

Christian T. Beltran

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4272 Social & Behavioral Sciences Gateway, University of California, Irvine

EDUCATION

- 2023–2028 (Expected) **Ph.D., Psychology** (Social/Personality), University of California, Irvine
Advisors: Drs. Peter Ditto & Pia Dietze
GPA: 4.00
- 2023 **B.A., Psychology**, University of California, Los Angeles
Advisor: Dr. Eugene Caruso
GPA: 3.93 (*Cum Laude*)

RESEARCH INTERESTS

Moral Cognition; Political Polarization; Motivated Reasoning; Mind Perception; Inequality

RESEARCH IN PROGRESS

Manuscripts Under Review

Celniker, J.B., **Beltran, C.T.**, Ballantyne, N., & Ditto, P.H. *They Don't Get Us, and We Don't Get Them: The Consequences of Moral Empathy Gaps Across the Political Divide*. Revise & Resubmit at the *Journal of Experimental Psychology: General*.

Manuscripts In Preparation

Beltran, C.T., Celniker, J.B., Ballantyne, N., & Ditto, P.H. *They DO Mean Harm: How Inferences of Partisan Motives Drive Moralized Political Division*. Target Journal: *Journal of Personality & Social Psychology*.

Beltran, C.T., Siddiqi, S.S., Dietze, P., & Ditto, P.H. *Ideological Perceptions of "Me-search": The (A)symmetrical Preferences of Prejudice Research Between Liberals and Conservatives*. Stage 1 Registered Report at *Journal of Experimental Social Psychology*.

Celniker, J.B., **Beltran, C.T.**, Ballantyne, N., & Ditto, P.H. *The Toxicity in Our Minds: Does Highlighting the Unrepresentativeness of Toxic Polarization Reduce It?*

Research In Progress

Beltran, C.T., Lee, H., & Piff, P.K. *Perceptions of "The Charitable Rich" and Support for Economic Inequality*.

Hubeny, T.J., **Beltran, C.T.**, Ditto, P.H., & Gawronski, B. *The "Hot" and "Cold" Processes of Myside Bias*.

RESEARCH GRANTS & FELLOWSHIPS

- 2025 NSF GRFP Honorable Mention, National Science Foundation
- 2025 Summer Institute for Social & Personality Psychology (SISPP) Fellow (Politics & Gender)
Instructors: Drs. Mark Brandt & Thekla Morgenroth
- 2025 COGDOP Graduate Student Scholarship, American Psychological Foundation (\$2,500)
- 2025 Graduate Research Grant, UCI Center for Global Peace and Conflict Studies (\$2,000)
- 2025 Graduate Research Grant, Psi Chi International Honor Society (\$1,500)
- 2023–2024 GAANN Fellowship, University of California, Irvine (\$31,200)
- 2023 M. Phipps Clark Graduate Research Grant, Psi Chi International Honor Society (\$1,000)

2023 **Undergraduate Research Grant**, Psi Chi International Honor Society (\$1,407)

CONFERENCE PRESENTATIONS

- 2026 **Beltran, C.T. Symposium Talk:** “*They Know What They’re Doing*”: *The Role of Bad Faith Assumptions on Partisan Divides & Political Sectarianism*. UCI Center for Global Peace & Conflict Studies Annual Conference (Irvine, CA)
- 2026 Bhutani, S*., Beltran, C.T., & Ditto, P.H. **Poster:** Society for Personality & Social Psychology (SPSP) Annual Convention (Chicago, IL)
- 2025 **Beltran, C.T.,** Celniker, J., Ballantyne, N., & Ditto, P.H. **Poster:** “*They Just Don’t Get It*”: *The Drivers and Consequences of Moral Empathy Gaps Across the Political Aisle*. Society for Personality & Social Psychology (SPSP) Annual Convention (Denver, CO)
- 2024 **Beltran, C.T.,** Celniker, J., Siddiqi, S.S., Ballantyne, N., & Ditto, P.H. **Poster:** *They Don’t Get Us, and We Don’t Get Them: Moral Empathy Gaps in Partisanship*. Society for Personality & Social Psychology (SPSP) Annual Convention (San Diego, CA)
- 2023 **Beltran, C. T.,** Weber, M., & Caruso, E. **Data Blitz:** “Tell the Truth, Are You Lying?” How Compassion and Framing Drive Prosocial Lies. UCLA Psychology Undergraduate Research Conference; **Poster:** Society for Personality & Social Psychology (SPSP) Annual Convention (Atlanta, GA) and Society for Affective Science (SAS) Annual Conference (Long Beach, CA)

* Undergraduate advisee

TEACHING EXPERIENCE

- 2024–Present **Graduate Teaching Assistant**, University of California, Irvine
The Psychology of Success (Dr. Amy Dent; Winter 2025, Winter 2026)
Error & Bias (Dr. Peter Ditto; Fall 2025)
Psychology Fundamentals (Dr. Peter Ditto; Spring 2025)
The Social Animal (Dr. Peter Ditto; Fall 2024)
Abnormal Psychology (Dr. Jenny Rinehart; Summer 2024)

SERVICE & MENTORSHIP

- 2024–Present **Graduate Student Advisor**, Hot Cognition Lab (UCI)
Mentored 5 undergraduate research projects, including 4 Honors Theses
- 2024–Present **Founder, BridgeUCI** (UCI chapter of BridgeUSA)
Oversaw chapter development; collaborated with undergraduate executive board on chapter expansion.
- 2024–Present **DECADE Departmental Representative**, University of California, Irvine
Student representative for the Diverse Educational Community and Doctoral Experience; organized professional development and wellness events.
- 2024–Present **Ph.D. Admissions Mentor** — NextGen Psych Scholars & Project SHORT
Mentored prospective Social Psychology Ph.D. students from underrepresented backgrounds; provided feedback on application materials and interview preparation.

RESEARCH EXPERIENCE

- 2023–Present **Hot Cognition Lab**, Graduate Student (Primary Laboratory)
PI: Dr. Peter Ditto, University of California, Irvine
Conducting studies on partisan motive inference, moral empathy gaps, and motivated reasoning

- 2023–Present **Psychology of Inequality Lab**, Graduate Student
PI: Dr. Pia Dietze, University of California, Irvine
- 2023–Present **Morality, Emotion, and Social Hierarchy Lab**, Graduate Student
PI: Dr. Paul Piff, University of California, Irvine
- 2024–Present **Evolutionary, Culture, and Stereotyping Lab**, Graduate Student
PI: Dr. Oliver Sng, University of California, Irvine
- 2021–2023 **Anderson Behavioral Lab**, Departmental Honors Thesis Student
PI: Dr. Eugene Caruso, University of California, Los Angeles
Thesis: “*Tell the Truth, Are You Lying?*” *How Request Framing Affects Prosocial Dishonesty*
- 2022–2023 Research Assistant — Anderson Lab (UCLA), Lieberman Lab (UCLA) & Oveis Lab (UCSD)

POPULAR WRITING & SCIENCE COMMUNICATION

Beltran, C.T., & Celniker, J.B. (2025). [*When Outrage Goes Viral: What’s Ragebait and How to Spot It.*](#) Guest Blog Post, *Builders Movement*.

PROFESSIONAL AFFILIATIONS

External Affiliate, Penn State Consortium on Moral Decision-Making (2024–Present)
Association for Psychological Science (2024–Present)
Society for Personality and Social Psychology (2022–Present)
Psi Chi International Honors Society in Psychology (2021–Present)
Psi Beta National Honors Society in Psychology (2019–Present)