

Erik G. Helzer

Curriculum Vitae

The Johns Hopkins Carey Business School
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Education

Cornell University

Ph. D. in Social and Personality Psychology, August 2012
Minor: Cognitive Science
Dissertation: Understanding Agency in Self and Other: A Meta-Cognitive Perspective
Committee Chair: David Dunning
Committee Members: Thomas Gilovich, Melissa Ferguson, Michael Goldstein

Oregon State University

B.A. in Psychology, Philosophy (Summa Cum Laude), University Honors College, 2005
Thesis: Beyond Free Will: An Empirical Case for a Capacity Model of Human Agency
Committee Chair: John Edwards
Committee Members: Flo Leibowitz, Sharyn Clough

Employment

2014-present Assistant Professor, The Johns Hopkins Carey Business School
2012-2014 Post-Doctoral Scholar, The Character Project, Psychology Department, Wake
Forest University
2005-2007 Lab Instructor, Psychology Department, Oregon State University

Research Interests

Moral psychology, moral character, and ethical behavior
Personal agency, control, and well-being
Self- and peer assessment, judgmental accuracy

Publications

- Blackie, L. E. R., Jayawickreme, E., Helzer, E. G., Foregard, M. J. C., Roepke, A. M. (in press).
Investigating the veracity of self-perceived post-traumatic growth: A profile analysis approach
to corroboration. *Social Psychological and Personality Science*.
- Helzer, E. G., & Jayawickreme, E. (in press). Control and the “good life”: Primary and secondary
control as distinct indicators of well-being. *Social Psychological and Personality Science*.

- Fleeson, W., Furr, R. M., Jayawickreme, E., Helzer, E. G., Hartley, A. G., & Meindl, P. (in press). Personality science and the foundations of character. In C. Miller, R. M. Furr, A. Knobel, & W. Fleeson (Eds.), *Character: New Directions from Philosophy, Psychology, and Theology*. New York: Oxford University Press.
- Helzer, E. G., Furr, R. M., Hawkins, A., Barranti, M., Blackie, L. E. R., & Fleeson, W. (2014). Agreement on the perception of moral character. *Personality and Social Psychology Bulletin*, *40*, 1698-1710.
- Jayawickreme, E., Meindl, P., Helzer, E. G., Furr, R. M., & Fleeson, W. (2014). Virtuous states and virtuous traits: How the empirical evidence regarding the existence of broad saves virtue ethics from the situationist critique. *Theory and Research in Education*, 1-26.
- Dunning, D., & Helzer, E. G. (2014). Beyond the correlation coefficient in studies of self-assessment accuracy. *Perspectives on Psychological Science*, *9*, 126-130.
- Fleeson, W., Furr, R. M., Jayawickreme, E., Meindl, P., & Helzer, E. G. (2014). Character: The prospects for a personality-based perspective on morality. *Social and Personality Psychology Compass*, *8*, 171-191.
- Helzer, E. G., & Dunning, D. (2014). Context, as well as inputs, shape decisions, but are people aware of it? *Behavioral and Brain Sciences*, *37*, 30-31.
- Fukukura, J., Helzer, E. G., & Ferguson, M. J. (2013). Prospecption by any other name? A response to Seligman et al. *Perspectives on Psychological Science*, *8*, 146-150.
- Helzer, E. G. (2013). How much do intentions tell us about behavior? *Access: The voice of clinical social work, Summer 2013*, 14-15 (Reprinted from *International Association for Correctional and Forensic Psychology Newsletter*, *44*, 20-21).
- Helzer, E. G., & Dunning, D. (2012). Why and when peer prediction is superior to self-prediction: The weight given to future aspiration versus past achievement. *Journal of Personality and Social Psychology*, *103*, 38-53.
- Helzer, E. G., & Edwards, J. E. (2012). Causal uncertainty prompts abstract construal of behavior. *Social Cognition*, *30*, 519-536.
- Helzer, E. G., & Gilovich, T. (2012). Whatever is willed will be: A temporal asymmetry in attributions to will. *Personality and Social Psychology Bulletin*, *38*, 1235-1246. **(Winner of 2013 SPSP Student Publication Award)**
- Helzer, E. G., & Dunning, D. (2012). On motivated reasoning and self-belief. In S. Vazire & T. D. Wilson (Eds.), *Handbook of self-knowledge* (pp. 379-396). New York: Guilford.
- Helzer, E. G. (2012). How much do intentions tell us about behavior? *International Association for Correctional and Forensic Psychology Newsletter*, *44*, 20-21.

Helzer, E. G., & Pizarro, D. A. (2011). Dirty liberals!: Reminders of physical cleanliness influence moral and political attitudes. *Psychological Science*, 22, 517-522.

Critcher, C. R., Helzer, E. G., & Dunning, D. (2010). Self-enhancement via redefinition: Defining social concepts to ensure positive views of self. In M. Alicke & C. Sedikides (Ed.), *Handbook of Self-Enhancement and Self-Protection* (pp. 69-91). New York: The Guilford Press.

Pizarro, D. A., & Helzer, E. G. (2010). Stubborn moralism and freedom of the will. In R. F. Baumeister, A. R. Mele, & K. D. Vohs (Eds.), *Free will and consciousness: How might they work?* (pp. 101-120). New York: Oxford University Press.

Helzer, E. G., Connor-Smith, J. K., & Reed, M. A. (2009). Traits, states, and attentional gates: Temperament and threat relevance as predictors of attentional bias to social threat. *Anxiety, Stress, and Coping: An International Journal*, 22, 57-76.

Manuscripts Under Review or Revision

Helzer, E. G., Fleeson, W., Barranti, M., Meindl, P., & Furr, R. M. (2015). *Once a utilitarian, consistently a utilitarian? Examining principledness in moral judgment via the robustness of individual differences*. Manuscript under review at *Journal of Personality*.

Helzer, E. G., & Davidai, S. (2015). *A stress heuristic in judgments of moral character*. Manuscript under review at *Personality and Social Psychology Bulletin*.

Critcher, C. R., Helzer, E. G., Tannenbaum, D., & Pizarro, D. A. (2015). *It's the thought that counts: Mindreading moral principles underlies judgments of praise*. Manuscript under revision.

Manuscripts in Progress

Helzer, E. G., Fleeson, W., Jenkins, A., & Furr, R. M. (2015). *Character in context: Predicting ethical behavior from stable individual differences in situational contingencies*. Manuscript in preparation.

Helzer, E. G., & Dunning, D. (2015). *Understanding agency in self and other: A meta-cognitive perspective*. Manuscript in preparation.

Ongoing projects

Promoting health optimism through attentional training: A team of researchers at the Memorial Sloan Kettering Cancer Center and I are investigating whether health optimism can be increased among women recovering from breast cancer using interventions that train attention away from cancer-related threats.

Improving social relationships by combatting depletion: Tanya Chartrand, Korrina Duffy (both at the Fuqua School at Duke), Jun Fukukura, and I are examining the depleting effects of social interaction, including potential interventions for making interaction less depleting among introverts.

Examining the effect of accusations of bias on subsequent decision making: Using a data set from Major League Baseball as well as lab analogue tasks, Travis Carter and I are studying how accusations of biased decision-making (delivered by parties whose interests are at stake) affect leaders' subsequent decisions.

Presentations

- Helzer, E. G. (2015, April). *More than situations: Reviving the study of moral character*. Talk presented in the Psychology Department at Colby College, Waterville, ME.
- Helzer, E. G. (2015, February). *When simulated decisions overestimate open-mindedness and decision quality*. Talk presented at the Mental Simulation Preconference at the 16th Annual Meeting of the Society for Personality and Social Psychology, Long Beach, CA.
- Helzer, E. G., Fleeson, W., & Furr, R. M. (2014, October). *Character through context: Exploring individual differences in "triggers" of immoral behavior*. Talk presented at the Annual Meeting of the Society for Experimental Social Psychology, Columbus, OH.
- Helzer, E. G., Barranti, M., Furr, R. M., & Fleeson, W. (2014, February). *Visible virtues: Agreement on perceptions of moral character*. Talk presented at the 15th Annual Meeting of the Society for Personality and Social Psychology, Austin, TX.
- Blackie, L. E. R., Jayawickreme, E., & Helzer, E. G. (2014, February). *Corroboration of Posttraumatic Growth Using Profile Analysis*. Poster presented at the Social Personality and Health Preconference at the 15th Annual Meeting of the Society for Personality and Social Psychology, Austin, TX.
- Helzer, E. G. (2014, January). *Taking morality personally: An individual-differences approach to the study of moral behavior*. Invited talk, Psychology Department, University of North Carolina, Chapel Hill, Chapel Hill, NC.
- Jayawickreme, E., Helzer, E. G., Furr, R. M. & Fleeson, W. (2014, January). *Virtuous states and virtuous traits: How the empirical evidence in personality science scaffolds virtue ethics*. Talk presented at the 2nd Annual Conference of the Jubilee Centre for Character and Values, Oxford, UK.
- Helzer, E. G. (2013, October). *Agency and self- "exceptance": Why people discard social wisdom when understanding the self*. Invited talk, Psychology Department, Harvard University, Cambridge, MA.
- Helzer, E. G., Furr, R. M., & Fleeson, W. (2013, June). *Visible virtues: Self/other agreement in the perception of moral character*. Talk presented at the 39th Annual Meeting of the Society for Philosophy and Psychology, Providence, RI.
- Helzer, E. G., & Dunning, D. (2013, January). *On foregone conclusions: A self/other asymmetry in decision-making progress*. Poster presented at the 14th Annual Meeting of the Society for Personality and Social Psychology, New Orleans, LA.

- Helion, C., Helzer, E. G., & Pizarro, D. (2013, January). *Feeling morally superior: Asymmetric assessments of moral conflict for self and other*. Poster presented at the 14th Annual Meeting for the Society for Personality and Social Psychology, New Orleans, LA.
- Carter, T. J., Pope, D. & Helzer, E. (2012, November). A fairness heuristic: Pre and post-ejection bias in Major League Baseball umpires. Paper presented at the Society for Judgment and Decision Making Annual Conference, Minneapolis, MN.
- Helzer, E. G., & Pizarro, D. A. (2012, May). *An intentionality bias in social judgment: Its precursors and consequences*. Talk presented at the 24th Annual Convention of the Association for Psychological Science, Chicago, IL.
- Helzer, E. G., & Dunning, D. (2012, January). *Self/other differences in freedom of thought: Who is right and why?* Poster presented at the 13th Annual Meeting of the Society for Personality and Social Psychology, San Diego, CA.
- Helzer, E. G., Pizarro, D. A., Gilovich, T., & Dunning, D. (2011, July). *Willful agents in our midst: Beliefs about agency are asymmetric and consequential*. Talk presented at the 37th Annual Meeting of the Society for Philosophy and Psychology, Montreal, Quebec, Canada.
- Pizarro, D.A., Helzer, E. G., & Helion, C. (2011, January). *How the desire to be morally good is shaped by the motivation to stay physically pure*. Talk presented at 12th annual meeting of the Society for Personality and Social Psychology, San Antonio, TX.
- Helzer, E. G., Pizarro, D. A., & Goldstein, M. H. (2011, January). *Intentions precede accidents: Evidence for an intentionality bias in behavioral encoding*. Poster presented at the 12th Annual Meeting of the Society for Personality and Social Psychology, San Antonio, TX.
- DeLong, J., & Helzer, E. G. (2010, June). *Emotion in cinema through low-level visual structure*. Talk presented at the conference of the Society for Cognitive Studies of the Moving Image, Roanoke, VA.
- Helzer, E. G., Wojnowicz, M., Ferguson, M. J., & Spivey, M. (2010, January). *The downhill battle for self-control: Cognitive dynamics as subjective cues for experienced agency*. Poster presented at 11th Annual Meeting of the Society for Personality and Social Psychology, Las Vegas, NV.
- Dunning, D., & Helzer, E. G. (2010, January). *Are people better social psychologists than self-psychologists?* Talk given at the 11th Annual Meeting of the Society for Personality and Social Psychology, Las Vegas, NV.
- Helzer, E. G., & Ferguson, M. J. (2009, January). *God by association? Implicit and explicit attitudes and beliefs toward God and godlessness*. Poster presented at 10th Annual Meeting of the Society for Personality and Social Psychology. Tampa, FL.
- Helzer, E. G., & Edwards, J. A. (2008, February). *Effects of causal uncertainty on behavior construal*. Poster presented at 9th Annual Meeting of the Society for Personality and Social Psychology, Albuquerque, NM.

Helzer, E. G., & Edwards, J. A. (2007, January). *Effects of causal uncertainty on global versus local processing*. Poster presented at 8th Annual Meeting of the Society for Personality and Social Psychology, Memphis, TN.

Helzer, E. G. (2007). *Evaluating ethics: A literature review*. Literature review presented to the Institute for Global Ethics.

Fellowships, Grants, and Awards

Society for Personality and Social Psychology Student Publication Award (2013)
Sage Graduate Fellowship, Cornell University (Spring, 2012)
Institute for Social Sciences Research Grant (2011-2012)
Cornell University Cognitive Science Grant (Summer, 2011)
Sage Graduate Fellowship, Cornell University (Spring, 2011)
Cornell University Student Travel Grant (2008, 2009, 2010, 2011)
Sage Graduate Fellowship, Cornell University (2007-2008)
Phi Kappa Phi Graduate Studies Fellowship (2007-2008)
Liberal Arts Outstanding Senior Award, Oregon State University (2006)
Peter List Award for Excellence in the Study of Philosophy, Oregon State University (2005)
Liberal Arts Student of Excellence Award, Oregon State University (2004-2005)

Teaching/Teaching Assistantships

Fall 2014 Instructor, Managing Conflict: A Problem-Solving Approach, Johns Hopkins University
Fall 2014 Instructor, Effective Teams, Johns Hopkins University
Summer 2012 Instructor, Introduction to Social Psychology, Cornell University
Fall 2011 Instructor, Psychology & the Big Questions of Life, Cornell University
Summer 2011 Instructor, Introduction to Social Psychology, Cornell University
Fall 2010 Instructor, Psychology & the Big Questions of Life, Cornell University
Fall 2009 Instructor, Psychology & the Big Questions of Life, Cornell University
2008 – 2010 Teaching Assistant, Psychology and Law; Social Psychology; Developmental Psychology, Cornell University
2006 – 2007 Instructor, Research Methods Lab, Oregon State University
2004 – 2005 Teaching Assistant, Introduction to Philosophy, Oregon State University

Ad hoc Reviewer

Psychological Science
Journal of Personality and Social Psychology
Behavioral and Brain Science
Cognition
Group Processes and Intergroup Relations
Judgment and Decision-Making
Journal of Research in Personality
Basic and Applied Social Psychology
Journal of Philosophical Psychology

Journal of Experimental Psychopathology
Journal of Experimental Psychology: Applied
European Journal of Social Psychology

Professional Affiliations

Academy of Management
Society for Personality and Social Psychology

References

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