

# ALIN I. COMAN

## Curriculum Vitae

May 2019

Peretsman-Scully Hall, #529  
Department of Psychology  
Princeton University

Phone: 609-258-7465  
E-mail: [acoman@princeton.edu](mailto:acoman@princeton.edu)  
<http://www.princeton.edu/~acoman/>

### ACADEMIC APPOINTMENTS

---

- 2019-present    **Associate Professor of Psychology and Public Affairs**  
• Psychology Department, Princeton University  
• Woodrow Wilson School of Public and International Affairs
- 2012-2019    **Assistant Professor of Psychology and Public Affairs**  
• Psychology Department, Princeton University  
• Woodrow Wilson School of Public and International Affairs
- 2014-present    **Faculty Affiliate (Princeton)**  
• Kahneman-Treisman Center for Behavioral Science  
• University Center for Human Values  
• Center for Health and Wellbeing  
• Cognitive Science Program
- 2010-2012    **Postdoctoral Research Associate**  
• School of Information Sciences, University of Pittsburgh  
• Robotics Institute, Carnegie Mellon University

### 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

---

2018	<u>Macquarie University Research Fellowship</u> • Center of Excellence in Cognition and its Disorders
2016-2019	<u>Laurence D. Rockefeller University Preceptorship</u> • Center for Human Values, Princeton University
2016	<u>Society of Experimental Social Psychology Fellow</u> • Society of Experimental Social Psychology
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

## RESEARCH INTERESTS

---

### General areas

- Individual and collective memory
- Bridging micro-level cognitive phenomena with large-scale social outcomes

### Current topics

- *Collective phenomena*: Does cognition have emergent properties at a collective level?
- *Collective memory*: How does the malleability of individual memory facilitate the formation of collective memories?
- *Collective emotions*: How do conversations lead to the synchronization of collective emotions in social networks?

### Techniques

- Behavioral experimental studies
- Social Network Analysis
- Agent-Based Modeling

## FUNDING

---

- **ACTIVE FEDERAL FUNDING (PRINCETON): \$1,253,982**
- **ACTIVE INTERNAL FUNDING: \$515,252**

### FEDERAL GRANTS

- 2018-2021 Influencing Conflict-Related Emotional Dynamics (Role: co-PI) - \$448,726 (for Princeton: \$52,954)
- **National Science Foundation (Social Psychology)**
- 2017-2019 Societies as learning communities: building the foundations for an empirical approach to the formation of collective memories (Role: sole PI) - \$256,745
- **National Science Foundation (Science of Learning)**
- 2017-2022 Crowdsourcing Evidence, Argumentation, Thinking and Evaluation (Role: Sub-award) (for Princeton: \$934,333)
- **Intelligence Advanced Research Projects Activity**
- 2016-2017 Modeling Zika Control Effectiveness with Feedback in Risk Perception and Associated Demand across Scales of Intervention (Role: Consultant) - \$190,000 (for Princeton: \$9,950)
- **National Science Foundation (Environmental Biology)**

### INTERNAL GRANTS

- 2018-2020 An empirical approach to explore the dynamics of the collective representation of the American system (Role: PI) - \$26,400
- **Center for Human Values (Princeton)**
- 2017-2019 Community-wide acquisition of medical knowledge under conditions of risk and uncertainty (Role: sole PI) - \$96,852
- **Center for Health and Wellbeing (Princeton)**
- 2016-2018 Princeton-Humboldt Cooperation and Collective Cognition Network (Role: co-PI) - \$150,000
- **Humboldt University & Princeton University**
- 2016-2017 Designing Interactive Games to Understand Human Sociality (Role: PI) - \$32,000
- **Center for Human Values (Princeton)**
- 2012-present Princeton Internal Support Grant (Role: PI) - \$360,000
- **Princeton University**

## JOURNAL AND CHAPTER PUBLICATIONS

Kashima, Y., Coman, A., Pauketat, J., & Yzerbyt, V. (2019). Emotion in cultural dynamics. *Emotion*. (in press)

Geana, A., Duker, A., Coman, A. (2019). The role of network clustering and average path length in the formation of collective memories. *Journal of Experimental Social Psychology*. (in press)

Momennejad, I., Duker, A., & Coman, A. (2019). Bridge ties bind collective memories. *Nature Communications*, 10 (1), 1-8.

Coman, A. (2019). The decay of collective memory: a big data approach. *Nature Human Behavior: News and Views*, 3, 18–19.

Vlasceanu, M, Drach, R., Coman, A. (2018). Suppressing my memories by listening to yours: the effect of socially-triggered context-based prediction error on memory. *Psychonomic Bulletin & Review*, 25(6), 2373-2379

Vlasceanu, M., Enz, K., Coman, A. (2018). Cognition in a social context: A social-interactionist approach to emergent phenomena. *Current Directions in Psychological Science*, 27(5), 369-377.

Vlasceanu, A., Coman, A. (2018). Mnemonic accessibility affects statement believability: the effect of listening to others selectively practicing beliefs. *Cognition*, 180, 238-245.

•Featured in: [Science Daily](#)

Drost-Lopez, J. & Coman, A. (2018). Forgetting in social chains: the impact of cognition on information propagation. *Journal of Cognition and Culture*, 18 (3-4), 390-409.

Hirst, W., Yamashiro, J., Coman, A. (2018). Collective memory from a psychological perspective. *Trends in Cognitive Sciences*, 22 (5), 438-451.

Hirst, W., Coman, A. (2018). Building a collective memory: the case for collective forgetting. *Current Opinion in Psychology*, 23, 88-92.

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.

•Featured in: [Esquire](#)

•Featured in: [Huffington Post](#)

•Featured in: [Boston Globe](#)

•Featured in: [Scientific American: Mind](#)

•Featured in: [Forbes](#)

•Featured in: [Yahoo News](#)

**Coman, A.** (2017). Episodic memory is as much about communicating as it is about relating to others. (Commentary on Mahr, J.B. & Csibra, G.). *Behavioral and Brain Sciences, Vol.41, e322.*

**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.*

•Featured in: [Nature News & Views](#)

•Featured in: [Science Daily](#)

**Coman, A. & Berry, J.** (2015). Infectious cognition: Risk perception affects socially-shared retrieval induced forgetting of medical information. *Psychological Science, 26, 1965-1971.*

•Featured in: [The Atlantic](#)

•Featured in: [Science Daily](#)

**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.)*, pp. 188–193. Vol. 4, Oxford: Elsevier.

**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.*

•Featured in: [Time Magazine](#)

•Featured in: [Yahoo News](#)

**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., Stone, C., 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*. (pp.273-295). London, Sage Publications.
- 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.
- Featured in: [Scientific American](#)
  - Featured in: [BBC](#)

**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*, 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*, 40(3), 119-129.

## MANUSCRIPTS IN PREPARATION OR SUBMITTED

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

**Sterling, J. & Coman, A. (in prep)** The dynamics of social representations of the US system: a longitudinal study on a nationally representative sample

**Coman, A., et al. (in prep).** Behavioral Biases Across Cultures: Evidence from Kenya and the United States of America.

## 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): "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

- PSY400: Topics in Social and Personality Psychology: From Collective Memory to Collective Violence (advanced undergraduate)
- PSY304: Social Cognition: The Psychology of Interactive Minds (advanced undergraduate)
- FRS107: The Science of Memory in Movies (first year seminar)

#### Woodrow Wilson School of Public and International Affairs

- WWS502: 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 > 50)

---

May/2019	Washington University in Saint Louis (American Academy of Arts and Sciences conference)
April/2019	John Jay College of Criminal Justice - CUNY
January/2019	Dartmouth University - Social Brain Brownbag
November/2018	Universite Libre de Bruxelles - Social Networks for Social Psychology Workshop
October/2018	Universite Catholique de Louvain - Psychology Department
September/2018	Columbia University - Psychology Department
June/2018	Center of Excellence in Cognition and its Disorders, Macquarie University: Workshop on Wise Cognition
May/2018	Macquarie University - Cognitive Science Department
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 work-shop)
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

## CONFERENCES (SELECTED FROM > 25 TALKS)

---

- Coman, A. & Enz, K. (2019). A psychological approach to the formation of collective memories. Memory Studies Conference, Madrid, June, 2019
- Coman, A., Vlasceanu, M., Morais, M., & Duker, A. (2019). Diminishing the spread of misinformation by way of mnemonic accesibility. SARMAC, Cape Cod, June, 2019
- Coman, A., Geana, A., & Duker, A. (2019). Who shapes collective memories? The role of topological and temporal centrality in the formation of collective memories. SARMAC, Cape Cod, June, 2019
- Coman, A. (2018). Can psychology contribute to the emerging field of memory studies? NSSR - Memory Rebound Conference, May, 2018
- Coman, A. (2016). Three presentations at the International Conference on Memory (ICOM), Budapest, July, 2016
- Coman, A. (2016). Emergent properties of cognition at a collective level. Cognitive and Neural Mechanisms of Memory, 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 (ICPS), 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, June, 2013
- Coman, A. (2012). The belief differentiation effect: an empirical framework. Jena Small Group Conference, Jena, June, 2012
- Coman, A. (2010). An empirical model to explore collective forgetting of atrocities perpetrated against out-groups. Eastern Psychological Society Convention, New York, March, 2010

Hirst, W, Coman A. (2010). Propagation of socially shared retrieval induced forgetting in social networks, Center on Autobiographical Memory, Aarhus, 2010

Coman, A., & Hirst, W. (2007). Socially shared retrieval induced forgetting of 9/11 memories. 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.

## REVIEWER

---

### *JOURNALS*

- Nature Human Behavior; Behavioral and Brain Sciences; Cognition; Cognitive Science; European Journal of Social Psychology; 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; Proceedings of the Royal Society B; Social Computing, Behavioral Modeling and Prediction; Interaction Studies; Perspectives in Psychological Science; Memory & Cognition

### *GRANT PANELS & REVIEWS*

- NSF (Panel member); NSF - Perception, Action, & Cognition Program (ad-hoc Reviewer); Netherlands Organization for Scientific Research - Innovation Research Incentives Scheme (ad-hoc Reviewer); The German-Israeli Foundation for Scientific Research and Development (ad-hoc Reviewer); United States Binational Science Foundation (ad-hoc reviewer); The Royal Society-Dorothy Hodgkin Fellowship

## 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 (25)
- Dissertation defense committees (oral/reading committees) (14)
  - Ghootae Kim
  - Rebecca Littman
  - Cydney Dupree
  - Courtney Bearns
  - Friederike Funk
  - Kyle Keller
  - Pam Mueller
  - Jill Swencionis
  - Dan Ames
  - Margaret Tankard
  - Andra Geana
  - Katherine Hansen
  - DongWon Oh
  - Rachel Connors

- Dissertation proposal committees (14)
  - Ghootae Kim
  - Cydney Dupree
  - Asieh Zadboud
  - Sherry Wu
  - Kyle Keller
  - Pam Mueller
  - Jill Swencionis
  - Courtney Bearns
  - Andra Geana
  - Rachel Hu
  - Robin Gomilla
  - Rachel Connors
  - Lindsey Eikenburg
  - Nina Rouhani
- External dissertation proposal committees (5)
  - 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, Romania)
  - Louis Klein (Macquarie University, Australia)
- External dissertation defense committee (1)
  - Jeremy Yamashiro (New School for Social Research, The New School)

## UNIVERSITY SERVICE

---

- Climate and Inclusion Committee (chair), Princeton University (2018)
- Edward E. Jones Senior Prize Committee, Princeton University (2018)
- Member of the Presidential Committee on Distinguished Teaching, Princeton University (2017)
- 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)
- Psychology Department Colloquium Speaker Series, Committee Member (2015-2019)
- 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)
- Director of the Socio-Cognitive Processes Lab Internship program (2012-present)

## PROFESSIONAL ASSOCIATIONS

---

- Society of Experimental Social Psychology (SESP); 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); International Conference on Memory (ICOM)