

Erika Weisz  
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## EMPLOYMENT

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2018 - Present Postdoctoral Research Fellow  
Harvard University  
Department of Psychology

## EDUCATION

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2018 Stanford University  
Ph.D. in Psychology  
  
Dissertation: *Building Empathy through Psychological Interventions*  
Advisor: Jamil Zaki  
Committee: Jamil Zaki, James Gross, Carol Dweck, Alia Crum, Jeanne Tsai, Robb Willer

2011 University of Vermont  
B.A., *summa cum laude* in Psychology

## AWARDS AND HONORS

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2019 Society for Affective Science Best Thematic Flash Talk Award  
2016 SPSP Student Travel Award  
2012 MGH Clinical Research Day Best Translational Research Award  
2011 Phi Beta Kappa  
2011 Donald Forgays Outstanding Senior Award

## GRANTS AND FELLOWSHIPS

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2019 Pershing Square Fund for Research on the Foundations of Human Behavior: Support and Spite as Drivers of Charitable Giving  
2018 Pershing Square Fund for Research on the Foundations of Human Behavior: Designing Decisions Spaces to Promote Charitable Giving  
2018 Forming Science-Industry Research Collaborations Fellow, Stanford University  
2017 Summer School in Social Neuroscience and Neuroeconomics Fellow, Duke University  
2017 Norman H. Anderson Research Fund Grant  
2016 Stanford Center for Cognitive and Neurobiological Imaging Seed Grant  
2013 Stanford Center for Cognitive and Neurobiological Imaging Seed Grant

## WORKING PAPERS

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Weisz, E., Cikara, M. (Under review). Merely increasing action options increases charitable donation.

Weisz, E., Chen, P., Ong, D., Carlson, R., Clark, M., & Zaki, J. (Under review). A brief intervention to motivate empathy in middle school.

## PUBLICATIONS

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\* Denotes equal contribution

**Weisz, E.** & Cikara, M. (In press). Strategic regulation of empathy. *Trends in Cognitive Sciences*.

Goldenberg, A.\*, **Weisz, E.\***, Sweeny, T., Cikara, M., Gross, J. (In press). The crowd emotion amplification effect. *Psychological Science*.

**Weisz, E.**, Ong, D., Carlson, R. & Zaki, J. (2020). Building empathy through motivation-based interventions. *Emotion*.

Herrera, F., Bailenson, J., **Weisz, E.**, Ogle, E., & Zaki, J. (2018). Building long-term empathy: A large-scale comparison of traditional and virtual reality perspective-taking. *PLoS One*.

**Weisz, E.** & Zaki, J. (2018). Motivated empathy: A social neuroscience perspective. *Current Opinion in Psychology*, 24, 67-71.

**Weisz, E.**, & Zaki, J. (2017). Empathy Building Interventions: A Review of Existing Work and Suggestions for Future Directions. *Oxford Handbook of Compassion Science*. Ed. Doty, J.R., Seppala, E.M et al.

Oh, S. Y., Bailenson, J., **Weisz, E.**, & Zaki, J. (2016). Virtually old: Embodied perspective taking and the reduction of ageism under threat. *Computers in Human Behavior*.

Schuman-Olivier Z., Stoeckel L.E., **Weisz E.**, Evins A.E. (2014). Smoking effects in the Human Nervous System. *The Effects of Drug Abuse on the Human Nervous System*. Ed. Kuhar M. and Madras B.

## CONFERENCE PRESENTATIONS AND INVITED TALKS

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- 2021 Merely Increasing Action Options Increases Charitable Donation. *Society for Personality and Social Psychology*. (Symposium Chair and Speaker). Scheduled: February 2021.
- 2020 Nudging Prosociality: Increasing Action Options Increases Charitable Donation. Harvard Business School.
- 2020 Building Empathy through Psychological Intervention. *Social Psychology Brown Bag*, Royal Holloway University of London.
- 2020 Building Empathy through Psychological Intervention. *Center for Health and Happiness*, Harvard T.H. Chan School of Public Health.
- 2020 A Brief Intervention to Build Empathy in Middle School. *Society for Personality and Social Psychology*, New Orleans, LA.
- 2019 Motivating Empathy in Middle School. *Association for Psychological Science Annual Meeting*, Washington, DC. (Symposium Chair and Speaker)
- 2019 A Brief Intervention to Build Empathy in Middle School. *Society for Affective Science Annual Meeting*, Boston, MA.

- 2018 Building Empathy through Psychological Intervention. *NERD Lab*, Harvard Business School
- 2018 Building Empathy through Psychological Intervention. *Happy Lab*, Harvard Business School
- 2018 Increasing Empathy through Psychological Intervention. *Social Lunch*, Harvard University
- 2018 Building Empathy through Psychological Intervention. *Morality Lab*, Boston College
- 2018 A Brief Intervention to Build Empathy in Middle School. *Mind Body Lab*, Stanford University
- 2018 Increasing Empathy through Psychological Intervention. *Society for Social and Personality Psychology Emotion Preconference*, Atlanta, GA
- 2017 Building Empathy through Social Psychological Intervention. *Society for Social and Personality Psychology*, San Antonio, TX (Poster)
- 2016 Building Empathy through Social Psychological Intervention. *Intergroup Psychological Interventions*, Stanford University
- 2016 Building Empathy through Social Psychological Intervention. *Society for Social and Personality Psychology Emotion Preconference*, San Diego, CA (Poster)
- 2015 The Influence of Competition and Competence on Empathy. *Society for Affective Science*, Oakland, CA (Poster)
- 2015 Empathy Avoidance: Individual Differences and Effects on Prosocial Behavior. *Society for Social and Personality Psychology Emotion Preconference*, Long Beach, CA (Poster)
- 2014 The Influence of Motivation on Empathy and Attribution. *Association for Psychological Science Annual Meeting*, San Francisco, CA. (Poster)
- 2014 The Influence of Motivation on Empathy and Attribution. *Society for Social and Personality Psychology Emotion Preconference*, Austin, TX (Poster)
- 2012 Enhancing Self Control of Cigarette Smoking with Real-Time fMRI. *Massachusetts General Hospital Clinical Research Day*, Boston, MA (Poster)
- 2012 The Influence of Perceived Popularity in the Emergence of Anxious/Depressed Symptoms in Relationally Aggressive Girls. *Honors Student Research Conference*, University of Vermont (Poster)

## **TEACHING EXPERIENCE**

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- 2016 - 2018 Introduction to Psychology (Psych One)  
*Guest Lecturer, Stanford University*
- 2016 - 2017 Self and Society (Psych 70/Soc 2)  
*Head Teaching Assistant, Stanford University*
- 2016 - 2017 Personality and Emotion (Psych 115)  
*Guest Lecturer, Stanford University*
- 2016 - 2017 Introduction to Psychology (Psych One)  
*Teaching Fellow Consulting and Training, Stanford University*
- 2016 Introduction to Abnormal Psychology (Psych 95)  
*Teaching Assistant, Stanford University*
- 2014 - 2015 Introduction to Psychology (Psych One)  
*Teaching Fellow, Stanford University*

## **DEPARTMENTAL SERVICE**

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- Harvard Psychology Department Diversity, Inclusion and Belonging Committee (2020)
- Harvard Psychology Department Climate Committee (2019 - present)
- Co-Founder and Chair, Harvard Psych Night (2019 - present)
- Harvard Social Psychology Area Representative for Visiting Committee Meeting (2019)
- Graduate Application Mentors for Psychology (GRAM) Mentor (2016 - 2018)
- Co-organizer for Affective Science Seminar (2014-2015)
- Co-organizer for Prospective Students Weekend (2014-2015)

## **MENTORING**

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- Vincent Rice (University of Buffalo), recipient of SPSP Diversity Undergraduate Registration Award
- Christina Huber (Stanford University), recipient of Undergraduate Research Award and the Zajonc Award for Excellence in Psychology Honors Research
- Monica Kullar (Cambridge University), recipient of the Gates Cambridge Scholarship

## **AD HOC REVIEWING**

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- Nature Human Behavior; NeuroImage; Emotion; Journal of Experimental Social Psychology; European Review of Social Psychology; Social, Cognitive and Affective Neuroscience; Motivation and Emotion; Journal of Psychiatric Research; Scientific Reports; Mind, Brain and Education; Cognitive, Affective and Behavioral Neuroscience; Memory and Cognition; European Journal of Psychological Assessment

## POPULAR PRESS

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Goldenberg, A. and Weisz, E. (2020). We Overestimate our Audience's Emotions. *Harvard Business Review*.

Weisz, E. (2020). This Psychological Concept Could Be Shaping the Presidential Election. *Nautilus Magazine*.

Weisz E., & Zaki, J. (2017). The Case for Less Solidarity: The Surprising Effects of Reducing Empathy for Your Own Ingroup. *Nautilus Magazine*.

## MEDIA COVERAGE

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<https://medium.com/stanford-d-school/the-other-side-of-empathy-6c1512aa2963>

<https://news.stanford.edu/press-releases/2018/10/17/virtual-reality-eople-empathetic/>

<https://psychcentral.com/news/2018/10/20/using-virtual-reality-as-tool-to-foster-empathy/139625.html>

<https://www.nbcnews.com/storyline/the-big-questions/can-virtual-reality-make-you-better-person-n700816>

[https://greatergood.berkeley.edu/article/item/for\\_a\\_more\\_empathic\\_world\\_people\\_have\\_to\\_choose\\_empathy](https://greatergood.berkeley.edu/article/item/for_a_more_empathic_world_people_have_to_choose_empathy)