

Kristopher Nichols

PH.D STUDENT IN PSYCHOLOGY, PRINCETON UNIVERSITY

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Education

Princeton University PH.D., PSYCHOLOGY. DOCTORAL ADVISOR: ELKE U. WEBER	Princeton, New Jersey 2028 (Expected)
Kahneman-Treisman Center STUDENT AFFILIATE	Princeton University 2024-
University of Chicago M.A., SOCIAL SCIENCES	Chicago, Illinois 2018
University of Chicago CERTIFICATE IN COMPUTATIONAL SOCIAL SCIENCE	Chicago, Illinois 2018
Stephen F. Austin State University B.A., PSYCHOLOGY (WITH HONORS; UNIVERSITY SCHOLAR)	Nacogdoches, Texas 2017

Honors & Awards

BESAMPLE DISSERTATION GRANT	2026
HAMID BIGLARI *87 BEHAVIORAL SCIENCE FELLOW, KAHNEMAN-TREISMAN CENTER FOR BEHAVIORAL SCIENCE & PUBLIC POLICY, PRINCETON UNIVERSITY	2025
CO-ORGANIZER AND PRINCETON UNIVERSITY REPRESENTATIVE, SIX COLLEGE CONFERENCE	2025
NATIONAL ACADEMY OF SCIENCES COMPLEXITY RESEARCH GRANT	2024
SUMMER SCHOOL FOR SYSTEMS MODELING, INTERNATIONAL INSTITUTE FOR APPLIED SYSTEMS ANALYSIS (IIASA)	2024
SMALL SCALE RESEARCH GRANT (\$5,000), CENTER FOR DATA DRIVEN SOCIAL SCIENCE, PRINCETON UNIVERSITY	2024
BEST POSTER AWARD, ANDLINGER CENTER FOR ENERGY AND THE ENVIRONMENT, PRINCETON UNIVERSITY	2023
PRESIDENT'S FELLOWSHIP, PRINCETON UNIVERSITY	2023
SFASU UNIVERSITY SCHOLAR	2017
PSI CHI RESEARCH TRAVEL GRANT - SPSP	2017
SFASU COLLEGE OF LIBERAL AND APPLIED ARTS PSYCHOLOGY RESEARCH AWARD	2016
SFASU PSYCHOLOGY DEPARTMENT OUTSTANDING UNDERGRADUATE RESEARCHER AWARD	2016

Scholarly Publications

NICHOLS, K. L., MATT-NAVARRO, J. M., DOIRON, M. K., D'ADDA, G., WEBER, E. U. & CONSTANTINO, S. M. (2026). DO RISK, TIME, AND SOCIAL PREFERENCES PREDICT SUSTAINABLE BEHAVIOR? EVIDENCE FROM A QUALITATIVE SYNTHESIS AND META-ANALYSIS. ECOLOGICAL ECONOMICS. https://doi.org/10.1016/j.ecolecon.2025.108804	2026
DE WEERDT, L., NICHOLS, K. L. & WEBER, E. U. (2026). CAN WIND ENERGY HELP WEST VIRGINIA OFF ITS COAL-MINING ADDICTION? ENERGY RESEARCH & SOCIAL SCIENCE. https://doi.org/10.1016/j.erss.2025.104478	2026
MASTROIANNI, A., NICHOLS, K. L. & DANA, J. BOTH DEMOCRATS AND REPUBLICANS CAN PASS THE IDEOLOGICAL TURING TEST. EXPERIMENTAL HISTORY. https://www.experimental-history.com/p/ideological-turing-test	2024

Working Papers

FINKE, K., **NICHOLS, K.L.**, WEBER, E.U., TARNITA, C. A COMPLEX SYSTEMS FRAMEWORK REVEALS HIDDEN

CONTEXT-DEPENDENCE OF BEHAVIOR TRANSITIONS. **UNDER REVIEW; AVAILABLE AT SSRN 6551078.**

NICHOLS, K.L., YANG, F., GOLDWERT, D., COMPOSTO, J.W., WEBER, E.U., SPARKMAN, G. A META-ANALYSIS OF SOCIAL NORM PROCESSES.

NICHOLS, K.L.^{*}, COMPOSTO, J.W.^{*}, WEBER, E.U. HOW NORM INFORMATION ON CABLE NEWS SHAPES PERCEPTIONS ABOUT DEMOCRACY.

NICHOLS, K.L., SALIM, A., WEBER, E.U., HURRICANE ATTRIBUTION TO CLIMATE CHANGE: SOURCES OF ACCURACY AND ERRORS

Invited Talks

SOCIAL AREA SEMINAR, DEPARTMENT OF PSYCHOLOGY, BOSTON COLLEGE

July 2025

Selected Presentations

NICHOLS, K.L., COMPOSTO J.W., WEBER, E.U., HOW NORM INFORMATION ON CABLE NEWS SHAPES PERCEPTIONS ABOUT DEMOCRACY. SYMPOSIUM PRESENTATION AT SOLIDARITY SYMPOSIA: KEEPING DEMOCRACY STRONG, KINGS COLLEGE LONDON. **(BEST TALK AWARD)** 2026

NICHOLS, K.L., SALIM, A., WEBER, E.U., HURRICANE ATTRIBUTION TO CLIMATE CHANGE: SOURCES OF ACCURACY AND ERRORS. SYMPOSIUM PRESENTATION AT SOCIETY FOR PERSONALITY AND SOCIAL PSYCHOLOGY (SPSP). 2026

FINKE, K., **NICHOLS, K.L.**, WEBER, E.U., TARNITA, C. BEYOND ONE-SIZE-FITS-ALL: A COMPLEX SYSTEMS FRAMEWORK REVEALS HIDDEN CONTEXT-DEPENDENCE OF BEHAVIOR TRANSITIONS. PRESENTATION AT CULTURAL EVOLUTION SOCIETY CONFERENCE 2026

NICHOLS, K.L., SALIM, A., WEBER, E.U., HURRICANE ATTRIBUTION TO CLIMATE CHANGE: SOURCES OF ACCURACY AND ERRORS. POSTER PRESENTATION AT THE INTERNATIONAL CONFERENCE ON ENVIRONMENTAL PSYCHOLOGY. 2025

NICHOLS, K.L., COMPOSTO, J., WEBER, E.U., SOCIAL NORMS IN MEDIA: HOW THE PROMINENCE OF SOCIAL NORMS IN CABLE TELEVISION SHAPES NORM PERCEPTIONS AND ATTITUDES ABOUT DEMOCRACY. DATA BLITZ PRESENTATION AT THE SIX COLLEGE CONFERENCE. 2025

NICHOLS, K.L., COMPOSTO, J., WEBER, E.U., SOCIAL NORMS IN MEDIA: HOW THE PROMINENCE OF SOCIAL NORMS IN CABLE TELEVISION SHAPES NORM PERCEPTIONS AND ATTITUDES ABOUT DEMOCRACY. POSTER PRESENTATION AT THE SOCIETY FOR PERSONALITY AND SOCIAL PSYCHOLOGY (SPSP). 2025

COMPOSTO, J., **NICHOLS, K.L.**, WEBER, E.U., SOCIAL NORMS IN MEDIA: HOW THE PROMINENCE OF SOCIAL NORMS IN CABLE TELEVISION SHAPES NORM PERCEPTIONS AND ATTITUDES ABOUT DEMOCRACY. POSTER PRESENTATION AT THE NORMS AND BEHAVIORAL CHANGE CONFERENCE (NoBeC). 2024

DE WEERDT, L., **NICHOLS, K. L.**, WEBER, E. U. CAN WIND ENERGY HELP WEST VIRGINIA OFF ITS COAL-MINING ADDICTION? POSTER PRESENTATION AT THE ANDLINGER CENTER FOR ENERGY AND THE ENVIRONMENT ANNUAL MEETING. **(BEST POSTER AWARD).** 2023

Skills

DATA SCIENCE AND CODING EXPERTISE

Extensive experience with data management, machine learning, experimental programming, visualization, and statistical modeling in R and Python.

LARGE LANGUAGE MODELS

Fine-tuning transformer models (Gemma, BERT) for text classification. Experience with FSDP distributed training for 27B+ parameter models.

HIGH-PERFORMANCE COMPUTING

Experience with Princeton's Della cluster for distributed ML training, SLURM job scheduling, and GPU optimization.