

# Alin Coman

Peretsman-Scully Hall, #529  
 Princeton University, Princeton, NJ 08540  
 Phone: 609-258-7465  
 E-mail: [acoman@princeton.edu](mailto:acoman@princeton.edu)  
<http://www.princeton.edu/~acoman/>

## POSITIONS

- 2012-present      **Assistant Professor of Psychology and Public Affairs**
- Psychology Department, Princeton University
  - Woodrow Wilson School of Public and International Affairs, Princeton University
- 2010-2012      **Postdoctoral Research Associate**
- School of Information Sciences, University of Pittsburgh
  - Robotics Institute, Carnegie Mellon University

## UNIVERSITY AFFILIATIONS

- 2016-present      **Faculty affiliate** - Center for Human Values
- 2015-present      **Faculty affiliate** - Center for Health and Wellbeing
- 2014-present      **Faculty affiliate** - Cognitive Science Program

## EDUCATION

- 2010 — Ph.D.      **Cognitive, Social, and Developmental Psychology**  
 New School for Social Research, New York
- 2007 — M.A.      **Experimental Cognitive Psychology**  
 New School for Social Research, New York
- 2004 — M.A.      **Counseling and Psychotherapy**  
 Babes-Bolyai University, Cluj-Napoca, Romania
- 2003 — B.A.      **Major: Cognitive Psychology**  
 Babes-Bolyai University, Cluj-Napoca, Romania

## FELLOWSHIPS AND AWARDS

2016-2019	<u>Laurence D. Rockefeller University Preceptorship</u> Center for Human Values, Princeton University
2016	<u>Society of Experimental Social Psychology Fellow</u>
2016	<u>Cognitive Science Award</u> Cognitive Science Program, Princeton University
2015	<u>Kudos Early Career Contributions</u> International Society of Political Psychology
2013	<u>Woodrow Wilson Fellow</u> Woodrow Wilson School, Princeton University
2013	<u>New Investigator Award</u> Division of Experimental Psychology, APA
2010	<u>Irving Rock Memorial Award in Psychology</u> New School for Social Research
2009, 2010	<u>Dissertation Fellowship</u> New School for Social Research
2005-2008	<u>New School Prize Fellowship</u> New School for Social Research

## FUNDING

ACTIVE FEDERAL FUNDING: **\$1,191,078**

ACTIVE INTERNAL FUNDING: **\$488.852**

2017-2019	<u>Societies as learning communities: building the foundations for an empirical approach to the formation of collective memories (Role: sole PI) - \$256,745</u> <b>National Science Foundation (Science of Learning)</b>
2017-2021	<u>Crowdsourcing Evidence, Argumentation, Thinking and Evaluation (Role: sub-award) - \$934,333 (for Princeton)</u> <b>Intelligence Advanced Research Projects Activity (IARPA) (CREATE Program)</b>
2017-2019	<u>Community-wide acquisition of medical knowledge under conditions of risk and uncertainty (Role: sole PI) - \$96,852</u> <b>Center for Health and Wellbeing (Princeton)</b>

- 2016-2018 Princeton-Humboldt Cooperation and Collective Cognition Network (Role: Co-PI) - \$150,000  
**Humboldt University & Princeton University**
- 2016-2017 Modeling Zika Control Effectiveness with Feedback in Risk Perception and Associated Demand across Scales of Intervention (Role: Consultant) - \$190,000  
**National Science Foundation (Environmental Biology)**
- 2016-2017 Designing Interactive Games to Understand Human Sociality (Role: sole PI) - \$32,000  
**Center for Human Values (Princeton)**
- 2012- Princeton Internal Support Grant (Role: PI) - \$360,000  
**Princeton University**
- 2006-2007 Global Supplementary Grant (Role: PI) - \$6,000  
**Open Society Foundation**

## JOURNAL AND CHAPTER PUBLICATIONS

- Hirst, W., Yamashiro, J., Coman, A. (2018). A specific approach to the study of collective memory: Building on individual psychological mechanisms and processes. *Trends in Cognitive Sciences*. (invited contribution)
- Hirst, W., Coman, A. (2018). Building a collective memory: the case for collective forgetting. *Current Opinion in Psychology*. (in press)
- Coman, A. (2017). Episodic memory is as much about communicating as it is about relating to others. *Behavioral and Brain Sciences* (Commentary on Mahr & Csibra).
- Drost-Lopez, J. & Coman, A. (2017). Forgetting in social chains: the impact of cognition on information propagation. *Journal of Cognition and Culture*. (in press)
- Graeupner, D., & Coman, A. (2017). The dark side of meaning-making: how social exclusion leads to superstitious thinking. *Journal of Experimental Social Psychology*, 69, 218-222.

- Coman, A. & Momennejad, I, Geana, A, Drach, D.R. (2016). Mnemonic convergence in social networks: the emergent properties of cognition at a collective level. *Proceedings of National Academy of Sciences*, 113 (29), 8171-8176.
- Coman, A. & Berry, J. (2015). Infectious cognition: Risk perception affects socially-shared retrieval induced forgetting of medical information. *Psychological Science*, 26, 1965-1971.
- Coman, A., & Hirst, W. (2015). Relational motives and socially shared retrieval induced forgetting: The role of social group membership. *Journal of Experimental Psychology: General*, 144, 717-722.
- Coman, A. (2015). The psychology of collective memory. In: James D. Wright (editor-in-chief), *International Encyclopedia of the Social & Behavioral Sciences* (2nd Ed.), Vol. 4, Oxford: Elsevier. pp. 188-193.
- Alizadeh, M., Coman, A., Lewis, M., Cioffi-Revilla, C. (2014) Intergroup conflict escalation leads to more extremism, *Journal of Artificial Societies and Social Simulation*, 17 (4), 1-17.
- Coman, A., Stone, C., Castano, E., & Hirst, W. (2014). Justifying Atrocities: The Effect of Moral-Disengagement Strategies on Socially Shared Retrieval-Induced Forgetting. *Psychological Science*, 25: 1281-1285.
- Semnani-Azad, Z., Coman, A, Sycara, K., Lewis, M. (2014). Perception Formation in Global Negotiations: The Role of Culture and Sacred Value. *In Proceedings of the International Conference on System Sciences*, pp. 260-268, *IEEE*.
- Hirst, W., Coman, D., & Coman, A. (2013). A social turn for the Internet. (Commentary on Sparrow, B. & Chatman, L.). *Psychological Inquiry*, 24 (4), 310-313.
- Koppel, J, Brown, A.D., Stone, C.B., Coman, A., Hirst, W. (2013). Remembering President Barack Obama's inauguration and the landing of US Airways Flight 1549: A comparison of the predictors of autobiographical and event memory. *Memory*, 21(7), 798-806.

- Hirst, W., Coman, A., & Coman, D. (2013). Putting the social back into human memory. In Perfect, T. and Lindsay, S. (Eds.). *The SAGE Handbook of Applied Memory*.
- Coman, D., Coman, A., Hirst, W. (2013). Memory accessibility and medical decision-making for significant others: the role of socially-shared retrieval-induced forgetting. *Frontiers in Behavioral Neuroscience*, 7 (72), 1-9.
- Coman, A., Kolling, A., Lewis, M., Hirst, W. (2012). Mnemonic convergence: from empirical data to simulations. *Social Computing, Behavioral-Cultural Modeling and Prediction, Social Computing 7227*, 256-265.
- Hirst, W., Coman, A., Stone, C. (2012). Memory and jury deliberations: the benefits and costs of collective remembering. In Nadel, L. and Sinnott-Armstrong, W.P. (Eds.). *Memory and Law* (pp.132-154). UK, Oxford University Press.
- Coman, A., & Hirst, W. (2012). Cognition through a social network. The propagation of induced forgetting and practice effects. *Journal of Experimental Psychology: General*, 141 (2), 321-336.
- Sheikh, H., Ginges, J., Coman, A., & Atran, S. (2012). Religion, group threat, and sacred values. *Judgement and Decision Making*, 7(2), 110-118.
- Stone, C., Coman, A., Brown, A.D., Koppel, J., & Hirst, W. (2012). Conversational silence and memory. *Perspectives in Psychological Science*, 7(1), 39-53.
- Coman, A., Manier, D., Hirst, W. (2009). Forgetting the unforgettable through conversation: Socially shared retrieval induced forgetting of 9/11 memories. *Psychological Science*, 20(5), 627-633.
- Coman, A., Brown, A.D., Koppel, J., & Hirst, W. (2009). Collective memory from a psychological perspective. *International Journal of Politics, Culture and Society*, 22(2), 125-141.
- Brown, A.D., Gutman, Y., Sodaro, A., Freeman, L., & Coman, A. (2009). Is an interdisciplinary field of memory studies possible? *International Journal of Politics, Culture and Society*, Volume 22 (2), 117-124.

Brown, A.D., Coman, A., Hirst, W. (2009). The role of expertise and narratorship in social remembering: A model of the social construction of memory. *Social Psychology*, Vol. 40(3), 119-129.

## **MANUSCRIPTS IN PREPARATION OR SUBMITTED**

Vlasceanu, M., Enz, K., Coman, A. (under revision). Cognition in a social context: A new approach to emergent phenomena. *Current Directions in Psychological Science*

Momennejad, I., Duker, A., & Coman, A. (under revision). The ties that bind: weak ties facilitate the emergence of collective memories. *Nature Human Behavior*

Vlasceanu, M., Drach, R., Coman, A. (under review). Forgetting my memories by listening to yours: the effect of socially-triggered context-based prediction error on memory.

Vlasceanu, A., Coman, A. (under review). Mnemonic accessibility affects statement believability: the effect of selective retrieval practice on belief endorsement

Vlasceanu, M., Morais, M., Duker, A., Coman, A. (under review). The synchronization of collective beliefs: from dyadic interactions to network convergence.

Coman, A., Kashima, Y., & Yzerbyt, V. (in prep). The synchronization of collective emotions in interactive contexts.

## **ORGANIZED SYMPOSIA**

Symposium (chair): “A retrieval-specific mechanism of adaptive forgetting: from neural instantiation to social consequences” ICOM, Budapest, 2016

Symposium (chair): “Memory in Communicative Contexts” Association for Psychological Science, New York, 2015

Symposium (chair): “Interactive cognition: from individuals to culture” ICPS-Association for Psychological Science, Amsterdam, 2015

Symposium (co-chair): “Distributed remembering in a social context” Cognitive Science Society, Berlin, 2013

*Symposium* (chair): “Cognition and social dynamics: a new approach to emergent phenomena”

Association for Psychological Science, Washington, D.C., 2011

*Symposium* (chair): “Socio-psychological mechanisms of mnemonic consensus”

Society for Applied Research in Memory and Cognition, New York, 2011

## **ORGANIZED CONFERENCES**

Conference (organizer): “From micro-level cognitive phenomena to large-scale social dynamics” - Princeton University, 2017

*Speaker’s Series* (organizer): “Psychology Speakers Series” - New School for Social Research, 2009

Conference (part of the organizing committee): “Memory and the future”  
New School for Social Research, 2009

Conference (part of the organizing committee): “Is an interdisciplinary field of memory studies possible?” - New School for Social Research, 2008

## **TEACHING**

Princeton University (2012-present)

Department of Psychology

- Topics in Social and Personality Psychology: From Collective Memory to Collective Violence (advanced undergraduate)
- Social Cognition: The Psychology of Interactive Minds (undergraduate)

Woodrow Wilson School of Public and International Affairs

- Psychology for Public Policy Analysis & Implementation (graduate)

New School for Social Research (2007-2010)

- Human Memory (undergraduate)
- Cognitive Psychology (undergraduate)
- From Collective Memory to Collective Violence (undergraduate)
- Research Methods in Communication and Cognition (graduate)

**INVITED TALKS (SELECTED FROM > 40)**

November/2018	Universite Libre de Bruxelles - Social networks for Social Psychology workshop
April/2018	New School for Social Research (Memory Rebound Conference)
March/2018	Yale University, Social Area (Psychology Department)
November/2017	Princeton University, Norms Workshop (Interdisciplinary)
November/2017	Humboldt University (Interdisciplinary workshop)
October/2017	Steinhart School of Culture, Education and Human Development (NYU)
June/2017	Society for Philosophy and Psychology conference (Johns Hopkins)
March/2017	Center for Health and Wellbeing, Princeton University
March/2017	NSF Grant Meeting, University of Tennessee, Knoxville
March/2017	Kellogg School of Management, Northwestern University
October/2016	New York University, Psychology Department
October/2016	University of Delaware, Psychology Department
September/2016	Ettore Majorana Centre for Scientific Culture, Italy
September/2016	Max Planck Institute, Nijmegen, The Netherlands
July/2016	ICOM Conference, Budapest, Hungary
May/2016	Memory Conference, Cluj-Napoca, Romania
January/2016	Yale University, Developmental Area (Psychology Department)
October/2015	Princeton University, Behavioral Economics Group
September/2015	University of Massachusetts, Amherst, Psychology Department
May/2015	University of Maryland, Social and Decision Sciences
March/2015	University of Chicago, Booth School of Business
November/2014	Kavli Foundation Advisory Council Meeting, Boston
September/2014	Canadian Institute for Advanced Research, New York



- March/2014 MIT, Beyond Conflict Workshop, MIT, Boston
- January/2014 Princeton University, Wilson Society Fellowship Talk
- December/2013 Aalto University School of Science, Department of Biomedical Engineering and Computational Science, Helsinki
- July/2013 Social Memory pre-conference, Erasmus University, Rotterdam
- December/2012 Columbia University, Psychology Department
- October/2012 Princeton University, Theorodology Workshop, Center for the study of Social Organization
- February/2012 Rutgers University, Department for Evolutionary Biology/Fefferman Lab, New Brunswick.
- December/2011 Grant Review (Multi University Research Initiative 14), Army Research Office (ARO), Washington, D.C.
- October/2010 Grant Review (Multi University Research Initiative 14), Army Research Office (ARO), Washington, D.C.
- August/2010 Negotiate Across Cultures Workshop, Defense Advanced Research Projects Agency (DARPA), Washington, D.C.
- February/2007 New York University, Memory in brain lecture series, Psychology Department, New York
- February/2007 New York University, LeDoux Lab, Center for Neural Science, New York

### **CONFERENCES (SELECTED FROM > 30 TALKS)**

- Coman, A. (2016). Three talks at the International Conference on Memory., Budapest, July, 2016
- Coman, A. (2016). The emergent properties of cognition at a collective level, Cognitive and Neural Mechanisms of Memory Conference, Cluj-Napoca, May, 2016
- Coman, A. (2015). Cognitive constraints to the emergence of collective memories in small scale social networks. Society for Applied Research in Memory and Cognition, British Columbia, June, 2015

- Coman, A. (2015). Priming induced mnemonic convergence. Association for Psychological Science, New York, May, 2015
- Coman, A. (2015). The degree of cognitive influence. International Convention of Psychological Science, Amsterdam, March, 2015
- Coman, A. (2013). Agent based simulations of large-scale dynamics. Cognitive Science Society, Berlin, Germany, July, 2013
- Coman, A. (2013). Distributed remembering: new methods to compute mnemonic convergence. Society for Applied Research in Memory and Cognition, Rotterdam, The Netherlands, June, 2013
- Coman, A. (2012). The belief differentiation effect: an empirical framework. Jena Small Group Conference, Jena, Germany, June, 2012
- Coman, A. (2010). An empirical model to explore collective forgetting of atrocities perpetrated against out-groups. "Collaboration and memory" Symposium at the Eastern Psychological Society Convention, New York, March, 2010
- Hirst, W, Coman A. (2010). Propagation of socially shared retrieval induced forgetting in social networks, Keynote Speaker, Aarhus, Denmark, 2010
- Coman, A., & Hirst, W. (2007). Socially shared retrieval induced forgetting of 9/11 memories. "Constructive memory Symposium" European Congress of Psychology, Prague, July, 2007
- Coman, A., Brown, D.A., & Hirst, W. (2006). Experts' influence on group members' memories. "Expertise in context," Berlin, July, 2006

## **MEDIA COVERAGE (SELECTED)**

### *Infectious cognition paper*

- [The Atlantic](#)
- [Science Daily](#)

### *Justifying atrocities paper*

- [Time Magazine](#)
- [Yahoo News](#)

### *September 11 Memories paper*

- [Scientific American](#)
- [BBC](#)

### *Social Exclusion paper*

- [Esquire](#)
- [Huffington Post](#)

### *Mnemonic Convergence paper*

- [Nature News & Views](#)
- [Science Daily](#)

## REVIEWER

### *JOURNALS*

- Behavioral and Brain Sciences; Cognition; Cognitive Science; European Journal of Social Psychology; Frontiers in Cognition; Topics in Cognitive Science; Journal of Psychology; Journal of Cognitive Psychology; Journal of Experimental Social Psychology; Journal of Experimental Psychology: General; Journal of Experimental Psychology: Learning, Memory, and Cognition; Journal of Artificial Societies and Social Simulation; Memory Studies; Philosophical Transactions B; Social Computing, Behavioral Modeling and Prediction (SBP); Interaction Studies;

### *GRANT REVIEWS*

- National Science Foundation - Perception, Action, & Cognition Program; Netherlands Organization for Scientific Research - Innovation Research Incentives Scheme; The German-Israeli Foundation for Scientific Research and Development

## ACADEMIC SUPERVISION

- Undergraduate senior theses **(14)**
  - Marlyn Bruno
  - Everest Kafkas
  - Bear Goldstein
  - Alexandra Loh
  - Olivia Gomez
  - Erica Rodriguez
  - Jessica Berry
  - Margaret Hua
  - Emily Rankin-Higgins
  - Austin Sanders
  - Erin Williams
  - Paul Zima
  - Marjorie Lam
  - Stacey Rogers
- Undergraduate junior projects **(19)**
- Dissertation defense committees (oral/reading committees) **(12)**
  - Ghootae Kim
  - Rebecca Littman
  - Cydney Dupree
  - Courtney Bearn
  - Friederike Funk
  - Kyle Keller
  - Pam Mueller
  - Jill Swencionis
  - Dan Ames
  - Margaret Tankard
  - Andra Geana
  - Katherine Hansen
- Dissertation proposal committees **(13)**
  - Ghootae Kim
  - Cydney Dupree
  - Asieh Zadboud
  - Sherry Wu
  - Kyle Keller
  - Pam Mueller
  - Jill Swencionis
  - Courtney Bearn
  - Andra Geana
  - Rachel Hu
  - Robin Gomilla
  - Rachel Connors

- Lindsey Eikenburg
- External dissertation proposal committees **(4)**
  - Meymune Topcu (New School for Social Research, The New School)
  - Maya Buchanan (Woodrow Wilson School, Princeton University)
  - Olivia Chu (Ecology and Evolutionary Biology, Princeton University)
  - Andrei Costea (Babes-Bolyai University)
- External dissertation defense committee **(1)**
  - Jeremy Yamashiro (New School for Social Research, The New School)

## **SERVICE**

- Member of the Presidential Committee on Distinguished Teaching, Princeton University (2017)
- Faculty Adviser, Wilson Residential College, Princeton University (2014-present)
- Admissions Committee Member, Master in Public Administration Program (MPA), Woodrow Wilson School of Public and International Affairs, Princeton University (2014)
- Psychology Department Colloquium Speaker Series, Committee Member (2015-present)
- Committee on the Course of Study, Committee Member (2016-present)
- Interview Committee Member for Campus-as-Lab Manager position in the Office of Sustainability, Princeton University (2016)

## **PROFESSIONAL ASSOCIATIONS**

- American Sociological Association (ASA); Association for Psychological Science (APS); Cognitive Science Society (CSS); Eastern Psychological Association (EPA); New York Academy of Sciences (NYAS); Society for Applied Research in Memory and Cognition (SARMAC); International Society of Political Psychology (ISPP)