

KYLE J. LAFOLLETTE
CURRICULUM VITAE

Booth School of Business

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ACADEMIC APPOINTMENTS

Principal Researcher at The University of Chicago, Booth School of Business, Roman Family Center for Decision Research (July 2025-present)

EDUCATION

Case Western Reserve University, Department of Psychological Sciences, Cleveland, OH (2020-2025)

Ph.D., Psychology (2025)

Dissertation Title: Investigations of Affective Dynamics Using Equation Detection Algorithms

Dissertation Committee: Heath A. Demaree (advisor), Brooke N. Macnamara, Amit Goldenberg

Case Western Reserve University, Department of Psychological Sciences, Cleveland, OH (2020-2023)

M.A., Psychology (2023)

Master's Thesis Title: Physiological Arousal Predicts Increased Directed Exploration Under Stress

University of Michigan, College of Literature, Science and The Arts, Ann Arbor, MI (2014-2017)

B.S., Cognitive Science (Decision Sciences Track) & Biopsychology (2017)

RESEARCH INTERESTS

Affective Decision-making | Attitudes, Beliefs, & Preferences | Anxiety, Stress, & Uncertainty | Big Data Analytics
Decision Diffusion | Dynamical Systems | Emotion Inference | Equation Discovery Algorithms | Machine Learning

GRANT ACTIVITY

2025

Consultant for Army Research Institute Grant # W911NF-22-1-0238

Title: Understanding Change in Performance: The Roles of Cognitive Abilities, “Hot” Cognition, and Context

PI: Brooke N. Macnamara, **Co-PIs:** David J. Frank, Alexander P. Burgoyne

Total Award: \$1,034,937

PUBLICATIONS [† Shared authorship]

LaFollette, K. J., Rubez, D., Demaree, H. A., & Goldenberg, A. (April 16, 2026). Challenging the mechanism for the implicit association test. *Nature Human Behaviour*. <https://doi.org/10.1038/s41562-026-02439-y>.

LaFollette, K. J., Frank, D. J., Burgoyne, A. P., & Macnamara, B. N. (2026). Task, person, and experiential characteristics drive the transfer of learning. *Communications Psychology*, 4(42), <https://doi.org/10.1038/s44271-026-00408-9>.

†Goldenberg, A., †**LaFollette, K. J.**, Huang, Z., Weisz, E., & Cikara, M. (2025). Judgment of crowds as emotional increases with the proportion of Black faces. *Scientific Reports*. 15, 35208, <https://doi.org/10.1038/s41598-025-95029-3>.

LaFollette, K. J., Yuval, J., Schurr, R., Melnikoff, D., & Goldenberg, A. (2025). Data-driven equation discovery reveals nonlinear reinforcement learning in humans. *Proceedings of the National Academy of Sciences*. 122 (31) e2413441122, <https://doi.org/10.1073/pnas.2413441122>.

MANUSCRIPTS IN PRESS AND UNDER REVIEW [* Mentored undergraduate]

LaFollette, K. J., Frank, D. J., Burgoyne, A. P., & Macnamara, B. N. (Under Review). Multi-tasking versus multi-learning: Performance but not learning suffers when pursuing simultaneous goals.

*Prince, C., Demaree, H. A., & **LaFollette, K. J.** (Revise & Resubmit; JPSP). Internal and external forces shape human emotion. https://doi.org/10.31234/osf.io/jvxza_v3.

Rubez, D., *Vázquez, J. I., & **LaFollette, K. J.** (Revise & Resubmit; JESP). From structure to mindset, not mobility: Neighborhood scarcity drives implicit attitudes toward change.

LaFollette, K. J., *Fan, J., *Puccio, A., & Demaree, H. A. (Under Review). Democratizing diffusion decision models: A comprehensive tutorial on developing, validating, and fitting diffusion decision models in Python with FlexDDM. <https://doi.org/10.31234/osf.io/j9m67>.

MANUSCRIPTS IN PREPARATION

LaFollette, K. J., Demaree, H. A., & Goldenberg, A. (In Preparation). Social sharing modulates the dynamics of affective arousal. [[Working Paper](#)].

LaFollette, K. J., & Demaree, H. A. (In Preparation). Affect shapes sequential risky choice differently from financial outcomes: Evidence from sparse equation discovery across four gambling paradigms. [[Working Paper](#)].

LaFollette, K. J., Demaree, H. A., & Goldenberg, A. (In Preparation). A bottom-up equation discovery approach in momentary emotion analysis.

Barnett, M. K., **LaFollette, K. J., & Macnamara, B. N. (In Preparation).** Recalculating avoidance: Math anxiety predicts avoidance of effortful problem solving.

LaFollette, K. J., Frank, D. J., Burgoyne, A. P., & Macnamara, B. N. The dynamic advantage: Static training fails to prepare learners for changing real-time testing.

PEER REVIEWED CONFERENCE PROCEEDINGS [* Mentored undergraduate]

LaFollette, K. J., *Fan, J., *Puccio, A., & Demaree, H. A. (2024). FlexDDM: A flexible decision-diffusion Python package for the behavioral sciences. In L. K. Samuelson, S. Frank, M. Toneva, A. Mackey, & E. Hazeltine (Eds.), *Proceedings of the Annual Meeting of the Cognitive Science Society*, 46.

Barnett, M. K., **LaFollette, K. J., & Macnamara, B. N. (2024).** Distraction in math anxious individuals during math effort-based problem solving. In L. K. Samuelson, S. Frank, M. Toneva, A. Mackey, & E. Hazeltine (Eds.), *Proceedings of the Annual Meeting of the Cognitive Science Society*, 46.

LaFollette, K. J., & Demaree, H. A. (2022). Comparing the effects of stress on directed and random exploration. In *Proceedings of the 5th Multidisciplinary Conference on Reinforcement Learning and Decision Making*.

LaFollette, K. J., Kotynski, A. E., Merner, A. R., Lim, R., Jiang, H., & Demaree, H. A. (2021). Exposure to discrete emotions influence processes of evidence accumulation in reinforcement-learning. In T. Fitch, C., Lamm, H. Leder, & K. Teßmar-Raible (Eds.), *Proceedings of the Annual Meeting of the Cognitive Science Society*, 43, 486-492.

INVITED TALKS

- October, 2025 Knowledge Lab, The University of Chicago.
- September, 2025 Automated Scientific Discovery of Mind and Brain Workshop, Princeton University.
- February, 2025 Cognitive, Mathematical and Computational Psychology Colloquium, Purdue University.
- January, 2025 IMPACT Lab, University of California San Diego.
- September, 2024 Emerging Scholars in Psychological Science, Princeton University.
- February, 2024 Cognition, Brain, and Behavior Seminar, Department of Psychology, Harvard University.
- February, 2023 Computational Cognitive Neuroscience Lab, Harvard University.
- October, 2021 Goldenberg & Jordan Lab, Harvard Business School.

CONFERENCE TALKS [* Mentored undergraduate]

- LaFollette, K. J.** (2026, July). *Nonlinear affective cascades in decision dynamics*. Symposium to be presented at the 2026 Society for Industrial and Applied Mathematics Annual Meeting, Cleveland, OH.
- LaFollette, K. J.**, Demaree, H. A., & Goldenberg, A. (2025, March). *Equation discovery in emotion dynamics: From linear attractor models to complex systems*. Talk presented at the 2025 Society for Affective Science Annual Meeting, Portland, OR.
- *Prince, C., & **LaFollette, K. J.** (2025, March). *Consolidating autoregressive and prediction error models of happiness using an equation discovery algorithm*. Talk presented at the 2025 Society for Affective Science Annual Meeting, Portland, OR.
- *Fan, J., *Suram, S., Rubez, D., **LaFollette, K. J.**, & Demaree, H. A. (2025, March). *The effects of gender and racial stereotypes on emotion perception: A decision-diffusion study*. Talk presented at the 2025 Society for Affective Science Annual Meeting, Portland, OR.
- LaFollette, K. J.**, Frank, D. J., Burgoyne, A. P., & Macnamara, B. N. (2024, November). *Adaptation under pressure: The role of emotion-cognition traits in learning and skill transfer*. Talk presented at the 65th Annual Meeting of the Psychonomic Society, New York City, NY.
- LaFollette, K. J.**, Frank, D. J., Burgoyne, A. P., & Macnamara, B. N. (2024, July). *Cognitive control promotes learning transfer across high stress, uncertain environments*. Talk presented at the 2024 International Society for Intelligence Research, Zurich, CH.
- LaFollette, K. J.**, Weisz, E., Cikara, M., Huang, Z., & Goldenberg, A. (2023, March). *Judgment of crowds as emotional increases with the proportion of Black faces*. Symposium presented at the 2023 Society for Affective Science Annual Meeting, Long Beach, CA.
- LaFollette, K. J.**, & Goldenberg, A. (2022, November). *Using equation detection algorithms for computational model selection in psychology*. Talk presented at the 52nd Annual Meeting of the Society for Computation in Psychology, Boston, MA.
- LaFollette, K. J.**, Weisz, E., Cikara, M., Huang, Z., & Goldenberg, A. (2022, May). *The ratio of Black faces in the crowd is positively associated with perception of emotion*. Talk presented at the 2022 Annual Convocation of the Association for Psychological Science, Chicago, IL.
- LaFollette, K. J.** (2022, April). *Latent risk behaviors predict model-based control*. Talk presented at the 94th Annual Conference of the Midwestern Psychological Association, Chicago, IL.

- LaFollette, K. J.**, Kotynski, A. E., Merner, A. R., Lim, R., Jiang, H., & Demaree, H. A. (2021, February). *Exposure to discrete emotions influence processes of evidence accumulation in reinforcement-learning*. Talk presented at the 42nd Annual Meeting of the Cognitive Science Society, Virtual.
- LaFollette, K. J.**, Satterfield, B. C., Esbit, S., Lazar, M. P., Grandner, M. A., & Killgore, W. D. S. (2019, June) *The effects of prior at-home sleep duration on reversal-learning during a “shoot/no-shoot” task*. Talk presented at the 33rd Annual SLEEP Meeting, San Antonio, TX.
- LaFollette, K. J.**, Cawley, A., & Mesa, V. (2015, April). *Inquiry-based learning in mathematics classrooms: Faculty concerns and solutions for student presentations*. Talk presented at the Annual MichMATYC Conference, Benton Harbor, MI.

POSTER PRESENTATIONS [* Mentored undergraduate]

- *Prince, C., Demaree, H. A., & **LaFollette, K. J.** (2026, February). *The DynAffect-C model: Endogenous and exogenous forces shape human emotion*. Poster presented at the 2026 Computational Psychology Preconference at the Society for Personality and Social Psychology Annual Convention, Chicago, IL.
- LaFollette, K. J.**, Frank, D. J., Burgoyne, A. P., & Macnamara, B. N. (2025, November). *Multi-learning but not multi-tasking: Stress and task switching reveal latent skill acquisition*. Poster presented at the 66th Annual Meeting of the Psychonomic Society, Denver, CO.
- LaFollette, K. J.**, *Fan, J., *Puccio, A., & Demaree, H. A. (2025, November). *Adaptive noise better accounts for individual variability in cognitive control models*. Poster presented at the 2025 Symposium for Individual Differences in Cognition, Denver, CO.
- *Puccio, A., & **LaFollette, K. J.** (2025, March). *Enhancing human recursive reasoning and counterfactual emotions through AI-generated prompts*. Poster presented at the 2025 Society for Affective Science Annual Meeting, Portland, OR.
- *Vázquez, J. I., Rubez, D., **LaFollette, K. J.** (2025, March). *Negativity in time: How food insecurity and poverty shape feelings toward progress and change*. Poster presented at the 2025 Society for Affective Science Annual Meeting, Portland, OR.
- *Fan, J., *Puccio, A., Demaree, H. A., & **LaFollette, K. J.** (2024, November). *FlexDDM: A flexible simulation-based Python package for fitting and validating diffusion models*. Poster presented at the 65th Annual Meeting of the Psychonomic Society, New York City, NY.
- *Vázquez, J. I., Rubez, D., **LaFollette, K. J.**, & Macnamara, B. N. (2024, November). *Attributions of negativity toward the past, present, and future in minority groups is predicted by systematic inequalities*. Poster presented at the 65th Annual Meeting of the Psychonomic Society, New York City, NY.
- *Patel, R, Macnamara, B. N. & **LaFollette, K. J.** (2024, October). *Understanding physiological responses to a stressful environment*. Poster presented at the 53rd Annual Society for Neuroscience Meeting, Chicago, IL.
- *Fan, J., *Puccio, A., Demaree, H. A., & **LaFollette, K. J.** (2024, April). *Validating new theoretical models of decision-making with FlexDDM*. Poster presented at the Spring 2024 Intersections Symposium and Poster Session at Case Western Reserve University, Cleveland, OH.
- *Vázquez, J. I., Rubez, D., & **LaFollette, K. J.** (2024, April). *Structural influences on temporal perceptions: Exploring attitudes toward the past, present, and future across diverse populations*. Poster presented at

the Spring 2024 Intersections Symposium and Poster Session at Case Western Reserve University, Cleveland, OH.

- *Patel, R, **LaFollette, K. J.**, & Macnamara, B. N. (2024, April). *Understanding physiological response and reactivity to stressful environments*. Poster presented at the Spring 2024 Intersections Symposium and Poster Session at Case Western Reserve University, Cleveland, OH.
- *Fan, J., *Puccio, A., Demaree, H. A., & **LaFollette, K. J.** (2023, December). *FlexDDM: A Customizable Diffusion Decision Model Python Package for Behavioral Sciences*. Poster presented at the Fall 2023 Intersections Symposium and Poster Session at Case Western Reserve University, Cleveland, OH.
- Rubez, D., **LaFollette, K. J.**, & Short, E. J. (2023, November). *Socioeconomic Status and Inhibition in Preschool Children: A Diffusion Model Analysis*. Poster presented at the 64th Annual Meeting of the Psychonomic Society, San Francisco, CA.
- Barnett, M. K., **LaFollette, K. J.**, & Macnamara, B. N. (2023, November). *Distraction and Avoidance Behaviors in Math Anxious Individuals During Testing*. Poster presented at the 64th Annual Meeting of the Psychonomic Society, San Francisco, CA.
- *Vázquez, J. I., Rubez, D., & **LaFollette, K. J.** (2023, November). *Attitudes toward the Past, Present, and Future: Examining Implicit Biases across Diverse Racial, Ethnic, and Socioeconomic Groups*. Poster presented at the 64th Annual Meeting of the Psychonomic Society, San Francisco, CA.
- LaFollette, K. J.**, Frank, D. J., Burgoyne, A. P., & Macnamara, B. N. (2023, November). *Individual differences in emotion-cognition traits govern the roles of stress and task characteristics on complex performance*. Poster presented at the 2023 Symposium for Individual Differences in Cognition, San Francisco, CA.
- Barnett, M. K., **LaFollette, K. J.**, & Macnamara, B. N. (2023, November). *Avoidance behavior and distraction in math anxious individuals during math effort-based decision-making*. Poster presented at the 2023 Symposium for Individual Differences in Cognition, San Francisco, CA.
- Rubez, D., & **LaFollette, K. J.** (2023, July). *Socioeconomic Status and Inhibition in Preschool Children: A Diffusion Model Analysis*. Poster presented at the 2023 Computational Psychiatry Conference, Dublin, Ireland.
- Barrick, E. M., **LaFollette, K. J.**, Guerra, N., & Lincoln, S.H. (2023, July). *Understanding Emotion Inference in Schizotypy: A Diffusion Modeling Approach*. Poster presented at the 2023 Computational Psychiatry Conference, Dublin, Ireland.
- LaFollette, K. J.**, & Rubez, D. (2023, May). *Dissociating effects of automatic from controlled processing on the evaluation of Implicit Association Tests*. Poster presented at the 2023 Annual Convocation of the Association for Psychological Science, Washington, D.C.
- LaFollette, K. J.**, & Demaree, H. A. (2022, November). *Solutions to the explore-exploit dilemma vary with perception of stress and intolerance of uncertainty*. Poster presented at the 63rd Annual Meeting of the Psychonomic Society, Boston, MA.
- LaFollette, K. J.**, & Demaree, H. A. (2022, July). *Comparing the effects of stress on directed and random exploration*. Poster presented at the 5th Multidisciplinary Conference on Reinforcement Learning and Decision Making, Providence, RI.
- LaFollette, K. J.**, Kotynski, A. E., Frank, D. J., Merner, A. R., Jiang, H., Macnamara, B. N., Burns, K. J., & Demaree, H. A. (2021, November). *Toward a reinforcement learning decision diffusion model of choice*

behavior in the context of incidental discrete emotion. Poster presented at the 62nd Annual Meeting of the Psychonomic Society, Virtual.

- Satterfield, B. C., Anlap, I., Esbit, S., **LaFollette, K. J.**, Lazar, M. P., & Killgore, W. D. S. (2021, August). *Corticotropin-releasing hormone receptor 1 gene polymorphism modulates cognitive flexibility following acute stress and sleep deprivation.* Poster presented at the 2021 Military Health System Research Symposium, Virtual.
- LaFollette, K. J.**, Satterfield, B. C., Lazar, M. P., Esbit, S., Anlap, I., & Killgore, W. D. S. (2020, November). *Chunking of sequence memories during high-stress sleep deprivation.* Poster presented at the 61st Annual Meeting of the Psychonomic Society, Virtual.
- LaFollette, K. J.**, Satterfield, B. C., Lazar, M. P., Esbit, S., Anlap, I., & Killgore, W. D. S. (2020, August). *Emotion regulation during sleep deprivation and repeated physiological stress: Implications for motor skill learning and production.* Poster presented at the 34th Annual SLEEP Meeting, Virtual.
- LaFollette, K. J.**, Satterfield, B. C., Lazar, M. P., & Killgore, W. D. S. (2019, October). *Disentangling the effects of subjective task load and performance on neuroendocrine stress response.* Poster presented at the 49th Annual Society for Neuroscience Meeting, Chicago, IL.
- Strong, M., Esbit, S., **LaFollette, K. J.**, Dailey, N. S., & Killgore, W. D. S. (2019, August). *Big five personality traits and how they relate to self-perceived invincibility.* Poster presented at the 2019 Military Health System Research Symposium, Kissimmee, FL.
- LaFollette, K. J.**, Satterfield, B. C., Esbit, S., Lazar, M. P., & Killgore, W. D. S. (2019, August). *Inadequate sleep quality and duration predicts disinhibited shooting on a “shoot/no shoot” task.* Poster presented at the 2019 Military Health System Research Symposium, Kissimmee, FL.
- LaFollette, K. J.**, Satterfield, B. C., Esbit, S., Lazar, M. P., & Killgore, W. D. S. (2019, August). *Self-perceived invincibility is associated with greater cognitive flexibility.* Poster presented at the 2019 Military Health System Research Symposium, Kissimmee, FL.
- LaFollette, K. J.**, Satterfield, B. C., Esbit, S., Lazar, M. P., Grandner, M. A., & Killgore, W. D. S. (2019, June) *Negative mood and poor sleep are associated with altered moral reasoning under stress.* Poster presented at the 33rd Annual SLEEP Meeting, San Antonio, TX.
- Burns, A., Ozcan, M., Shepard, K. C., **LaFollette, K. J.**, Alkozei, A., Grandner, M. A., & Killgore, W. D. S. (2019, June) *The association between PTSD severity and insomnia is mediated by nightmares.* Poster presented at the 33rd Annual SLEEP Meeting, San Antonio, TX.
- LaFollette, K. J.**, Satterfield, B. C., Lazar, M. P., & Killgore, W. D. S. (2019, February) *Stay negative?: Positive affect is associated with increased psychosocial stress reactivity.* Poster presented at the International Neuropsychological Society 47th Annual Meeting, New York, NY.
- LaFollette, K. J.**, Satterfield, B. C., Lazar, M. P., & Killgore, W. D. S. (2019, February) *Predicting psychosocial stress reactivity from ability and trait-based emotional intelligence.* Poster presented at the International Neuropsychological Society 47th Annual Meeting, New York, NY.
- Satterfield, B. C., **LaFollette, K. J.**, Lazar, M. P., & Killgore, W. D. S. (2019, February) *Prolonged psychosocial stress impairs cognitive flexibility.* Poster presented at the International Neuropsychological Society 47th Annual Meeting, New York, NY.

Esbit, S., Satterfield, B. C., **LaFollette, K. J.**, Botello, R., Alkozei, A., & Killgore, W. D. S. (2019, February) *High self-perceived adroitness: An altered perception of reality during sleep deprivation*. Poster presented at the International Neuropsychological Society 47th Annual Meeting, New York, NY.

LaFollette, K. J., Satterfield, B. C., Lazar, M. P., & Killgore, W. D. S. (2018, November) *Attenuated model-based decision making is predictive of increased psychosocial stress reactivity*. Poster presented at the Society for Judgment and Decision Making 39th Annual Meeting, New Orleans, LA.

LaFollette, K. J., Ibrahim, A., & Shah, P. (2016, April). *The anxious math student: An exploration of the motivational predictors of math anxiety*. Poster presented at the 8th Annual California Cognitive Science Conference, University of California, Berkeley, CA.

LaFollette, K. J., Cawley, A., & Mesa, V. (2015, April). *Inquiry-based learning in mathematics classrooms: Finding solutions to common concerns*. Poster presented at the Annual UROP Spring Research Symposium, University of Michigan, Ann Arbor, MI.

EDITORIALS & PUBLIC COMMENTARIES

LaFollette, K. J. (2023). Tips to navigating the demands of graduate school: A scientific approach to well-being. *Observer: Student Notebook*. <https://www.psychologicalscience.org/observer/student-notebook-demands-graduate-school>

JOURNAL AD HOC REVIEWER

Emotion

Journal of Statistical Software

Proceedings of the National Academy of Sciences

AWARDS & HONORS

2025	Douglas K. Detterman Award for Commitment to Scholarship in the Fields of Intelligence and Cognitive Ability (\$200)
2024	Joseph F. Fagan, III Award for Research Excellence (\$200)
2022	Graduate Council of Arts and Sciences Graduate Student Scholarship and Creative Endeavors Grant (\$1000)
2022	Psychonomic Society Graduate Student Conference Award (\$1,000)
2022	The Multi-disciplinary Conference on Reinforcement Learning and Decision-Making Student Travel Award (\$300)

RESEARCH & TRAINING COURSES

Summer 2023	Harvard Business School , Computational Organization Science Summer School
Summer 2021	Neuromatch Academy , Computational Neuroscience Summer School
Summer 2019	University of Washington , Mathematics of Machine Learning Summer School

TEACHING

Spring 2023	Python for Psychological Science Case Western Reserve University Instructor
Fall 2023	Quantitative Methods in Psychology Case Western Reserve University Instructor
Fall 2022	Computational Psychology & Neuroeconomics Case Western Reserve University Instructor
Fall 2021	Quantitative Methods in Psychology Case Western Reserve University Teaching Assistant Guest Lecturer: Distributional Families; Transformations

UNDERGRADUATE MENTORING

2024-present	Charles Prince
2024-present	Emilio Izquierdo
2024-2025	Shravani Suram
2023-2025	Joy Fan The Professor Edwin P. Hollander, Adelbert 1948, and Mrs. Patricia A. Hollander Capstone Research Award: <i>The Effects of Racial Stereotypes on Emotion Perception: A Decision-Diffusion Study</i> Flora Stone Mather Center Research and Professional Development Grant (\$1000)
2023-2025	Alessandra Puccio
2022-2024	Jaylene Vázquez

PROFESSIONAL MEMBERSHIPS

2022-present	Society for Affective Science Member
2020-present	Psychonomic Society Student Member
2020-present	Cognitive Science Society Student Member
2018-present	Society for Judgment and Decision-Making Member