Paul E. Teas

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EDUCATION

PhD in Social Psychology (Minor in Quantitative Methods) — May 2025
MA in Social Psychology — May 2022
Advisor: Linda Skitka
University of Illinois Chicago — Chicago, IL

BS in Psychology, Minor in Philosophy — May 2018
University of Texas at Austin — Austin, TX

RESEARCH INTERESTS

My research examines the psychological dynamics of morality and politics, specifically focusing on moralized political conflict in the United States. A central component of my work is identifying the cognitive and emotional mechanisms underpinning these conflicts, and how these processes may be reversed. More recently, I have explored perceptions by the public as well as public officials of democratic transgressions and political violence in the U.S. Ultimately, my work aims to uncover the roots of moral conflicts and chart out effective strategies for their de-escalation and resolution.

PUBLICATIONS

Peer-Reviewed Publications

Teas, P.E. (2025). Partisan or principled? Explaining political differences in attitudes about violations of democratic norms. *Personality and Social Psychology Bulletin,* 1-19. (pdf)

Teas, P.E., Hanson, B., Leal, A., Novak, L., Skitka, L. (2024). Values in context: The (dis)connections between moral foundations and moral conviction. *Personality and Social Psychology Bulletin, 51*(9), 1587-1605. (pdf)

Ruggeri, K., Stock, F., Haslam, S.A. [and 78 other authors, including **Teas, P.E.**] (2024). A synthesis of evidence for policy from behavioral science during COVID-19. *Nature, 625*, 134–147. (pdf)

Batailler, C., Brannon, S.M., **Teas, P.E.**, Gawronski, B. (2022). A signal detection approach to understanding the identification of fake news. *Perspectives on Psychological Science, 17*(1), 78-98. (pdf)

Selected Additional Publications

Filindra, A., **Teas, P.E.**, Manning, A., Harbridge-Yong, L. (2024, August 13). Trump assassination attempt captured 'true human cost' of political violence. Chicago Sun-Times. (view)

Teas, P.E. (2024, July 8). *Understanding disengaged voters and their role in the 2024 election.* YouGov. ([view](#))

Orth, T. & Teas, P.E. (2024, June 26). *Who wins on policy? American support for Biden's and Trump's proposals.* YouGov. ([view](#))

Teas, P.E. (2024, June 26). *Views of 40 social movements reveal groups supported most by Americans*. YouGov. ([view](#))

Teas, P.E. (2024, May 10). *Explaining the partisan gap in support for student loan forgiveness*. YouGov. ([view](#))

Teas, P.E., & Skitka, L. (in press). Beyond preferences and conventions: The distinctiveness of moral conviction. In *The Oxford Handbook of the Cognitive Science of Belief*.

Society for Personality and Social Psychology. (2023). *State of the research - 2023* [White paper]. Washington, DC. [(pdf)](#) *Description: I led the research review and authored the sections on disinformation and ideological polarization, highlighting evidence-based strategies for legislative consideration. I presented these findings and expanded on policy applications at SPSP (2/9/24).*

Selected Manuscripts In Prep

Teas, P.E., Skitka, L. (in prep). Cut both ways: The symmetrical role of harm, autonomy, and emotions in attitude moralization and demoralization. *Description: Eight studies have been conducted examining what explains attitude moralization and demoralization, and whether these processes are similar or different. Results have been presented at several conferences and the manuscript is approaching submission. Manuscript available upon request.*

Filindra, A., Harbridge-Yong, L., Manning, A., **Teas, P.E.** (under review). Partisanship and the evaluation of threats and violence against elected officials. *Description: Two pre-registered survey experiments and a field study using a real incident of political violence test responses to threats and violence toward public officials of participants' inparty vs. outparty, exploring the impact of elite framing of incidents as well. Results were presented at APSA (9/5/24).*

Filindra, A., Harbridge-Yong, L., Manning, A., **Teas, P.E.** (in prep). Diffused domestic terrorism targeting America's elected officials and staff: Qualitative investigation of causes and consequences. *Description: Between August 2022 and June 2023, we conducted 106 in-depth interviews with sub-national elected officials and staff across the United States about threats and violence from constituents. This paper was presented at MPSA (4/5/24).*

GRANTS, AWARDS, & FUNDING

UIC Graduate College Dean's Scholar Fellowship	August 2024 - May 2025
Harry S. Upshaw Award for Excellence in Teaching ($500)	2024
UIC Graduate Student Council Travel Award ($500)	2023
International Society for Justice Research Travel Fellowship ($1,000)	2023
Midwest Political Science Association Registration Award ($145)	2023

UIC Psychology Student Travel Award ($800)	2024, 2023, 2022, 2021
Center for Place-Based Initiatives – Dell Medical School ($1,200)	2017

SELECTED PRESENTATIONS

Teas, P.E. (2025, February). *Comparing two measures of political sectarianism.* In **Teas, P.E.** (chair), *Beyond polarization: Measuring political sectarianism and its consequences for democracy*. [Symposium]. Annual meeting of the Society for Personality and Social Psychology, Denver, CO. (view)

Teas, P. E. (2024, October). *Morality cut both ways. The role of harm, autonomy, and emotion in attitude (de)moralization* [Invited talk]. University of Chicago, Department of Psychology, Chicago, IL.

Teas, P. E. (2024, April). *Partisan or principled? Explaining political differences in attitudes about violations of democratic norms* [Paper presentation]. Annual meeting of the Midwest Political Science Association, Chicago, IL.

Filindra, A., Harbridge-Yong, L., Manning, A., **Teas, P.E.** (2024, April). *Diffused domestic terrorism targeting America's elected officials and staff: Qualitative investigation of causes and consequences.* [Paper presentation]. Annual meeting of the Midwest Political Science Association, Chicago, IL.

Teas, P.E., Carter-Sowell, A., Cornwell, J. (co-presenters). (2024, February). *Applying personality and social psychology research to address social challenges.* Professional development session at the annual meeting of the Society for Personality and Social Psychology, San Diego, CA.

Teas, P.E., Skitka, L. (2023, July). *Tweaking the moral temperature: The moralization and demoralization of social issues.* Paper presented at the 19th biennial meeting of the International Society for Justice Research (ISJR), Munich, GER.

Teas, P.E., Hanson, B., Leal, A., Novak, L., Skitka, L. (2023, June). *Shaky connections: Moral foundations and moral convictions.* In Kutlaca, M. (chair), A fresh look at an old debate: Ideological (a)symmetries across contexts and methods. [Symposium]. 19th General Meeting of the European Association of Social Psychology, Krakow, PL.

Teas, P.E., Hanson, B., Leal, A., Novak, L., Skitka, L. (2023, April). *Shaky connections: Moral foundations and moral convictions.* In Clifford, S. (chair), *Morality and politics*. [Symposium]. Annual meeting of the Midwest Political Science Association, Chicago, IL.

Teas, P.E., Hanson, B., Leal, A., Novak, L., Skitka, L. (2023, February). *Shaky connections: Moral foundations and moral convictions.* In **Teas, P.E.**, Novak, L. (co-chairs), *Moralized politics are dangerous politics*. [Symposium]. Annual meeting of the Society for Personality and Social Psychology, Atlanta, GA. (view)

Teas, P.E., Skitka, L., Skalamera, J. (2021, October). *Tweaking the moral temperature: The moralization and demoralization of social issues.* Paper presented at the University of Illinois at Chicago's Social Personality Brownbag, Chicago, IL.

CONFERENCE POSTERS

Teas, P.E. (2024, February). *Partisan or principled? Explaining political differences in attitudes about undemocratic policies.* Poster presented at the annual meeting of the Society for Personality and Social Psychology, San Diego, CA. (view)

Teas, P.E., Hanson, B., Leal, A., Novak, L., Skitka, L. (2022, February). *The foundations of moral attitudes: Examining whether concerns beyond harm predict attitude moralization.* Poster presented at the annual meeting of the Society for Personality and Social Psychology, San Francisco, CA. (view)

Teas, P.E., Skitka, L., Skalamera, J. (2021, February). *Depends on how you slice it: Using male and female circumcision to understand when predictors of moralization diverge.* Poster presented at the virtual meeting of the Society for Personality and Social Psychology. (view)

RESEARCH EXPERIENCE

Morality, Values, & Politics Lab   August 2019 –
Dr. Linda Skitka, University of Illinois Chicago   May 2025

Research Design & Methodology
- Accumulated over 5 years of research experience.
- Led a major research project from inception to publication and currently directing 3 additional projects, with significant involvement in 9 other research projects (3 published).
- Designed and developed 20+ surveys distributed to over 12,000 participants.

Data Analysis
- Conducted and summarized 50+ analyses on over 16,000 participants across 7 projects.
- Proficient in multivariate statistical analyses (e.g., regression, ANOVA, mixed effects models, structural equation modeling).
- Over 5 years of experience cleaning, analyzing, and creating visualizations of large datasets in R.

Project Leadership & Collaboration
- Collaborated with social psychologists and political scientists, domestic and international, on 14+ projects, including 2 published original research projects and a policy-focused white paper.

Communication
- Authored 2 peer-reviewed scientific journal articles and 1 white paper, effectively communicating social science research findings to academics and policymakers.
- Given 10+ research presentations and invited talks at conferences and universities.

U.S. 2024 Elections Intern   April – July 2024
YouGov America | U.S. News Team, Supervisor: Carl Bialik
- Designed and analyzed public opinion polls on politics and social issues, publishing 50+ graphs and authoring 8 articles.
- Produced real-time graphs and insights with RMarkdown for YouGov social media posts during the first 2024 presidential debate.
- Developed proficiency in Crunch and DataWrapper
- Delivered insights to journalists from The Economist and other outlets

- Developed proficiency in using YouGov's Questionnaire Scripting Language (QSL) via Gryphon for coding surveys
- Presented findings to the company-wide "What's New in a Few" meeting on June 18, 2024

Social Cognition Lab   July 2018 – May
Dr. Bertram Gawronski, University of Texas at Austin   2019
- Administered two studies investigating the mechanisms underlying context effects on social evaluations and relative contributions of associative and propositional processes on preference formation.
- Co-led a study examining the relative effects of validity information and co-occurrence of stimuli on social evaluations, resulting in publication.
  - Discussed and contributed to experimental design.
  - Helped develop study materials using Inquisit study software.
  - Performed data collection and analysis.
- Developed proficiency in Inquisit study software.
- Recruited and scheduled subjects to participate in multiple studies on social cognition.
- Reviewed online study materials and recommended changes in content and procedural details.

Adolescent Development Research Lab   May 2017 – May
Dr. David Yeager, University of Texas at Austin   2018
- Administered 45-minute online mindset intervention to hundreds of 9th grade adolescents to prevent increases in internalizing clinical symptoms and encourage healthier stress responses during first year of high school.
- Collected saliva samples within schools to assess cognitive biases and hormone levels (cortisol, DHEA, testosterone, estradiol) associated with depression, adolescent development, and responses to social stressors.
- Organized large data files of diary entries containing daily positive and negative events for 9th grade adolescents.
- Coded thousands of student responses for daily activities into organized, quantitative data ready for analysis.
- Worked with ~50-person, highly collaborative team of volunteers, graduate students, and research coordinators.

SERVICE

Advocacy Advisory Board Member, Society of Personality & Social Psychology   April 2023—
                                                                                 April 2025
- Set policy priorities for SPSP with the Government Relations Committee
- Contributed to the development of the "State of the Research" brief for the SPSP, articulating key psychological research findings for a legislative audience.
  - Led the research review and authored the sections on disinformation and ideological polarization, highlighting evidence-based strategies for legislative consideration.
  - Presented findings to > 150 people at annual meeting of the Society for Personality and Social Psychology
  - Contributed to the broader dissemination plan to leverage the research brief as a tool for driving informed decisions in policy and governance arenas.

Psychology Department TA, University of Illinois Chicago   Spring 2021;
- Planned and organized brown bag speaker series.   Fall 2022
- Communicated with department and speakers about upcoming talks.
- Planned and organized prospective student visits.

Ad Hoc Reviewer
European Journal of Social Psychology
Group Processes and Intergroup Relations
Journal of Personality and Social Psychology
Political Psychology

TEACHING EXPERIENCE

Instructor – University of Illinois Chicago
Social Psychology   *SPR-24*

Teaching Assistant – University of Illinois Chicago
Social Psychology Lab   *SPR-20; SPR-23; F-23*
- Stepped in as the lead instructor mid-semester (Fall 2023) due to the primary instructor's maternity leave, successfully maintaining educational continuity for 20 undergraduate students in a hands-on research course.

Social Psychology   *SPR-22; F-22*
- Guest lecture on the psychology of morality (11/10/23)
- Guest lecture on the psychology of attitudes and norms (9/28/23)

Psychological Testing   *F-21*
Statistical Methods in Behavioral Sciences   *SPR-21; F-21; SPR-22*
Introduction to Research Methods in Psychology   *F-20*
Introduction to Psychology   *F-19*

SKILLS

Project management/leadership, Classroom instruction, Web-based experiments, Data processing/management, Study material development, Symposium organization/leadership, Grant writing

Software Knowledge: RStudio, RMarkdown, SPSS, Qualtrics, Cloud Research (MTurk), Prolific, Inquisit, Microsoft Office, DataWrapper, Crunch

Data Analytics: Proficient in ANOVA, multiple & hierarchical regression, mediational analyses, structural equation modeling, multi-level modeling, random forest modeling, regression discontinuity analyses

PROFESSIONAL AFFILIATIONS

American Psychological Association
International Society for Justice Research
Midwest Political Science Association
Society for Personality and Social Psychology

REFERENCES

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carl.bialik@yougov.com