

CATHERINE COLE THOMAS  
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EDUCATION

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<b>Ph.D.</b> , Social Psychology, Stanford University Secondary emphasis in Statistics	2022 (expected)
<b>M.Sc.</b> , Global Mental Health, University of London	2014
<b>B.A.</b> , Sociocultural Anthropology, Yale University Distinction in Anthropology, <i>cum laude</i>	2012

RESEARCH INTERESTS

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*Keywords:* Culture, Wise Interventions, Poverty & Inequality, Behavioral Science and Social Policy, Narratives, Prejudice, Field Experiments

*Proposed dissertation:* “Advancing Dignity in Aid Through Narratives of Agency: Evidence From the US, Kenya, and Niger”

*Committee:* Hazel Rose Markus, Ph.D. (advisor), Greg Walton, Ph.D. (advisor), Claude Steele, Ph.D., Geoff Cohen, Ph.D.

AWARDS & FELLOWSHIPS

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Stanford Interdisciplinary Graduate Fellowship, \$143,740 <i>Competitive university-wide, three-year fellowship awarded to 32 Stanford doctoral students pursuing innovative interdisciplinary research</i>	2019 – 2022
Horowitz Foundation for Social Policy Dissertation Prize, \$7,500 <i>International award to 25 early social science scholars advancing urgent policy research</i> John L. Stanley Award for History and Ethics, \$1,500	2021 – 2022
P.E.O Scholar Award, \$20,000 <i>Scholarship for academic excellence by women doctoral students in the U.S. and Canada</i>	2021 – 2022

GRANTS

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Robert Wood Johnson Foundation (co-lead PI), \$684,195 <i>“Updating the American Dream”</i>	2022 – 2023
Anonymous donor (co-lead PI), \$200,400 <i>“Agenda Setting and Piloting on the Social Psychology of Barriers to Agency in Low-Income Countries”</i>	2016 – 2020
Berkeley Center for Effective Global Action (co-PI), \$10,000 <i>“Poverty as a threat to adaptive adequacy: A test of an experimental intervention to enhance dignity and psychosocial, health, and economic outcomes of the poor”</i>	2020
Economic Security Project (lead PI), \$14,800	2020

“Effects of COVID-19 and CARES Act on views of basic income policy and recipients”  
Stanford King Center on Global Development (lead PI), \$3,800 2019

“‘Personal Initiative’ versus ‘Interpersonal Initiative’: Testing the psychological, social, and economic effects of two models of women’s agency in Niger”  
Economic Security Project (lead PI), \$10,000 2017

“Investigating the Framing Effects of Basic Income Programs on Public Support, Stigma, and Behavior”

## PUBLICATIONS

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- [1] **Thomas, C.C.\***, Otis, N.G.\*, Abraham, J.R., Markus, H.R., & Walton, G.M. (2020). Towards a science of delivering dignity in aid: Experimental evidence and forecasts from Kenya. *Proceedings of the National Academy of Sciences*, 117(27), 15546-15553. <https://doi.org/10.1073/pnas.1917046117>
- [2] Esopo, K., Mellow, D., **Thomas, C.**, Uckat, H., Abraham, J., Jain, P., Jang, C., Otis, N., Riis-Vestergaard, M., Starcev, A., Orkin, K., Haushofer, J. (2017). Measuring Self-Efficacy, Executive Function, and Temporal Discounting in Kenya. *Behaviour Research and Therapy*, 101, 30-45. <https://doi.org/10.1016/j.brat.2017.10.002>
- [3] **Thomas, C.**, Rathod, S., De Silva, M., Weiss, H., & Patel, V. (2016). The 12-item WHO Disability Assessment Schedule II as an outcome measure for treatment of common mental disorders. *Global Mental Health*, 3(e14). <https://doi.org/10.1017/gmh.2016.7>

## Manuscripts under review and in preparation

Bossuroy, T., Goldstein, M., Karlan, D., Kazianga, H., Parienté, W., Premand, P., **Thomas, C. C.**, Udry, C., Vaillant, J., & Wright, K. Tackling Psychosocial and Capital Constraints Opens Pathways out of Poverty. Provisionally accepted, *Nature*. (Note: alphabetical author order)

**Thomas, C. C.**, & Markus, H.R. Enculturating development science: Beyond the WEIRD independent paradigm. In revision, *Journal of Cross-Cultural Psychology*.

**Thomas, C. C.**, Walton, G. M., Reinhart, E., & Markus, H. R. Values-aligned policy communications of universal basic income mitigate welfare-related prejudice and partisanship. In prep. [Preprint](#). In revision, *Journal of Experimental Social Psychology*.

Markus, H. \*, **Thomas, C. \***, Schwalbe, M. \*, Garcia, M., & Cohen, G. Inequality in coping and loss: Mostly surviving, some thriving in the COVID-19 crisis. In press, *Stanford Pathways Magazine*.

**Thomas, C. C.**, Soumaila, A. S., Markus, H. R., Bossuroy, T., Premand, P., & Walton, G. M. Solidarity breeds prosperity? Comparing independent versus interdependent initiative interventions on women’s economic development in Niger. In prep.

Ghai, S., **Thomas, C. C.**, & Markus, H. R. Dignity as accountability for social inclusion and positive intergroup relations. In prep.

## SELECTED ONGOING PROJECTS

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### American Voices Project

*Co-author, with Hazel Markus, Geoff Cohen, Michael Schwalbe, David Grusky, Kathryn Edin*

Flagship project of the Stanford Center on Poverty and Inequality; nationally representative, mixed methods study of the experiences of over 3,000 low- and middle-income Americans between 2019 and 2021

Attitudes towards cash-based safety net policies in the U.S. across the COVID-19 pandemic

*Lead author, with Hazel Markus and Greg Walton*

A longitudinal study and experiment of approximately 2,400 Americans assessing changes in attitudes towards universal basic income (UBI), UBI recipients, and the role of government assistance in five survey waves between 2020 - 2021

‘Education as legacy’ intervention to advance girls’ education in Northern Nigeria

*Co-author, with Ayo Dada, Greg Walton, and Carol Dweck*

A social psychological experiment with 600 parents in Abuja, Nigeria, testing the effects of an ‘education as legacy’ intervention on parent investment in girls’ education

## OTHER PUBLICATIONS

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### **Policy Reports**

1. Bossuroy, T., Goldstein, M., Karlan, D., Kazianga, H., Parienté, W., Premand, P., **Thomas, C.**, Udry, C., Vaillant, J., Wright, K. (2021). *Pathways out of Extreme Poverty: Tackling psychosocial and capital constraints with a multi-faceted social protection program in Niger* (Policy Research Working Paper No. 9562). World Bank, Washington D.C. [Link](#).
2. Bidadanure, J., Kline, S., Moore, C., Rainwater, B., & **Thomas, C.** (2018). *Basic Income in Cities: A guide to city experiments and pilot projects*. Prepared by the Stanford Basic Income Lab and the National League of Cities, Washington, D.C. [Link](#).

### **Popular Press**

**Thomas, C.**, Kalkstein, D., & Walton, G. (2020, June 17). [How the Coronavirus Crisis Is Opening the Door to Universal Social Policies in the U.S.](#) *Time*.

**Thomas, C.**, & Haushofer, J. (2015, April 21). [The Relationship Between Depression and Poverty.](#) *Foreign Affairs*.

Haushofer, J. & **Thomas, C.** (2015, April 23). [Cash: a simple remedy for domestic violence?](#) International Growth Centre: Ideas for Growth Blog.

Haushofer, J., Shapiro, J., & **Thomas, C.** (2015, January 28). [Does Money Buy Happiness? A new answer to an old question.](#) Society for Personality and Social Psychology: Character and Context Blog.

## SELECTED MEDIA COVERAGE

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Anthes, E. (2020, September 10). The great experiment. *The Washington Post*.

Beyer, R. (2020, July 27). A cultural approach to development. *Stanford King Center on Global Development*.

Crawford, K. (2020, June 25). 'Poverty alleviation' and 'needy?' Why words can do more harm than good when offering help, Stanford study finds. *Stanford Report*.

Regan, S. (2020, June 4). Social psychology PhD student shares research on universal basic income. *Stanford Daily News*.

## SELECTED PRESENTATIONS & POSTERS

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### Invited talks and panels

1. Leveraging agentic narratives of aid to disrupt cycles of inequality. Social Psychology Area Lunch Series, University of Virginia. 2021.
2. Values-based appeal of universal basic income reduces partisanship and stereotyping. Brauer Lab, University of Wisconsin – Madison. 2021.
3. International perspective in basic income messaging. Basic Income Research and Action Labs Seminar. 2021. Panel.
4. Culturally resonant basic income framings increase policy support and recipient dignity. What's in a Name? Practitioner's Workshop, Stanford, CA. 2020.
5. The Politics of Basic Income. New Directions in Basic Income Research Workshop. University of Michigan. 2018. Panel.

### Chaired symposia

**Thomas, C.** & Stephens, N. (February, 2021). *Capitalism and Interdependence: Strange bedfellows or oil and water?* Society for Personality and Social Psychology Annual Convention.

### Conference presentations

Thomas, C., Walton, G., Sambo, S. A., Premand, P., Bossuroy, T., & Markus, H. R. (2021, March). *Solidarity breeds prosperity? Comparing independent versus interdependent initiative interventions on women's economic development in Niger*. CEAGA Psychology & Economics of Poverty Convening 2021, University of California, Berkeley. [Presentation](#).

Thomas, C., Walton, G., Sambo, S. A., Premand, P., Bossuroy, T., & Markus, H. R. (2021, February). *Leveraging interdependence to advance economic development in West Africa*. Society for Personality and Social Psychology Annual Convention. Symposium Presentation.

Sobowale, K., Thomas, C., Forget, E., & Harper, A. (2019, May). *A Basic Income: Promises and Pitfalls for People with a Psychiatric Disability*. Panel presented at the 2019 Annual Meeting of

the American Psychiatric Association, San Francisco, CA.

Thomas, C., Reinhart, E., Markus, H., & Walton, G. (2019, February). *Is Freedom the Way to a Conservative Heart? Moral Reframing of Universal Basic Income Increases Conservatives' Support and Reduces Stereotypic Thinking*. Society for Personality and Social Psychology Annual Convention, Portland, OR. Data Blitz Presentation (one of 36 selected out of 2,100 submissions).

Thomas, C. (2018, February). *The Meaning of Money Matters: Effects of Cash Transfer Framings on Recipient Agency in Kenya*. The Psychology of Inequality and Social Class Preconference at the Society for Personality and Social Psychology Annual Convention, Atlanta, GA. Presentation.

Thomas, C. \*, Otis, N. \*, Abraham, J., Walton, G., & Markus, H. (2018, February). *Culturally Relevant Construals of Cash Transfers Affect Recipient Agency: Evidence from Kenya*. Society for Personality and Social Psychology Annual Convention, Atlanta, GA. Poster (**Winner, Intervention Science Pre-Conference**).

Thomas, C. (2017, June). *Universal Basic Income: The Meaning of Money Matters*. Presentation at the Society for the Psychological Study of Social Issues 2017 Conference, Albuquerque, NM. Presentation.

## TEACHING EXPERIENCE

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### **Guest lecturer**

1. PSYCH 75: Introduction to Cultural Psychology (200 students)
2. PUBLPOL1: Introduction to Public Policy (100 students)

### **Graduate Teaching Assistant**

1. PSYCH 75: Introduction to Cultural Psychology with Professor Hazel Markus  
*Led weekly section of 23 students*
2. PSYCH 238: Wise Interventions with Professor Greg Walton  
*Led weekly section of 14 students*
3. PSYCH 70/SOC 2: Self & Society: Introduction to Social Psychology with Professors Alia Crum and Robb Willer
4. PSYCH 251: Experimental Methods with Professor Michael Frank (core course)  
*Co-taught class lecture on Ethics, led weekly support sessions*
5. PSYCH 252: Statistical Methods with Professor Tobi Gerstenberg (core course)  
*Led 1-2 support sections per week*

## AFFILIATIONS & PROFESSIONAL SERVICE

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**Ad-hoc journal reviewer:** *Proceedings of the National Academy of Sciences, JAMA Psychiatry, Journal of Experimental Social Psychology*

## Professional service

The Agency Fund, Advisor

Diversity Committee and Service, Stanford Psychology

*Volunteer for Paths to PhD, anti-racism book club, sub-committee on diversity in curricula*

Graduate Program Committee, Stanford Psychology (2020 – 2021)

Open Science Committee, Stanford Psychology (2018 – 2020)

*Co-led creation of the departmental open science guide*

## Affiliations

Stanford SPARQ, Graduate Student Affiliate

*Co-organized SPARQshop with practitioners and researchers on basic income research*

CEGA's Psychology and Economics of Poverty Initiative, member

Stanford Center on Poverty & Inequality, Graduate Research Fellow

Stanford Basic Income Lab, Graduate Fellow (2018)

*Co-wrote toolkit on basic income experiments, presented to California legislators*

Stanford Center for Ethics in Society, Graduate Fellow (2018 – 2019)

## QUANTITATIVE TRAINING

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PSYCH 252: Statistical Methods for Behavioral and Social Sciences

PSYCH 254: Lab in Experimental Methods

STATS 209: Statistical Methods for Group Comparisons and Causal Inference

STATS 196A: Multilevel Modeling Using R

MS&E 226: Fundamentals of Data Science: Prediction, Inference, Causality

SOC 302: Introduction to Data Science

EDUC 430A: Experimental Research Design and Analysis

PSYCH 290: Natural Language Processing & Text-based Machine Learning in the Social Sciences

## WORK EXPERIENCE

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Consultant, World Bank, Sahel Adaptive Safety Net Program, Niger 2017 – 2019

Research Specialist, Department of Psychology, Princeton University 2014 – 2016  
Busara Center for Behavioral Economics, Nairobi, Kenya  
PI: Johannes Haushofer

Mental Health Counselor, Third Way Center, Denver, CO 2013

Capacity Building Fellow in Microfinance, Project Muso, Boston, MA 2012 – 2013

## FIELD EXPERIENCE

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Niger, Sahel Adaptive Safety Net Program of the Government of Niger with the World Bank, project period 2017-2019

United States (Mississippi Delta, Southern and Northern California, Midwest), American Voices Project, project period 2018-2021

Kenya (Nairobi, Western Province), Busara Center for Behavioral Economics and Princeton University, project periods 2014-2016, 2017

India (Gujarat, Maharashtra), Independent research and volunteer, 2010 summer

Togo (Lomé), Femme de Demain, 2008 summer

## PROFESSIONAL SKILLS

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Skills: R, field experiments, lab experiments, behavioral design, sociocultural analysis, partnerships, research with hard-to-reach populations, causal inference, linear mixed models, reproducible research & open science, data visualization, machine learning, text analysis

Languages: French (intermediate)

## REFERENCES

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1. Hazel Rose Markus, Davis-Brack Professor in the Behavioral Sciences, Stanford University, Department of Psychology, hmarkus@stanford.edu
2. Gregory Walton, Associate Professor of Psychology and The Michael Forman University Fellow in Undergraduate Education, Stanford University, Department of Psychology, gwalton@stanford.edu
3. Carol Dweck, Lewis & Virginia Eaton Professor of Psychology, Stanford University, Department of Psychology, dweck@stanford.edu