Updated 9/26

Madhulika Shastry

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EDUCATION

2024 - 2028 (exp)	**Ph.D.** Social Psychology, Ohio State University Advisor: Dr. Kurt Gray
2024 - 2026	**M.S.** Social Psychology, Ohio State University
2018 - 2022	**B.S.** Biopsychology, Cognition, & Neuroscience (*honors*) and Cognitive Science, University of Michigan, Minor in Law, Justice, and Social Change

HONORS AND AWARDS

2026	Nationwide Insurance Graduate Conference Award *($1600)*
2026	Ohio State University Graduate Student Conference Presentation Award (*$1500*)
2025	University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill John F. Dashiell Fund (*$700)*
2024	2024 NSF Graduate Research Fellowship Program Honorable Mention
2023	SPSP Diversity Undergraduate Registration Stipend
2022	High Distinction Level Award *(Awarded to top 10% of Class of 2022)*
2022	Phi Beta Kappa (Awarded to top 10% of graduating class)
2022	Psychology Thesis Program Honors Designation Award
2022	University of Michigan Conference Travel Award *($200)*
2022	James B. Angell Scholar Award *(Awarded for three consecutive terms of all A's)*
2022	University Honors Designation Award *(Awarded five times for a 3.5+ GPA)*
2022	University of Michigan Thesis Research Funding Grant *($200)*
2021	University of Michigan Alumni Club of Orange County Scholarship
2021	University of Michigan Returning Student Scholarship
2021	University of Michigan LSA Internship Scholarship
2021	James B. Angell Scholar Award
2020	LSA Sophomore Honors Award with Distinction

WORK EXPERIENCE

2026 -	**Nationwide Mutual Insurance Company** *Change Management Graduate Behavioral Researcher, Enterprise Analytics Office*
2026 -	**Ohio State University Enterprise for Research, Innovation, and Knowledge** *Innovation and Commercialization Graduate Ambassador,*
2026	**Google DeepMind** *Consultant*

RESEARCH EXPERIENCE

Deepest Beliefs Lab, Ohio State University, Columbus, OH
Graduate Student, August 2024-Present
Advisor: Kurt Gray

Psychology and Law Studies Lab, University of Michigan, Ann Arbor, MI
Lab Manager, August 2022 – August 2024
PI: Roseanna Sommers

Evolutionary Social Psychology Lab, University of Michigan, Ann Arbor, MI
Lab Manager, August 2022 – August 2024
PIs: Josh Ackerman

Applied Moral Psychology Lab, Cornell University, Ithaca, NY
Remote Research Assistant, June 2021 – May 2023
PI: Laura Niemi

Culture and Cognition Lab, **University of Michigan, Ann Arbor, MI**
Honors Thesis Student and Research Assistant, September 2018 – April 2022
PI: Shinobu Kitayama; Research Mentors: Cristina Salvador and Amelie Rossmaier

Social Cognition of Social Justice Lab, Purdue University, West Lafayette, IN
Summer Research Assistant, May 2021 – August 2021
PI: Erin Hennes; Research Mentor: Aijia Gao

Moral Psychology Research Lab, **Harvard University, Cambridge, MA**
Summer Research Assistant, June 2020 – August 2020
PI: Fiery Cushman; Research Mentor: Arunima Sarin

BOOK CHAPTERS

Shastry, M., Fernandes, S. & Gray, K. (2026). Empathic AI will Undermine Human Kindness. In A. Perry & D. Cameron (Eds.), *Empathy and Artificial Intelligence: Challenges, Advances, and Ethical Considerations*. Cambridge University Press.

PEER-REVIEWED PUBLICATIONS

Shastry, M.*, Abrams, S.*, Worthen, M., & Gray, K. (2026). God mostly forgives cruel intentions: How U.S. Christians perceive divine forgiveness. *Psychology of Religion and Spirituality.* Advance online publication. https://doi.org/10.1037/rel0000615

Ackerman, J.M., Samore, T., Fessler, D.M., Kupfer, T., Choi, S., Merrell, W. M., … **Shastry, M.,** ... & Zezelj, I. (2025). I see sick people: Beliefs about sensory detection of infectious disease are largely consistent across cultures. *Brain Behavior and Immunity*, *128*, 737-750.

* Indicates equal authorship

PUBLICATIONS IN REVIEW

Shastry, M. & Gray, K. (2026). *People offload empathy to AI.* Manuscript under review. osf.io/preprints/psyarxiv/bsj9f_v2

Dillion, D., **Shastry, M.,** & Gray, K. (2026). *People fear robots with emotion will overthrow humanity*. Manuscript under review.

MANUSCRIPTS IN PREPARATION

Shastry, M., Punia, P., Kubin, E., & Gray, K. (2026). *Naturalistic tests of victimhood and morality on TikTok.*

Shastry, M., Devine, H., Jolink, T., & Gray, K. (2026). *Empathic AI and social support in romantic relationships.* Ongoing longitudinal daily diary study.

PRESENTATIONS

Talks

Shastry, M. (2027). *The moral psychology of AI and human empathy.* Invited public lecture presented at The Siposium, Columbus, OH.

Shastry, M., Devine, H., Jolink, T., & Gray, K. (2027, April). *AI and social support in romantic relationships.* In M. Gamez-Djokic (Chair), The Social and Moral Psychology of AI [Symposium]. Midwestern Psychological Association Annual Meeting, Chicago, IL.

Shastry, M., Devine, H., Jolink, T., & Gray, K. (2027, February). *Empathic AI and social support in romantic relationships.* In O. Ugurlu (Chair), *The Future of Research Methods in Psychological Science* [Symposium]. Society for Personality and Social Psychology Annual Convention, Philadelphia, PA.

Shastry, M., Devine, H., Jolink, T., & Gray, K. (2027, January). *Empathic AI and social support in romantic relationships.* Jolink Lab, University of Wisconsin-Madison, Madison, WI.

Shastry, M., Punia, P., Kubin, E., & Gray, K. (2026, November). *Naturalistic tests of victimhood and morality on TikTok.* Intergroup Dynamics Lab, University of Oxford, England.

Shastry, M., Devine, H., Jolink, T., & Gray, K. (2026, November). *Empathic AI and social support in romantic relationships.* Morality Lab, Boston College, Boston, MA.

Shastry, M., Devine, H., Jolink, T., & Gray, K. (2026, July). *Preliminary Findings on Empathic AI and social support in romantic relationships.* Mind and Machine Alignment Summit, Columbus, OH.

Shastry, M., & Gray, K. (2026, February). *Go cry to GPT: People offload interpersonal empathy to LLMs.* In M. C. Enestrom (Chair), *The Social Mirror: Perceiving, misperceiving, and opting out of connection* [Symposium]. Society for Personality and Social Psychology Annual Convention, Chicago, IL.

Shastry, M., & Gray, K. (2026, February). *Go cry to GPT: People offload interpersonal empathy to LLMs* [Data Blitz]. Moral Psychology Pre-Conference at the Society for Personality and Social Psychology Annual Convention, Chicago, IL.

Poster Presentations

Shastry, M. & Gray, K. (2026, May). *Go cry to GPT: People offload interpersonal empathy to LLMs*. Poster presented at the Association for Psychological Science Annual Convention, Barcelona, Spain.

Shastry, M. & Gray, K. (2026, April). *Go cry to GPT: People offload interpersonal empathy to LLMs*. Poster presented at the Midwestern Psychological Association, Chicago, IL.

Bramson, B.*, **Shastry, M.,** & Gray, K. (2025, February). *Forgiving a good heart: The role of motives and mind perception in lay understandings of divine forgiveness.* Poster presented at the Moral Psychology Pre-Conference at the Society for Personality and Social Psychology Annual Convention, Denver, CO.

Shastry, M., Adams, S., Sabree, K., & Ackerman, J. (2024, February). *Moral judgments of infectious disease concealers.* Poster presented at the Society for Personality and Social Psychology Annual Convention, San Diego, CA.

Milliron, S., **Shastry, M.,** & Niemi, L. (2023, June). *Investigating the effects of moral language and storytelling format on judgment of victims.* Poster presented at the Society for Philosophy and Psychology Annual Meeting, Pittsburgh, PA.

Long, D.*, Johnson, J.*, **Shastry, M.,** Sommers, R., & Jordan, J.J. (2023, April). *Virtuous Victims and Adjacent Consent*. Poster presented at the University of Michigan Undergraduate Research Opportunity Program Annual Research Poster Symposium, Ann Arbor, MI.

Shastry, M. & Niemi, L. (2023, February). *Understanding judgments of victims as deserving: The role of moral values and contempt for weakness.* Poster presented at the Society for Personality and Social Psychology Annual Convention, Atlanta, GA.

Shastry, M., Rossmaier, A., & Kitayama, S. (2022, April). *Self-Construal and systems of thought.* Poster presented at the University of Michigan Psychology Research Forum, Ann Arbor, MI.

Shastry, M., Gultekin, B., & Niemi, L. (2022, February). *The power of TikTok? Exploring the effect of online video formats on social-moral evaluation of victims*. Poster presented at the Society for Personality and Social Psychology Annual Convention, San Francisco, CA.

* Indicates mentee co-author

AD HOC REVIEWS

PNAS Nexus

POPULAR PRESS

Shastry, M. (2026, October). [Guest Editor]. *Marginalia Science Newsletter*. Marginalia Science. https://marginaliascience.substack.com/p/newsletter-october-2026

TEACHING

Busi 404 *Grader*; *Professor: Tim Kundro – UNC-Chapel Hill Kenan-Flagler Business School*
PSYC 395 *Direct Supervisor; Student: Sahej Singh – University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill*
LAW 466 *Teacher Assistant; Professor: Roseanna Sommers – University of Michigan Law School*

LEADERSHIP

OSU Social Psychology Belongingness Committee
Committee Member, August 2025 – Present

University of Michigan Undergraduate Research Journal
Editor-In-Chief, *September 2019 – April 2022*

University of Michigan Department of Psychology Undergraduate Advisory Board
Student Representative, September 2020 – April 2022

Psi Chi – University of Michigan Chapter
Events Chair, Executive Board, *January 2020 – January 2022*

PROFESSIONAL MEMBERSHIPS

Phi Beta Kappa Society
International Society for Moral Psychology
Midwestern Psychological Association
Society for Personality and Social Psychology
European Association of Social Psychology
American Psychological Association
Psi Chi International Honors Society

PRODUCTS

Instagram Data Visualizer: https://mshastry.shinyapps.io/instagram-data-visualizer/

SKILLS

Statistical Programming: R, SPSS, JASP, SAS
Programming & Tools: Python (Pandas, NumPy, sklearn, scikit-learn, NLP), C++, JavaScript, jsPsych, Git, Qualtrics, Prolific, CloudResearch, BeSample, TikTok Research API, Microsoft Products