

# Abhay Alaukik

Gainesville, Florida 32601

[Website](#)

Phone: (785)424-3252

Email: [aalaukik99@gmail.com](mailto:aalaukik99@gmail.com)

## EDUCATION

---

- **University of Florida**, Gainesville, FL (2020 – present)  
Ph.D. in Psychology
  - 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  
Morality

## 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. [Preprint available](#).

**Alaukik, A.**, & Kvam, P. (Under review). Goal-driven information search biases create polarization and extremism during the accumulation of qualitative evidence. [Preprint available](#).

### **In Preparation**

Bennett, M., **Alaukik A.**, Kvam, P. D., Smith, C. T. Processing independence in implicit attitudes: An SFT and GRT analysis.

Wilson, L., **Alaukik, A.**, Laukenmann, R., Smith, C. T., Calanchini, J. Examining the relationship between cultural tightness and regional cognition.

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

**Alaukik, A.**, Webster, G. D., Baldwin, M. Toward a theory of freedom: A bottom-up approach to the dimensionality and composition of the construct.

### **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

- Diffusion Decision Modeling
- Neural Networks
- Natural Language Processing
- Agent-Based Modeling

### Quantitative and Statistical Methods

- Bayesian Statistics (using JAGS)
- Multilevel/Hierarchical Modeling (Bayesian and Frequentist approaches)
- Structural Equation Modeling
- Dimensionality Reduction (PCA, SpAM, 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 quizzes, 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
- College of Liberal Arts and Science, University of Florida
- 9 semesters/courses between Fall 2022 – Fall 2025

### 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 Modeling Lab (2020 - present)

**Topics:** Social Cognition; Polarization; Extremism; Computational 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 Cognition Lab (2022 - present)

**Topics:** Social Cognition; Implicit Associations Task  
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	Assistant Professor, Department of Psychology Director, Social Psychology Program University of Florida gdwebs@ufl.edu