

My Current Research Priorities (for Prospective Postdocs)

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My past research is most known for studying implicit social cognition, but my research interests are more broadly about documenting and preventing subtle or hidden instances of prejudice or discrimination. I'm happy to continue doing research on implicit social cognition, although many of my lab activities have moved onto measuring prejudice/stereotyping/discrimination with large-scale approaches (e.g., Ekstrom, Le Forestier, & Lai, 2022), intervening on subtle discrimination via education (e.g., Lai & Lisnek 2023; Lai et al., 2023) or procedural changes (e.g., Axt & Lai, 2019).

If I am to think about what type of research I uniquely prefer, I like studies that go "big & wide". Our lab has had the privilege of accessing big data, so we should take advantage of it! That can include mega-experiments with 15+ conditions, secondary data analysis of large datasets like the ones at Project Implicit, meta-analysis, or regional analysis. I am also positively disposed to experiments, but am not married to them. Our lab picks the method that best fits the research question. Recent studies in our lab have incorporated physio measures, longitudinal designs, administrative data from organizations, and field work.

I am partial to questions about criminal justice and public policy, particularly as they relate to policing or the courts. However, I'm flexible; I've published work across many professional sectors. AI and education are my two other big application areas in my ongoing work.

Finally, I also have several new research directions that are not yet fully developed. Some of the more developed directions are: resistance to accountability reforms; interventions to encourage women & underrepresented minorities to pursue a career in policing; and social identity dynamics in hobbies & recreational activities.