

# Emily Kubin

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## ACADEMIC POSITIONS

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- 2023- **Postdoctoral Research Fellow**  
Department of Psychology and Neuroscience, University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill
- 2023- **Postdoctoral Research Fellow**  
Department of Psychology, University of Kaiserslautern-Landau (RPTU)
- 2021-2023 **Research Affiliate**  
Center for the Science of Moral Understanding, University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill

## EDUCATION

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- 2020-2023 **Ph.D.** Social Psychology, University of Kaiserslautern-Landau (RPTU)  
(Advisor: Dr. Christian von Sikorski), *summa cum laude*.
- 2018-2020 **M.Sc.** Social and Behavioral Sciences (Specialization in Social Psychology), Tilburg University
- 2013-2017 **B.A.**, Psychology (major), Anthropology (minor), Drew University,  
*summa cum laude*

## RESEARCH INTERESTS

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Political Psychology, Polarization, Victimhood Narratives, Interventions, Media Effects

## PRACTITIONER AND COMMUNITY PARTNERS

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- One America Movement.....(2022-present)
- More in Common .....(2022-present)
- Narrative4.....(2024-present)

## PUBLICATIONS

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\* indicates shared first-authorship.

Gray, K.\* & **Kubin, E.\*** (accepted). Victimhood: The Most Powerful Force in Morality and Politics. *Advances in Experimental Social Psychology*. Preprint available at: <https://osf.io/preprints/psyarxiv/2n9m5>.

**Kubin, E.,** & von Sikorski, C. (2023). The complex relationship between media and political polarization: Understanding how the media can affectively (de)polarize citizens. *International Journal of Communication, 17*, 5207-5222. 1932-8036/20230005.

Rogers, B., Chicas, H., Kelly, J. M., **Kubin, E.,** Christian, M., Kachanoff, F. J., Berger, J.,

- Puryear, C., McAdams, D., & Gray, K. (2023). Seeing your life story as a Hero's Journey increases meaning in life. *Journal of Personality and Social Psychology*. doi:10.1037/pspa0000341.
- Azevedo, F., Pavlović, T., Rego, G., Ay, C., Gjoneska, B., Etienne, T., ... **Kubin, E.**,... Sampaio, W. (2023) Social and moral psychology of COVID-19 across 69 countries. *Nature Scientific Data*, 10(272), doi:10.1038/s41597-023-02080-8.
- Kubin, E.**, Gray, K., & von Sikorski, C. (2023). Reducing political dehumanization by pairing facts with personal experiences. *Political Psychology*, 44(5), 1119-1140. doi:10.1111/pops.12875.
- \***Kubin, E.**, \*Kachanoff, F., & Gray, K. (2023). Threat rejection fuels political dehumanization. *Social Psychological and Personality Science*, 14(5), 487-500. doi:10.1177/19485506211068922.
- Pavlović, T., Azevedo, F., De, K., Riaño-Moreno, J., Maglić, M., Gkinopoulos, T., ... **Kubin, E.**,... Van Bavel, J. J. (2022). Predicting attitudinal and behavioral responses to COVID-19 pandemic using machine learning. *PNAS Nexus*, 1(3), pgac093. doi:10.1093/pnasnexus/pgac093.
- Van Bavel, J. J., Cichocka, A., Capraro, Sjästad, H., Nezlek, J. B., Alfano, M., ... **Kubin, E.**, ...Boggio, P. S. (2022). National identity predicts public health support during a global pandemic. *Nature Communications*, 13, 517. doi:10.1038/s41467-021-27668-9.
- Kubin, E.** & von Sikorski, C. (2021). The role of (social) media in political polarization: A systematic review. *ANNALS of the International Communication Association*, 45(3), 188-206. doi:10.1080/23808985.2021.1976070.
- Brandt, M. J. & **Kubin, E.** (2021). Ratings of reasons for disagreement about 95 attitude object pairs and 190 attitude objects. *Journal of Open Psychology Data*, 9(4), 1-7. doi:10.5334/jopd.53.
- Brandt, M. J., Turner-Zwinkels, F. M. & **Kubin, E.** (2021). Political Psychology Data from a 26-wave Yearlong Longitudinal Study (2019–2020). *Journal of Open Psychology Data*, 9(2), 1–12. doi: <https://doi.org/10.5334/jopd.54>
- Kubin, E.**, Puryear, C., Schein, C., & Gray, K. (2021). Personal experiences bridge moral and political divides better than facts. *Proceedings of the National Academy of Sciences*, 118(6), 1-9. doi:10.1073/pnas.2008389118.
- Van Tongeren, D. R., **Kubin, E.**, Crawford, J. T., & Brandt, M. J. (2020). The role of religious orientation in worldview conflict. *International Journal for the Psychology of Religion*. doi:10.1080/10508619.2020.1744317.
- Kubin, E.** & Brandt, M. J. (2020). Identifying the domains of ideological similarities and

differences in attitudes. *Comprehensive Results in Social Psychology*, 4(1), 53-77.  
doi:10.1080/237436.2020.1756242.

Randhavane, T., Bera, A., **Kubin, E.**, Wang, A., Gray, K., & Manocha, D. (2019). Pedestrian dominance modeling for socially-aware robot navigation. In *International Conference on Robotics and Automation (ICRA)*.

Randhavane, T., Bera, A., **Kubin, E.**, Gray, K., & Manocha, D. (2019). Modeling data-driven dominance traits for virtual characters using gait analysis. In *IEEE Transactions on Visualization and Computer Graphics*.

Bera, A., Randhavane, T., **Kubin, E.**, Shaik, H., Gray, K., & Manocha, D. (2018). Data-driven modeling of group entitativity in virtual environments. In *Proceedings of the 24<sup>th</sup> ACM Symposium on Virtual Reality Software and Technology* (pp. 31-43).

Bera, A., Randhavane, T., **Kubin, E.**, Wang, A., Gray, K., & Manocha, D. (2018). The socially invisible robot: Navigation in the social world using robot entitativity. In *Intelligent Robots and Systems (IROS)* (pp. 4468-4475).

Bera, A., Randhavane, T., **Kubin, E.**, Wang, A., Gray, K., & Manocha, D. (2018). Classifying group emotions for socially-aware autonomous vehicle navigation. In *Proceedings of the IEEE Conferences on Computer Visions and Pattern Recognition Workshops* (pp. 1039-1047).

Cheung, E., Bera, A., **Kubin, E.**, Gray, K., & Manocha, D. (2018). Identifying driver behaviors using trajectory features for vehicle navigation. In *IROS IEEE/RSK International Conference on Intelligent Robots and Systems*.

Cheung, E., Bera, A., **Kubin, E.**, Gray, K., & Manocha, D. (2018). Classifying driver behaviors for autonomous vehicle navigation. In *IEEE/RSJ International Conference on Intelligent Robots and Systems (IROS)*, 3445-3452.

## **BOOK CHAPTERS**

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von Sikorski, C., & **Kubin, E.** (accepted). Repeating Patterns? Effects of Communication Patterns in Media Coverage About Muslims, Islam, and Islamist Terrorism. *Pattern Theory in Language and Communication*. de Gruyter Mouton.

von Sikorski, C., & **Kubin E.** (2021). Are we living in a post scandal era? High-choice media environments, political polarization and their consequences for political scandals. In: Haller A., Michael H., Seeber L. (eds) *Scandology 3*. Springer, Cham.  
<https://doi.org/10.1007/978-3-030-85013-54>.

## **Grants**

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*Testing the Morality and (Mis)Perception Model of Polarization Across Cultures and Contexts* (\$250,000)..... (2023-2024)  
Templeton World Charity Foundation

Co-Principle Investigators (Kurt Gray and Emily Kubin)

## TEACHING EXPERIENCE

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Master's Courses:

External Organization Communication .....5 semesters

Internal Organization Communication .....1 semester

Bachelor's Courses:

Current Topics in Communication Science: Political Polarization.....1 semester

Current Topics in Communication Science: Political Psychology.....1 semester

Empirical Internship.....5 semesters

Master Thesis Supervision:

*First Advisor*

Jennifer Zlobin (2023). *How personal experiences can build and break bridges. The importance of truth in our lived experiences.*

Moritz Rusch (2023). *Combating anti-democratic attitudes: Meta-Perception Interventions in uncertain media environments*

*Second Advisor:*

Moritz Kuhn (2024). *Wokeness and political attitudes.*

Magdalena Molkenhain (2023). *And they lived happily ever after: How the direction of strategic narratives affects the acceptance for climate protection measures in society.*

Jonas Brammer (2022). *Bringing the individual back into the group: The effect of personal experiences on affective polarization.*

Marina Schmidt (2021). *Content of news coverage impacts affective polarization, tolerance, and dehumanization: What role do personal experiences and facts play?*

## CHAired SYMPOSIUMS

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Strategies to Reduce Our Moral and Political Divides. Chaired Symposium at the International Conference of Psychological Science. Brussels, Belgium. March 2023.

Public Opinion and Polarization. Chaired Symposium at the International Society of Political Psychology. Virtual conference. July 2020.

New Interventions for Tackling Political Polarization. Chaired Symposium at the International Conference of Psychological Science. Paris, France. March 2019

## PRESENTATIONS

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**Kubin, E.,** von Sikorski, C., & Gray, K. (February, 2024). *Political Censorship Feels Acceptable When Ideas Seem Harmful and False.* To be presented at the Symposium entitled "Justice or Silencing? Shaming and Censorship in a Polarized Environment" at the Society of Personality and Social Psychology Annual Convention. San Diego, California.

**Kubin, E.,** Gray, K. & von Sikorski, C. (February, 2024). *The Power of Experience Sharing in*

*Seemingly Intractable Conflicts*. To be presented at the Conflict and Conflict Resolution Preconference for the Society of Personality and Social Psychology Annual Convention. San Diego, California.

Huh, E., **Kubin, E.**, & von Sikorski, C. (August, 2023). *Can AI Journalism Reduce Hostile Media Perceptions? Findings from Two Experiments*. Presented at the Korean Communication Association Annual Conference. Seoul, South Korea.

Huh, E., **Kubin, E.**, & von Sikorski, C. (August, 2023). *Can AI Journalism Reduce Hostile Media Perceptions? Findings from Two Experiments*. Presented at the Association for Education in Journalism and Mass Communication. Washington D.C., United States.

Versteegen, L., **Kubin, E.**, & Gray, K. (July, 2023). *How self-disclosure bridges divides: A strategy for increasing political respect and willingness to interact*. Presented at the International Society of Political Psychology. Montreal, Canada.

von Sikorski, C., & **Kubin, E.** (May, 2023). *The Polarizing Content Warning: How the media can reduce affective polarization*. Presented at the International Communication Association Annual Conference. Toronto, Canada.

von Sikorski, C., **Kubin, E.**, & Gray, K. (May, 2023). *Reducing political dehumanization by pairing facts with personal experiences*. Presented at the International Communication Association Annual Conference. Toronto, Canada.

Versteegen, L., **Kubin, E.**, & Gray, K. (April, 2023). *How self-disclosure bridges divides: A strategy for increasing political respect and willingness to interact*. Presented at the Midwest Political Science Association Annual Conference. Chicago, Illinois, United States.

Puryear, C., **Kubin, E.**, Schein, C., Bigman, Y., & Gray, K. (March, 2023). *Bridging political divides by correcting the basic morality bias*. Presented at the International Conference of Psychological Science. Brussels, Belgium.

**Kubin, E.**, Versteegen, L., & Gray, K. (March, 2023). *How self-disclosure bridges divides: A strategy for increasing political respect and willingness to interact*. Presented at the International Conference of Psychological Science. Brussels, Belgium. March 2023.

Puryear, C., **Kubin, E.**, Schein, C., Bigman, Y., Ekstrom, P., & Gray, K. (March, 2023). *Bridging political divides by correcting the basic morality bias*. Presented at the Society of Personality and Social Psychology Annual Convention. Atlanta, Georgia.

**Kubin, E.**, von Sikorski, C., & Gray, K. (July, 2022). *Understanding and reducing the censorship of political opponents*. Presented at the International Society of Political Psychology Annual Conference, Athens, Greece.

**Kubin, E.**, Puryear, C., Schein, C., & Gray, K. (June, 2022). *Personal Experiences Bridge*

*Moral and Political Divides Better than Facts*. Presented at the Center for the Science of Moral Understanding Annual Conference, Durham, North Carolina, United States.

**Kubin, E.,** Puryear, C., & Gray, K. (July, 2021). *The Power of Personal Experience (not Facts) in Reducing Political Polarization: Implications for Scientists*. Presented at the International Society for Political Psychology Annual Convention (virtual conference).

Gray, K., Rogers, B., Chicas, H., **Kubin, E.,** Christian, M., & McAdams, D. (February 2021). *From timeless myths to personal meaning: The benefits of the Hero's Journey as a Narrative frame*. Presented at the Society of Personality and Social Psychology Annual Convention (virtual conference).

Gray, K., **Kubin, E.,** Puryear, C., & Schein, C. (February 2021). *Personal Experiences Bridge Moral and Political Divides Better Than Facts*. Presented at the Social Cognition pre-conference at the Society of Personality and Social Psychology Annual Convention (virtual conference).

**Kubin, E.** (July, 2020). *Minimizing the Consequences of Polarization: Highlight Experiences, Not Facts*. Presented at the International Society of Political Psychology Annual Convention (virtual conference).

Gray, K., **Kubin, E.,** Schein, C., Puryear, C. (May, 2020). *Increasing political tolerance by emphasizing experience, not facts*. Presented at the Society for Personality and Social Psychology Annual Convention, New Orleans, Louisiana, United States.

Gray, K., **Kubin, E.,** & Schein, C. (May, 2019). *Increasing political tolerance by emphasizing experience, not facts*. Presented at the Association for Psychological Science 2019 Annual Convention, Washington D.C., United States.

**Kubin, E.** & Gray, K. (March, 2019). *Increasing political respect through the rationality of personal experience*. Presented at the International Convention of Psychological Science, Paris, France.

Schein, C., **Kubin, E.,** Bigman, Y., & Gray, K. (July, 2019). Bridging political divides by focusing on shared moral values. Paper presented at *International Association for Conflict Management*. Dublin, Ireland.

Schein, C., **Kubin, E.,** Goranson, A., Dillard, L., & Gray, K. (May, 2019). *Superhumanization of caregivers: The downsides of being perceived as super strong*. Presented at the Association for Psychological Science 2019 Annual Convention, Washington D.C., United States.

## **POSTER SESSIONS**

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† indicates student advisee

†Wahba, M., **Kubin, E.,** Merz, P., †Davis, C., Gray, K., & von Sikorski, C. (April, 2023).

*Understanding user comments and their effects: A systematic review.* Presented at the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill Celebration of Undergraduate Research Chapel Hill, NC, United States.

**Kubin, E.,** Gray, K., & von Sikorski, C. (February, 2023). *Reducing Political Dehumanization By Pairing Facts with Personal Experiences.* Presented at the annual meeting of the Society for Personality and Social Psychology. Atlanta, GA, United States.

**Kubin, E.,** Kachanoff, F., & Gray, K. (March, 2022). *Threat Rejection Fuels Political Dehumanization.* Presented at the German Political Psychology Network, Chemnitz, Germany.

**Kubin, E.,** Kachanoff, F., & Gray, K. (February, 2021). *Political opponents are condemned and dehumanized when they seem indifferent to realistic but not symbolic risks: Evidence from the COVID-19 pandemic.* Presented at the annual meeting of the Society for Personality and Social Psychology (virtual conference).

**Kubin, E.,** Schein, C., Goranson, A., Dillard, L., & Gray, K. (March, 2018). *Superhumanization of caregivers: The downsides of being perceived as super strong.* Presented at the Attitudes & Social Influence Pre-Conference of the annual meeting of the Society for Personality and Social Psychology, Atlanta GA, United States.

Morgan, G. S., & **Kubin, E.** (March, 2018). *Who is intolerant? Political ideological symmetries in predictions about intolerance.* Presented at the annual meeting of the Society for Personality and Social Psychology, Atlanta GA, United States.

**Kubin, E.,** Sheskin, M., & Johnson, S. G. B. (July 2017). *Understanding others' arguments.* Poster presented at the meeting of Development Labs at Yale University, New Haven CT, United States.

**Kubin, E.** (April 2017). *Community based research: Exploring motives of charitable behaviors and perceptions of poverty.* Poster presented at the annual Civic Engagement Awards and Showcase, Madison NJ, United States.

**Kubin, E.** (April 2017). *The cross-pressure model of ideology and charitable giving: Exploring the role of religiosity and attributions for poverty.* Poster presented at the Tri-Collegiate Psychology Student Research Symposium, Madison NJ, United States.

**Kubin, E.** (March 2017). *The party over policy effect: Implications for attributions of poverty.* Poster presented at the annual meeting of the Eastern Psychological Association, Boston MA, United States.

**Kubin, E.,** Eason, A., Sommerville, J., & Kaiser, C. (August 2016). *Same race friendship expectation: The moderating role of neighborhood segregation.* Poster presented at annual meeting of Early Childhood Cognition Lab at the University of Washington, Seattle WA, United States.

**Kubin, E., & Morgan, S. G.** (March 2016). *Symmetries and asymmetries in people's predictions about opponents' intolerance*. Poster presented at the annual meeting of the Eastern Psychological Association, New York NY, United States.

## **PROFESSIONAL SERVICE**

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Editorial Service

Guest Co-Editor, *International Journal of Communication*

(Special Issue on Role of Media in Political Polarization) .....(2021-2023)

Ad-Hoc Reviewer

*Communications Psychology*

*New Media & Society*

*Trends in Cognitive Sciences*

*Personality and Social Psychology Bulletin*

*Psychological Science*

*Social Psychological Bulletin*

*Information, Communication, and Society*

*Journal of Personality and Social Psychology*

*Journal of Media Psychology*

*Journal of Experimental Social Psychology*

*Open Science Journal*

*Journal of Conflict Resolution*

*Mass Communication and Society*

Award Committees

*BPSA Award for Innovation in Behavioral Policy*.....(2023)

*Frank Research Prize in Public Interest Communications*.....(2022)

*Society for Personality and Social Psychology Outstanding Research Award*.....(2022)

Additional Service

*Scholars Council, Braver Angels* ..... (2022-present)

## **INVITED TALKS**

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Drew University, September 2024

University of Kaiserslautern-Landau (RPTU), Department Colloquia, November 2023

Massachusetts Institute of Technology, May 2023

University of Bristol, March 2023

Max Planck Institute for Human Development, February 2023

Fredrich-Schiller Universität Jena, January 2023

New York University, June 2022

Ludwig Maximilian University of Munich, May 2022

Drew University, April 2022

## **ADDITIONAL RESEARCH EXPERIENCE**



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## Lab Manager

Mind Perception and Morality Lab

PI: Dr. Kurt Gray

University of North Carolina-Chapel Hill

2017- 2018

**Description:** Continuing research on an NSF project entitled, “Confessional Reluctance and Ethics Enforcement: The Paradoxical Cost of Zero Tolerance”. Provide organizational support for lab members and develop research projects related to political and moral psychology with help from undergraduate research assistants.

## Research Assistant

PI: Dr. Jan-Willem van Prooijen

Vrije University

2019

**Research description:** Research exploring whether viewing one’s self as morally superior to political opponents leads to stronger beliefs in conspiracy theories.

Cognition and Development Lab

PI: Dr. Frank Keil

Yale University

2017

**Research description:** Assist Mark Sheskin with his work exploring whether political opponents can accurately predict the reasons why adversaries hold political stances.

Early Childhood Cognition Lab

PI: Dr. Jessica Sommerville

University of Washington

2016

**Research description:** Collect data, recruit participants, and create stimuli for studies. Research explores children’s’ perceptions of same-race and different-race friendships.

Moral and Political Psychology Lab

Drew University

2015-2016

**Research description:** Collaborate with a research team to design studies about how political ideology and moral beliefs impact perceptions of civil disobedience. Further, develop a research project examining individuals’ endorsement of welfare policies based on the political party endorsing the policy.

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## HONORS, SCHOLARSHIPS & ADDITIONAL GRANTS

2024	Media, Democracy and Citizens Travel Grant (€500)
2023	Media, Democracy and Citizens Travel Grant (€500)
2022	Strengthening Democracy Challenge (\$650)
2022	The Behavioral Science and Policy Association Publication Award for Innovation in Behavioral Policy

2022 Finalist, *Frank* 2022 Public Interest Communication Award (\$1,500)  
2021 Department of Psychology Teaching Award  
2021 Media, Democracy and Citizens Research Grant (€7,600)  
2017 Psi Chi Regional Travel Grant (\$337)  
2017 Phi Beta Kappa International Honor Society  
2017 James A. McClintock Award for Excellence in Psychology  
2015 Psi Chi International Honor Society in Psychology  
2013-2017 Drew University College of Liberal Arts Dean's List  
2013-2017 Civic Honors Scholar (\$5,000 per year)

## **SCIENCE COMMUNICATION**

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### **Works Written for General Audiences**

Can the media bridge political divides? (2023). *SPSP Character & Context Blog*  
What can bridge political divides? (2022). *SPSP Character & Context Blog*  
Fighting partisan hatred with... social media? (2021). *Moral Understanding Blog*

### **Selected Works Featuring Research:**

To lead a meaningful life, become your own hero (2023). *Scientific American*  
Want to give your life more meaning? Think of it as a 'Hero's Journey' (2023). Why sharing personal stories is more important than facts in bridging political divide (2021). *USA Today*  
Exchanging stories builds respect (2021). *Psychology Today*  
Authoritative Anecdotes and Feeble Facts (2021). *Psychology Today*

### **Podcasts:**

[Social Media in an Era of Extremism](#) (2023). *Let's Talk Polarization*  
[Threat Rejection, COVID-19, and Dehumanization](#) (2022). *Multi-Faith Matters*  
[A Whistleblower, Facebook, Social Media & Polarization](#) (2021). *Tech Policy Press*  
[What does research say about how social media affects polarization](#) (2021). *People Who Read People*

### **Other Interviews:**

[Media can battle polarization by telling personal stories](#) (2023). *News Nation*  
[Political Polarization, Dehumanization, and the Media](#) (2022). *The Dissenter*

## **OTHER SKILLS, & CERTIFICATIONS**

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Proficient in: SPSS, Qualtrics, R, and grant writing  
Languages: English (native speaker), German (basic).