**Jessica E. Black**

*Curriculum vitae*

October 2020

Department of Psychology

College of the Sequoias

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https://jessicaeblack.org/research/

# Education

University of Oklahoma: Ph.D. Psychology (2018)   
Dissertation: “The story of moral character: Morality, narrative, and the value of striving.” Major professor: Dr. Jennifer Barnes

Humboldt State University: M. A. Psychology, Academic Research, (2012)  
Thesis: “Initial development and psychometric characteristics of the Moral Cognition Inventory.” Major professor: Dr. William Reynolds

Georgetown University: B. S. School of Foreign Service (1993).

Concentration: International Relations, Law and Organization.

# Current positionS

Adjunct Professor, College of the Sequoias (Visalia, CA)

Freelance consultant: Research design, data collection, statistical analyses

# research experience

*Postdoctoral fellow, Imagination and Development Lab,* OU (PI: Dr. Jennifer Barnes); May, 2018-May, 2020.

* Strong focus on supervising undergraduate research projects
* Design and carry out research studies.
* Write up papers and submit to academic journals.
* Additional duties include aiding in statistical analyses and carrying out research.

*K20 Center*,OU: data specialist appointment (supervisors: Dr. Scott Wilson, Dr. Robert Terry)

* Summer 2018: I wrote code for Oklahoma State Department of Education SAT benchmark project
  + Cleaned large datasets (Main software: SAS)
  + Performed statistical analyses to test hypotheses (SAS)
* Nov. 2014-Aug. 2017: I worked as a data specialist for the Game-based Learning Research team (part of K20 Gear up for the Promise).
  + Development of educational video games designed to facilitate learning financial literacy and statistical skills
  + Assessment of learning outcomes
  + Assessment of effectiveness of college readiness and teacher training programs.
  + Design studies and survey instruments (Qualtrics).

# Publications

Barnes, J. L.,& **Black, J. E**. (2020). What’s in a name? Book title salience and the psychology of fiction. *Psychology of Aesthetics, Creativity, and the Arts.* doi:10.1037/aca0000333

Barnes, J. L., & **Black, J**. **E.** (2016). Impossible or improbable: The difficulty of imagining morally deviant worlds. *Imagination, Cognition, and Personality, 36,* 27-40. doi:10.1177/0276236616643268.

**Black, J. E.** (2018).An IRT analysis of the Reading the Mind in the Eyes test. *Journal of Personality Assessment, 101,* 425-433*.* doi:10.1080/00223891.2018.1447946

**Black, J**. **E.** (2016). An introduction to the Moral Agency Scale. *Social Psychology, 47,* 295-310*.* doi:10.1027/1864-9335/a000284

**Black, J**. **E.**, & Barnes, J. L. (2020a). Morality and the imagination: Real-world moral beliefs interfere with imagining fictional content. *Philosophical Psychology.* doi:10.1080/09515089.2020.1775799

**Black, J**. **E.**, & Barnes, J. L. (2020b). Fiction and morality: Investigating the associations between reading exposure, empathy, morality, and moral permissibility. *Psychology of Popular Media Culture.* doi:10.1037/ppm0000281

**Black, J**. **E.**, & Barnes, J. L. (2019a). Pushing the boundaries of reality: Science fiction, creativity, and the moral imagination. *Psychology of Aesthetics, Creativity, and the Arts.* doi:10.1037/aca0000281

**Black, J**. **E.**, & Barnes, J. L. (2019b). Recognition as a measure of television exposure: Three measures and their relationship to theory of mind. *Psychology of Popular Media Culture.* doi:10.1037/ppm0000254

**Black, J**. **E.**, & Barnes, J. L. (2017). Measuring the unimaginable: Imaginative resistance to fiction and related constructs. *Personality and Individual Differences, 111,* 71-79. doi:10.1016/j.paid.2017.01.055

**Black, J**. **E.**, & Barnes, J. L. (2015a). The effects of reading material on social and non-social cognition. *Poetics, 52,* 32-43. doi:10.1016/j.poetic.2015.07.001

**Black, J**. **E.**, & Barnes, J. L. (2015b). Fiction and social cognition: The effect of viewing award-winning television dramas on theory of mind*. Psychology of Aesthetics, Creativity, and the Arts, 9,* 423-429. doi:10.1037/aca0000031

**Black, J. E**., Capps, S. C., & Barnes, J. L. (2017). Fiction, genre exposure, and moral reality. *Psychology of Aesthetics, Creativity, and the Arts.* doi:10.1037/aca0000116

**Black, J**. **E.**, Helmy, Y.\*, Robson, O.\*, & Barnes, J. L. (2018). Who can resist a villain? Morality, Machiavellianism, imaginative resistance, and liking for dark fictional characters. *Poetics.* doi:10.1016/j.poetic.2018.12.005

**Black, J**. **E.**, Oberstein-Allen, M.\*, & Barnes, J. L. (2019). Tell me a story: Religion, imagination, and narrative involvement. *Journal for the Cognitive Science of Religion, 5.1,* 1-25. doi:10.1558/jcsr.39503

**Black, J**. **E.,** & Reynolds, W. M. (2016). Development, reliability, and validity of the Moral Identity Questionnaire. *Personality and Individual Differences, 97,* 120-129*.* doi:10.1016/j.paid.2016.03.041

**Black, J**. **E.**, & Reynolds, W. M. (2013). Examining the relationship of perfectionism, depression, and optimism: Testing for mediation and moderation. *Personality and Individual Differences, 54,* 426–431*.* doi:10.1016/j.paid.2012.10.012

Moore, J. J., **Black, J. E**., Hernandez-Aguilar, R. A., Idani, G., Piel, A., & Stewart, F (2017) Chimpanzee vertebrate consumption: Savanna and forest chimpanzees compared. *Journal of Human Evolution, 112C,* 30-40. doi:10.1016/j.jhevol.2017.09.004

Panero, M. E., Weisberg, D. S., **Black, J**. **E.**, Goldstein, T. R., Barnes, J. L., Brownell, H., & Winner, E. (2016). Does reading a single passage of literary fiction really improve theory of mind? An attempt at replication. *Journal of Personality and Social Psychology, 111,* e46-e54*.* doi:10.1037/pspa0000064 (shared first authorship with Panero and Weisberg)

Panero, M. E., Weisberg, D. S., **Black, J**. **E.**, Goldstein, T. R., Barnes, J. L., Brownell, H., & Winner, E. (2017). No Support for the Claim that Literary Fiction Uniquely and Immediately Improves Theory of Mind: A Reply to Kidd and Castano’s Commentary on Panero, Weisberg, Black, Goldstein, Barnes, Brownell, & Winner (2016). *Journal of Personality and Social Psychology. 112,* e5-e8.doi:10.1037/pspa0000079

Stern, S. C., Robbins, B.\*, **Black, J**. **E.**, & Barnes, J. L. (2018). What you read and what you believe: Genre exposure and beliefs about relationships. *Psychology of Aesthetics, Creativity, and the Arts.* doi:10.1037/aca0000189

Wilson, S. N., Engler, C., **Black, J**. **E.**, Yager-Elorriaga, D., Thompson, W., McConnell, A., Elizondo, J., Ralston, R., & Terry, R. A. (2017). Game-based learning and information literacy: A randomized controlled trial. *International Journal of Game-Based Learning, 7,* 1-21. doi:10.4018/IJGBL.2017100101

Wilson, S. N., Williams, L. A., Thompson, W., Kuehn, E., **Black, J. E**., Dean, S., Elizondo, J., Terry, R. A., & Garn, G. (in press). The power of application in learning life skills: A case study of a game-based learning approach. In H.D. O’Hair & M.J. O’Hair (Eds.) *Handbook of Applied Communication Research*. Wiley Publishing

\*undergraduate collaborators.

**Manuscripts under review:**

**Black, J. E**., Barnes, J. L., Oatley, K., Tamir, D. I., Dodell-Feder, D., Richter, T., & Mar, R. A. *Stories and their role in social cognition*

# University-level Teaching Experience

Adjunct Faculty, University of Oklahoma (Spring 2020).

* Cognitive Psychology

Adjunct Faculty, Cameron University (Fall 2018).

* Advanced Social Psychology

Lecturer, University of Oklahoma Psychology Department, Spring, 2017

* Elements of Psychology (online course)

Teaching Assistant, University of Oklahoma Psychology Department (Fall 2013 – Fall 2014)

* Research Methods I—Statistics
* Research Methods II—Experimental Design
* Understanding Statistics

Lecturer, Humboldt State University Psychology Department (Fall 2012 – Spring 2013)

* Introduction to Psychological Statistics
* Research Methods in Psychology
* Introductory Psychology

Supplemental Instructor, Humboldt State University (Spring 2010 – Spring 2012)

* General Chemistry (Chemistry Department)
  + Supervisor: Donna Clark
* Statistics (Psychology Department)
  + Supervisor: Christopher Aberson

Graduate Teaching Assistant, Humboldt State University Psychology Department (2010 – 2011)

* Introduction to Behavioral Neuroscience, Cognitive Psychology

# Mentoring

Honors First Year Research Experience (OU Honors College):

* Hunter Sodek (Chemistry major; Spring 2016)
* Yomna Helmy (Psychology major, Spring 2017-Spring, 2020)
* Olivia Robson (Philosophy major, Spring 2017-2018)
* Asha Mani (Engineering major, Spring 2018)
* Amanda Walker (Speech pathology major, Spring 2018)
* Katherine Sharp (Social Work, Spring 2019-Spring, 2020)
* Alison Barnett (Psychology, Spring 2019)

Senior Thesis

* Molly Oberstein-Allen (Psychology; 2013-2014)
* Sofia Caruso (Psychology/Music Performance; Spring 2019-Spring 2020)

# Academic Activities

*Ad hoc* reviewer: *Ethics & Behavior,* *European Journal of Developmental Psychology, Journal of Experimental Psychology: General, Media Psychology, Perspectives on Psychological Science, Poetics, Psychology of Aesthetics Creativity and the Arts, Psychology of Popular Media Culture, PLOS ONE, Religions*

Alumni Admissions Program, Georgetown University (2005 – present)

Student Reviewer, APS grant and poster competitions (2012 – 2018).

University Libraries Student Advisory Council (2015-2016)

Graduate Student Representative, Faculty “Master Teacher” Search Committee, University of Oklahoma Department of Psychology (2015)

First Year Research Experience mentor (2014-present)

Manage prescreening survey (Qualtrics and SONA; 2019-2020)

**Grants/Fellowships/Awards:**

Dr. Chester Collins Scholarship recipient, 2011. ($1,500)

AAUW Scholarship for Re-entry Women Students 2011 ($1,000)

Patricia O. McConkey Outstanding Graduate Student Award 2012

University of Oklahoma Graduate Foundation Fellowship 2013-2018

Betty Baum and Norm Hirschfield Scholarship 2014 ($4,000)

University of Oklahoma Provost Certificate of Distinction in Teaching Spring 2014  
Robberson Research Grant, October, 2014 ($1000)

Robert E. and Mary B. Sturgis Scholarship award, 2015 ($1,200)

Beatrice Carr and W. Ray Wallace Scholarship 2015-2017 ($6,000 yearly).

Dissertation Fellowship, Institute for the Study of Human Flourishing, 2017-2018.

# Selected Conference Presentations

Aberson, C. L. & **Black, J**. **E.** (April 2012). *Supplemental Instruction for psychological statistics: Impact on underrepresented minorities.* Poster session presented at the annual meeting of the Western Psychological Association, San Francisco.

**Black. J. E.,** & Barnes, J. L. (2018). *Counterfactual thought about past morally relevant actions increases perceived moral agency.* Poster session presented at the annual meeting of the Society for Personality and Social Psychology, Atlanta, GA.

**Black. J. E.,** & Barnes, J. L. (June, 2017). *Narrative and Morality*. Poster presented at the annual meeting of the Society for Philosophy and Psychology, Baltimore, MD.

**Black, J**. **E.**, & Barnes, J. L. (May, 2017). *Science fiction exposure and attitudes towards futuristic technology.* Symposium presented at the annual meeting of the Association for Psychological Science, Boston, MA.

**Black, J**. **E.**, & Barnes, J. L. (February, 2015). *Vicarious Grief: People Expect to Feel More Sadness for a Fictional Character's Death than for a Real-Life Acquaintance's*. Poster session presented at the annual meeting of the Society for Personality and Social Psychology, Long Beach, CA.

**Black. J. E.,** & Barnes, J. L. (June, 2015). *The reality of imaginary evil: Providing empirical evidence of imaginative resistance*. Poster presented at the annual meeting of the Society for Philosophy and Psychology, Durham, N.C. **Poster award winner**.

**Black, J**. **E.**, & Barnes, J. L. (January, 2016). *Reading material and moral judgment: The effect of fiction vs. nonfiction on blame attribution and perceived permissibility*. Poster session presented at the annual meeting of the Society for Personality and Social Psychology, Long Beach, CA.

**Black, J**. **E.**, & Barnes, J. L. (June, 2016). *Genre Exposure and Moral/Modal Judgment*. Poster session presented at the annual meeting of the Society for Philosophy and Psychology, Austin, TX.

**Black, J**. **E.**, & Barnes, J. L. (August, 2016). *TV and Mind Attribution: Differential Attribution of Mental Capacity after Watching Distinct Genres*. Poster session presented at the annual convention of the American Psychological Association, Denver, CO.

**Black, J**. **E.**, & Barnes, J. L. (January, 2017). *Can what you read affect your judgment about moral permissibility and physical possibility?* Poster session presented at the annual meeting of the Society for Personality and Social Psychology, San Antonio, TX.

**Black, J**. **E.** & Reynolds, W. M. (May 2012). *Moral Character and Religion.* Poster session presented at the annual meeting of the Association for Psychological Science, Chicago.

**Black, J**. **E.** & Reynolds, W. M. (May 2013). *Measuring Moral Identity.* Poster session presented at the annual meeting of the Association for Psychological Science, Washington, D.C.

# Selected Press Coverage

“Parents, stop feeling so guilty about TV time” *CNN*, September 20, 2018

“Scientific research shows that sci-fi and fantasy fans are a top choice for romantic partners” *GeekNative*, August 2, 2018

“Researchers Say That Watching TV Could Actually Make You Noticeably Smarter” iHeart Radio, September 30, 2017

“You Are What You Read” *Pacific Standard*, May 9, 2017

“Yes, This Is Us Is Cheesy — & I Love It Anyway” *Refinery 29*, March 14, 2017

“Reading Literature Won’t Give You Superpowers” *The Atlantic* Dec 2, 2016

“Three labs just failed to replicate the finding that a quick read of literary fiction boosts your empathy” *British Psychological Society Research Digest*, Oct 19, 2016

“Watching Critically Acclaimed TV Makes You a Better Person” *Esquire*, Oct 6, 2015

“Something Remarkable Happens to Your Worldview When You Watch Good TV” *Business Insider*, Oct 2, 2015

“Sensitivity Training by Don Draper” *Pacific Standard*, Sep 30, 2015

# Non-academic book:

**Black, J**. **E.** (2015). *Cowboy dressage: Riding, training and competing based on rewarding kindness.* North Pomfret, VT: Trafalgar Square Books.

# Community Activities and Active Memberships

Oklahoma Medical Reserve Corps Volunteer

* Large animal emergency response team
* Psychological Response Training Certified

United States Equestrian Federation and American Morgan Horse Association (since childhood)

American Endurance Ride Conference and Arabian Horse Association (2014-present)

Norman North High School Band Parent Booster Association (2014-2018)

Longfellow Middle School Orchestra Representative, Norman Instrumental Music Parents Association (2014-2016)

# Additional Skills and Activities

Fluent in Spanish

* + Twelve years living in Spain; six years living in Mexico, Panama, Nicaragua
  + Translation experience: consent forms, business documents (especially power company), horse training contracts, and equestrian magazine advertising and articles.
    - English to Spanish and Spanish to English

Cambridge certified (CELTA) to teach English to adults (since autumn 2004).

* University of Cambridge program that trains and certifies people to prepare English language learners for the Cambridge English exams
* Prepared adults and teenagers for Cambridge First Certificate, Advanced, and Proficiency exams (2004-2009).

Teacher, St. Michael’s School (British/Spanish bilingual, Madrid, Spain).

* Foundation years (through kindergarten-aged): January 2005-June 2006
* Secondary school (primarily baccalaureate, equivalent to grades 11-12): August 2006-May 2009.
  + - English language
    - Theater (bilingual productions)