

Benjamin Margolin Rottman

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University of Pittsburgh
Pittsburgh, PA 15260

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www.lrdc.pitt.edu/rottman

ACADEMIC APPOINTMENTS:

Assistant Professor, Department of Psychology, University of Pittsburgh, 2013-present
Research Scientist, Learning Research and Development Center, University of Pittsburgh,
2013-present

DEGREES AND EDUCATION:

NRSA F32 Postdoctoral Fellow, Department of Hospital Medicine and Booth School of
Business, The University of Chicago, 2011-2013
PhD (2011), MPhil (2009), and MS (2008) in Cognitive Psychology, Yale University
BA in Cognitive Science, Northwestern University, 2006

GRANTS:

Principal Investigator, "CAREER: Causal Reasoning in Daily Life and its Role in Science
Literacy." National Science Foundation, BCS-1651330, 7/1/2017 - 6/30/2022. Total costs:
\$628,352. Direct: \$427,978. Indirect: \$200,374.

Principal Investigator, "Developing a Theory of Causal Learning over Time." National
Science Foundation, BCS-1430439, 9/1/2014 - 8/31/2016. Total costs: \$282,400. Direct:
\$200,973, Indirect: \$81,427.

Co-Principal Investigator, 5% effort (PI: Nokes-Malach, Co-PIs: Binning, Grabowski,
Kaufmann, Schunn, Singh, Votruba-Drzal), "Build, Understand, & Tune Interventions
that Culminate to Real Impact." National Science Foundation, DUE-1524575, 9/1/2015-
8/31/2020. Total costs: \$1,244,556. Direct: \$888,582. Indirect: \$355,974.

Principal Investigator, "Active-Learning of Psychological Research Methods: Authentic
Skill Development through Rich Real-World Research Examples and
Representations." Discipline-Based Science Education Research Center, University of
Pittsburgh, 6/1/14 - 5/31/15. Total costs: \$15,000.

AWARDS AND FELLOWSHIPS:

Association for Psychological Science Rising Star, 2016

"The formation and revision of beliefs about complementary medicine." The University of Sydney School of Psychology Visiting International Collaborator Support. 6-2016. Collaborators: Ben Colagiuri, Micah Goldwater, and Evan Livesey.

"Medical Decision Making: Roles of Evidence and Experience." NRSA F32 Individual Postdoctoral Fellowship, National Heart, Lung, and Blood Institute, 1F32HL108711-01, 2011-2013. Mentors: Reid Hastie, PhD, & David Meltzer, MD, PhD.

"Coherence of Complex Explanations." Graduate Research Fellowship Program, National Science Foundation. 2007 – 2010. Mentors: Frank Keil, PhD, & Woo-kyoung Ahn, PhD.

PEER REVIEWED PUBLICATIONS:

*Derringer, C., & **Rottman, B. M.** (in press). How People Learn about Causal Influence when there are Many Possible Causes: A Model Based on Informative Transitions. *Cognitive Psychology*.

*Betancur, L., **Rottman, B. M.**, Votruba-Drzal, E., & Schunn, C. (in press). Analytical Assessment of Course Sequencing: The Case of Methodological Courses in Psychology. *Journal of Educational Psychology*.

Rottman, B. M. (2017). Physician Bayesian updating from personal beliefs about the base rate and likelihood ratio. *Memory & Cognition*, 45, 270-280. doi: 10.3758/s13421-016-0658-z

Rottman, B. M., Marcum, Z. A., Thorpe, C. T., & Gellad, W. F. (2017). Medication adherence as a learning process: Insights from cognitive psychology. *Health Psychology Review*, 11(1), 17-32.

Rottman, B. M., Prochaska, M. T., & Deaño, R. C. (2016). Bayesian reasoning in residents' preliminary diagnoses. *Cognitive Research: Principles and Implications*, 1(1), 1-7. **Blog Coverage:** <http://www.psychonomic.org/news/news.asp?id=311122>

Rottman, B. M. & Hastie, R. (2016). Do people reason rationally about causally related events? Markov violations, weak inferences, and failures of explaining away. *Cognitive Psychology*, 87, 88-134.

Rottman, B. M. (2016). Searching for the best cause: Roles of mechanism beliefs, autocorrelation, and exploitation. *Journal of Experimental Psychology: Learning, Memory, & Cognition*, 42(8), 1233-1256. doi:10.1037/xlm0000244

Edwards, B. J., **Rottman, B. M.**, Shankar, M., Betzler, R., Chituc, V., Rodriguez, R., ... Santos, L. R. (2014). Do capuchin monkeys (*Cebus apella*) diagnose causal relations in the absence of a direct Reward? (E. Flynn, Ed.) *PLoS ONE*, 9(2), e88595. doi:10.1371/journal.pone.0088595

Rottman, B. M., Kominsky, J. F., & Keil, F. C. (2014). Children use temporal cues to learn causal directionality. *Cognitive Science*, 38, 489-513. doi:10.1111/cogs.12070

- Rottman, B. M., & Hastie, R.** (2014). Reasoning about causal relationships: Inferences on causal networks. *Psychological Bulletin*, 140(1), 109-139. doi:10.1037/a0031903
- Rottman, B. M., Gentner, D., & Goldwater, M. B.** (2012). Causal systems categories: Differences in novice and expert categorization of causal phenomena. *Cognitive Science*. 36, 919-932. doi:10.1111/j.1551-6709.2012.01253.x
- Rottman, B. M., & Keil, F. C.** (2012). Causal structure learning over time: Observations and interventions. *Cognitive Psychology*, 64, 93-125. doi:10.1016/j.cogpsych.2011.10.003
- Rottman, B. M., & Keil, F. C.** (2011). What matters in scientific explanations: Effects of elaboration and content. *Cognition*, 121, 324-337. doi:10.1016/j.cognition.2011.08.009.
- Rottman, B. M., & Ahn, W.** (2011). Effect of grouping of evidence types on learning about interactions between observed and unobserved causes. *Journal of Experimental Psychology: Learning, Memory, & Cognition*, 37, 1432-1448. doi:10.1037/a0024829
- Rottman, B. M., Kim, N. S. Ahn, W., & Sanislow, C. A.** (2011). Can personality disorder experts recognize DSM-IV personality disorders from Five-Factor Model descriptions of patient cases? *The Journal of Clinical Psychiatry*, 72, 630-635. doi:10.4088/JCP.09mo05534gre
- Chang, A., Sandhofer, C. M., Adelchanow, L., & **Rottman, B. M.** (2010). Parental numeric language input to Mandarin Chinese and English speaking preschool children. *Journal of Child Language*, 38, 341-355. doi:10.1017/S0305000909990390
- Rottman, B. M., Ahn, W., Sanislow, C. A., & Kim, N. S.** (2009). Can clinicians recognize DSM-IV personality disorders from Five-Factor model descriptions of patient cases? *The American Journal of Psychiatry*, 166, 427-433. doi:10.1176/appi.ajp.2008.08070972
- Rottman, B. M., & Ahn, W.** (2009). Causal learning about tolerance and sensitization. *Psychonomic Bulletin and Review*, 16, 1043-1049. doi:10.3758/PBR.16.6.1043

MANUSCRIPTS UNDER REVIEW:

*Mentored Students

*Soo, K., & **Rottman, B. M.** (Revise and Resubmit at the Journal of Experimental Psychology: General). *Causal Strength Induction From Time Series Data*.

*Soo, K., & **Rottman, B. M.** (Revise and Resubmit at the Journal of Behavioral Decision Making). *Switch Rates Do Not Influence Underweighting in Decisions from Experience*.

BOOK CHAPTERS:

Rottman, B. M. (2017). The acquisition and use of causal structure knowledge. In M.R. Waldmann (Ed.), *Oxford Handbook of Causal Reasoning* (85-114). Oxford: Oxford U.P.

Rottman, B. M., Ahn, W., & Luhmann, C. C. (2011). When and how do people reason about unobserved causes? In P. Illari, F. Russo, & J. Williamson (Eds.), *Causality in the Sciences*. Oxford: Oxford U.P.

Edwards, B.J., **Rottman, B. M.**, & Santos, L. R. (2011). Causal reasoning in children and animals. In T. McCormack, C. Hoerl, and S. Butterfill (Eds.) *Tool Use and Causal Cognition*. Oxford: Oxford U.P.

PUBLISHED CONFERENCE PROCEEDINGS:

*Mentored Students

*Soo, K., & **Rottman, B. M.** (2016). Causal learning with continuous variables over time. In A. Papafragou, D. Grodner, D. Mirman, & J. Trueswell (Eds.), *Proceedings of the 38th Annual Conference of the Cognitive Science Society* (pp. 153-158). Austin, TX: Cognitive Science Society.

*Derringer, C., & **Rottman, B. M.** (2016). Temporal causal strength learning with multiple causes. In A. Papafragou, D. Grodner, D. Mirman, & J. Trueswell (Eds.), *Proceedings of the 38th Annual Conference of the Cognitive Science Society* (pp. 758-763). Austin, TX: Cognitive Science Society.

*Soo, K., & **Rottman, B. M.** (2015). Elemental causal learning from transitions. In R. Dale, C. Jennings, P. Maglio, T. Matlock, D. Noelle, A. Warlaumont, & J. Yoshimi (Eds.), *Proceedings of the 37th Annual Conference of the Cognitive Science Society* (pp. 2254-2259). Austin, TX: Cognitive Science Society.

Rottman, B. M. (2015). How causal mechanism and autocorrelation beliefs inform information search. In R. Dale, C. Jennings, P. Maglio, T. Matlock, D. Noelle, A. Warlaumont, & J. Yoshimi (Eds.), *Proceedings of the 37th Annual Conference of the Cognitive Science Society* (pp. 2033-2038). Austin, TX: Cognitive Science Society.

Rottman, B. M. (2015). Do Markov violations and failures of explaining away persist with experience? In R. Dale, C. Jennings, P. Maglio, T. Matlock, D. Noelle, A. Warlaumont, & J. Yoshimi (Eds.), *Proceedings of the 37th Annual Conference of the Cognitive Science Society* (pp. 2027-2032). Austin, TX: Cognitive Science Society.

Rottman, B. M. (2014). Information search in an autocorrelated causal learning environment. In P. Bello, M. Guarini, M. McShane, & B. Scassellati (Eds.), *Proceedings of the 36th Annual Conference of the Cognitive Science Society* (pp. 1323-1328). Austin, TX: Cognitive Science Society.

*Soo, K., & **Rottman, B. M.** (2014). Learning causal direction from transitions with continuous and noisy variables. In P. Bello, M. Guarini, M. McShane, & B. Scassellati (Eds.), *Proceedings of the 36th Annual Conference of the Cognitive Science Society* (pp. 1485-1490). Austin, TX: Cognitive Science Society.

- Rottman, B. M., & Keil, F. C.** (2011 a). Learning causal direction from repeated observations over time. In L. Carlson, C. Hölscher, & T. Shipley (Eds.), *Proceedings of the 33th Annual Conference of the Cognitive Science Society* (pp. 1847-1852). Austin, TX: Cognitive Science Society.
- Rottman, B. M., & Keil, F. C.** (2011 b). Which parts of scientific explanations are most important? In L. Carlson, C. Hölscher, & T. Shipley (Eds.), *Proceedings of the 33rd Annual Conference of the Cognitive Science Society* (pp. 378-383). Austin, TX: Cognitive Science Society.
- Rottman, B. M., & Keil, F. C.** (2010). Connecting causal events: Learning causal structures through repeated interventions over time. *Proceedings of the 32nd Annual Conference of the Cognitive Science Society* (pp. 907-912). Austin, TX: Cognitive Science Society.
- Rottman, B. M., Kim, N. S., Ahn, W., & Sanislow, C. A.** (2009). The cognitive consequences of using categorical versus dimensional classification systems: The case of personality disorder experts. *Proceedings of the 31st Annual Conference of the Cognitive Science Society* (pp. 2825-2830). Austin, TX: Cognitive Science Society.
- Rottman, B. M., & Ahn, W.** (2009). Causal Inference when Observed and Unobserved Causes Interact. *Proceedings of the 31st Annual Conference of the Cognitive Science Society* (pp. 1477-1482). Austin, TX: Cognitive Science Society.

PUBLISHED ABSTRACTS AND CONFERENCE PRESENTATIONS:

- Rottman B. M.** (2017, April) *Learning causal relations in non-stationary time series environments*. Symposium on Time and Causality conducted at the Experimental Psychology Society. Belfast, Ireland.
- Rottman, B. M.** (March, 2016). *Searching for the best cause and inferring causal strength over time*. Symposium conducted at the Annual Meeting of the Eastern Psychological Association. New York, NY.
- Rottman, B. M.** (November, 2015). *Searching for the best cause: Roles of mechanism beliefs, autocorrelation, and exploitation*. The 56th Annual Meeting of the Psychonomics Society. Chicago, IL.
- Rottman, B. M.** (March, 2015). *Causal reasoning: The role of temporal heuristics for sophisticated inferences*. Symposium conducted at the 23rd Annual Meeting of the Cognitive Neuroscience Society 2015, San Francisco, CA.
- Hastie, R. & **Rottman, B. M.** (November, 2012). *How normative are inferences on causal Networks*. The 53rd Annual Meeting of the Psychonomics Society. Minneapolis, MN.
- Rottman, B. M., Ahn, W., Kim, N. S., & Sanislow, C. A.** (November, 2009). *Categorical Versus Trait-Based Dimensional Classification Systems for Personality Disorders*. The 50th Annual Meeting of the Psychonomics Society. Boston, MA.

POSTER PRESENTATIONS:

*Mentored Students

Wyatt, G., Sikorskii, A., **Rottman, B. M.**, & Crane, T. *The Role of Expectancy in Supportive Care Therapy Use and Symptom Outcomes Among Women with Advanced Breast Cancer*. The 15th Annual American Psychosocial Oncology Society Annual Conference. Tucson, Az.

*Soo, K., & **Rottman, B. M.** (November, 2015). *Causal learning from transitions and states*. The 56th Annual Meeting of the Psychonomics Society. Chicago, IL.

*Derringer, C., & **Rottman, B. M.** (July, 2015). *Informative transitions: A heuristic for conditionalized causal strength learning*. The 37th Annual Conference of the Cognitive Science Society. Pasadena, CA, USA.

Rottman, B. M. (June, 2015). *Human information search: Choosing the best cause*. The Multi-disciplinary Conference on Reinforcement Learning and Decision Making. Edmonton, Alberta, Canada.

Rottman, B. M. (June, 2015). *How people test whether a medicine works: Implications for adherence*. Pittsburgh Conference on the Science of Medication Adherence. Pittsburgh, PA, USA.

Rottman, B. M., Prochaska, M., Deaño, R., & Meltzer, D. (March, 2013). *The influence of residents' experiences on disease prevalence judgments, preliminary diagnoses, and post-test judgments*. The 2013 Department of Medicine Research Day, University of Chicago.

Rottman, B. M., Prochaska, M., Deaño, R., & Meltzer, D. (November, 2012). *The influence of prior experiences with patients on medical diagnosis*. The 53rd Annual Meeting of the Psychonomics Society. Minneapolis, MN.

Rottman, B. M., & Ahn, W. (November, 2009). *Causal inference when observed and unobserved causes interact*. The 50th Annual Meeting of the Psychonomics Society. Boston, MA.

Rottman, B. M., & Ahn, W. (July, 2008). *People distinguish causes that occur to one or multiple entities*. The 30th Annual Meeting of the Cognitive Science Society. Washington, DC.

Rottman, B. M., & Gentner, D. (July, 2006). *Expertise effects on sorting strategies of causal phenomena*. The 28th Annual Meeting of the Cognitive Science Society. Stresa, Italy.

INVITED EXTERNAL PRESENTATIONS:

Rottman, B. M. (2018, January). *How People Learn Causal Relations in Complex Time Series Settings*. University of Southern California, Department of Psychology. Los Angeles, CA.

- Rottman, B. M.** (2017, June). *Causal Learning Over Time*. University of New South Wales, Department of Psychology. Sydney, Australia.
- Rottman, B. M.** (2017, June). *Causal Learning Over Time*. The University of Sydney, School of Psychology. Sydney, Australia.
- Rottman, B. M.** (2015, November). *Adherence as a causal learning challenge: Insights from cognitive psychology*. The University of Michigan. Ann Arbor, MI.
- Rottman, B. M.** (2015, February). *Temporal causal reasoning*. Reasoning Work Group, NIH/NICHD. Online presentation.
- Rottman, B. M.** (2012, February). *Temporal causal learning*. Department of Cognitive Sciences, UC Irvine. Irvine, CA.
- Rottman, B. M.** (2012, January). *Temporal causal learning*. Department of Psychology, University of Pittsburgh. Pittsburgh, PA.
- Rottman, B. M.** (2012, January). *Temporal causal learning*. Department of Psychology, Harvard University. Cambridge, MA.
- Rottman, B. M.** (2009, March). *Tolerance/sensitization and interacting unobserved causes*. The Computational Cognitive Science Group, Department of Brain and Computational Sciences, MIT. Cambridge, MA.

INVITED INTERNAL PRESENTATIONS:

- Rottman, B. M.** (2018, January). *How People Learn Causal Relations in Complex Time Series Settings*. University of Southern California, Department of Psychology. Los Angeles, CA.
- Rottman B. M., & Nokes-Malach, T.** (2015, October). *Authenticity in teaching*. Discipline-Based Science Education Research Center, The University of Pittsburgh. Pittsburgh, PA.
- Rottman B. M.** (2015, March). *Transforming research methods in psychology*. Discipline-Based Science Education Research Center, The University of Pittsburgh. Pittsburgh, PA.
- Rottman B. M.** (2014, September). *Transforming research methods in psychology*. Discipline-Based Science Education Research Center, The University of Pittsburgh. Pittsburgh, PA.
- Rottman B. M.** (2014, July). *Planning and design of a transformed course via dB-SERC course transformation award*. Discipline-Based Science Education Research Center, The University of Pittsburgh. Pittsburgh, PA.
- Rottman B. M.** (2013, December). *The psychology of medical diagnosis from previous personal experiences and beliefs*. Intelligent Systems Program, The University of Pittsburgh. Pittsburgh, PA.

Rottman B. M. (2013, September). *Causal learning in autocorrelated environments*. Department of Psychology, The University of Pittsburgh. Pittsburgh, PA.

Rottman B. M. (2012, October). *Residents' learning about disease prevalence, diagnosis, and post-test probability from experience*. Outcomes Research Workshop, The Center for Health and the Social Sciences, The University of Chicago. Chicago, IL.

Rottman B. M. (2012, January). *Temporal causal learning*. Center for Decision Research, Booth School of Business, University of Chicago. Chicago, IL.

Rottman B. M. (2011, August). *Medical decision making: Roles of evidence and experience*. Outcomes Research Workshop, The Center for Health and the Social Sciences, The University of Chicago. Chicago, IL.

Rottman B. M. (2008, March). *Causal reasoning and reasoning with explanations*. Department of Psychology, Yale University. New Haven, CT.

EDITORIAL BOARDS:

Consulting Editor, Journal of Experimental Psychology: General, 2017

Consulting Editor, Cognitive Research: Principles and Implications, 2017

JOURNAL, CONFERENCE, AND GRANT REVIEWS:

Acta Psychologica

Cognition

Cognitive Processing

Cognitive Psychology

Cognitive Research: Principles and Implications

Cognitive Science

Developmental Science

Frontiers in Psychology: Cognition

Journal of Experimental Psychology: General

Journal of Experimental Psychology: Learning, Memory, and Cognition

Journal of Personality Disorders

L'Agence Nationale de la Reserche (France)

Medical Decision Making: Policy & Practice

Memory & Cognition

Metacognition and Learning

Psychonomic Bulletin and Review

The Cognitive Science Conference

The National Science Foundation

The Quarterly Journal of Experimental Psychology

Thinking & Reasoning

PROFESSIONAL MEMBERSHIPS:

Fellow of the Psychonomic Society

Member of the Cognitive Science Society

EXTERNAL PROFESSIONAL SERVICE:

2014-2015 Reasoning Work Group, NIH/NICHD

INTERNAL PROFESSIONAL SERVICE:

2013-2014 Search Committee for Social - Health Position
 2013-2014 Search Committee for Social - Learning Research & Development Center Position
 2014-Present Undergraduate Education Committee
 2014-2016, Organizer of Cognitive Program Research Seminar
 2017-Present
 2015 Tim Post Award Committee
 2016 Mellon Fellowship Committee

GRADUATE TEACHING:

2014-2016, Cognitive Program Research Seminar
 2017-Present
 2016 Topics in Psychology: Academic Writing Workshop

UNDERGRADUATE TEACHING:

2013-Present Research Methods (9 sections over 5 years, ~500 students total)

GRADUATE STUDENT MENTORSHIP:

2013-Present Kevin Soo Starting on dissertation
 2014-Present Cory Derringer Doing the specialty (comprehensive) exam
 2014 A.J. Koury Graduated – working in a variety of research consulting jobs and as a visiting lecturer at Pitt.
 2017-Present Ciara Willett Working on master's
 2017-Present Zachary Caddick Working on master's

GRADUATE STUDENT COMMITTEES:

2017 Joshua Tremel Specialty (comprehensive) Exam
 2016 Brendan Barstow Master's

GRADUATE STUDENT MENTORING COMMITTEES:

2013-Present	Emily Braham
2014-2016	Brendan Barstow (Chair)
2015	Regina Leckie
2015-Present	Bart Larson
2016-Present	Heather Bruett
2017-Present	Griffin Koch (Chair)
2017	Alexandria Weaver

UNDERGRADUATE STUDENT THESIS COMMITTEES:

2015	Sara Winter
2018	Leighanne Ohlinger

UNDERGRADUATE STUDENT MENTORSHIP:

2013	Kenneth Holstein
2016	Regis Kearney

UNDERGRAD AND GRADUATE STUDENT TEACHING ASSISTANT SUPERVISION FOR RESEARCH METHODS:

Fall 2014	Eli Talbert, Andrew Esper, Estizer Smith, Ellen Borza, Ryan Young
Fall 2015	Amy Malakoff, Darik O'Neil, Matthew Clista, Leanne Scharr, Maranda Trapolsi, Travis Slopek
Spring 2017	Leighanne Ohlinger, Erin Jarvis, Emily Braham, Kevin Soo, Cory Derringer
Fall 2017	Jamie Amemiya, Ariel Epouhe, Amanda Bressler, Noelle Buchanan, Maria Evankovich, Michelle Holcomb, Geneva Litz, Susie Chen, Jiayuan Ye