Abhay Alaukik

Gainesville, Florida 32601

Website Email: <u>aalaukik99@gmail.com</u>

EDUCATION

• University of Florida, Gainesville, FL
Ph.D. in Psychology

(2020 – present)

o Concentration: Social Psychology

• University of Florida, Gainesville, FL (2020 – 2022)

M.Sc. in Psychology

o Concentration: Social Psychology

• University of Kansas, Lawrence, KS (2016 – 2020)

B.A. (Honors) in Psychology

- o Minor in Social and Behavioral Sciences Methodology (SBSM)
- o Major GPA 3.98

RESEARCH INTERESTS

Computational/Mathematical Modeling Social Cognition Polarization and Extremism Moral and Political Psychology

PUBLICATIONS

- **Alaukik, A.** (In press). Group polarization. In Jung, J. (Eds.), *Handbook of Computational Social Psychology*. Edward Elgar Publishing.
- **Alaukik, A.**, Kvam, P., & Smith, C. (In Press). Understanding attitude associations by modeling decision processes on the IAT: A tutorial on the tug-of-war model. Preprint available.
- Lammers, J., **Alaukik, A.**, & Baldwin, M. (2025). When longing goes wrong: Nostalgia can cause a preference for harmful aspects of the past. *Analyses of Social Issues and Public Policy*, 25(1), e70000.
- Kvam, P. D., **Alaukik, A.**, Mims, C. E., Martemyanova, A., & Baldwin, M. (2022). Rational inference strategies and the genesis of polarization and extremism. *Scientific reports*, *12*(1), 7344.

Under review

- Kvam, P. D., & **Alaukik, A.** (R&R). Re-assessing the role of operational definitions in psychology. <u>Preprint available</u>.
- **Alaukik, A.**, & Kvam, P. (Under review). Goal-driven information search biases create polarization and extremism during the accumulation of qualitative evidence. <u>Preprint available</u>.

García Ferrés, E. A., **Alaukik, A.**, & Webster, G. D (Under Review). Right to work, left to struggle: State labor policy and precarity constrain labor organizing.

In Preparation

- Bennett, M., **Alaukik A.**, Kvam, P. D., Smith, C. T. (In prep). Processing independence in implicit attitudes: An SFT and GRT analysis.
- Wilson, L., **Alaukik, A.**, Laukenmann, R., Smith, C. T., Calanchini, J. (In prep). Examining the relationship between cultural tightness and regional cognition.
- **Alaukik, A.**, Webster, G. D., Baldwin, M. (In prep). Toward a theory of freedom: A bottom-up approach to the dimensionality and composition of the construct.
- **Alaukik, A.**, Kvam, P., & Smith, C. (In prep). One ring to rule them all: Joint (computational) modeling of four implicit attitude measures.
- Galgali, M., Womick, J., **Alaukik, A.**, Gray, K. (In prep). How humans fight for control of competing formal and informal systems across time.

PRESENTATIONS (selected list; * refers to talks)

- *Alaukik, A., Smith, C. T, & Kvam, P. D. (August 2025). Understanding attitude associations by modeling decision processes on the IAT using the Tug-of-war model. Presented at *Project Implicit Advanced Research Symposium*.
- *Bennett, M., **Alaukik A.**, Kvam, P. D., Smith, C. T. (July 2025). Processing independence in implicit attitudes: An SFT and GRT analysis. Presented at *The Society for Mathematical Psychology*.
- *Alaukik, A. & Kvam, P. (February 2025). Symposium (Organizer and Presenter): "Enhancing theory with math: Computationally modeling Social Psychological phenomena", Presentation: "Re-assessing the role of operational definitions in psychology." Presented at The Society for Personality and Social Psychology (SPSP). Talk also presented at The Society for Mathematical Psychology in July 2025.
- *Alaukik, A., Smith, C., & Kvam, P. (October 2024). The tug-of-war model of attitude associations. Presented at *The Society of Southeastern Social Psychologists*.
- *Alaukik, A., Odegaard, B., Heathcote, A. & Kvam, P. (July 2024). Evaluating the effect of response scale resolution on confidence judgements: A Multiple Threshold Race model approach. Presented at *The Society for Mathematical Psychology*.
- **Alaukik, A.**, & Kvam, P. & Smith, C. (February 2024). The hazardous telephone game: Rising polarization & extremism when choosing between options in information cascades, *Society for Personality and Social Psychology (SPSP)*.
- *Alaukik, A., & Baldwin, M. (November 2023). Bottom-up examination of perceptions of freedom and some mathematical formalizations. Presented at *The Society of Southeastern Social Psychologists*.
- **Alaukik, A.**, Kvam, P. D., Baldwin, Unruh, E. & Blyler, J. (July 2022). Polarization & extremism when sampling qualitative information: Choosing between options worse than estimating relative preferability or independent ratings. Presented at *The Society for Mathematical Psychology*.
- **Alaukik, A.**, Kvam, P. D., Baldwin, M., Mims, C. & Martemyanova, A. (February 2022). Polarization and extremism emerge from rational choice: Estimation as a solution to biased sampling. Presented at *The Society for Judgement and Decision Making*.

AWARDS

Graduate School Funding Award (2020-2025)

- University of Florida Competitive PhD funding award
- Over \$100,000 in addition to tuition waiver

University of Kansas International Excellence Award (2016-20)

- *University of Kansas* 100% tuition scholarship.
- ~\$100,000

Graduate Travel Funding Award (2022, 2024)

- Department of Psychology (University of Florida)
- Approx. \$650 for 10 semesters; ~\$6,500 total
- Research/conference travel award

Graduate Student Council Travel Award (2022)

- Student Government, University of Florida
- \$250 for two years; \$500 total
- Research/conference travel award

Research Promotion Initiative Award (2022)

- Office of Strategic Communication, University of Florida
- \$1,000

Gerber Fund Scholarship (2025)

- University of Florida
- \$2,000 stipend support

Gerber Social Psychology Outstanding Research Award (2025)

- Department of Psychology, University of Florida

SKILLS & CERTIFICATIONS

Programming and Software

- Proficient: R, NETLOGO, SPSS/JASP, Qualtrics (JavaScript customization)
- Beginner: MATLAB, JavaScript

Computational Modeling

- Mathematical model development and implementation
- Diffusion Decision Modeling
- Deep Neural Networks
- Natural Language Processing (Sentiment Analysis, Topic and Narrative Trajectory Modeling)
- Agent-Based Modeling

Quantitative and Statistical Methods

- Bayesian Statistics (using JAGS)
- Multilevel/Hierarchical Modeling (Bayesian and Frequentist approaches)
- Structural Equation Modeling
- Dimensionality Reduction (PCA, MDS, SpAM, Factor Analysis, Cluster Analysis)

Workshops and Certifications

- Introduction to Dynamical Systems and Chaos (Santa Fe Institute, 2023, MOOC)
- Summer Institute in Social and Personality Psychology, SISPP (2023)
- Summer Institute in Computational Social Psychology, SICSS (2023)

Languages

• Fluent: English and Hindi; Beginner: Chinese Mandarin

TEACHING EXPERIENCE

Instructor

PSYC2012: Introduction to Psychology (Class size: 48)

- College of Liberal Arts and Science, University of Florida, Fall 2023.
- Developed Syllabus, prepared and delivered lectures
- Administered and graded 2 exams, multiple guizzes, and papers
- Managed course logistics

Teaching Assistant (Graduate-level courses)

CLP6527 & CLP6528: Measurement, Research Design and Statistics I & II

- College of Public Health and Health Professions, University of Florida, Fall 2022 & Spring 2023
- Graded student assignments on graduate-level statistical analyses

Teaching Assistant

- Various undergraduate courses: Social Psychology (SOP3004; Fall 2025), Lab Methods in Psychology (PSY3213; Spring 2025), Advanced Social Psychology – Political Psychology (SOP4704; Fall 2024), Decision and Judgements (PSY4930; Spring 2024), Cognitive Psychology (EXP3604; Summer 2023)
- College of Liberal Arts and Science, University of Florida

Workshop Lead

Web-scraping and Natural Language Processing in R

- University of Florida, Spring 2021
- Designed and taught an applied workshop for social psychology graduate students
- Created lecture slides, wrote R code, and guided students through topic modeling and LDA-based NLP analyses.

Workshop Assistant.

Bayesian Statistical Analysis Workshop

- University of Florida, Fall 2020 (Instructor: Dr. Peter Kvam)
- Assisted graduate students and faculty during week-long workshop
- Answered audience questions and helped with logistics

LAB AFFILIATIONS

Cognition and Decision Topics: Social Cognition; Polarization; Extremism; Computational **Modeling Lab (2020 - present)** Modeling; Machine Learning; Bayesian Statistics; Accumulator Models, DDM-related models University of Florida, then The Ohio State University

PI: Dr. Peter D. Kvam

Attitudes and Political Topics: Social Cognition; Implicit Associations Test Cognition Lab (2022 - present) University of Florida PI: Dr. Colin T. Smith

Self, Mind, Society Lab (2020 -

2022)

Topics: Polarization; Nostalgia; Freedom perceptions;

Dimensionality reduction methods

University of Florida PI: Dr. Matthew Baldwin

Web Lab (2024 – present) Topics: Longitudinal Hierarchical Modeling; Freedom perceptions

University of Florida PI: Dr. Gregory D. Webster

Lemma Lab (2018-2020) Topics: Experimental Existential Psychology; Self-Complexity

University of Kansas PI: Dr. Mark J. Landau

PROFESSIONAL/COMMUNITY SERVICE

Communication Chair – Graduate Assistants United (2022-2025) Senator – Graduate Assistants United / United Faculty of Florida (2022-2024)

PROFESSIONAL AFFILIATIONS

Society for Personality and Social Psychology

Society for Mathematical Psychology

Society for Judgement and Decision Making

REFERENCES

Dr. Colin T. Smith	Associate Professor, Department of Psychology University of Florida Member-at-large, Scientific Advisory Board, <i>Project Implicit</i> colinsmith@ufl.edu
Dr. Peter D. Kvam	Assistant Professor, Department of Psychology The Ohio State University kvam.4@osu.edu
Dr. Gregory D. Webster	Professor, Department of Psychology Director, Social Psychology Program University of Florida gdwebs@ufl.edu