

Rebecca Littman

Assistant Professor

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Appointments

2020 - Present	Assistant Professor Department of Psychology, University of Illinois Chicago
2017 - 2020	Postdoctoral Fellow, Human Cooperation Lab Yale University and MIT
2019 - 2020	Postdoctoral Innovation Lab Fellow Beyond Conflict

Education

2017	Ph.D. in Psychology and Social Policy Princeton University
2014	M.A. in Psychology Princeton University
2008	B.A. in Psychology and Government Wesleyan University

Publications

* denotes equal authorship (names in alphabetical or randomized order)

Littman, R.*, Wolfe, R.* , Blair, G.* , & Ryan, S. (2023). Evidence required for ethical social science. *Science*, 379(6629), 247.

Aksunger, N., Vernot, N., **Littman, R. [co-first author]**, Voors, M., Meriggi, N., Abajobir, A., ... & Mobarak, A. M. (in press). COVID-19 and mental health: A prospective cohort study in eight low- and middle-income countries. *PLOS Medicine*.

Moore-Berg, S. L., Bernstein, K.* , Gallardo, R. A.* , Hameiri, B.* , **Littman, R.***, O'Neil, S.* , & Pasek, M. H.* (2022). Translating social science for peace: Benefits, challenges, and recommendations. *Peace and Conflict: Journal of Peace Psychology*, 28(3), 274-283.

Blair, G.*, **Littman, R.*** [co-first author & corresponding author], Nugent, E. R.*, Wolfe, R.*, Bukar, M., Crisman, B., Etim, A., Hazlett, C., & Kim, J. (2021). Trusted authorities can change minds and shift norms during conflict. *Proceedings of the National Academy of Sciences*, *118*(42), e2105570118.

Solís Arce, J. S., Warren, S. S., Meriggi, N. F., Scacco, A., McMurry, N., Voors, M., ... **Littman, R.**, ... & Omer, S. B. (2021). COVID-19 vaccine acceptance and hesitancy in low-and middle-income countries. *Nature Medicine*, *27*(8), 1385-1394.

Littman, R., Estrada, S., Stagnaro, M. N., Dunham, Y., Rand, D., & Baskin-Sommers, A. (2020). Community violence and prosociality: Experiencing and committing violence predicts norm-enforcing punishment but not cooperation. *Social Psychological and Personality Science*, *11*(2), 276-283.

Swanson, N.*, Christensen, G.*, **Littman, R.***, Birke, D.*, Miguel, E.*, Paluck, E. L.*, & Wang, Z.* (2020). Research transparency is on the rise in economics. *AEA Papers and Proceedings*, *110*, 61-65.

Blair, G.*, **Littman, R.***, & Paluck, E. L.* (2019). Motivating the adoption of new community-minded behaviors: An empirical test in Nigeria. *Science Advances*, *5*(3), eaau5175.

Littman, R. (2018). Perpetrating violence increases identification with violent groups: Survey evidence from former combatants. *Personality and Social Psychology Bulletin*, *44*(7), 1077-1089.

Fair, C. C.*, **Littman, R.***, Malhotra, N.*, & Shapiro, J. N.* (2018). Relative poverty, perceived violence, and support for militant politics: Evidence from Pakistan. *Political Science Research and Methods*, *6*(1), 57-81.

Fair, C. C.*, **Littman, R.***, & Nugent, E. R.* (2018). Conceptions of sharia and support for militancy and democratic values: evidence from Pakistan. *Political Science Research and Methods*, *6*(3), 429-448.

Stagnaro, M. N., **Littman, R.**, & Rand, D. G. (2018). Individual difference in acts of self-sacrifice. *Behavioral and Brain Sciences*, *41*.

Gomila, R., **Littman, R.**, Blair, G., & Paluck, E. L. (2017). The audio check: A method for improving data quality and detecting data fabrication. *Social Psychological and Personality Science*, *8*(4), 424-433.

Littman, R., & Paluck, E. L. (2015). The cycle of violence: Understanding individual participation in collective violence. *Political Psychology*, *36*, 79-99.

Edited Book

Halperin, E., Hameiri, B., & **Littman, R.** (in press). *Psychological Intergroup Interventions: Evidence-based Approaches to Improve Intergroup Relations*. Routledge.

Book Chapters

Littman, R., Scacco, A., & Weiss, C. (in press). Reducing prejudice through intergroup contact interventions. In Halperin, E., Hameiri, B., & Littman, R. (Eds.), *Psychological intergroup interventions: Evidence-based approaches to improve intergroup relations*. Routledge.

Littman, R., Bilali, R., & Hameiri, B. (in press). Promoting peace through mass media interventions. In Halperin, E., Hameiri, B., & Littman, R. (Eds.), *Psychological intergroup interventions: Evidence-based approaches to improve intergroup relations*. Routledge.

Wu, S. & **Littman, R.** (in press). Field research methods. In Reis, H., West, T., & Judd, C. (Eds), *Handbook of research methods in social and personality psychology (3rd edition)*. Cambridge University Press.

Manuscripts Under Review or Revision

* denotes equal authorship (names in alphabetical or randomized order)

Ferguson, J.*, **Littman, R.***, Christensen, G.*, Paluck, E. L.*, Swanson, N.*, Wang, Z.*, Miguel, E.*, Birke, D.*, & Pezzuto, J.* (conditional acceptance). Survey and audit evidence on open science practices and attitudes in the social sciences.

Marks, Z., **Littman, R.**, Zakayo, A. (2022). Hostile, but not violent: How gender and social capital affect conflict attitudes. *Revise & resubmit*.

Manuscripts in Preparation

* denotes equal authorship (names in alphabetical or randomized order)

Littman, R., Scacco, A., Ryan, S., Hameiri, B., Adejo, O., Bukar, M., Hirayama, Y., Moore-Berg, S., & Kteily, N. Improving intergroup relations through mass media interventions.

Littman, R., Scacco, A., Ryan, S., Hameiri, B., Adejo, O. What is the mechanism? Shifting attitudes but not social norms through entertainment-education interventions.

Voelkel, J. G., Stagnaro, M. N., Chu, J., Pink, S., Mernyk, J. S., ... **Littman, R.**, ..., & Willer, R. Megastudy identifying effective interventions to strengthen Americans' democratic attitudes.

Littman, R. & Marks, Z. Gender differences in intergroup attitudes in conflict settings.

Moore-Berg*, S., Pasek, M.*, **Littman, R.**, & Kteily, N. A scalable media intervention correcting Democrats' and Republicans' inaccurate meta-perceptions about each other reduces partisan animosity.

Littman, R., Blair, G., Wolfe, R., Bukar, M., Kim, J., & Badu, F. Apologies aren't just cheap talk: Expressions of repentance promote reconciliation with former members of violent extremist groups.

Dunham, S.*, Fair, C. C.*, **Littman, R.***, Nugent, E.*, & Robbins, N.* Comparative sharia: A multi-country analysis of conceptions of Islamism and support for democracy.

Marks, Z. & **Littman, R.** Reconciliation in protracted conflicts: Why and how communities accept former fighters when peace is elusive.

Selected Ongoing Projects

Asking about violence: Improving ethics in violence research (with Hannah Baron, Graeme Blair, Vivian Khedari, Sandra Ley, Andres Moya, Elayne Stecher, & Lauren Young)

Reactions to Ingroup Norm Violation (with Yinqing Zheng)

Victimhood-based interventions to reduce extreme affective polarization (with Boaz Hameiri, Neharika Nair, Opeyemi Adejo, Yumeka Hirayama, & Karen Bernstein)

Examining relations between Jewish and Arab Israelis (with Boaz Hameiri, Neharika Nair, & Karen Bernstein)

Increasing support for policies to address racial wealth inequality (with Samantha Moore-Berg & Nour Kteily).

Additional Writing

Littman, R., O'Neil, S., Van Broeckhoven, K., & Bukar, M. (2021). Community acceptance of former Boko Haram affiliates. MEAC Findings Report 7, United Nations University Centre for Policy Research.

Littman, R., O'Neil, S., Van Broeckhoven, K., Bukar, M. Marks, Z., & Badu, F. (2021). Social, economic, and civic reintegration of former Boko Haram affiliates. MEAC Findings Report 10, United Nations University Centre for Policy Research.

Littman, R., O'Neil, S., Van Broeckhoven, K., Bukar, & Badu, F. (2021). Criminal and transitional justice preferences for former Boko Haram associates. MEAC Findings Report 12, United Nations University Centre for Policy Research.

Littman, R., O'Neil, S., Van Broeckhoven, K., & Bukar (2021). The relationship between victimization and receptivity to returning Boko Haram associates. MEAC Findings Report 13, United Nations University Centre for Policy Research.

Littman, R. (2017). Children and extreme violence: Insights from social science on child trajectories into and out of non-state armed groups. United Nations University.

Grants

2022 – 2025	Asking About Violence: Improving Ethics in Violence Research (\$400,000) Funder: National Science Foundation, Role: PI
2022 – 2023	Asking About Violence: Empirical Evidence on the Ethics of Measurement in Violent Contexts (\$130,000) Funder: Innovations for Poverty Action Peace & Recovery Fund, Role: Co-PI
2022 – 2023	COVID-19 Relief Fund (\$15,000) , University of Illinois Chicago
2021 – 2022	Victimhood-based Interventions to Reduce Extreme Affective Polarization (\$75,000) Funder: Facebook (Foundational Integrity & Impact Research), Role: PI
2021 – 2022	Testing Radio Narratives to Reduce Inter-religious Conflict in Nigeria (\$40,000) Funder: Beyond Conflict (direct research support), Role: PI
2021 – 2022	Intergroup Relations Between Israeli Jews and Arabs (\$10,000) Funder: Beyond Conflict (direct research support), Role: co-PI
2021	Committee on Social Science Research Grant Development Fund (\$5,000) , University of Illinois Chicago
2019 – 2021	Reducing Intergroup Animosity in Nigeria through Entertainment Education Interventions (\$150,000) Funder: Beyond Conflict (direct research support), Role: PI
2018 – 2020	Improving Community Acceptance of Returnees from Boko Haram in Nigeria (\$40,000) Funder: Innovations for Poverty Action Peace & Recovery Fund, Role: Co-PI
2014	Fund for Experimental Social Sciences (\$7,500) , Princeton University
2013	Princeton Research in Experimental Social Science (\$1,500) , Princeton University

Awards and Fellowships

2022	Winning Intervention, Strengthening Democracy Challenge
2016	Dissertation Writing Fellowship, Princeton Institute for International and Regional Studies
2015	Dean's Fund for Scholarly Travel, Princeton University
2015	Finalist, Graduate Student Poster Award, Society for Personality and Social Psychology

2015	Graduate Student Travel Award, Society for Personality and Social Psychology
2014 – 2015	Harold W. Dodds Honorific Fellowship (university wide), Princeton University
2012 – 2013	Woodrow Wilson School Joint Degree Program Fellowship in Social Policy, Princeton University
2011 – 2015	Centennial Fellowship in the Sciences and Engineering, Princeton University
2008 – 2009	Thomas J. Watson Fellowship

Teaching

Instructor, Interpersonal Relations and Group Processes (PSCH 513, in-person 2022)
Department of Psychology, University of Illinois Chicago

Instructor, Social Psychology (PSCH 312; asynchronous online 2020 & 2021, hybrid 2023)
Department of Psychology, University of Illinois Chicago

Instructor, Laboratory in Social Psychology (PSCH 313; online 2021, in-person 2022)
Department of Psychology, University of Illinois Chicago

Co-Instructor, Behavioral Science in the Field (2019)
MIT and Busara Center for Behavioral Economics, Nairobi, Kenya

Assistant Instructor, The Psychology of Decision Making and Judgment (2016)
Department of Psychology, Princeton University

Assistant Instructor, Healthy Psychology (2016)
Department of Psychology, Princeton University

Field Research Experience

Nigeria: 2012 – 2019 (~6 months)

Liberia: 2008 – 2015 (~2 years)

Uganda: 2006 – 2009 (~11 months)

Sierra Leone: 2008 (~4 months)

Selected Professional Service

2020 – present | Co-founder and Organizer, Virtual Intergroup Relations Workshop

2019 – 2020	Co-organizer, Intervention Science Pre-Conference, Meeting of the Society for Personality and Social Psychology
2016	Princeton Organizer, Four College Conference
2014 – 2015	Co-founder, Graduate Student Professional Development Committee, Department of Psychology, Princeton University
2012 – 2013	Co-organizer, Princeton Workshop on Field Experiments, Princeton University
Ad-hoc Reviewer:	<p>Journals: <i>Nature</i>, <i>PNAS</i>, <i>Social Psychological and Personality Science</i>, <i>Journal of Experimental Psychology: Applied</i>, <i>Journal of Social and Political Psychology</i>, <i>Journal of Applied Social Psychology</i>, <i>PLOS ONE</i>, <i>Behavioral Sciences of Terrorism and Political Aggression</i>, <i>Comparative Political Studies</i>, <i>International Studies Quarterly</i>, <i>British Journal of Political Science</i>, <i>World Politics</i>, <i>Psychological Science</i>, <i>Political Opinion Quarterly</i>, <i>Personality and Social Psychology Bulletin</i>, <i>Peace and Conflict: Journal of Peace Psychology</i>, <i>Current Research in Ecological and Social Psychology</i></p> <p>Grants and Conferences: National Science Foundation, Society for Personality and Social Psychology, European Association of Social Psychology</p>

University Service

2022 - present	Psi Chi Faculty Advisor, UIC Chapter
2022 - present	Co-lead, Climate Survey Task Force, Diversity Advancement Committee, Department of Psychology
2021	Faculty Search Committee, Social & Personality Program Assistant Professor
2021	Faculty Search Committee, OAPS Clinic Supervisor
2020 - present	First-at-LAS Faculty Guide
2020 - present	Honors College Faculty Fellow
2020 - 2021	LAS Quorum Committee

Invited Talks

2022	<p><i>Can mass media interventions improve intergroup relations?</i> Junior Scholar Speakers Series, The Identities & Ideologies Project, New York University.</p> <p><i>Fostering Justice and Reconciliation</i>, Interagency Deep Dive on a Framework for Rehabilitation and Reintegration, United States Institute of Peace.</p>
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Media interventions to promote peace: Lessons from Nigeria, Neuroscience, Cognition, and Behavioral Economics Seminar: Advances to Promote Peace & Prosociality in Colombia.

Entertainment education interventions in Nigeria, Basel Peace Forum.

Reducing intergroup animosity through entertainment education interventions, Social Psychology Brown Bag, Northwestern University.

2021 *Rigorously assessing the risks and benefits of human subjects research on exposure to violence, Clinical Psychology Brown Bag, University of Illinois Chicago.*

Designing social and behavioral change communication interventions that reduce conflict, Global Engagement Center, United States Department of State.

Conciliatory gestures increase willingness to reconcile with members of violent extremist groups, Institutions and Political Inequality Brownbag Series, WZB Institute.

2020 *Reducing inter-religious antipathy in Nigeria through vicarious contact interventions, Social Area Research Seminar, Loyola University Chicago.*

Reducing inter-religious antipathy in Nigeria through media interventions, The Morality Lab, Boston College.

Measuring behavior where it happens: Motivating the adoption of corruption reporting in Nigeria, Society for Personality and Social Psychology, Presidential Plenary.

Resolving group conflict from an intergroup or an interpersonal perspective? Evidence from Nigeria and the United States, Social Lunch, Harvard University.

2019 *Resolving group conflict from an intergroup or an interpersonal perspective? Evidence from Nigeria and the United States, Department of Psychology, University of Illinois Chicago.*

Women forgive but don't forget: Gender differences in willingness to reconcile with former combatants, Women & Public Policy Program Research Seminar, Harvard Kennedy School.

2018 *Community acceptance of former Boko Haram members: An experiment in Northeast Nigeria, Pozen Family Center for Human Rights, University of Chicago.*

Cycle of violence: Perpetrating violence and group identification, NYU Steinhardt.

2017 *Cycle of violence: Perpetrating violence and group identification, Booth School of Business, University of Chicago.*

Presentations

- 2023 *The female guardian theory of conflict*, Meeting of the Society for Personality and Social Psychology.
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- 2022 *Gender Differences in Intergroup Bias in Conflict Settings*, Meeting of the Society of Experimental and Social Psychology.
Reducing intergroup animosity through entertainment education interventions. Meeting of the International Society for Political Psychology.
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- 2021 *Reducing intergroup animosity in Nigeria through entertainment education interventions*, Meeting of the Society of Experimental and Social Psychology.
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- 2020 *Guardians of the peace? Gender differences in attitudes toward reintegration*, Virtual Seminar on the Political Dynamics of Disarmament, Demobilization, and Reintegration, organized by the Political After War Research Network, the Folke Bernadotte Academy, & the UN Department of Peace Operations.
The Female Guardian Hypothesis: Beyond the Male Warrior Paradigm, Meeting of The Empirical Study of Gender Research Network.
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- 2019 *Applying uncertainty-identity theory to the study of collective violence: Survey evidence from former combatants in Uganda and Liberia*, Meeting of the Society of Experimental and Social Psychology.
Improving community acceptance of former Boko Haram members, Meeting of the Society for Personality and Social Psychology.
Designing and implementing culturally appropriate intervention in field settings: A "how to" example from Nigeria, Intervention Science Preconference, Meeting of the Society for Personality and Social Psychology.
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- 2018 *A psychological approach to understanding political violence*, Meeting of the International Society for Political Psychology.
A quest for psychological realism The challenge of studying collective violence in the laboratory, Meeting of the Society for Personality and Social Psychology.
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- 2017 *Motivating the adoption of new community-minded behaviors: An empirical test in Nigeria*, Intervention Science Preconference, Meeting of the Society for Personality and Social Psychology.
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- 2016 *Perpetrating violence increases identification with violent groups: Survey evidence from former combatants*, Groups Preconference, Meeting of the Society of Experimental and Social Psychology.

Cycle of violence: Perpetrating violence and group identification, Meeting of the Society for Personality and Social Psychology.

See corruption? Let us hear from you! A field experiment in Nigeria, Four College Social Psychology Conference, Yale University.

2015

Does violence increase group identification? Survey evidence from former combatants, Political Psychology Conference, Amsterdam.

See corruption? Let us hear from you! A field experiment in Nigeria, Meeting of the International Society for Political Psychology.

Does perpetrating violence increase identification with violent groups? Evidence from ex-combatants in Liberia and Uganda, Comparative African Political Economy Research Seminar, Columbia University.

2014

See corruption? Let us hear from you! A field experiment in Nigeria, Meeting of the International Society for Justice Research, New York University.

Does violence increase group identification? Evidence from ex-combatants in Uganda and Liberia, Four College Social Psychology Conference, New York University.

2013

The cycle of violence: Perpetrating violence and commitment to violent groups, Indaba (Program in African Studies), Princeton University.

The cycle of violence: Perpetrating violence and group commitment, Princeton Research in Experimental Social Science, Princeton University.

Policy Engagement

2022

Thematic Advisor, Violent Extremism Disengagement and (Re)integration Action Guide, United States Institute of Peace

2020 - present

Research Advisor, Managing Exits from Armed Conflict Project
United Nations University Centre for Policy Research

2020 - 2022

Research Advisor, Beyond Conflict's Decoding Dehumanization Initiative

2019 - 2021

Project Advisory Group, Managing Exits from Armed Conflict

2019

Consultant on Reconciliation and Reintegration Initiatives in Northeast Nigeria
United Nations Development Programme

2016

Consultant, Project on Children and Extreme Violence
United Nations University

Media Coverage

2023	ABC News, Why experts say police might act violently in groups amid questions about Tyre Nichols
2022	Just Security, Extremist ideologies and the roots of mass atrocities: Lessons for Ukraine
2021	CBRNE Central, Strategies for demobilizing Boko Haram fighters and reintegrating communities
	Quartz, The Nollywood move experiment to research Nigerians' anti-corruption behavior
2019	BBC Radio 5's Up All Night (live radio interview) Deccan Chronicle, Movies can shift social norms by influencing people The Hans India, Movies influence people reveals study

Employment and Skills

2009 - 2011	Project Associate, Innovations for Poverty Action Liberia and New York Proficient in R, STATA, Latex, Qualtrics, SurveyCTO
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