

Curriculum Vita

Robert B. Michael

Personal Information

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Education

Certificate in Business Computing Manukau Institute of Technology, New Zealand, 1997.

BSc Victoria University of Wellington, New Zealand, 2009.

BSc Hons (1st class) Victoria University of Wellington, New Zealand, 2010.

PhD Memory Distortions, 2011 - 2016.
Dissertation *Ordered questions bias eyewitnesses and jurors.*
Advisors: Maryanne Garry and Gina Grimshaw

Research interests

I am interested in the ways seemingly trivial factors can distort people's thoughts and behaviors—I am especially concerned with distortions that affect witnesses, jurors, judges and police officers.

Keywords: memory, memory distortions, eyewitness testimony, suggestion, expectation.

Positions Held

2016 - present. Assistant Professor of Psychology, University of Louisiana at Lafayette, Lafayette, Louisiana 70504, United States.

2011 - 2016. Teaching Assistant (PSYC101 - Introductory Psychology), Victoria University of Wellington, Wellington, New Zealand; 2014. Course Developer. Victoria University of Wellington, Wellington, New Zealand. *PSYC101 was*

Victoria's first (1999), and remains its largest, fully online course. In 2014, I led a significant overhaul of this course so that it now aligns with the best educational practice, according to the cognitive literature.

2012 - 2016. Teaching Assistant (PSYC322 - Memory), Victoria University of Wellington, Wellington, New Zealand; also 2010 - 2011, Tutor.

2009, 2016. Research assistant, Victoria University of Wellington, Wellington, New Zealand.

2006 - 2008. Freelance web developer. Auckland/Wellington, New Zealand.

2004 - 2005. Web developer, Spitfire, Auckland, New Zealand. Primary web developer role.

2000 - 2004. Web developer, Walkers Advertising, Auckland, New Zealand. Responsibilities included coding applications in a wide variety of programming and scripting languages (e.g., HTML, CSS, Javascript, Cold Fusion, ASP, Actionscript) and interacting with clients.

1998. Internet helpdesk technician, Teletech, Auckland, New Zealand. Responsibilities included troubleshooting internet-related problems for customers of New Zealand's largest ISP, Xtra.

Teaching Experience

2017. PSYC516 (Attention, Learning, and Memory).

2016 - present. PSYC209 (General Psychology I); PSYC360 (Cognitive Psychology); PSYC435 (Principles of Learning).

2015 - co-instructor, PSYC421 (Psychology and the Law) with Professor Maryanne Garry.

2015 - Lectured for PSYC122 (Introduction to Psychology II), Victoria University of Wellington, Wellington, New Zealand.

2011 - Lectured for PSYC335 (Psychology, Crime, and the Law), Victoria University of Wellington, Wellington, New Zealand.

2010 - 2015 Lectured for PSYC322 (Memory), Victoria University of Wellington, Wellington, New Zealand.

Administrative Experience

2017. Graduate Research Coordinator.

2016 - present. Faculty representative for PsyCo — a student club for Psychology students focused on community activities.

2016. Faculty Search Committee member; Ad Hoc Committee member to nominate students for undergraduate (Hait-Lewis and Outstanding Graduate) and graduate (Outstanding Master's Graduate) awards.

2012 - 2016. Student representative, School of Psychology Human Ethics Committee.

Publications

My research addresses a single question applied to different contexts: How do factors that seem trivial nonetheless distort people's thoughts and behaviors? I am especially interested in how these factors cause problems in the context of criminal law—problems for witnesses, jurors, judges and police officers.

Michael, R. B., & Garry, M. (manuscript in preparation). How do ordered questions bias eyewitnesses? { *In this paper, we investigate the mechanisms responsible for the biasing influence of ordered questions on eyewitness metamemory.* }

Michael, R. B., & Garry, M. (2015). Ordered questions bias eyewitnesses and jurors. *Psychonomic Bulletin & Review*, 1-8. doi:10.3758/s13423-015-0933-1

Michael, R. B., Braniff, G., Garry, M., & Loftus, E. F. (2014). Thinking about regret: Number of memories and ease of retrieval influence judgments about regret. *Psychology of Consciousness: Theory, Research, and Practice*, 4, 329-338. doi:10.1037/cns0000030

Alogna, V. K., Attaya, M. K., Aucoin, P., Bahnik, S., Birch, S., Birt, A. R., ... Zwaan, R. A. (2014). Registered replication report: Schooler & Engstler-Schooler (1990). *Perspectives on Psychological Science*, 9, 556-578. doi:10.1177/1745691614545653

Michael, R. B., Newman, E. J., Vuorre, M., Cumming, G., & Garry, M. (2013). On the (non)persuasive influence of a brain image. *Psychonomic Bulletin & Review*, 20, 720-725. doi:10.3758/s13423-013-0391-6

Michael, R. B., Garry, M., & Kirsch, I. (2012). Suggestion, cognition, and behavior. *Current Directions in Psychological Science*, 21, 151-156. doi:10.1177/0963721412446369

Papers Presented at International, National and Regional Conferences

Michael, R. B. & Garry, M. (2017, January). Biased eyewitnesses' acceptance of misinformation. Paper presented at the 12th Society of Applied Research in Memory and Cognition Conference. Sydney, Australia.

Michael, R. B., Braniff, G., Garry, M., & Loftus, E. F. (2015, June). Number of memories and ease of retrieval influence judgments about regrets. Paper

presented at the 11th Society of Applied Research in Memory and Cognition Conference. Victoria, British Columbia, Canada.

Michael, R. B., & Garry, M. (2014, November). Asymmetric effects of early eyewitness confidence. Poster presented at the 55th Psychonomic Society annual meeting. Long Beach, CA, USA.

Michael, R. B., & Garry, M. (2014, August). The order of difficulty of questions on recognition and recall tests biases eyewitness confidence. Paper presented at the 3rd Kiwi Cognition and Memory Conference. Auckland, New Zealand.

Michael, R. B., & Garry, M. (2013, September). The order of difficulty of items on a memory test affects eyewitness confidence. Paper presented at the 2nd Kiwi Cognition and Memory Conference. Dunedin, New Zealand.

Michael, R. B., Franco, G., Newman, E. J., & Garry, M. (2013, June). The order of items on a memory test affects eyewitness confidence. Paper presented at the 10th Society of Applied Research in Memory and Cognition Conference. Rotterdam, The Netherlands.

Michael, R. B., Franco, G., Newman, E. J., & Garry, M. (2013, June). Initial experiences of confidence affect overall eyewitness confidence. Poster presented at the Social Perspectives on Autobiographical Memory Conference. Aarhus, Denmark.

Michael, R. B., Newman, E. J., & Garry, M. (2012, May). Consequences of tense shifts in autobiographical memory narratives. Poster presented at the 24th annual Association for Psychological Science convention. Chicago, IL, USA.

Michael, R. B., Newman, E. J., & Garry, M. (2012, April). The non-persuasive influence of brain images. Poster presented at the 39th Australasian Experimental Psychology Conference. Sydney, Australia.

Michael, R. B. (2012, April). The effect of brain images on judgments of scientific reasoning: A meta-analysis. Paper presented at the annual Kiwi Cognition and Memory annual conference. Wellington, New Zealand.

Michael, R. B., Newman, E. J., Kantner, J., Bernstein, D. M., Lindsay, S., & Garry, M. (2011, November). Decorative photos produce a truth bias for unfamiliar positive judgments. Poster presented at the 52nd Psychonomic Society annual meeting. Seattle, WA, USA.

Michael, R. B., Newman, E. J., Garry, M., Kantner, J., & Lindsay, D. S. (2011, April). Photos make celebrities seem like overestimators. Paper presented at the 38th Australasian Experimental Psychology Conference. Auckland, New Zealand.

Honors, awards, etc.

- Travel Grant, University of Louisiana at Lafayette, USD\$1000, 2016.
- Research Mini-Grant, University of Louisiana at Lafayette, USD\$200, 2016.
- Research Grant, Victoria University of Wellington, NZ\$2,000, 2016.
- Trans-Tasman 3 Minute Thesis competition - Top 10 finalist, 2015.
- 3 Minute Thesis competition — winner (Victoria University of Wellington, New Zealand), NZ\$3,000, 2015.
- Faculty Strategic Research Grant, Victoria University of Wellington, NZ\$3,000, 2014.
- Best student presentation at the Society of Applied Research in Memory and Cognition Conference, Rotterdam, The Netherlands, June 2013.
- Victoria Doctoral Scholarship, Victoria University of Wellington, NZ\$72,000, 2011 - 2013.
- Victoria Graduate Award, Victoria University of Wellington, NZ\$5,000, 2010.
- Bonded Merit Scholarship, Ministry of Social Development, NZ\$9,000, 2008 - 2010.

Media appearances

About my research

- One quick trick to convict? Trans-Tasman 3 Minute Thesis - Top 10 finalist presentation, October 2015. Brisbane, QLD, Australia. <https://vimeo.com/142091238>
- The dark side of easy questions: Early confidence can sway jurors. The Psychonomic Society, October 23, 2015. <http://www.psychonomic.org/featured-content-detail/dark-side-of-easy-questions-early-confidence-can-s>
- Question order may manipulate witness testimony. Fairfax Media, August 28, 2015. <http://www.stuff.co.nz/national/crime/71495237/question-order-may-manipulate-witness-testimony.html>
- Are we now blase about brain scans? Research Digest of The British Psychological Society, March 4, 2013. <http://bps-research-digest.blogspot.co.uk/2013/03/are-we-now-blase-about-brain-scans.html>
- The not so seductive allure of colorful brain images. Neurocritic, December 7, 2012. http://neurocritic.blogspot.co.nz/2012/12/the-not-so-seductive-allure-of-colorful_7.html

The power of suggestion: What we expect influences our behavior, for better or worse. Association for Psychological Science, June 6, 2012. <http://www.psychologicalscience.org/index.php/news/releases/the-power-of-suggestion-what-we-expect-influences-our-behavior-for-better-or-worse.html>

The power of suggestion: What we expect influences our behavior, for better or worse. ScienceDaily News, June 6, 2012. <http://www.sciencedaily.com/releases/2012/06/120606142818.htm>

Why optimists usually win - people who look on the bright side can 'hypnotise themselves' to overcome challenges. Daily Mail, June 8, 2012. <http://www.dailymail.co.uk/sciencetech/article-2156431/Why-optimists-usually-win-Simply-thinking-positive-thoughts-lead-people-overcome-tough-challenges.html?ito=feeds-newsxml>

Masters students mentored

Will Armstrong
Andor Bodnar
Lydia Littlejohns

Honors students mentored

Nadia Khansa
Gabriel Braniff
Matti Vuorre

Undergraduate students mentored

Sydney Andrews
Milan Milson
Jarvierre Harris
Sarah Sanner
Caroline Frank
Jacob Baroni
Blake Bonin
Kristen Neville
Eric Baquet
Ryan Burnell
Rian Kannemeyer
Sophie Barnett

Jessie Gwynne
Isobelle Thomson
Laura Schellhas
Adele Quigley-McBride
Grace Denham
Kelsey Morrison
Devlyn White

References

Professor Maryanne Garry. School of Psychology, Victoria University of Wellington, Wellington, New Zealand. email: maryanne.garry@vuw.ac.nz phone: +64 4 463 5769

Professor Elizabeth Loftus. School of Social Ecology, University of California Irvine, California, United States. email: eloftus@uci.edu phone: +1 949 824 3285

Dr. Gina Grimshaw. School of Psychology, Victoria University of Wellington, Wellington, New Zealand. email: gina.grimshaw@vuw.ac.nz phone: +64 4 463 6420

Professor Steve Lindsay. School of Psychology, University of Victoria, British Columbia, Canada. email: slindsay@uvic.ca phone: +1 250 721 8593