

# ALIN I. COMAN

## *Curriculum Vitae*

July 2018

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

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- 2012-present **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 and Public Policy
  - 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

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- 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

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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

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### 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 Modelling

## FUNDING

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- **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- Princeton Internal Support Grant (Role: PI) - \$360,000
- **Princeton University**

## JOURNAL AND CHAPTER PUBLICATIONS

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

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

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

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), 407-426.

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 Ltd.

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

Momennejad, I., Duker, A., & Coman, A. (under review). The ties that bind: weak ties facilitate the emergence of collective memories.

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

Geana, A., Duker, A., Coman, A. (under review). An experimental study of the formation of collective memories in social networks: the role of network clustering and average path length.

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): "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

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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

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### 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)

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April/2019	University of Tennessee - Knoxville - Psychology Department
November/2018	Universite Catholique de Louvain - Psychology Department
November/2018	Universite Libre de Bruxelles - Social Networks for Social Psychology Workshop
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 workshop)
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 > 25 TALKS)

- 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., 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. 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

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### *JOURNALS*

- Nature Human Behavior; 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; 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)

## ACADEMIC SUPERVISION

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- 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) (13)
  - 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
- 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

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- 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-present)
- 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

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- 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)