

# Jessica E. Black

*Curriculum vitae*

June 2021

Department of Psychology  
College of the Sequoias  
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<https://jessicaebblack.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), general psychology

Adjunct Professor, Victor Valley College (Victorville, CA), statistics

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

- Black, J. E.**, Barnes, J. L., Oatley, K., Tamir, D. I., Dodell-Feder, D., Richter, T., & Mar, R. A. (in press). Stories and their role in social cognition. In D. Kuiken (Ed.) *Handbook of the International Society for the Empirical Study of Literature*.
- 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
- Black, J. E.**, & Barnes, J. L. (2020a). Morality and the imagination: Real-world moral beliefs interfere with imagining fictional content. *Philosophical Psychology*, 33, 1018-1044. 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
- Wilson, S. N., Williams, L. A., Thompson, W., Kuehn, E., **Black, J. E.**, Dean, S., Elizondo, J., Terry, R. A., & Garn, G. (2020). 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. doi:10.1002/9781119399926.ch32
- 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.**, 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.** (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.**, 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
- 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
- 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.**, Capps, S. C., & Barnes, J. L. (2017). Fiction, genre exposure, and moral reality. *Psychology of Aesthetics, Creativity, and the Arts*. doi:10.1037/aca0000116
- 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. (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
- 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
- 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.** (2016). An introduction to the Moral Agency Scale. *Social Psychology*, *47*, 295-310. doi:10.1027/1864-9335/a000284
- 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
- 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)
- 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.**, & 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

\*undergraduate collaborators.

#### MANUSCRIPTS UNDER REVIEW OR IN PREPARATION:

- Black J.E.**, & Barnes, J.L. Can you or will you imagine? Ability and willingness to imagine fictional scenarios depends on the type of imaginary world. in (H. Kapoor & J. Kaufman, Eds.) *Creativity and Morality*.
- Black, J. E.**, Ruedinger, B. M., & Barnes, J. L. *The Imaginative Engagement Scale: Development of an instrument to assess cognitive elements of engaging with fiction*
- Black J.E.**, & Barnes, J.L. *Does writing promote social cognition? The role of fictionality and social content*
- Black J.E.**, & Barnes, J.L. *Science-fiction and beliefs about futuristic technology*

## 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)

**REFERENCES**

Jennifer L. Barnes, Ph.D.  
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University of Oklahoma  
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