

RAUNAK PILLAI

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EDUCATION

- 2019- **Vanderbilt University, Nashville, TN**
Ph.D. candidate in Psychology & Human Development
Advisor: Dr. Lisa Fazio
- 2015-2019 **Vanderbilt University, Nashville, TN**
B.A. in Neuroscience, *magna cum laude*
Minor: Communication of Science & Technology

TRAINING

- 2023 Trainee, Summer Institute for Social and Personality Psychology, The Psychology of Intergroup Relations Course, Society for Personality and Social Psychology, Columbus, OH
- 2023 Trainee, Summer Institute on Bounded Rationality, Max Planck Institute for Human Development, Berlin, Germany
- 2022 Certificate in College Teaching, Center for Teaching, Vanderbilt University, Nashville, TN
- 2022 Trainee, Sixth European Summer School on Computational and Mathematical Modeling of Cognition, Szklarska Poręba, Poland

HONORS & AWARDS

- 2023 1st place, 3 Minute Research Talk Competition, Department of Psychology and Human Development, Vanderbilt University \$300
- 2022 Honorary Social Science Award, 3 Minute Thesis, Graduate Student Council, Vanderbilt University, \$500
- 2020 NSF Graduate Research Fellowship
- 2019 APA PsycShorts Video Contest Winner, \$1,000
- 2019 Russell G. Hamilton Scholar, Vanderbilt University
- 2017 Travel Fellow, National Association of Science Writers, \$800

RESEARCH FUNDING

Co-PI with Lisa Fazio, Reboot Foundation, *Improving retention of misinformation debunks with retrieval practice*. \$5,000 direct costs; 2021.

JOURNAL ARTICLES

* indicates equal contribution among authors

Pillai, R. M., & Fazio, L. K. (in press). Explaining why headlines are true or false reduces intentions to share false information. *Collabra: Psychology*

Fazio, L. K., Hong, M. K., & Pillai, R. M. (in press). Combatting rumors around the French election: The memorability and effectiveness of fact-checking articles. *Cognitive Research: Principles and Implications*

*Collier, J., *Pillai, R. M., & Fazio, L. K. (in press). Multiple-choice quizzes make fact checks more memorable but not more effective. *Cognitive Research: Principles and Implications*

Pillai, R. M., Fazio, L. K., & Effron, D. A. (in press). Repeatedly encountered descriptions of wrongdoing seem more true but less unethical: Evidence in a naturalistic setting. *Psychological Science*

Pillai, R. M., Kim, E., & Fazio, L. K. (in press). All the President's lies: Repeated false claims and public opinion. *Public Opinion Quarterly*

Pillai, R. M., & Fazio, L. K. (accepted, Stage 1 In-Principle Acceptance of Registered Report). The effect of prior knowledge on remembering and knowing correct and incorrect information. *Memory*. Registered report.

Pillai, R. M., Brown-Schmidt, S., & Fazio, L. K. (2022). Does wording matter? Examining the effect of phrasing on memory for negated political fact checks. *Journal of Applied Research in Memory and Cognition*, 12(1), 48-58.

Fazio, L. K., Pillai, R. M., & Patel, D. (2022). The effects of repetition on belief in naturalistic settings. *Journal of Experimental Psychology: General*, 151(10), 2604–2613.

Pillai, R. M., & Fazio, L. K. (2021). The effects of repeating false and misleading information on belief. *Wiley Interdisciplinary Reviews: Cognitive Science*, 12(6), e1573.

Pillai, R. M., Loehr, A. M., Yeo, D. J., Hong, M. K., & Fazio, L. K. (2020). Are there costs to using incorrect worked examples in mathematics education? *Journal of Applied Research in Memory and Cognition*, 9, 519-531.

ARTICLES IN THE PEER-REVIEW PROCESS

† indicates undergraduate co-author

Pillai, R. M., Yang, S.†, Jiang, Q.†, & Fazio, L. K. (under review). Repetition increases belief more for trivia statements than news headlines.

CONFERENCE PRESENTATIONS

* indicates presenting author

† indicates undergraduate co-author

Pillai, R. M. & Fazio L. K. (2023, Aug). *The role of memory processes in acquiring and revising beliefs*. Symposium organized for the annual meeting of the Society for Research on Applied Memory and Cognition, Nagoya, Japan.

Pillai, R. M., Collier, J., & Fazio, L. K. (2023, Aug) *Multiple-choice quizzes make fact checks more memorable but not more effective*. Talk presented in the symposium “The role of

memory processes in acquiring and revising beliefs” at the annual meeting of the Society for Research on Applied Memory and Cognition, Nagoya, Japan.

Pillai, R. M., Fazio, R. H., & *Fazio, L. K. (2023, Aug). *Examining the effects of source trustworthiness on the relationship between repetition and belief.* Talk presented in the symposium “Disrupting assumptions of truth: Implications for believing and sharing misinformation” at the annual meeting of the Society for Research on Applied Memory and Cognition, Nagoya, Japan.

***Pillai, R. M. & Fazio, L. K. (2023, Apr).** *How repetition affects belief: The role of variability in sources and in wording.* Talk presented in the symposium “Political Polarization, Misinformation, and Conspiracy Theories” at the annual meeting of the Midwestern Psychological Association, Chicago, IL.

***†Elmessiry, M., Pillai, R. M., Brown-Schmidt, S., & Fazio, L. K. (2023, Feb).** *Examining the effect of question phrasing on belief revision.* Poster presented at the annual meeting of the Society for Personality and Social Psychology, Atlanta, GA.

***Pillai, R. M., Fazio, R. H., & Fazio, L. K. (2023, Feb).** *Examining the effects of source trustworthiness on the relationship between repetition and belief,* Poster presented at the annual meeting of the Society for Personality and Social Psychology, Atlanta, GA.

***Pillai, R. M. & Fazio, L. K. (2023, Feb).** *How repetition affects belief: The role of variability in sources and wording,* Poster presented at the Misinformation & Belief Science pre-conference of the annual meeting of the Society for Personality and Social Psychology, Atlanta, GA.

***Pillai, R. M. & Fazio, L. K. (2022, Nov).** *Fluent processing or convergent validity: Comparing two explanations for why repetition increases belief.* Talk presented at the annual meeting of the Psychonomic Society, Boston, MA.

***Pillai, R. M., †Elmessiry, M., Brown-Schmidt, S., & Fazio, L. K. (2022, Oct).** *The effects of fact-check wording on belief revision.* Talk presented at the 4th Multidisciplinary International Symposium on Disinformation in Open Online Media, virtual meeting.

***Pillai, R. M., Collier, J., & Fazio, L. K. (2022, Aug)** *Multiple-choice quizzes make fact checks more memorable but not more effective.* Talk presented in the symposium “Taking Actions Against Science Denial: What Are Effective Approaches?” at the Division 15 program of the annual meeting of the American Psychological Association, Minnesota, MN.

Pillai, R. M., Kim, E., & *Fazio, L. K. (2022, Jul) *All the President’s lies: Repeated false claims and public opinion.* Talk presented at the annual meeting of the International Society of Political Psychology, Athens, Greece.

- ***Pillai, R. M.** & Fazio, L. K. (2022, Apr). *Repetition increases belief more for trivia than for news headlines*. Talk presented at the annual meeting of the Midwestern Psychological Association, Chicago, IL.
- *[†]Elmessiry, M., **Pillai, R. M.**, Brown-Schmidt, S., & Fazio, L. K. (2022, Apr). *Examining the effect of question phrasing on memory for fact-checks*. Poster presented at the Psi Chi program of the annual meeting of the Midwestern Psychological Association, Chicago, IL.
- Pillai, R. M.**, Kim, E., & *Fazio, L. K. (2022, Feb). *Examining belief in falsehoods repeated during Trump's presidency*. Talk presented at the annual meeting of the Society for Personality and Social Psychology, San Francisco, CA.
- ***Pillai, R. M.**, Fazio, L. K., & Effron, D. A. (2022, Feb). *Repeatedly encountered descriptions of wrongdoing seem more true but less unethical*. Poster presented at the Justice & Morality pre-conference of the annual meeting of the Society for Personality and Social Psychology, San Francisco, CA.
- ***Pillai, R. M.** & Fazio, L. K. (2021, Nov). *Repetition does not increase belief in bizarre, health-related headlines*. Talk presented at the annual meeting of the Psychonomic Society, virtual meeting.
- ***Pillai, R. M.**, Brown-Schmidt, S., & Fazio, L. K. (2021, July). *Does phrasing affect memory for negated messages?* Poster presented at the annual meeting of the Society for Applied Research on Memory and Cognition, virtual meeting.
- *Fazio, L. K., **Pillai, R. M.** & Patel, D. (2021, July). *The effects of repetition on belief in naturalistic settings*. Talk presented at the annual meeting of the Society for Research on Applied Memory and Cognition, virtual meeting.
- ***Pillai, R. M.**, Brown-Schmidt, S., & Fazio, L. K. (2020, Nov). *Examining the effect of phrasing on memory for negated messages*. Poster presented at the annual meeting of the Psychonomic Society, virtual meeting.
- *Collier, J. R., Fazio, L. K., & **Pillai, R.** (2020, June). *Testing knowledge to battle misinformation: How quizzes can improve people's memory of fact checks*. Talk presented at the Seventh Global Fact-Checking Summit, virtual meeting.
- ***Pillai, R.**, Loehr, A. M., Yeo, D. J., Fazio, L. K. (2019, Nov). *Does presentation style matter when learning from incorrect worked examples?* Poster presented at the annual meeting of the Psychonomic Society, Montreal, Canada.
- Bingham, B., Szentirmai E., Foxx, A.; ***Pillai, R.**, Spickard, A. (2016, Dec). *MedTalks: A video database to increase medical student knowledge about institutional research*. Poster presented at the annual Gerald S. Gotterer Health Professions Education Research Day at Vanderbilt University, Nashville, TN.

TEACHING EXPERIENCE

Teaching Assistantships

Fall, 2019 PSY-PC 1250, Developmental Psychology, Vanderbilt University, TA
Fall, 2018 BSCI 1510L, Intro to Biological Sciences (Lab), Vanderbilt University, TA
Fall, 2017 BSCI 1510L, Intro to Biological Sciences (Lab), Vanderbilt University, TA

Guest Lectures

Spring, 2023 HONS 1850W, Delusions, Forms of Belief and Theories, Vanderbilt University
Fall, 2022 HONS 1830W, The Science of Misinformation: Why We Believe False Information, Vanderbilt University

SERVICE

2020-21 Graduate Student Council, Vanderbilt University, Treasurer

AD-HOC REVIEWING

Applied Cognitive Psychology
Consciousness & Cognition
Cognition
Cognitive Research: Principles and Implications
Journal of Applied Research in Memory and Cognition
Journal of Experimental Psychology: General
Memory & Cognition
Psychonomic Bulletin & Review
Personality and Social Psychology Bulletin

PROFESSIONAL AFFILIATIONS

American Psychological Association Division 15
Psychonomic Society
Society for Applied Research in Memory and Cognition
Society for Personality and Social Psychology

SCIENCE COMMUNICATION

Pillai, R. M. & Cotton, K. (2023) Why you should check—not just test—your statistical assumptions. [Blog post]. Retrieved from <https://featuredcontent.psychonomic.org/why-you-should-check-not-just-test-your-statistical-assumptions/>

Cotton, K. & Pillai, R. M. (2023) Cognitive spendthrifts: How human biases may stem from more complicated—not simple—processing. [Blog post]. Retrieved from <https://featuredcontent.psychonomic.org/cognitive-spendthrifts-how-human-biases-may-stem-from-more-complicated-not-simple-processing/>

Pillai, R. M. (2023) How rats reason: A demonstration of the conjunction fallacy in a nonhuman species. [Blog post]. Retrieved from <https://featuredcontent.psychonomic.org/how-rats-reason-a-demonstration-of-the-conjunction-fallacy-in-a-nonhuman-species/>

Pillai, R. M. (2023) A reconsideration of reconsolidation: Theoretical concerns for applying memory research to clinical practice. [Blog post]. Retrieved from <https://featuredcontent.psychonomic.org/a-reconsideration-of-reconsolidation-theoretical-concerns-for-applying-memory-research-to-clinical-practice/>

Pillai, R. M., Sherry, C. L., & Fazio, L. K. (2021). How Repetition Affects What Kids and Adults Believe. *Frontiers for Young Minds*, 9(582203), 1-7.

Twittername, Psychonomic Society (2019, 2020, 2022)

QHat, Youtube channel: <http://www.youtube.com/qhat>

Guest lecture on human memory presented during Osher Lifelong Learning Institute at Vanderbilt course “Our Brains: An Operator’s Manual” (May 2018).

Pillai, R. (2017). What students get wrong about studying [Blog post]. Retrieved from <https://www.nasw.org/article/what-students-get-wrong-about-studying>