

# Dr Jo Cutler

W: www.jocutler.com E: jo.l.cutler@gmail.com

**Topics:** altruism, decision-making, cognitive biases, charitable giving, ageing.

**Methods:** fMRI - primary & secondary, psychophysiology (ECG, GSR & pulse oximetry), behavioural (lab & online), multi-player tasks, computational modelling.

**Software & programming:** Matlab (SPM, PsPM, Psychtoolbox), FSL, R, Unix, SPSS.

## EMPLOYMENT

---

**Postdoctoral Research Associate** 2020 to present

*Experimental Psychology, University of Oxford, UK*

Social Decision Neuroscience Lab

## EDUCATION

---

**PhD Psychology** 2016 to 2020

*School of Psychology, University of Sussex, UK*

- *Thesis:* When and why do we value the lives of others? Insights from brain, body and behaviour
- *Supervisor:* Dr Daniel Campbell-Meiklejohn
- Involved in all research ideas, co-designed paradigms and created stimuli
- Wrote scripts to run studies and analyse data
- Tested participants and coordinated other researchers to run studies

**MSc Cognitive Neuroscience, Distinction** 2015 to 2016

*School of Psychology, University of Sussex, UK*

- *Dissertation:* Comparing altruistic decisions with those which also benefit the self: A functional imaging meta-analysis of prosocial decisions

**BSc Psychology (International), 1<sup>st</sup> Class Hons** 2011 to 2015

*School of Psychology, University of Leeds, UK and University of Sydney, Australia*

- *Dissertation:* Applying the theory of planned behaviour to charitable giving
- Research assistant on 4 projects leading to co-authorship on 2 (unpublished) articles and a conference presentation
- Grant to collect data in Australia

## PUBLICATIONS

---

Cutler, J & Campbell-Meiklejohn, D. (2019) A comparative fMRI meta-analysis of altruistic and strategic decisions to give. *Neuroimage*, 184. pp.227-241.

Livermore, J A, Holmes, C, Cutler, J, Levstek, M, Moga, G, Brittain, J & Campbell-Meiklejohn, D. (under review) Serotonin mediates decisions to stop gathering information by changing the required probability of being correct.

## INVITED TALKS

---

### Academic

- *University College London, Affective Brain Lab Meeting*. When and why are we altruistic? Insights from brain, body and behaviour, August 2019.
- *Dartmouth College, Dartmouth Social Neuroscience Lab Meeting*. When and why are we altruistic? Insights from brain, body and behaviour, August 2019.
- *Brown University, FeldmanHall Lab Meeting*. When and why are we altruistic? Insights from brain, body and behaviour, July 2019.
- *California Institute of Technology, Social & Decision Neuroscience Lab Meeting*. Why do we donate money to strangers? Insights from brain, body and behaviour, February 2019.
- *The University of Cardiff, Social Psychology Lab Meeting*. Using neuroscience to understand prosocial decisions, June 2018.
- *The University of Sussex, Kindness Symposium*. The neuroscience of kindness, December 2017.

### Engagement

- *New Note Orchestra: Kind Rebellion, Brighton*. Panel member, November 2019.
- *UNESCO Mahatma Gandhi Institute of Education for Peace and Sustainable Development World Youth Conference on Kindness, Delhi*. Kindness Lab: Why are we kind and how can we inspire others to be kind? August 2019.
- *Institute of Fundraising Consultants Special Interest Group, London*. Getting inside your supporter's head, September 2018.
- *UNICEF, Macmillan Cancer Support and WaterAid, London*. The charitable brain: Biological and neural foundations of giving, Spring 2018.
- *Institute of Fundraising Insight conference, London*. The neuroscience of giving: who, what, how and why? November 2017.

### Internal and educational

- *Sussex Early Career Researchers in Neuroimaging Day*. Using physiological measures to understand biases in charitable giving, May 2018.
- *Sussex Cognitive Brown Bag*. Cognitive biases in the valuation of other people's lives, May 2018.
- *Sussex CISC Neuroimaging Methods meeting*. Meta-analysis of neuroimaging data: Using AES:SDM, April 2018.
- *Sussex CISC Neuroimaging Methods meeting*. Physiological recording with Biopac, April 2018.
- *The University of Sussex Impact Day*. Creating impact early in your academic career, June 2017.
- *Sussex Behavioural and Clinical Neuroscience meeting*. The neural basis of prosocial decisions: an fMRI meta-analysis, April 2017.
- *Sussex CISC Neuroimaging Methods meeting*. Running an fMRI meta-analysis using AES:SDM, March 2017.

## GRANTS, SCHOLARSHIPS & ACADEMIC AWARDS

---

International Association for Research in Economic Psychology Travel Grant, €200	2019
Sussex Fund Doctoral Overseas Conference Grant, £980	2019
PI - ESRC SeNSS Industry Engagement Fund, £4,980	2018
Co-wrote unsuccessful but shortlisted ESRC Collaborative Studentship Grant	2018
Sussex Three Minute Thesis winner, £500 research grant prize	2018
Sussex Neuroscience Travel Grant, £1,300	2018
Clinical Imaging Science Centre PhD scanning award, 36 hours fMRI funding	2017
Sussex Psychology Impact Fund, £340	2017
Kindness UK & Sussex Doctoral School Conference Award, £1,000	2017
Sussex Cumberland Lodge Conference Grant, £450	2017
Economic and Social Research Council (ESRC) 1+3 MSc & PhD Studentship	2015 to 2019
University of Leeds BSc Psychology 2015 award	2015
Santander Study Abroad Research Scheme, £400	2013

## **CURRENT PROJECTS & PAPERS IN PREPARATION**

---

### **Scope insensitivity and proximity biases in physiological responses to lives at risk**

Cutler, J., Miles-Wilson, JJ, Campbell-Meiklejohn, D. (in preparation)

Methods: skin conductance and heart rate changes

### **Neural responses to people dying: The effects of group size and geographical location**

Cutler, J. & Campbell-Meiklejohn, D. (in preparation)

Method: functional magnetic resonance imaging (fMRI)

### **Curiosity, vicarious positivity bias, and separating action from outcome-oriented altruism**

Cutler, J. & Campbell-Meiklejohn, D. (in preparation)

Methods: multiplayer behavioural lab tasks and online experiments

## **PREPRINTS**

---

Cutler, J., Radua, J & Campbell-Meiklejohn, D. (2018) Adjusting for variable brain coverage in voxel-based fMRI meta-analysis. *bioRxiv*. doi.org/10.1101/457028.

## **CONFERENCE PRESENTATIONS**

---

Cutler, J. & Campbell-Meiklejohn, D. (2019) A comparative fMRI meta-analysis of altruistic and strategic decisions to give. Poster. *Society for Social and Affective Neuroscience*.

Cutler, J., Miles-Wilson, JJ, Campbell-Meiklejohn, D. (2019) Physiological responses to lives at risk depend on whether they are at home or abroad. Poster. *Society for Social and Affective Neuroscience*.

Cutler, J., Miles-Wilson, JJ, Campbell-Meiklejohn, D. (2018) Heart rate changes in response to people living or dying show evidence of cognitive biases. Poster. *Society for Neuroscience and Society for Social Neuroscience*.

Cutler, J. & Campbell-Meiklejohn, D. (2018) What can neuroscience reveal about #charity giving? Twitter presentation. *Brain Twitter Conference* (online).

Cutler, J. & Campbell-Meiklejohn, D. (2017) Differentiating altruistic and strategic decision making in striatum and vmPFC. Poster. *Organisation for Human Brain Mapping Annual Meeting*.

Cutler, J. & Campbell-Meiklejohn, D. (2017) The neural basis of prosocial decision making: An fMRI meta-analysis. Poster. *British Psychological Society Annual Conference and British Chapter of the Institute of Magnetic Resonance in Medicine Postgraduate Meeting*.

## **IMPACT, MEDIA & ENGAGEMENT**

---

- Consultant, European company developing a fundraising platform.
- Research Fellow, Better Good (American company which created the Momentum fundraising app) following research funded by ESRC SeNSS Industry Engagement Fund grant.
- Advisor, UNESCO Mahatma Gandhi Institute of Education for Peace and Sustainable Development Kindness Matters campaign.
- The psychology of opting in. Guest blog for the Institute of Fundraising, August 2018.
- Three articles for The Conversation (February 2018, March 2017, March 2016) 100,000+ total views.
- Appearance on BBC Sussex radio and TV, January 2018.
- Why do we give at Christmas? Article for Impakter.com, December 2017.

## **TEACHING & SUPERVISION**

---

### **Guest Lecturer**

- *MSc Contemporary Applications in Consumer Psychology: Neuromarketing and Beyond* – guest lecture to 50 students, “Using physiology to understand consumer behaviour”. April 2019

### **Associate / Doctoral Tutor**

- *BSc Biological Psychology* – led seminars of up to 20 students, conducted support sessions, marked exams. 2018
- *MSc Statistics* – tutored workshops (approximately 80 students), mentored students learning to use R through novel teaching methods. 2017
- *BSc Social Psychology* - ran seminars (up to 20 students), supported workshops (80 students), marked research reports. 2017
- Completed Starting to Teach training with distinction. 2017
- Associate Fellow of the Higher Education Academy. 2017

### **Project Student Co-supervisor**

- Co-designed studies, wrote scripts to run experiments, trained students in completing ethics applications, data collection and analysis. 2015 to present
- 2019 – present: Research assistant.
- 2018 – 2019: Two BSc and two MSc students.
- 2017 – 2018: One MSc student and a summer project student.
- 2016 – 2017: Two BSc students.
- 2015 – 2016: One BSc student.

## **ADMINISTRATION & SERVICE**

---

- The Social Decision Lab mailing list* – creator and organiser. 2017 to present
- Sussex Postgraduate Open Days* – presenter as a current postgraduate student. 2016 to 2019
- Sussex Psychology Impact Fund* – application reviewer. October 2018
- Early Career Researchers in Neuroimaging Day* – organising committee secretary. 2018
- ESRC Festival of Social Science event Meet the Neuroscientists Researching Charity Giving* – event organiser: designed, organised, funded and ran event. November 2017
- Psychology Impact Group for Early Career Researchers* – founder and organiser. 2016 to 2017

## **PEER REVIEW**

---

Neuroimage  
Social Cognitive and Affective Neuroscience