program in Psychological Science
- Internship program for undergraduates to learn psychology research skills and complete an internship
- Part of core team running the program; taught coding and professional development workshops

2021 Mentor, Mindhive
- Mentored high school students on citizen science projects

2019 Instructor, Columbia University Neuroscience Outreach Multi-Visit Program
- Taught neuroscience to middle school students at Renaissance School of the Arts and helped them prepare for a final presentation

2017-2018 Instructor, Mad Science
- Performed and taught as a "Mad Scientist" for children's birthday parties

2014-2017 Science Center Student Worker, Brown University

- Created, wrote, and hosted a web series about science research at Brown (https://bit.ly/2Ozxdke)
- Coordinated "Science Underground" science café program

2015–2017 Brown Brain Bee High School Coordinator, Brown University
- Taught basic neuroscience to high school students, recruited high schools to participate, mentored other student teachers

2016–2017 Tour Program Co-Coordinator, Brown University
- Oversaw 100 tour guides, ran training sessions, gave tours and information sessions to visiting families