

Nick Buttrick
University of Wisconsin-Madison
Madison, WI

nbuttrick@wisc.edu
nickbuttrick.com
osf.io/jdyg8
Updated 1/21/2025

Academic Positions

2022-Present Assistant Professor, Department of Psychology, University of Wisconsin-Madison

Affiliations:

Center for Community and Nonprofit Studies, University of Wisconsin-Madison

Institute on Aging, University of Wisconsin-Madison

Institute for Diversity Science, University of Wisconsin-Madison

La Follette School of Public Affairs, University of Wisconsin-Madison

Mass Communications Research Center, School of Journalism and Mass Communication, University of Wisconsin-Madison

2020-2022 Postdoctoral Research Associate, School of Public and International Affairs, Princeton University

Education

2016-2020 Ph.D., Social Psychology, University of Virginia

2014-2016 M.A., Social Psychology, University of Virginia

2004-2008 B.A., Cognitive Science, Yale University

Research Support

2024 **PI**, Wisconsin Department of Justice, “Understanding Responsible Firearm Storage” [\$75,000]

2020 **PI**, Summer Institute in Computational Social Science, Follow-up Research Grant [\$7,500].

2020 **PI**, Fetzer Franklin Fund, “Following the Decline Effect” [\$20,000].

2019 **Consultant**, NJ Gun Research Center Internal Funding Grant, “The Lived Experience of Gun Ownership,” Dr. Samantha Heintzelman, P.I. [\$7,500; \$100,000 total].

2018 **Awardee**, University of Virginia Society of Fellows, Summer Fellowship Grant, [\$4,000].

2017 **Awardee**, Society for Personality and Social Psychology, Graduate Travel Award, [\$500].

2016 **Awardee**, National Science Foundation, “A Psychology of Gun Ownership” NSF East Asia and Pacific Summer Institute Grant #1613947 [\$5,400].

Honors, Awards, and Fellowships

2025 SAGE Early Career Trajectory Award, Society for Personality and Social Psychology

2022	Student Publication Award, Society for Personality and Social Psychology
2020	Invited to the Summer Institute in Computational Social Science
2020	Elected to the Raven honor society, University of Virginia
2019	Invited to the Summer Institute in Social and Personality Psychology, Society for Personality and Social Psychology
2018-2019	National Study of Learning Mindsets Early Career Fellow, Mindset Scholars Network
2018-2019	Elected Senior Junior Fellow, University of Virginia Society of Fellows
2017-2019	Junior Fellow, University of Virginia Society of Fellows

Publications

^ indicates trainee.

1. **Buttrick, N. R.**, Yang, S.[^], & Okada, S.[^] (2025). Mass shootings durably increase the sale of alcohol in American communities. *PNAS Nexus*, 4(1), pgae570. DOI: 10.1093/pnasnexus/pgae570
2. **Buttrick, N. R.**, Cha, Y., & Oishi, S. (in press). Shifts in residential mobility predict shifts in culture. *Personality and Social Psychology Bulletin*. DOI: 10.1177/01461672241280998
3. Oishi, S., Choi, H., Cha, Y., Heintzelman, S. J., **Buttrick, N. R.**, & Westgate, E. C. (in press). Differing worldviews: The politics of happiness, meaning, and psychological richness. *Journal of Personality*. DOI: 10.1111/jopy.12959
4. Axt, J. R.* , **Buttrick, N. R.***, & Feng, R. Y. (2024). A comparative investigation of the predictive validity of four implicit association measures of bias and prejudice. *Personality and Social Psychology Bulletin*, 50(3), 871-888. DOI: 10.1177/01461672221150229
*Authors contributed equally
5. **Buttrick, N. R.** (2024). Studying large language models as compression algorithms for human culture. *Trends in Cognitive Sciences*, 28(3), 187-189. DOI: 10.1016/j.tics.2024.01.001
6. **Buttrick, N. R.**, Westgate, E. C., & Oishi, S. (2023). Reading literary fiction is associated with a more complex worldview. *Personality and Social Psychology Bulletin*, 49(9), 1408-1420. DOI: 10.1177/01461672221106059
7. **Buttrick, N. R.** & Oishi, S (2023). Money and happiness: A consideration of history and psychological mechanisms. *Proceedings of the National Academy of Sciences*, 120(13), e2301893120. DOI: 10.1073/pnas.2301893120
8. Westgate, E., **Buttrick, N. R.**, Lin, Y., El Helou, G., Agostini, M., Belanger, J., Gutzkow, B,... & Leander, N. P. (2023). Pandemic boredom: Little evidence that

lockdown-related boredom affected risky public health behaviors across 116 countries. *Emotion*, 23(8), 2370–2384. DOI: 10.1037/emo0001118

9. **Buttrick, N. R.** & Mazen, J. (2022). Historical prevalence of slavery predicts contemporary American gun ownership. *PNAS Nexus* 1(3), pgac117. DOI: 10.1093/pnasnexus/pgac117
10. **Buttrick, N. R.** & Oishi, S. (2022). Socioecology and fiction. *Behavioral and Brain Sciences*, 45 e280. DOI:10.1017/S0140525X21002223
11. Raza, S., Westgate, E. C., **Buttrick, N. R.**, Heintzelman, S., Furrer, R., Gilbert, D. T., Libby, L. K., & Wilson, T. D. (2021). A trade-off model of intentional thinking for pleasure. *Emotion* 22(1), 115-128. DOI: 10.1037/emo0001029
12. **Buttrick, N. R.** & Oishi, S. (2021). The cultural dynamics of declining residential mobility. *American Psychologist*, 76(6), 904-916. DOI: 10.1037/amp0000881
13. Wienk, M., **Buttrick, N. R.**, & Oishi, S. (2021). The psychology of income inequality and redistribution. *European Review of Social Psychology*. DOI: 10.1080/10463283.2021.1955458
14. Burnette, J., Hoyt, C., **Buttrick, N. R.**, & Auster-Gussman, L. (2021). Well-being in the time of COVID-19: Do metaphors and mindsets matter? *International Journal of Psychology*, 51(1), 87-95. DOI: 10.1002/ijop.12785
15. Nisa, C. F., Belanger, J. J., Faller, D. G., **Buttrick, N. R.**, Mireau, J. O., Austin, M.,... & Leander, N. P. (2021). Lives versus Livelihoods? Perceived economic risk has a stronger association with support for COVID-19 preventive measures than perceived health risk. *Scientific Reports*, 11, 9669. DOI: 10.1038/s41598-021-88314-4
16. Westgate, E. C., Wilson, T. D., **Buttrick, N. R.**, Furrer, R., & Gilbert, D. T. (2021). What makes thinking for pleasure pleasurable? *Emotion*, 21(5), 981–989. DOI: 10.1037/emo0000941
17. Ebersole, C. R., Mathur, M. B., Baranski, E., Bart-Plange, D.-J., **Buttrick, N. R.**,...& Nosek, B. A. (2020). Many Labs 5: Testing pre-data-collection peer review as an intervention to increase replicability. *Advances in Methods and Practices in Psychological Science*, 3(3), 309-331. DOI: 10.1177/2515245920958687.
18. **Buttrick, N. R.**, Aczcel, B., Aeschbach, L. F., Bakos, B.,...& Wood, M. (2020). Many Labs 5: Registered Replication Report of Vohs & Schooler (2008), Study 1., *Advances in Methods and Practices in Psychological Science*, 3(3), 429-438. DOI: 10.1177/2515245920917931
19. Piester, H. E., DeRieux, C. M., Tucker, J. **Buttrick, N. R.**, Galloway, J. N., & Wilson, T. D. (2020). “I’ll Try the Veggie Burger”: Increasing purchases of sustainable foods with

information about sustainability and taste. *Appetite*, 155(1). DOI: 10.1016/j.appet.2020.104842

20. Oishi, S., Choi, H., Koo, M., Galinha, I., Ishii, K., Komiya, A., Luhmann, M.,...**Buttrick, N. R.**,...& Besser, L. (2020). Happiness, meaning, and psychological richness. *Affective Science*, 1, 107-115. DOI: 10.1007/s42761-020-00011-z
21. **Buttrick, N. R.** (2020). Protective gun ownership as a coping mechanism. *Perspectives on Psychological Science*, 15(4), 835-855. DOI: 10.1177/1745691619898847
22. **Buttrick, N. R.**, Moulder, R., & Oishi, S. (2020). Historical change in the moral foundations of political persuasion. *Personality and Social Psychology Bulletin*, 46(11), 1523-1537. DOI: 10.1177/0146167220907467
Society for Personality and Social Psychology Student Paper Award, 2021
23. Axt, J. R., Conway, M. A., Westgate, E. C. & **Buttrick, N. R.** (2020). Implicit transgender attitudes independently predict beliefs about gender and transgender people. *Personality and Social Psychology Bulletin*, 47(2), 257-274. DOI: 10.1177/0146167220921065
24. **Buttrick, N. R.***, Axt, J. R.*, Ebersole, C. R., & Huband, J. (2020). Re-assessing the incremental predictive validity of Implicit Association Tests. *Journal of Experimental Social Psychology*, 88. DOI: 10.1016/j.jesp.2019.103941
*Authors contributed equally
25. Oishi, S., Choi, H., **Buttrick, N. R.**, Heintzelman, S. J., Kushlev, K., Westgate, E. C., Tucker, J.,...& Besser, L. (2019). The Psychologically Rich Life Questionnaire. *Journal of Research in Personality* 81, 257-270. DOI: 10.1016/j.jrp.2019.06.010
26. Wilson, T.D., Westgate, E.C., **Buttrick, N. R.**, & Gilbert, D.T. (2019). The mind in its own place: The difficulties and benefits of thinking for pleasure. *Advances in Experimental Social Psychology*, 60, 175-221. DOI: 10.1016/bs.aesp.2019.05.001
27. Oishi, S., Koo, M., & **Buttrick, N. R.** (2019). The socio-ecological psychology of upward social mobility. *American Psychologist*, 74(7), 751-763. DOI: 10.1037/amp0000422
28. **Buttrick, N. R.**, Choi, H. Wilson, T. D., Oishi, S., ...& Wilks, D. (2019). Cross-cultural consistency and relativity in the enjoyment of thinking versus doing. *Journal of Personality and Social Psychology*. DOI: 10.1037/pspp0000198
29. Camerer, C. F., Dreber, A., Holtzmeister, F., Ho, T.-H.,...**Buttrick, N. R.**,...& Wu, H. (2018). Evaluating the Replicability of Social Science Experiments in *Nature* and *Science* between 2010 and 2015. *Nature Human Behaviour*, 2, 637-644. DOI: 10.1038/s41562-018-0399-z

30. **Buttrick, N. R.**, Heintzelman, S., & Oishi, S. (2017). Inequality & well-being. *Current Opinion in Psychology*, 18, 15-20. DOI: 10.1016/j.copsyc.2017.07.016
31. Alahmadi, S., **Buttrick, N. R.**, Gilbert, D., Hardin, A., Westgate, E., & Wilson, T. D.* (2017). You can do it if you really try: The effects of motivation on enjoying one's own thoughts. *Motivation & Emotion*, 41(5), 545-561. DOI: 10.1007/s11031-017-9625-7
*Authors in alphabetical order
32. **Buttrick, N.R.** & Oishi, S. (2017). The psychological consequences of income inequality. *Social and Personality Psychology Compass*, 11, e12304. DOI: 10.1111/spc3.12304
33. Wilson, T. D. & **Buttrick, N. R.** (2016). New directions in social psychological interventions to improve academic achievement. *Journal of Educational Psychology*, 108(3), 392-396. DOI: 10.1037/edu0000111
34. Mitkidis, P., Xygalatas, D., **Buttrick, N. R.**, Porubanova, M., & Lienard, P. (2015). The impact of authority on cooperation: A cross-cultural examination of systemic trust. *Adaptive Human Behavior and Physiology*, 1(3), 341-357. DOI: 10.1007/s40750-014-0011-3
35. Catapano, R., **Buttrick, N. R.**, Widness, J., Goldstein, R., & Santos, L. (2014). Capuchin monkeys do not show human-like pricing effects. *Frontiers in Psychology*, 5, 1330. DOI: 10.3389/fpsyg.2014.01330

Manuscripts Under Review & Invited

^ indicates trainee.

Buttrick, N. R.*, Heintzelman, S. J.,* Medina-Devilliers, S.,* & Wang, X. (invited revision). The world through gun sights: Salient weapons may incompletely help owners deal with psychological threat. *Journal of Experimental Psychology: General*

*Authors contributed equally

Choi, H., Oishi, S., Cha, Y., Westgate, E., Heintzelman, S., **Buttrick, N. R.**, & Seitov, A. (invited revision). The emotional tone of a happy life, a meaningful life, and a psychologically rich life. *Personality and Social Psychology Bulletin*.

Okada, S.^ & **Buttrick, N. R.** (invited revision). Love him for the enemies he has made: signaling by inflammatory pro-gun rhetoric. *Political Psychology*

Warner, T. D., **Buttrick, N. R.**, Carpenter, S. M., & Kohlbeck, S. (invited revision). Who (and what) are responsible firearm owners? Correlates of perceived responsible identities and firearm storage practices. *Health Promotion Practice*

Buttrick, N. R., Silverman, D., & Wormington, S. (under review). False growth mindsets in teachers negatively impact student beliefs and achievement.

Buttrick, N. R., Silverman, D., & Wormington, S. (under review). The false growth mindset.

Lundmark, O. S., Krosnick, J. A., Berent, M., DeBell, M.,...**Buttrick, N. R.**,...(under review). The malleability of generalized trust: A single social experience of ostracism by computer-generated “people” decreases generalized trust.

Protzko, J., **Buttrick, N. R.**, Ebersole, C. R., Lundmark, O. S., & Schooler, J. W. (under review). Not all explanations are equal: Only explanations invoking a change from the true self mitigate responsibility.

Zhang, Y., Shah, D., Pevehouse, J., **Buttrick, N. R.**, Lu, L., & Kwon, H. (under review). Death sells: How event features and media discourses of mass shootings drive gun sales.

Refereed Presentations and Chaired Symposia

2023

Buttrick, N. R. (2023, October). Reading literary fiction is associated with a more complex worldview. In **N. R. Buttrick** (Chair). *Stories to Live By: How Narratives Shape Our Psychological Experience*. Symposium conducted at the meeting of the Society of Experimental Social Psychology, Madison, WI.

Buttrick, N. R. (2023, October). Seeing the world through gun sights. Talk presented at the meeting of the Person Memory Interest Group, Fontana, WI.

Buttrick, N. R. & Whiting, M. (2023, July). Dy/normic webs of belief. Talk presented at the 9th International Conference on Computational Social Science, Copenhagen, Denmark.

Buttrick, N. R. (2023, March). Seeing the world through gun sights. In **N. R. Buttrick** (Chair). *American Protective Gun Culture*. Symposium conducted at the meeting of the American Association for the Advancement of Science, Washington, DC.

2022

Buttrick, N. R. (2022, October). Historical prevalence of slavery predicts contemporary American gun ownership. In **N. R. Buttrick** (Chair). *The Group Dynamics of Contemporary American Firearms Ownership*. Symposium conducted at the meeting of the Society of Experimental Social Psychology, Philadelphia, PA.

Buttrick, N. R. (2022, February). Historical prevalence of slavery predicts contemporary American gun ownership. In A. Allen & G. D. Higginbotham (Chairs). *Acknowledging Racism's Legacy: Re-Centering History in Studying Contemporary Racism*. Symposium conducted at the meeting of the Society of Personality and Social Psychology, San Francisco, CA.

2020

Buttrick, N. R. (2020, February). 'A True Friend with Six Hearts' - Using firearms to cope with psychological threat. In **N. R. Buttrick** (Chair). *New Directions in the Social Psychology of Firearms*. Symposium conducted at the meeting of the Society of Personality and Social Psychology, New Orleans, LA.

2019

Buttrick, N. R. (2019, February). Guns as a coping mechanism. In **N. R. Buttrick** (Chair). *The Social Psychology of Firearms and Firearm Ownership*. Symposium conducted at the meeting of the Society of Personality and Social Psychology, Portland, OR.

Buttrick, N. R. (2019, January). Guns as a coping mechanism. *Student Choice Colloquium*. University of Virginia.

2018

Buttrick, N. R., Heintzelman, S., Weser, V., & Oishi, S. (2018, May). Higher population density and lower meaning in life. In M. Titova (Chair), *The Psychology of Place and Home*. Symposium conducted at the meeting of the Association for Psychological Science, San Francisco, CA.

Invited Presentations

Apr. 2024	Health Care Systems Research Network, Milwaukee WI
Dec. 2023	Social Area Talk Series, University of Washington. Seattle, WA
Sep. 2023	Association for Psychological Science: Science for Society Series
Sep. 2023	Firearm Injury Prevention Initiative at the University of Colorado. Boulder, CO
Sep. 2019	U.S. District Court, Western District of Virginia. Roanoke, VA
Apr. 2019	Albemarle County Government. Charlottesville, VA
Oct. 2018	University of Virginia Office of Undergraduate Admissions. Charlottesville, VA
Oct. 2018	Chemistry & Engineering News. Washington, DC
Oct. 2017	Suffolk University Law School Fair Housing Conference. Boston, MA

Ad-Hoc Reviewer

National Science Foundation; Israel Science Foundation; American Journal of Public Health; Asian Journal of Social Psychology; British Journal of Social Psychology; British Journal of Sociology; British Journal of Political Science; City & Community; Developmental Psychology; Empirical Studies of the Arts; European Review of Social Psychology; Journal of Applied Social Psychology; Journal of Educational Psychology; Journal of Experimental Psychology: General; Journal of Experimental Social Psychology; Journal of Gerontology: Social Sciences; Journal of the History of the Behavioral Sciences; Journal of Personality and Social Psychology; Journal of Threat Assessment and Management; Learning & Individual Differences; Nature Communications; Personality and Social Psychology Bulletin; PNAS; PNASNexus; Psychological

*Inquiry; Psychological Science; Social Psychological and Personality Science;
Social Science & Medicine, Social Science Research*

Teaching

2023-Present *Cultural Psychology* (Psych 501/528), University of Wisconsin-Madison
2023-Present *Advanced Social Psychology* (Psych 729), University of Wisconsin-Madison

Departmental Service

2023-2025 New Personnel Committee, University of Wisconsin-Madison
2018-2020 Building Committee, University of Virginia
2016-2020 Participant Pool Coordinator, University of Virginia
2016-2020 Social Area Representative, University of Virginia

Advising

2019-2020 Advisor, Jun Seok Bae, Undergraduate Honors Thesis, University of Virginia
2017-2018 Advisor, Ted Obi, Undergraduate Honors Thesis, University of Virginia
2016-2017 Advisor, Seher Raza, Undergraduate Honors Thesis, University of Virginia

Selected Press

The New York Times, The Los Angeles Times, Vox, The Trace, The Financial Times, Salon, Scientific American, Nature Reviews Psychology.