

VITA
Woo-kyoung Ahn

August, 2015

Address: Department of Psychology
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Citizenship: Korea (U. S. permanent residency)

Academic degrees:

Ph.D. in Psychology (with minor in Artificial Intelligence), University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign, 1990
M.S. in Psychology, University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign, 1988
B.A. in Psychology, Yonsei University, Seoul, Korea, 1985

Professional Experience:

2003 (Fall) – Current	Professor, Department of Psychology, Yale University
1999 (Fall) – 2003 (Spring)	Associate Professor, Department of Psychology, Vanderbilt University
1996 (Fall) – 1999 (Spring)	Assistant Professor, Department of Psychology, Yale University
1994 (Summer) -1996(Spring)	Assistant Professor, Department of Psychology, University of Louisville
1992 (Winter) - 1994 (Winter)	Instructor, Department of Psychology, University of Michigan
1990 (Spring) - 1991(Fall)	Postdoctoral Research Fellow, Department of Psychology, University of Michigan
1985 - 1989	Research Assistant, Teaching Assistant, University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign

Grant and Awards:

Research Grant (HG007653-01)

Funding Agency: National Institutes of Health

Amount: \$824,175

Period: 08/12/2013 – 08/31/2015

PI: Woo-kyoung Ahn

Title of the project: Understanding/Promoting Mental Health Literacy Based on Biological Explanations

Research Grant (MH57737)

Funding Agency : **National Institutes of Mental Health**

Period: April 2007 – March 2012

PI: Woo-kyoung Ahn

Title of the project: Causal and conceptual knowledge: Implications for Clinical Reasoning

Research Grant (MH57737)

Funding Agency : **National Institutes of Mental Health**

Period: December 2002 – November 2006

PI: Woo-kyoung Ahn

Title of the project: Causal and conceptual knowledge

Research Grant (R01 MH57737)

Funding Agency : **National Institutes of Mental Health**

Period: August, 1998 – July, 2002

PI: Woo-kyoung Ahn

Title of the project: Effect of causal background knowledge on categorization

Research Planning Grant

Funding Agency : **National Science Foundation**

Period: August, 1995 - February, 1997

PI: Woo-kyoung Ahn

Title of the project: Effect of causal knowledge on categorization

Research Experience for Undergraduate (REU) Supplement

Funding Agency : **National Science Foundation**

Period: June, 1997 - August, 1997

PI: Woo-kyoung Ahn

Social Science Research Grant, Yale University, 1996

Cognitive Science / AI Fellowship, University of Illinois, 1987 (Fall) - 1988 (Spring)

Cognitive Science / AI Fellowship, University of Illinois, 1986 (Summer)

Selected as one of **100 outstanding future women leaders** by the alumni association of

Yonsei University in Seoul, Korea (November, 2006). First recipient of the award that was created to celebrate 60 years of co-education at the University.

Elected to **APA Fellow, Division 3** (September, 2007)

Elected to **APS Fellow** (June, 2009)

Teaching Experience

Undergraduate lecture courses: Statistics, Introduction to Cognitive Science, Research Methods, Cognitive Psychology, Psychology of Thinking

Undergraduate seminar: Biases in human reasoning

Graduate seminars: Thinking and Reasoning, Causal Reasoning, Concepts and Categorization, A cognitive science approach to higher level reasoning processes, A cognitive science approach to concept formation

Publications:

Medin, D. L., Ahn, W., Bettger, J., Florian, J., Goldstone, R., Lassaline, M., Markman, A., Rubinstein, J., & Wisniewski, E. (1990). Safe takeoffs - soft landings. *Cognitive Science, 14*, 169-178.

Medin, D. L., & Ahn, W. (1991). Learning of concepts and categories. In L. R. Squire, J. H. Byrne, L. Nadel, H. I. Roediger, D. L. Schacter, & R. F. Thompson (Eds.), *Encyclopedia of learning and memory*. New York: Macmillan.

Ahn, W., & Medin, D. L. (1992). A two-stage model of category construction. *Cognitive Science, 16*, 81-122.

Ahn, W., Brewer, W. F., & Mooney, R. J. (1992). Schema acquisition from a single example. *Journal of Experimental Psychology: Learning, Memory, and Cognition, 18*, 391-412.

Ahn, W., & Brewer, W. F. (1993). Psychological studies of explanation-based learning. In G. DeJong (Ed.), *Investigating explanation-based learning* (pp. 295-316). Boston, MA: Kluwer Academic Publishers.

Ahn, W., & Lassaline, M. E. (1994). Categories and concepts: The next generation [Review of the book *Categories and concepts: Theoretical views and inductive data analysis*]. *Contemporary Psychology, 39*, 521-522.

Ahn, W., & Mooney, R.J. (1995). Biases in Refinement of Prior Probabilistic Causal Knowledge, *Proceedings of the Seventeenth Annual Conference of the Cognitive Science Society* pp. 437-442, Pittsburgh, PA, July.

- Ahn, W., Kalish, C. W., Medin, D. L., & Gelman, S. A. (1995). The role of covariation vs. mechanism information in causal attribution. *Cognition*, *54*, 299-352.
- Ahn, W., & Bailenson, J. (1996). Causal attribution as a search for underlying mechanisms: An explanation of the conjunction fallacy and the discounting principle. *Cognitive Psychology*, *31*, 82-123.
- Ahn, W., & Graham, L. (1996). Analogizing analogies [Review of the book *Mental leaps: Analogy in creative thought*]. *Contemporary Psychology*.
- Ahn, W., & Nosek, B. (1998). Heuristics used in reasoning with multiple causes and effects. *Proceedings of the Twentieth Annual Conference of the Cognitive Science Society*, Lawrence Erlbaum Associates, NJ: Mahwah. 24-29.
- Slovan, S., Love, B., & Ahn, W. (1998). Feature centrality and conceptual coherence. *Cognitive Science*, *22*, 189-228.
- Ahn, W. (1998). Why are different features central for natural kinds and artifacts? The role of causal status in determining feature centrality. *Cognition*, *69*, 135-178.
- Ahn, W. (1999). Effect of Causal Structure on Category Construction. *Memory & Cognition*, *27*, 1008-1023.
- Ahn, W., & Graham, L. M. (1999). The impact of necessity and sufficiency on information choices in the Wason four-card selection task. *Psychological Science*, *10*, 237-242.
- Slovan, S., & Ahn, W. (1999). Feature centrality: Naming versus Imaging. *Memory & Cognition*, *27*, 526-537.
- Ahn, W., & Dennis, M. (2000). Induction of causal chain. *Proceedings of the Twenty-second Annual Conference of the Cognitive Science Society*, Lawrence Erlbaum Associates, NJ: Mahwah.
- Ahn, W., Gelman, S. A., Amsterlaw, J. A., Hohenstein, J., & Kalish, C. W. (2000). Causal status effect in children's categorization. *Cognition*, *76*, B35-B43.
- Ahn, W., & Kalish, C. (2000). The role of covariation vs. mechanism information in causal attribution. In R. Wilson, & F. Keil (Eds.) *Cognition and explanation*, (p. 199-226). Cambridge, MA: MIT Press.
- Ahn, W., & Kim, N. S. (2000). The role of causal status of features in categorization: An overview. In D. L. Medin (Ed.) *Psychology of Learning and Motivation*, *40*, (p. 23-65) New York: Academic Press.

- Ahn, W., Kim, N. S., Lassaline, M. E., & Dennis, M. J. (2000). Causal status as a determinant of feature centrality, *Cognitive Psychology*, *41*, 1-55.
- Ahn, W., & Dennis, M. (2001). Dissociation between categorization and similarity judgment, In M. Ramscar, & U. Hahn (Eds.) *Similarity and categorization* (p. 87-107). New York: Cambridge University Press.
- Ahn, W., Kalish, C., Gelman, S. A., Medin, D. L., Luhmann, C., Atran, S., Coley, J. D., Shafto, P. (2001). Why essences are essential in the psychology of concepts. *Cognition*, *82*, 59-69.
- Dennis, M. J., & Ahn, W. (2001). Primacy effect in causal strength judgments. *Memory & Cognition*, *29*, 152-164.
- Kim, N. & Ahn, W. (2002). Clinical psychologists' theory-based representations of mental disorders predict their diagnostic reasoning and memory. *Journal of Experimental Psychology: General*, *131*, 451-476.
- Ahn, W., Marsh, J., Luhmann, C., & Lee, K (2002). Effect of theory-based feature correlations on typicality judgments. *Memory & Cognition*, *30*, 107-118.
- Kim, N. S., & Ahn, W. (2002). The influence of naïve causal theories on lay concepts of mental illness. *American Journal of Psychology*, *115*, 33-65.
- Luhmann, C. C., Ahn, W., & Palmeri, T. (2002). Theories and similarity: Categorization under speeded condition. *Proceedings of the Twenty-Fourth Annual Conference of the Cognitive Science Society* (pp. 590-595). Mahwah, NJ: Lawrence Erlbaum Associates.
- Ahn, W., Novick, L., & Kim, N. S. (2003). Understanding behavior makes it more normal. *Psychonomic Bulletin and Review*, *10*, 746-752.
- Luhmann, C. C. & Ahn, W. (2003). Evaluating the causal role of unobserved variables. In R. Alterman & D. Kirsh (Eds.), *Proceedings of the 25th Annual Conference of the Cognitive Science Society* (pp. 734-739). Mahwah, New Jersey: Lawrence Erlbaum Associates.
- Marsh, J. K. & Ahn, W. (2003). Interpretation of ambiguous information in causal induction. In R. Alterman & D. Kirsh (Eds.), *Proceedings of the 25th Annual Conference of the Cognitive Science Society* (pp. 775-780). Mahwah, New Jersey: Lawrence Erlbaum Associates.
- Ahn, W., Luhmann, C., & Marsh, J. (2003). Review of "The big book of concepts" by Gregory Murphy. *Acta Psychologica*. *113*, 227-229.
- Ahn, W., & Luhmann, C. C. (2004). Demystifying theory-based categorization. In L. Gershkoff-Stowe & D. Rakison (Eds.) *Building object categories in*

developmental time (pp. 277-300). Mahwah, NJ: Lawrence Erlbaum Associates.

Proctor, C. C. & Ahn, W. (2005). Causes have greater inductive potency than effects. In B. Bara, L. Barsalou & M. Bucciarelli (Eds.), *Proceedings of the 27th Annual Conference of the Cognitive Science Society* (pp. 2541). Mahwah, New Jersey: Lawrence Erlbaum Associates.

Ahn, W., Levin, S., & Marsh, J. K. (2005). Determinants of feature centrality in clinicians' concepts of mental disorders. In B. Bara, L. Barsalou & M. Bucciarelli (Eds.) *Proceedings of the 25th Annual Conference of the Cognitive Science Society* (pp. 67-72). Mahwah, New Jersey: Lawrence Erlbaum Associates.

Luhmann, C. C. & Ahn, W. (2005). The meaning and computation of causal power: A critique of Cheng (1997) and Novick and Cheng (2004). *Psychological Review*, 112, 685-693.

Luhmann, C. C. & Ahn, W. (2005). Postscript: Abandonment of causal power. *Psychological Review*, 112, 692-693.

Ahn, W. & Kim, N. (2005). The effect of causal theories on mental disorder diagnosis. In W. Ahn, R. Goldstone, B. Love, A. Markman, & P. Wolff (Eds.) *Categorization inside and outside the laboratory: Essays in honor of Douglas L. Medin* (pp. 273-288). Washington D.C.: APA.

Ahn, W., Goldstone, R. L., Love, B. C., Markman, A. B., & Wolff, P. (2005). Douglas L. Medin: His Life, and His Intellectual Heritage. In W. Ahn, R. Goldstone, B. Love, A. Markman, & P. Wolff (Eds.) *Categorization inside and outside the laboratory: Essays in honor of Douglas L. Medin* (pp. 3-11). Washington D.C.: APA.

Ahn, W., Goldstone, R. L., Love, B. C., Markman, A. B., Wolff, P. (2005). *Categorization inside and outside the laboratory: Essays in honor of Douglas L. Medin* (pp. 3-11). Washington D.C.: APA publisher.

Ahn, W., Goldstone, R., Markman, A., Wolff, P. Love, B. (2005). *Categorization inside and outside the lab: Essays in honor of Douglas L. Medin*. Washington D.C., APA publisher.

March, J. K., & Ahn, W. (2006). The role of causal status versus inter-feature links in feature weighting. *Proceedings of the 26th Annual Conference of the Cognitive Science Society* (pp. 561-566). Mahwah, New Jersey: Lawrence Erlbaum Associates.

Luhmann, C. C., & Ahn, W. (2006). Modeling the role of unobserved causes in causal learning. *Proceedings of the 26th Annual Conference of the Cognitive Science Society* (pp. 1741-1746). Mahwah, New Jersey: Lawrence Erlbaum Associates.

- Ahn, W., Flanagan, E., Marsh, J. K., & Sanislow, C. (2006). Beliefs about essences and the reality of mental disorders. *Psychological Science*, 17, 759-766.
- Marsh, J. K., & Ahn, W. (2006). Order effects in contingency learning: The role of task complexity. *Memory & Cognition*, 34, 568-576.
- Luhmann, C. C., Ahn, W., & Palmeri, T. (2006). Theory-based categorization under speeded conditions. *Memory & Cognition*, 34, 1102-1111.
- Ahn, W., Marsh, J. K., & Luhmann, C. C. (2007). Dynamic interpretations of covariation data. In A. Gopnik & L. Schulz (Eds.) *Causal Learning: Psychology, Philosophy, and Computation* (Oxford Series in Cognitive Development) (pp. x-xx). New York: Oxford University Press.
- Luhmann, C. C., & Ahn, W. (2007). BUCKLE: A model of unobserved cause learning. *Psychological Review*, 114, 657-677
- Proctor, C. C., & Ahn, W. (2007). The effect of causal knowledge on judgments of the likelihood of unknown features. *Psychonomic Bulletin & Review*, 14, 635-639.
- Ahn, W., & Kim, N. S. (2008). Causal theories of mental disorder concepts. *Psychological Science Agenda*, 22, 3-8.
- Marsh, J. K. & Ahn, W. (2009). Spontaneous assimilation of continuous values and temporal information in causal induction. *Journal of Experimental Psychology: Learning, Memory, and Cognition*, 35, 334-352.
- 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.
- Ahn, W., Proctor, C. C., & Flanagan, E. H. (2009). Mental health clinicians' beliefs about the biological, psychological, and environmental bases of mental disorders. *Cognitive Science*, 33, 147-182.
- 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).
- 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).
- Rottman, B. M., & Ahn, W. (2009). Causal Learning about Tolerance and Sensitization. *Psychonomic Bulletin & Review*, 16, 1043-1049

- 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? *Journal of Clinical Psychiatry*, *72*, 630-639.
- Rottman, B. M., Ahn, W., & Luhmann, C. C. (2011). When and how do people reason about unobserved causes? In P. M. Illari, F. Russo, & J. Williamson (Eds.), *Causality in the Sciences*, Oxford University Press.
- Luhmann, C. C., & Ahn, W. (2011). Expectations and Interpretations During Causal Learning, *Journal of Experimental Psychology: Learning, Memory, and Cognition*. *37*, 568-587.
- Pacer, M., & Ahn, W. (2011). Finding the Cause: Examining the Role of Qualitative Causal Inference through Categorical Judgments, In L. Carlson, C., Hoelscher, & T.F. Shipley (Eds.), *Proceedings of the 33rd Annual Conference of the Cognitive Science Society*. (pp. 1412-1417). Austin, TX: Cognitive Science Society.
- 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, and Cognition*, *37*, 1432-1448.
- Marsh, J. K., & Ahn, W. (2012). Memory for patient information as a function of experience in mental health. *Applied Cognitive Psychology*, *26*, 462-474
- Lebowitz, M., & Ahn, W. (2012). Combining biomedical accounts of mental disorders with treatability information to reduce mental illness stigma. *Psychiatric Services*, *63*, 496-499.
- Taylor, E., & Ahn, W. (2012). Causal imprinting during causal structure learning. *Cognitive Psychology*, *65*, 381-413.
- Lebowitz, M. S., Rosenthal, J. E., & Ahn, W. (2012). Effects of biological versus psychosocial explanations on stigmatization of children with ADHD, *Journal of Attention Disorders*, DOI: 10.1177/1087054712469255
- Ahn, W., Taylor, E.G., Kato, D., Marsh, J, & Bloom, P. (2013). Causal essentialism in kinds, *Quarterly Journal of Experimental Psychology*, *66*, 1113-30.
- Lebowitz, M. S., Ahn, W., & Nolen-Hoekseman, S. (2013). Fixable or fate? Perception of the biology of depression. *Journal of Consulting and Clinical Psychology*, *81*, 518-527.
- Lebowitz, M. S., Pyun, J., & Ahn, W. (2014). Biological Explanations of Generalized Anxiety Disorder: Effects on Beliefs About Prognosis and Responsibility. *Psychiatric Services*, *65*, 498-503 doi: 10.1176/appi.ps.201300011

Lebowitz, M.S., & Ahn, W. (2014). Effects of biological explanations for mental disorders on clinicians' empathy. *Proceedings of the National Academy of Sciences*, *111*, 7786–17790, doi: 10.1073/pnas.1414058111

Johnson, S., & Ahn, W. (2015). Causal networks or causal islands? The representation of mechanisms and the transitivity of causal judgment, *Cognitive Science*, DOI: 10.1111/cogs.12213

Lebowitz, M. S., Ahn, W., & Oltman, K. (2015). Sometimes More Competent, But Always Less Warm: Perceptions of Biologically Oriented Mental-Health Clinicians. *International Journal of Social Psychiatry*, DOI: 10.1177/0020764015573086

Lebowitz, M.S., & Ahn, W. (2015). Emphasizing malleability in the biology of depression: durable effects on perceived agency and prognostic pessimism. *Behaviour Research and Therapy*.

Under Review

Lebowitz, M. S., & Ahn, W. (under review). Using Personification and Agency Reorientation to Reduce Mental-Health Clinicians' Stigmatizing Attitudes Toward Patients. *Social Psychiatry and Psychiatric Epidemiology*

Kim, N. S., Ahn, W., Johnson, S., & Knobe, J. (under review). The Influence of Framing on Clinicians' Judgments of the Biological Basis of Behaviors, *Journal of Experimental Psychology: Applied*

Ahn, W., Kim, N. S., & Lebowitz, M.S. (under review). Role of causal knowledge in reasoning about mental disorders. *Oxford Handbook of Causal Reasoning*.

Lebowitz, M.S., & Ahn, W. (under review). *Genetics in Medicine*.

Press Coverage

December 3, 2014 | Reuters:

[**Biological psychiatric problems garner less empathy**](#)

December 3, 2014 | New England Public Radio:

[**Biological Explanations of Mental Illness Reduce Empathy, Yale Study Finds**](#)

December 3, 2014 | WNPR Connecticut Public Media:

[**Biological Explanations for Mental Health Symptoms Make Clinicians Less Empathetic**](#)

December 1, 2014 | Huffington Post:

[**The Downside Of Treating Mental Illness Like A Physical Problem**](#)

December 1, 2014 | Yale News:

[Yale News: For docs, more biology info means less empathy for mental health patients](#)

Recent Invited Talks:

University of Chicago, Booth School of Business, May, 2013

University of Texas, Austin, McCombs School of Business, April, 2013

University of Illinois Urbana-Champaign, Department of Psychology, April 22, 2011

Harvard University, Department of Psychology, October 20, 2011

Annual Meeting of Psychonomic Society, November 6, 2011

Professional Activities:

Invited speaker for a New Fellows Symposium, Division 3, American Psychological Association Conference, Boston, MA (Aug, 2008)

Member of Cognition and Perception Study Section, NIMH (2005-2009)

Associate editor for *Journal of Experimental Psychology: General* (2003-2007)

On the board of consulting editors for

Cognitive Science, (2002 - 2005)

Journal of Experimental Psychology: General (2002 – 2003, 2007-2012)

Memory & Cognition (1994 – 2004)

Organizer of Festschrift for Dr. Douglas Medin, titled “Categorization inside and outside the lab: Festschrift in honor of Douglas L. Medin” 2003.

Reviewer for the Minority Research Infrastructure Support Program, NIMH, 2001, 2002, 2003

On the review panel for the National Science Foundation, Human Cognition and Perception (2002)

Reviewer for NIH National Research Service Award Institutional Research Training Grants, November, 2001

Organizer for Invited Symposium, titled "Is everyday causal reasoning rational?" at the 41st Annual Meeting of The Psychonomic Society, New Orleans, LA, 2000.

Reviewer for National Science Foundation, Division of Social, Behavioral and Economic Research, grant proposal, 1994, 1995, 2000, 2001

Reviewer for National Science Foundation, Division of Information, Robotics, and Intelligent Systems, grant proposal, 1992

Ad hoc reviewer for *American Journal of Psychology*, *Cognition*, *Cognitive Psychology*, *Cognitive Science*, *Cognitive Development*, *Developmental Psychology*, *Journal of Experimental Psychology: General*, *Journal of Experimental Psychology: Learning, Memory, & Cognition*, *Journal of Experimental Social Psychology*, *Journal of Memory and Language*, *Psychological Bulletin*, *Psychological Review*, *Quarterly Journal of Experimental Psychology*, *Review of General Psychology*, *Social Cognition*, *Trends in Cognitive Science*

University Services

2007 (Fall) – current	Associate Master, Berkeley College, Yale University
2009 (Fall) – 2011 (Spring)	Human Subjects Committee, Yale University
2003 (Fall) – 2010 (Spring)	Director of Undergraduate Studies, Yale University
2006 (Fall) – 2008	Term appointment committee, Yale University
2000 – 2003	Pre-major advisor, Vanderbilt University
2000 (Fall)	Curriculum committee for integrated psychology major for Arts & Science and Peabody College at Vanderbilt University
1999 (Spring)	Director of Undergraduate Studies at Yale University
1995 (Fall) – 1996 (Spring)	Honors Program Director at University of Louisville
1995 (Fall) - 1996 (Spring)	Plans and Policy Committee at University of Louisville
1994 (Fall) - 1996 (Spring)	Colloquium Committee Chair at University of Louisville
1993 (Fall) - 1994 (Spring)	Cognitive Science Committee at the University of Michigan

Supervision and mentoring

Doctoral dissertation	Loranel Graham (Ph.D., 1996, University of Louisville, graduated with the dissertation award) Martin Dennis (Ph.D., 2004, Yale University) Nancy Kim (Ph. D. 2002, Yale University) Christian Luhmann (Ph.D., 2006, Vanderbilt University) Jessecae Marsh (Ph.D., 2008, Yale University) Caroline Proctor (Ph.D. 2008, Yale University) Benjamin Rottman (Ph.D. 2011, Yale University)
Post-doctoral training	Elizabeth Flannagan (2003-2004, Yale University) Eric Taylor (2010-2012, Yale University)