

Sehrang (Sarah) Joo

CURRICULUM VITAE

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EDUCATION

2026 –	M.Div. Harvard Divinity School	Harvard University
2022 – 2025	M.A. Psychology Advisor: Tania Lombrozo, Ph.D. Concepts and Cognition Lab	Princeton University
2016 – 2020	B.A. Philosophy, distinction in the major, <i>summa cum laude</i> Senior thesis: Implicit questions shape information preferences Advisors: Frank Keil, Ph.D. and Joshua Knobe, Ph.D.	Yale University
Spring 2019	Visiting Student, Hilary and Trinity terms St Catherine's College	University of Oxford

ACADEMIC AWARDS AND HONORS

2026	Presidential Scholarship <i>Full merit scholarship + maximum stipend funding</i>	Harvard Divinity School
2022	Disciplinary Diversity and Integration Award <i>Awarded for best interdisciplinary conference paper</i>	Cognitive Science Society
2021	Centennial Fellowship <i>Merit scholarship awarded to <10% of incoming PhD students</i>	Princeton University
2020	Henry Edwards Ellsworth Senior Thesis Prize	Yale University
2019	Jonathan Edwards Senior Mellon Forum Research Grant	Yale University
2019	Phi Beta Kappa Honor Society (early fall induction)	Yale University
2019	St. Catherine's College Book Prize (in Meta-Ethics tutorial)	University of Oxford
2019	St. Catherine's College Book Prize (in Phil. of Logic tutorial)	University of Oxford
2018	Light Fellowship (to support summer language study)	Yale University

PUBLICATIONS AND REFEREED CONFERENCE PROCEEDINGS

- Joo, S.**, Yousif, S.R., Martin, F., Keil, F.C., & Knobe, J. (2025). No privileged link between intentionality and causation: Generalizable effects of agency in language. *Cognition*, 264, 106225.
- Joo, S.** & Yousif, S.R. (2022). Are we teleologically essentialist? *Cognitive Science*, 46, e13202.
- Joo, S.**, Yousif, S.R., Martin, F., Keil, F.C., & Knobe, J. (2022). No privileged link between intentionality and causation: Generalizable effects of agency in language. *Proceedings of the 44th Annual Conference of the Cognitive Science Society* (pp. 695-700). Toronto, Canada: Cognitive Science Society
- Joo, S.**, Yousif, S.R., & Keil, F.C. (2022). Understanding ‘Why’: How implicit questions shape explanation preferences. *Cognitive Science*, 46, e13091.
- Joo, S.**, Yousif, S.R., & Knobe, J. (2021). Teleology beyond explanation. *Mind & Language*, 1-22.
- Joo, S.**, Yousif, S. R., & Keil, F. C. (2021). What is a ‘mechanism’? A distinction between two sub-types of mechanistic explanation. In T. Fitch, C. Lamm, H. Leder, & K. Tebmar-Raible (Eds.), *Proceedings of the 43rd Annual Conference of the Cognitive Science Society* (pp. 1609-1271). Vienna, Austria: Cognitive Science Society.
- Joo, S.**, Yousif, S. R., & Keil, F. C. (2020). Implicit questions shape information preferences. In S. Denison., M. Mack, Y. Xu, & B.C. Armstrong (Eds.), *Proceedings of the 42nd Annual Conference of the Cognitive Science Society* (pp. 1265-1271). Toronto, ON: Cognitive Science Society.
- Ahl, R.E., DeAngelis, E., Stephenson, A., **Joo, S.**, & Keil, F.C. (2018). It’s complicated: Children identify relevant information about causal complexity. In T.T. Rogers, M. Rau, X. Zhu, & C. W. Kalish (Eds.), *Proceedings of the 40th Annual Conference of the Cognitive Science Society* (pp. 88-93). Austin, TX: Cognitive Science Society.

MANUSCRIPTS

- Benson, S., **Joo, S.**, Keil, F.C., & Yousif, S.R. (Under review). How Children Understand Why.
- Joo, S.** & Lombrozo, T. (In prep). When does *what* inform *why*? The role of category labels in explanations.

CONFERENCE PRESENTATIONS

- Aboody, R., **Joo, S.**, Yousif, S.R., Sheskin, M., & Keil, F.C. (2023, June). Learning from and about others: when reasoning about testimony, children consider both where it came from, and what others believe about its source. Talk presented at the annual meeting of the Society for Philosophy and Psychology.
- Aboody, R., **Joo, S.**, Yousif, S.R., Sheskin, M., Keil, F.C. (2023, March). To Evaluate Testimony, Children Track Where it Originated, and What Others Believe About its Source. In R. Aboody (Chair), Reasoning About Epistemic Processes: Children’s Understanding of how Knowledge is Acquired, Transmitted and Socially Constructed. Symposium presented at the biennial meeting of the Society for Research in Child Development.

- Aboody, R., **Joo, S.**, Yousif, S.R., Sheskin, M., & Keil, F.C. (2023, January). Learning from and about others: when reasoning about testimony, children consider both where it came from, and what others believe about its source. Poster presented at the Budapest CEU Conference on Cognitive Development.
- Joo, S.**, Yousif, S.R., Martin, F., Keil, F.C., & Knobe, J. (2022, July). *No privileged link between intentionality and causation: Generalizable effects of agency in language*. Talk presented at the 44th Annual Conference of the Cognitive Science Society.
[Winner of the Cognitive Science Society Disciplinary Diversity and Integration Award]
- Joo, S.** and Yousif, S.R. (2022, July). *Are we teleologically essentialist?* Talk presented at the annual meeting of the Society for Philosophy and Psychology.
- Joo, S.**, Yousif, S.R., Martin, F., Keil, F.C., & Knobe, J. (2022, May). *Does causality matter? Impressions of agency influence judgments of both causal and non-causal sentences*. Talk presented at the 2nd annual Experiments in Linguistic Meaning (ELM) conference.
- Joo, S.**, Yousif, S.R., & Keil, F.C. (2022, April). *Do children have an intuitive belief in God(s)? Children's teleological explanation preferences and intentional design*. Talk presented at the 2022 Biennial Cognitive Development Society Conference.
- Joo, S.**, Yousif, S.R., Martin, F., Keil, F.C., & Knobe, J. (2022, January). *Does causality matter? Impressions of agency influence judgments of both causal and non-causal sentences*. Talk presented at the 2nd annual Agency and Intentions in Language (AIL2) workshop.
- Joo, S.**, Yousif, S.R., & Keil, F.C. (2021, July). *What is a 'mechanism'? A distinction between two sub-types of mechanistic explanations*. Poster presented at the 43rd Annual Conference of the Cognitive Science Society.
- Joo, S.**, Yousif, S.R., & Keil, F.C. (2021, June). *Understanding 'Why': How implicit questions shape explanation preferences*. Talk presented at the annual meeting of the Society for Philosophy and Psychology.
- Joo, S.**, Yousif, S.R., & Keil, F.C. (2021, April). *How children understand the pragmatics of 'why' questions*. Talk presented at the biennial meeting of the Society for Research in Child Development.
- Joo, S.**, Yousif, S.R., & Keil, F.C. (2020, July). *Implicit questions shape information preferences*. Poster presented at the 42nd Annual Conference of the Cognitive Science Society.

TALKS

Social and Moral Cognition Lab (Columbia University, Dr. Larisa Solomon), July 2024, *Teleological Reasoning*
 COCOA (CNRS/Université Paris 8, Dr. Bridget Copley), September 2022, *Agency & Causation*
 Experimental Philosophy Group (Jean Nicod Institute, Dr. Brent Strickland), May 2022, *Agency & Causation*
 Causality in Cognition Lab (Stanford University, Dr. Tobias Gerstenberg), May 2022, *Teleological Essentialism*
 Reasons and Decision Lab (Lake Forest College, Dr. Paul Henne), October 2021, *Teleology & Explanation*

TEACHING EXPERIENCE

Spring 2026	Princeton University; Introduction to Cognitive Psychology (Teaching Assistant)
Fall 2025	Princeton University; Introduction to Developmental Psychology (Teaching Assistant)
Fall 2023	Princeton University; Introduction to Developmental Psychology (Teaching Assistant)
2017 – 2020	Yale University; Poorvu Center for Teaching and Learning (Writing Tutor)
Summer 2019	JHU Center for Talented Youth; Introduction to Philosophy (Teaching Assistant)
Summer 2017	Yale Young Global Scholars (Instructor)

PROFESSIONAL ACTIVITIES

2025 – 2026	Social Impact Fellow Mentor: Josh Maudlin, Ph.D.	Center for Theological Inquiry Princeton, New Jersey
2020 – 2022	Postgraduate Research Associate; Lab Manager Cognition and Development Lab	Yale University

LANGUAGES AND RESEARCH SKILLS

Korean (fluent), French (advanced reading), Koine Greek (intermediate reading)

Proficient in programming / data cleaning in R and Excel, some experience in HTML, CSS, Python

Updated July 2026