

ANNI STERNISKO, PH.D.

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EDUCATION

PhD (2022)

Social/Personality Psychology
New York University

Master of Philosophy (2020)

Master of Arts (2019)
Social Psychology
New York University

Bachelor of Science (2015)

Psychology
Ludwig-Maximilians-University
Munich

PROFESSIONAL EXPERIENCE [SELECTION]

Post-graduate Academia

Associate Research Scientist / Director of Research

since 05/2024

Social Identity and Morality Lab, New York University

- Mentor and supervise junior research staff in conducting research
- Facilitate partnerships and collaborations with practitioners
- Develop and execute strategies for the dissemination of research findings
- Support the Principal Investigator in conducting research
- Assist fundraising and grant writing

Consulting and Advisory

SPSSI United Nations Consultant & Expert Affiliate

since 09/2021

Society for the Psychological Study of Social Issues

- Co-authored policy statements released to U.N. member states and the general public
- Partnered with U.N. missions to organize a U.N. High-Level Political Forum side event on data management and sustainable development
- Collaborated on campaigns targeting systemic racism

Social Science Consultant

since 2020

- Designed and conducted impact studies
- Consulted the development of media campaigns to decrease hate speech and political polarization
- Advised information campaigns and developed policy proposals addressing misinformation, polarization, public safety, and public health
- Assisted the development of an online game that teaches non-violent communication and ethical persuasion

- Supported a startup in its early development (market research, strategy, raising capital, data management)

Clients include International House, Streitgut Germany, Clarity Foundation, Center for Public Interest Communications University of Florida & Manufacturing Institute

PUBLICATIONS

Academic Publications

Levy, S.R., Gopang, M., Ramírez, L., Bernado, A., Ruck, M. D., & **Sternisko, A.** (2024). A Human Rights-Based Approach to Climates Injustices at the Local, National, and International Levels: Program and Policy Recommendations. *Social Issues and Policy Review*.

Sternisko, A., Delouvé, S., & Van Bavel, J. J. (2022). Clarifying the relationship between randomness dismissal and conspiracist ideation: A preregistered replication and meta- analysis. *Journal of Experimental Social Psychology, 102*, 104357. [link]

Gronfeldt, B., Cislak, A., **Sternisko, A.**, Eker, I., & Cichocka, A. (2022). A small price to pay: National narcissism predicts readiness to sacrifice in-group members to defend the in-group's image. *Personality and Social Psychology Bulletin, 49*(4), 612-626. [link]

Sternisko, A., Cichocka, A., Cislak, A., & Van Bavel, J. J. (2021). National narcissism predicts the belief in and the dissemination of conspiracy theories during the COVID-19 pandemic: Evidence from 56 countries. *Personality and Social Psychology Bulletin, 49*(1), 48-65. [link]

Van Bavel, J. J., Cichocka, A., Capraro, V., Sjøstad, H., Nezlek, J. B., Pavlović, T., ... **Sternisko, A.**, ... & Jørgensen, F. J. (2022). National identity predicts public health support during a global pandemic. *Nature Communications, 13*(1), 517. [link]

Van Bavel, J. J., Rathje, S., Harris, E., Robertson, C., & **Sternisko, A.** (2021). How social media shapes polarization. *Trends in Cognitive Sciences, 25*(11), 913–916. [link]

Harris, E., Pärnamets, P., **Sternisko, A.**, Robertson, C., & Van Bavel, J. (2021). *The Psychology and Neuroscience of Partisanship*. In D. Osborne & C. Sibley (Eds.), *The Cambridge Handbook of Political Psychology* (Cambridge Handbooks in Psychology, pp. 50-67). Cambridge: Cambridge University Press. [link]

Bagó, B., Aczel, B., Kekecs, Z., Protzko, J., Kovacs, M., Nagy, T., ... **Sternisko, A.**, ..., & Chartier, C. R. (2021). Moral thinking across the world: Exploring the influence of personal force and intention in moral dilemma judgments. *Nature Human Behaviour, 6*, 880–895. [link]

Sternisko, A., Cichocka, A., & Van Bavel, J. J. (2020). The dark side of social movements: Social identity, non-conformity, and the lure of conspiracy theories. *Current Opinion in Psychology, 35*, 1-6. [link]

Gantman, A. P., **Sternisko, A.**, Gollwitzer, P. M., Oettingen, G., & Van Bavel, J. J. (2020). Allocating moral responsibility to multiple agents. *Journal of Experimental Social Psychology, 91*, 104027. [link]

Van Bavel, J., **Sternisko, A.**, Harris, E., & Robertson, C. (2019). The social function of rationalization: An identity perspective. [Peer commentary on "Rationalization is rational" by Cushman, F.]. *Behavioral and Brain Sciences, 43*, E52. [link]

Sternisko, A., Granot, Y., & Balcetis, E. (2017). *One-Sighted: How visual attention biases legal decision-making*. In D. Delagarza (Ed.). *New Developments in Visual Attention Research* (pp. 105-140). New York: Nova Science Publishers. [link]

Dissertation

Same but Different: Psychological Pathways to Conspiracy Theories. (2022)

Graduate School of Arts and Sciences, Social Psychology Department, New York University [Watch dissertation defense [here](#)]

Policy Statements and White Papers

Levy, S.R., **Sternisko, A.**, Ramírez, L., Ryan, M., & Livert, D. (2023). World Environment Day 2023: Urging Progress on Tackling Environmental Injustices in Plastic Pollution. [link] *SPSSI United Nations*

Twose, G., ... **Sternisko, A.**, ... et al. (2023). Call for inputs on upcoming country visits to the United States of America by the United Nations International Independent Expert Mechanism to Advance Racial Justice and Equality in the Context of Law Enforcement. [link] *SPSSI United Nations*

Levy, S.R., **Sternisko, A.**, Walker, P., Okorodudu, C., Ragin, D.F., Cook, H., Livert, D., Ryan, M., and Mancoll, S. (2022). Following COP 27, as the World's Nations Enter 2023, SPSSI Urges Tangible Progress to Remedy Climate Injustice. [link] *SPSSI United Nations*

Okorodudu, C., ... **Sternisko, A.**, ... et al. (2022). Using Disaggregated Data to Inform Human Rights Policies and Practices to Combat Systemic Racism and Racial/Ethnic Discrimination against People of African Descent. [oral statement prepared for 2022 Permanent Forum of People of African Descent] *SPSSI United Nations*

Okorodudu, C, ..., & **Sternisko, A.** Input for the Special Rapporteur's Report on the SDGs and the Fight against Racial Discrimination. [link] *SPSSI United Nations*

Beyond the Human Rights Rhetoric on "Leaving No One Behind:" Integrating the Elimination of Systemic racism and Racial and Ethnic Discrimination into the Implementation of the SDGs. *SPSSI United Nations*

Søvold, L., ..., **Sternisko, A.**, et al (2021). Meeting Mental Health Needs in an Unequal World – A Statement to commemorate World Mental Health Day 2021 initiated by the Psychology Coalition of NGOs having consultative status with the United Nations Economic and Social Council. [link] *SPSSI United Nations*

PRESENTATIONS & TALKS [SELECTION]

Talks

- Institute for Public Relations** - Disinformation, Conspiracies, and Hoaxes: The Dark Side of Influence (presentation and panel discussion) 2022
- International Society of Political Psychology Conference** - National narcissism and the belief in and the dissemination of conspiracy theories during the COVID-19 pandemic: Evidence from 56 countries. 2021
- NATO [North Atlantic Treaty Organization]** - Fighting disinformation in a pandemic world: the role of AI and cognitive sciences: The Psychology of Conspiracy Theories. 2021
- Six College Conference** - National narcissism is associated with the spread of conspiracy theories during public health crises 2021
- Society for Personality and Social Psychology** - Collective narcissism and the belief and the dissemination of conspiracy theories during the COVID-19 pandemic 2021
- Consumer Psychology Conference** - Tightening the Purse Strings: Population density dampens generosity 2018
- Five College Conference** - Impacts of processing fluency on political leadership decisions 2018

Conference Posters

- American Psychological Association Convention** - Collective narcissism and the spread of conspiracy theories during the COVID-19 pandemic 2021
- Association for Psychological Science Conference** - National narcissism is associated with the spread of conspiracy theories during public health crises 2021
- Society for Personality and Social Psychology** - Ideology and conspiracy theories: Conservatives are more likely to believe and disseminate conspiracy theories than liberals? 2020
- Society for Personality and Social Psychology** - Tightening the Purse Strings: Population density dampens generosity 2019

FELLOWSHIPS, SCHOLARSHIPS, AWARDS [SELECTION]

- Douglas H. and Katharine Fryer Thesis Award** for best doctoral thesis in the Social/ Personality psychology department at New York University 2022
- Stuart W. Cook Award** for impressive contributions to research in Social Psychology while at NYU 2022
- Society for Personality and Social Psychology** Graduate Travel Award (\$500) 2021
- International Society for Political Psychology** Fellowship (resource-based) 2021
- Association for Psychological Science** RISE Student Research Award (\$300) 2021
- Association for Psychological Science** Student Research Award (\$1,000) 2021

Friends of Katzell Fellowship for Applied Research Summer Fellowship (\$1,500)	2021
The Scott O. Lilienfeld APS Travel Award Best Conference Poster (\$1,000)	2021
Ted Coons Graduate Student Travel Award Student Research Award (\$1,500)	2021
Society for Personality and Social Psychology Graduate Registration Award (\$100)	2021
Konrad Adenauer Foundation Germany Fellowship (\$25,000)	2012 - 2019
German Academic Exchange Service Scholarship (\$12,000)	2016

TEACHING

Intro Psychology New York University - Grader	Fall 2021
Undergraduate Honors Seminar New York University - Guest Lecturer	Summers 2020/21
Statistics for the Behavioral Sciences New York University - Teaching Assistant	Summer 2019
Graduate Research Methods in S/P New York University - Project Supervisor	Spring 2018
Lab in Personality and Social Psychology New York University - Project Supervisor	Spring 2017
Advanced Empirical Research Methods Ludwig-Maximilians-University - Teaching Assistant	Fall 2014

MENTORING

NYU Dean's Undergraduate Research Fund (DURF) Supervised a total of twelve research projects	2016 - 2020
NYU Gallatin Undergraduate Research Fund (GURF) Supervised a total of four research projects	2019 - 2020
NYU FAST Grant for learning fundamental research skills Supervised a freshman's research project	2018
NSF REU: NYU Center for Behavioral Statistics and the Study of Motivated Perception Summer Internship Program [Diversity Initiative] Mentored and supervised ten summer interns (including research supervision, skill training, personal development) and helped with program coordination	07/2017

PUBLIC COMMUNICATION [SELECTION]

Interviews

The surprising origins of the modern conspiracy theory. *BBC News* [\[link\]](#)

Qanon and Conspirational Narratives. *You are Not so Smart Podcast* [\[link\]](#)

The Mind of a Conspiracy Theorist. *Psychology Today* [\[link\]](#)

5G & COVID-19: The Origin, Explanation, and Reason why Scientists are Concerned. *Inverse* [\[link\]](#)

The Psychology Behind Conspiracy Theories & Extremist Groups. *SPSPotlight* [\[link\]](#)

Donald Trump befeuert Verschwörungstheorien. *T-online Nachrichten* [\[link\]](#)

#0585: Gary Wietgreffe; Anni Sternisko; & Stuart Nulman. *The Stuph File Podcast* [\[link\]](#)

Writing

What's love got to do with it? [Op-Ed on collective narcissism and right-wing populism] by Cichocka, A., Sternisko, A. & Van Bavel, J. J., *to be submitted*

COMMUNITY SERVICE

Unicef USA

2022

Participated in project visits, fund raising, and information dissemination (focus: Columbia)

American Psychological Association

2021

Reviewed symposia proposals and poster submissions for convention programming

Admission Revamp Committee at NYU Social Psychology Doctoral Program

2020

Worked on reforms of the student admission process to promote equity and diversity

Social Climate Committee Evaluation T.F. at NYU Social Psychology Program

2019

Designed and implemented a student evaluation system that better meets student needs and enhances student-faculty relationships

Five/Six College Conference Organizing Committee

since 2019

Local Organizer of Graduate Student Conference

Admission Committee at NYU Social Psychology Doctoral Program

2017

Reviewed PhD applications and attended admission meetings

SKILLS



Languages

English (fluent)
German (native)

Professional Development

Qualitative Research Methods [[Curran-Bauer workshop](#)]
Structural Equation Modeling [[Curran-Bauer workshop](#)]
Opinion Writing [[4 Context workshop](#)]
Race & Racism in Science [[New York University](#)]
Human Capital Management [[Center for Leadership & Excellence](#)]
English for Journalists [UC Berkley edx]