

Anjana Lakshmi

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EMPLOYMENT

University of Indiana Bloomington, Psychological and Brain Sciences, Indiana, U.S.A

Postdoctoral Scholar

Advisor: Kurt Hugenberg

EDUCATION

University of Chicago, Department of Psychology, Chicago, U.S.A

Ph.D. in Social Psychology, 2024

Dissertation: "Gesture Conveys Social Cognitions. Inquiries on Perception, Activation and Spontaneous Production"

Advisors: Susan Goldin-Meadow, Susan T. Fiske

Heriot Watt University, Department of Psychology, Dubai, U.A.E

M.Sc. in Business Psychology, 2015

Thesis: "Do we impression-manage on LinkedIn and is that required for good initial impressions among recruiters?"

Advisors: Michelle Hunter-Hill, Tatiana Rowson

Anna University, Crescent Engineering College, Chennai, India

B.E. in Computer Science and Engineering, 2005, Completed with Distinction

Thesis project: "Statistical Anomaly Detection at the Host"

Advisor: Sharmila Shankar, Co-contributor: Arshiya Fathima

RESEARCH INTERESTS

Social categories, Stereotypes, Implicit cues in face and gesture

PUBLICATIONS

PEER-REVIEWED ARTICLES

Lakshmi, A. & Hugenberg, K. (under review). What is Facial "Afrocentricity"? A Computational Model-Based Analysis of Black Prototypicality. *Journal of Personality and Social Psychology*.

Lakshmi, A., Wittenbrink, B., Correll, J., & Ma, D. S. (under review). The Hyper-Typicality Effect: The typical outgroup face is not average. *Proceedings of the National Academy of Sciences*.

Pleskac, T.J., Aggadi, N., **Lakshmi, A.**, Lasagna, C.A., Tran A., & Rydell., R.J. (in press). Modeling Decision Making During Social Cognition. *Handbook of Computational Social Psychology*.

Lakshmi, A., Klein, N. D., Freiburger, E., Hutchings, R. J., Elangovan, D., Sempler, J., & Hugenberg, K. (under review). Positive attitudes towards women predict the extent to which trustworthy facial appearance is inferred from femininity in White faces. *Personality and Social Psychology Bulletin*.

Klein, N. D., **Lakshmi, A.**, Freiburger, E., Hutchings, R. J., & Hugenberg, K. (2026). Race distorts how faces seem (un)trustworthy. *Personality and Social Psychology Bulletin*.

Cohen, B., Singh, B., Correll, J., & **Lakshmi, A.** (2026). Dissecting cross-category recognition: A methodological test of the theory of perceptual expertise. *Journal of Experimental Social Psychology*.

Correll, J., **Lakshmi, A.**, Wittenbrink, B., Ma, D. S., Singh, B., Bansemer, E., & Harvey Jr, L. O. (2025). The mental representation of ingroup and outgroup faces. *Journal of Personality and Social Psychology*.

Lakshmi, A. (2024). Gesture conveys social cognitions. Inquiries on perception, activation, and spontaneous production.

Lakshmi, A., Wittenbrink, B., Correll, J., & Ma, D. S. (2021). The India Face Set: International and Cultural Boundaries Impact Face Impressions and Perceptions of Category Membership. *Frontiers in psychology*, 12, 161.

Durante, F., Fiske, S. T., Kervyn, N., Cuddy, A. C., Akande, A., Adetoun, B. E., & ... **Lakshmi, A.**, ... Storari, C. C. (2013). Nations' income inequality predicts ambivalence in stereotype content: How societies mind the gap. *British Journal Of Social Psychology*, 52(4), 726-746. doi:10.1111/bjso.12005

MANUSCRIPTS IN PREPARATION

Lakshmi, A., Fiske, S. T., & Goldin-Meadow, S. (2026). I see what you're saying: gestures reveal social cognitive maps. Manuscript in preparation.

Cohen, B., **Lakshmi, A.**, Singh, B., & Correll, J. (2026). The Doppelgänger Methodology. Manuscript in preparation.

Tran, A., **Lakshmi, A.**, Klein, N. D., Mitchell, C., Aggadi, N., Rydell, R.J, Pleskac, T.J., & Hugenberg, K. (2026). Emotion Expression and Race Influence Trust Judgments: A Drift Diffusion Modeling Perspective. Manuscript in preparation.

Lakshmi, A., Venezia, S., Mattan, B. D., Cloutier, J., & Kubota, J. T. (2026). Understanding status and race perception using reverse correlation image classification. Manuscript in preparation.

PRESENTATIONS

CONFERENCE TALKS AND SYMPOSIA

Lakshmi, A., Wittenbrink, B., Correll, J., & Ma, D. S. (June, 2026). The Role of a White Default in the Hyper-Typicality Effect. The No Name Face Conference, Online Conference.

Lakshmi, A., Wittenbrink, B., Correll, J., & Ma, D. S. (June, 2026). The Hyper-Typicality Effect: The Typical Face is not Average. European Association of Social Psychology (EASP), Strasbourg, France.

Lakshmi, A., & **Garron, A.C.** (April, 2026). Let's look again? Rethinking ethnic perception and inequity research [Symposium]. Midwestern Psychological Association (MPA) Annual Meeting, IL, United States.

Lakshmi, A., Mitchell, C., Klein, N.D., Freiburger, E., & Hugenberg, K. (April, 2026). What is Facial "Afrocentricity"? A Computational Modeling-Based Inquiry. In *Let's look again? Rethinking ethnic perception and inequity research*. Midwestern Psychological Association (MPA) Annual Meeting, IL, United States.

- Lakshmi, A.,** Mitchell, C., Klein, N.D., Freiburger, E., & Hugenberg, K. (October, 2025). What is Facial “Afrocentricity”? A Computational Model-Based Analysis of Black Prototypicality. Person Memory Interest Group (PMIG) Annual Meeting, Lisbon, Portugal.
- Lakshmi, A.,** Wittenbrink, B., Correll, J., & Ma, D. S. (October, 2025). The Hyper-Typicality Effect: The Typical Outgroup Face is not Average. Society for Experimental Social Psychology (SESP), Lisbon, Portugal.
- Lakshmi, A.,** Goldin-Meadow, S.G., Fiske, S. T. (February 2025). The world in the palm of your hands: can gestures reveal social cognitive maps? Annual Convention of the Society for Personality and Social Psychology (SPSP), CO, United States.
- Lakshmi, A.,** Wittenbrink, B., Correll, J., & Ma, D. S. (May, 2023). The Effect of Group Membership on Perceived Category Typicality. Kellogg-Booth Student Symposium (KBSS), IL, United States.
- Lakshmi, A., Bansemer, E., & Quarenta, J.** (April, 2023). Cross-race Faces: Inquiries on Typicality, Encoding and Individuation [Symposium]. Midwestern Psychological Association (MPA) Annual Meeting, IL, United States.
- Lakshmi, A.,** Wittenbrink, B., Correll, J., & Ma, D. S. (April, 2023). Cross-race Differences in Judgements of Category Typicality. In *Cross-race Faces: Inquiries on Typicality, Encoding and Individuation*. Midwestern Psychological Association (MPA) Annual Meeting, IL, United States.
- Lakshmi, A.,** Fiske, S.T., & Goldin-Meadow, S. (April, 2021). The Communication of Stereotype Content Through Gestures. Social Area Lunch and Discussion (SALAD) at the University of Wisconsin-Madison, WI, United States.
- Lakshmi, A.,** Wittenbrink, B., Correll, J., & Ma, D. S. (February, 2021). The Typical Face: In-Group/Out-Group Differences in Judgments of Typicality for Black and White Faces. In *Thinking, Black and White: Structure and Consequences of Social Categorization* [Symposium]. Annual Convention of the Society for Personality and Social Psychology (SPSP), Virtual.
- Lakshmi, A.,** Wittenbrink, B., Correll, J., & Ma, D. S. (July, 2020). The Typical Face: Family Resemblance vs. Ideal Models of Social Categories. Summer Conference on Social Perception, Virtual.
- Lakshmi, A.** (October, 2018). In Taregh Shaban (chair), *UAE psychology 2.0: In need of a kickstart (again)!*. [Symposium]. International Psychology Conference Dubai (IPCD), Dubai, UAE.
- Lakshmi, A.,** Rowson, T.S., & Hunter-Hill, M. (August, 2014). ‘I thought I did well’ – Impression Management and Formation at the workplace. International Psychology Conference Dubai (IPCD), Dubai, UAE.

INVITED TALKS

- Lakshmi, A.** (September, 2026). What is ethnic face typicality? Invited talk, University of Hamburg, Hamburg, Germany.
- Lakshmi, A.** (July, 2026). Afrocentricity <> Afrocentricity. A Computational Modeling-Based Inquiry. Riverside Social & Spatial Cognition Lab, University of California, Riverside
- Lakshmi, A.** (June, 2026). Hyper-Typicality Effect: The Typical Face is not Average. The Duck Conference, NC, United States.
- Lakshmi, A.** (November, 2025). The Hyper-Typicality Effect: The Typical Outgroup Face is not Average.

Invited talk, Wisconsin School of Business, University of Wisconsin–Madison, Madison, WI, United States.

Lakshmi, A. (August, 2025). The Hyper-Typicality Effect: The Typical Outgroup Face is not Average. Invited talk, University of Hamburg, Hamburg, Germany.

POSTER PRESENTATIONS

Lakshmi, A., Wittenbrink, B., Correll, J., & Ma, D. S. (February, 2026). The Hyper-Typicality Effect: Category Membership Impacts Notions of Typicality. Annual Convention of the Society for Personality and Social Psychology (SPSP), IL, United States.

Mitchell, C., **Lakshmi, A.,** Klein, N.D., Freiburger, E., & Hugenberg, K. (February, 2026). What is facial "Afrocentricity"? A computational analysis of Black Prototypicality. Annual Convention of the Society for Personality and Social Psychology (SPSP), IL, United States.

Liu, Q., Chao, A., **Lakshmi, A.,** Berman, M., Goldin-Meadow, S. (July 2025) Machine Learning for Representative Gestures. 10th Conference of the International Society for Gesture Studies (ISGS), Nijmegen, Netherlands.

Lakshmi, A., Freiburger, E., & Hugenberg, K. (April, 2025). Understanding "Afrocentricity" in Black and White Faces. Midwestern Psychological Association (MPA) Annual Meeting, IL, United States.

Copelan, L., **Lakshmi, A.,** & Goldin-Meadow, S. (April, 2023). Response latencies in conversations about social groups. Midwestern Psychological Association (MPA) Annual Meeting, IL, United States.

Roske, C., **Lakshmi, A.,** & Wittenbrink, B. Is it real?. (April, 2023). Then influence of perceived target ethnicity on authenticity judgements of smile expressions. Midwestern Psychological Association (MPA) Annual Meeting, IL, United States.

Lakshmi, A., Mattan, B.D., Venezia, S.A., Kubota, J.T., & Cloutier, J. (May, 2020). Reverse Correlating Race and Status Perception. Association for Psychological Science (APS) Annual Convention, IL, United States (cancelled).

Lakshmi, A., & Gallo, D. (February, 2020). Now you see me, now you shouldn't: the distorting effect of context reinstatement on memory for own- and other-race faces. Annual Convention of the Society for Personality and Social Psychology (SPSP), LA, United States.

Lakshmi, A., Mattan, B.D., Venezia, S.A., Kubota, J.T., & Cloutier, J. (February, 2019). How we construe race-status composites - a reverse correlation study. Annual Convention of the Society for Personality and Social Psychology (SPSP), OR, United States.

Wei, K., **Lakshmi, A.,** Mattan, B. D., Venezia, S., Kubota, J. T., & Cloutier, J. (February, 2019). The impact of Perceived Social Status on Economic Trust Decision-Making. Annual Convention of the Society for Personality and Social Psychology (SPSP), OR, United States.

Lakshmi, A., Fiske, S.T. (January, 2013). In the eyes of the beholder - How people perceive you depends also on who they are. Annual Convention of the Society for Personality and Social Psychology (SPSP), LA, United States.

RESEARCH FUNDING, HONORS & AWARDS

- 2025 Hamburg-Indiana University Seed Fund (\$3900 + €4000)
- 2025 Finalist, Dissertation Award, Society of Experimental Social Psychology (SESP)
- 2024 Time-sharing Experiments for the Social Sciences (TESS) Young Investigator Award
- 2019, 2021, 2022, 2024 Center for Gesture, Sign, and Language (CGSL) Fund (\$9875)
- 2019, 2020, 2021, 2022, 2023 Norman Henry Anderson (NHA) Research Fund (\$9148)
- 2021 Graduate Council Research & Personal Development Fund (\$450)
- 2019, 2020 Psychology Graduate Students Organization (PGSO) Travel and Research Fund (\$2399.38)
- 2018 Society for Personality and Social Psychology (SPSP) Diversity Graduate Travel Award

MANUSCRIPT REVIEWING

- 2025 Social and Personality Psychology Compass
- 2024 Journal of Personality and Social Psychology (JPSP): Interpersonal Relations and Group Processes
- 2023 Social and Personality Psychology Compass

MENTORING

Liu, Q., Chao, A., **Lakshmi, A.**, Berman, M., Goldin-Meadow, S. (2024) Machine Learning for Representative Gestures. Undergraduate research project.

Qian, Y., **Lakshmi, A.**, & Goldin-Meadow, S. (2022). The perception and representation of nonredundant metaphoric gestures in social communication. Master of Arts Thesis.

Roske, C., Wittenbrink, B., & **Lakshmi, A.** (2022). Cultural differences in expressiveness affect judgements of authenticity in smile expressions. Bachelor of Arts Thesis.

Copelan, L., **Lakshmi, A.**, & Goldin-Meadow, S. (2022). Response latency to questions regarding differing social groups. Bachelor of Arts Thesis.

Li, M., **Lakshmi, A.**, & Goldin-Meadow, S. (2021). Investigating verbal utterances and non-verbal gestures when people deliberate about social groups. Master of Arts Thesis.

TEACHING

TEACHING ASSISTANT, UNIVERSITY OF CHICAGO, U.S.A

- 2023 Leadership Capital, Graduate Course, Booth School of Business
- 2022, 2023 Managing in Organizations, Graduate Course, Booth School of Business
- 2020, 2021, 2023 Managerial Psychology, Graduate Course, Booth School of Business
- 2019, 2021 Negotiations, Graduate Course, Booth School of Business

2019, 2020 Mind Course sequence of the Social Sciences Collegiate Division (The College)
2018 Social Psychology, Social Sciences Collegiate Division (The College)
(Led a section of the course, delivered a lecture on Stereotyping and Prejudice)

LECTURESHIP INTERN, UNIVERSITY OF CHICAGO, U.S.A

2020 Mind Course sequence of the Social Sciences Collegiate Division (The College)
(Led a section of the course sequence)

UNDERGRADUATE RESEARCH MENTOR, UNIVERSITY OF CHICAGO, U.S.A

2021 Research Incubator, Social Sciences Collegiate Division (The College)
2021, 2022 Methods in Gesture and Sign Language Research

POSTGRADUATE DEMONSTRATOR, HERIOT WATT UNIVERSITY, U.A.E

2016 Research Methods
2014 Research Methods
2013 Research Methods

SERVICE

2019-2024 Knowledge Information Science and Statistics, University of Chicago, Vice President

PROFESSIONAL AFFILIATIONS

Society for Personality and Social Psychology
Midwestern Psychological Association

REFERENCES

Susan Goldin-Meadow
Department of Psychology
University of Chicago
sgsg@uchicago.edu

Susan T. Fiske
Department of Psychology
Princeton University
sfiske@princeton.edu

Bernd Wittenbrink
Booth School of Business
University of Chicago
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Kurt Hugenberg
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Indiana University Bloomington
khugenb@iu.edu