

Tobias Polley

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Education

B.A., Gustavus Adolphus College, *Magna Cum Laude*, St. Peter, Minnesota, USA

May 2025

Double Major: Psychological Sciences with Honors & Philosophy

Minor: Computer Science

Member:

Psi Chi (International Honors Society for Psychology)

2024

Phi Sigma Tau (International Honors Society for Philosophy)

2025

Awards and Grants

Fulbright-Mach Award for Doctoral Candidates, Fulbright Austria

September 2025 - June 2026

Institut für Psychologie, Universität Graz

Made You Look: Input and Output Inhibition-of-Return using fMRI and Eye Tracking Methods

Collaboration with Dr. Christof Körner and Dr. Natalia Zaretskaya to design and run an experiment that differentiates between input and output Inhibition of Return using eye tracking and fMRI, and analyze the resulting data

Swanson-Holcomb Undergraduate Research Grant

Spring 2025

Gustavus Adolphus College

Contextual Cueing in Repeated and Mirrored Natural Scenes: Is Conscious Memory Necessary for Improved Search Performance?

Supported and supervised by Dr. Jennifer Ackil and Dr. Lauren Hecht

Completed a literature review, designed, and ran an experiment and analyzed resulting data using SPSS, presented findings at Minnesota Undergraduate Psychology Conference & Gustavus Psychological Science Research Symposium

Resulted in conferral of honors degree in psychological sciences

Presentations

Minnesota Undergraduate Psychology Conference, University of Minnesota - Twin Cities

April 2025

- Presented a poster “Contextual Cueing in Repeated and Mirrored Natural Scenes: Is Conscious Memory Necessary for Improved Search Performance?” to other Minnesota psychology students, professors, and conference attendees

Psychological Science Research Symposium, Gustavus Adolphus College

April 2025

- Presented a poster “Contextual Cueing in Repeated and Mirrored Natural Scenes: Is Conscious Memory Necessary for Improved Search Performance?” to the Gustavus community
- Presented and defended my project to a group of professors and peers as part of getting an honors degree in psychological sciences

Celebration of Creative Inquiry, Gustavus Adolphus College

April 2025

- Presented a poster with preliminary analysis of the mirroring & visual search project to the Gustavus community

Psychological Science Research Symposium, Gustavus Adolphus College

May 2023

- Presented a poster about the creativity & mindfulness project to the Gustavus community

Additional Research Experience

Student Research Assistant, Dr. Jennifer Ackil

September 2023 - May 2024

Gustavus Adolphus College

How does Cognitive Dissonance affect False Memory Generation in Eye Witnesses?

Collaborated with PI and other research assistants in design of conditions, running of participant trials, and data entry of an experiment

Experiment Project for Statistics and Methods Course

February - May 2023

Gustavus Adolphus College

Does Engaging in a Creative Activity Increase State Mindfulness?

Collaborated with peers to design, run participant trials, analyse, and present experiment at the Gustavus Psychological Sciences Research Symposium

Skills

Programming and Statistics: Java (intermediate), Python & PsychoPy (intermediate), SPSS (intermediate), R (beginner)

Languages: English (native), German (intermediate)

Certifications: Collaborative Institutional Training Initiative (CITI)

Leadership Experience

Faith, Science, and Ethics Camp

- Head Student Coordinator, Gustavus Chaplain's Office September 2023 - June 2025
 - Developed the curriculum, found and organized lecturers, planned activities and schedule, and helped market the annual 1 week sleep away summer camp for high school students
 - Gave presentations about my understanding of how faith and science can coexist and collaborate; marketed the camp to my home church congregation and local confirmation classes
- Mentor and Host June and October 2022 - 2025
 - Facilitated small group discussions, led activities, mentored and ensured safety of attendees, and delivered sermon during one worship service during summer camp
 - Welcomed and hosted high school students during annual Nobel science conference

Gustavus Student Senate

- Student and Academic Affairs Committee Chair January 2025 - May 2025
- Residential Hall Representative September 2024 - May 2025
- Advocated and proposed solutions for range of student concerns

Gustavus Philosophy Club

- President January - May 2025
 - Oversaw transition from weekly meeting to event-based club which resulted in higher attendance, more student body outreach, and better integration between the club and the Philosophy Department
 - Expanded the executive board, helped apply for Student Senate funding, and oversaw preliminary event planning for the 2025-26 academic year to ensure the club has a bright future
- Secretary November 2023 - December 2024
 - Helped restart the club, member of the first Executive Board after the COVID pandemic
 - Organized and ran speaker events
 - Co-hosted events with the Philosophy Department
 - Hosted social events for club members and philosophy students