



Izzy Benjamin Gainsburg

Research Scholar

Center on Philanthropy and Civil Society

 Curriculum Vitae available Online

Bio

BIO

I'm a social psychologist and Associate Director of Stanford University's Politics and Social Change Lab (PASCL). There, I help lead the lab's research program, cultivate partnerships with government and civil-society organizations, translate findings for practitioners and the public, and chart PASCL's strategic direction.

My scholarship clusters around three threads:

1. Persuasion and Intervention Design (with a side of Artificial Intelligence) – designing and evaluating persuasive appeals and interventions to promote prosocial behavior and flourishing, and exploring how AI can enhance these efforts.
2. Compassion, Moral Concern, and Altruism – investigating psychological factors that influence compassion, altruistic behavior, and moral concern toward distant or abstract entities such as animals and future generations.
3. Meta-Science and Field-Building – identifying and promoting the highest-impact research questions and interventions, and developing novel methods (including AI-based approaches) to maximize social scientists' positive impact on society.

Before Stanford, I was a postdoctoral fellow at the Harvard Kennedy School and the University of Michigan's Ross School of Business. I received Ph.D. in Social Psychology from Michigan (2020) and my B.A. in Psychology from Tufts University (2011).

Outside the lab, you'll find me spending time with family and friends, playing all the sports, improvising dishes in the kitchen, and doing various nature-y things in nature.

ACADEMIC APPOINTMENTS

- Social Science Research Scholar, Center on Philanthropy and Civil Society