

Ryan S. Ritter

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Education

University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign

- **Ph.D.** in Social Psychology, May 2014
 - *Minors:* Quantitative & Developmental Psychology
- **M.A.** in Psychology, December 2010

University of Nevada, Reno

- **B.A.** in Psychology, May 2007
 - *Minor:* Philosophy

Research Interests

Morality, Mind Perception, Religious Cognition, Computational Social Science.

Grants and Awards

List of teachers ranked as excellent, Social Psychology (Spring 2010, Summer 2010)

SPSP Student Travel Award (2011) - \$500

Psychology Department Fellowship (2008-2009) - \$16,000

Publications

Ritter, R. S., Preston, J. L., & Hernandez, I. (2014). Happy Tweets: Christians are happier, more socially connected, and less analytical than atheists on Twitter. *Social Psychological and Personality Science*, 5, 243-249.

Ritter, R. S., & Preston, J. L. (2013). Representations of religious words: Insights for religious priming research. *Journal for the Scientific Study of Religion*, 52, 494-507.

Preston, J. L., & **Ritter, R. S.** (2013). Different effects of Religion and God on prosociality with the ingroup and outgroup. *Personality and Social Psychology Bulletin*, 39, 1471-1483.

Preston, J. L., Salomon, E., & **Ritter, R. S.** (2013). Religious prosociality: Personal, cognitive, and social factors. In V. Saroglou (Ed.), *Religion, Personality, and Social Behavior* (pp. 149-169). New York, NY: Psychology Press.

Preston, J. L., **Ritter, R. S.**, & Hepler, J. (2013). Neuroscience and the soul: Competing explanations for the human experience. *Cognition*, 127, 31-37.

Preston, J. L., & **Ritter, R. S.** (2012). Cleanliness and godliness: Mutual association between two kinds of personal purity. *Journal of Experimental Social Psychology*, 48, 1365-1368.

Publications (continued)

Ritter, R. S., & Preston, J. L. (2011). Gross gods and icky atheism: Disgust responses to rejected religious beliefs. *Journal of Experimental Social Psychology, 47*, 1225-1230.

Preston, J. L., Ritter, R. S., & Wegner, D. M. (2011). Action embellishment: An intention bias in the perception of success. *Journal of Personality and Social Psychology, 101*, 233-244.

Preston, J. L., Ritter, R. S., & Hernandez, J. I. (2010). Principles of religious prosociality: A review and reformulation. *Social and Personality Psychology Compass, 4*, 574-590.

Manuscripts In Preparation

Ritter, R. S., Preston, J. L., & Hernandez, I. *Scary minds: Unbalanced mind perception predicts fear of threatening agents.*

Ritter, R. S., Preston, J. L. *Disgust and religious morality of mind.*

Media Coverage

Fox News (August 2013). [Religious faith linked to happiness? Lauren Green reports on Twitter study.](#)

The Atheist Voice, YouTube (July 2013). [Christian tweets more positive than Atheists. Study.](#)

CNN Belief Blog (June 2013). [Christians happier than Atheists on Twitter.](#)

Pacific-Standard (June 2013). [On Twitter, Christians are happier than Atheists.](#)

The Huffington Post (May 2012). [God's flipside: Religion without kindness.](#)

Science and Religion Today (October, 2011). [Could interreligious dialogue be enhanced by frequent hand washing?](#)

Pacific Standard (May 2011). [Taste buds reflect feelings of moral disgust.](#)

The Huffington Post (November, 2010). [Who is my neighbor?: The best and worst of religious morality.](#)

Chaired Symposia

Ritter, R. S. (May 2012). *Dirty, clean, balanced, and bitter: Embodiment perspectives on morality.* Association for Psychological Science, Chicago, IL.

Conference Talks

Ritter, R. S., Preston, J. L., & Hernandez, I. (May, 2013). *Following Christians vs. Atheists on Twitter: An investigation of happiness.* Paper presented at the Annual Meeting of the Midwestern Psychological Association, Chicago, IL.

Conference Talks (continued)

- Ritter, R. S., Preston, J. L., & Hernandez, I. (January, 2013). *Twitter and religious cognition*. Paper presented at the Psychology of Religion and Spirituality Preconference, Society for Personality and Social Psychology, New Orleans, LA.
- Ritter, R. S., & Preston, J. L. (May, 2012). *Gross gods and icky atheism: Disgust responses to rejected religious beliefs*. Paper presented in R. S. Ritter (Chair), *Dirty, clean, balanced, and bitter: Embodiment perspectives on morality*. Association for Psychological Science, Chicago, IL.
- Preston, J. L., & Ritter, R. S. (May, 2012). *What do god and religion prime? Effects on prosocial behavior*. Paper presented in J. L. Preston (Chair), *The varieties of religious concepts: Implications for action and cognition*. Association for Psychological Science, Chicago, IL.
- Ritter, R. S., Hernandez, J., & Preston, J. L. (May 2012). *Scary minds: Fear and unbalanced perceptions of agency and experience*. Paper presented at the Annual Meeting of the Midwestern Psychological Association, Chicago, IL.
- Preston, J. L., Ritter, R. S., & Hepler, J. (October, 2011). *Neuroscience and the soul: Competing explanations for the human experience*. Paper presented in J. L. Preston (Chair), *Science and religion: Complementary functions of existential belief systems*. Society for Experimental Social Psychology, Washington D. C.
- Ritter, R. S., & Preston, J. L. (October 2011). *Gross gods and icky atheism: Disgust responses to rejected religious beliefs*. Paper presented at the Annual Meeting of the Society for the Scientific Study of Religion, Milwaukee, WI.
- Preston, J. L., Ritter, R. S., & Hepler, J. (July 2011). *Neuroscience and the soul: Competing explanations for the human experience*. Paper presented at the Annual Meeting of the Society for Philosophy and Psychology, Montreal, PQ.
- Ritter, R. S., & Preston, J. L. (May 2011). *Distaste of disbelief: Disgust responses to rejected religious beliefs*. Paper presented at the Annual Meeting of the Midwestern Psychological Association, Chicago, IL.
- Ritter, R. S., & Preston, J. L. (January 2011). *Gross gods and icky atheism: Disgust responses to rejected religious beliefs*. Paper presented at the Justice and Morality Preconference, Society for Personality and Social Psychology, San Antonio, TX.
- Preston, J. L., & Ritter, R. S. (October 2010). *What do religion and God prime? Prosocial actions toward the ingroup and outgroup*. Paper presented at the Society for Scientific Study of Religion, Baltimore, MD.
- Preston, J. L., & Ritter, R. S. (April 2010). *What do religion and God prime? Prosocial actions toward the ingroup and outgroup*. Invited paper presented at the Midwestern Psychological Association, Chicago, IL.
- Preston, J. L., & Ritter, R. S. (January 2010). *What do religion and God prime? On helping the ingroup and outgroup*. Invited paper presented at the Religion and Spirituality Preconference, Society for Personality and Social Psychology, Las Vegas, NV.

Conference Posters

Ritter, R. S., Preston, J. L., & Hernandez (February 2014). *Happy Tweets: Christians are happier, more socially connected, and less analytical than atheists on Twitter*. Poster presented at the Annual Meeting of the Society for Personality and Social Psychology, Austin, TX.

Ritter, R. S., Hernandez, J. & Preston, J. L. (January 2012). *Scary minds: Fear and unbalanced perceptions of agency and experience*. Poster presented at the Mind Perception Pre-Conference at the Annual Meeting of the Society for Personality and Social Psychology, San Diego, CA.

Ritter, R. S., Hernandez, J. & Preston, J. L. (January 2012). *Scary minds: Fear and unbalanced perceptions of agency and experience*. Poster presented at the Annual Meeting of the Society for Personality and Social Psychology, San Diego, CA.

Ritter, R. S., & Preston, J. L. (January 2011). *Distaste of disbelief: Disgust responses of Christians and Atheists to rejected religious beliefs*. Poster presented at the Annual Meeting of the Society for Personality and Social Psychology, San Antonio, TX.

Ritter, R. S., & Preston, J. L. (January 2010). *"And who is my neighbor?" revisited: Divergent effects of God and religion primes on cooperation with ingroup and outgroup members in the prisoner's dilemma*. Poster presented at the Annual Meeting of the Society for Personality and Social Psychology, Las Vegas, NV.

Additional Skills and Experience

Quantitative Training

- Covariance Structure and Factor Models (2012)
 - Instructor: Sungjin Hong
 - Topics: Structural Equation Modeling
- Hierarchical Linear Models (2010)
 - Instructor: Carolyn Anderson
 - Topics: Multilevel Analysis
- Computers in Visual Cognition Research (2010)
 - Instructor: Alejandro Lleras
 - Topics: MATLAB programming
- Multivariate Statistics (2009)
 - Instructor: Lawrence J. Hubert
 - Topics: Factor Analysis, Principal Component Analysis, Multidimensional Scaling, Hierarchical Clustering

Computer Programming

- Processing, Python, MATLAB, Flash, Inquisit, DirectRT, MediaLab, HTML/CSS/JavaScript.

Statistical Software

- MATLAB, R, SAS, SPSS/AMOS, SYSTAT.

Teaching Experience

Instructor, University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign

- Introduction to Social Psychology (Summer 2011, Summer 2010, Spring 2010).
 - Solely responsible for lecture and grading of up to 100 students per semester.
 - List of Teachers Ranked as Excellent (Spring 2010, Summer 2010).

Advising

Undergraduate Honors Theses

- Daniel Relihan Johnson (2013-2014) – Disgust and religious morality of mind.
- Ryan Paroline (2012-2013) – Varieties of nonreligious experience.

Advanced Undergraduate Research Reports

- Eli Kliejunas (2011) – Godliness and cleanliness.
- Pin-ya Tseng (2010) – God vs. Religion.