

# JOSEPH S. MERNYK

mernyk@stanford.edu

## EDUCATION

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**Stanford University** *September 2022 – Present*

- PhD Student, Sociology

**University of Pittsburgh** *Fall 2015 – Spring 2019*

- B.S. (with honors) Psychology, Related Area: Computer Science
- **Cumulative GPA: 3.85/4.0 | Psychology (Major) GPA: 3.9/4.0**
- Dean's List, Summa Cum Laude

## SELECTED WORKS

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### *Publications*

Voelkel, J. G., **Mernyk, J. S.**, & Willer, R. In Press. "[Navigating the Progressive Paradox: The Effects of Moral Reframing on Support for Economically Progressive Candidates.](#)" *PNAS Nexus*.

Druckman, J., Kang, S., Chu, J., Stagnaro, M. N., Voelkel, J. G., **Mernyk, J. S.**, Pink, S. L., Redekopp, C., Rand, D., Willer, R. In Press. "[Correcting Misperceptions of Out-partisans Decreases American Legislators' Support for Undemocratic Practices.](#)" *Proceedings of the National Academy of Sciences*.

Pink, S. L., Stagnaro, M., Chu, J., **Mernyk, J. S.**, Voelkel, J. G., & Willer, R. 2023. "[Using Short Messages to Encourage COVID-19 Prevention Behaviors.](#)" *PLOS ONE*.

Voelkel, J. G., Chu, J., Stagnaro, M., **Mernyk, J. S.**, Redekopp, C., Pink, S. L., Druckman, J., Rand, D. G., Willer, R. 2022. "[Interventions Reducing Affective Polarization Do Not Improve Anti-Democratic Attitudes.](#)" *Nature Human Behaviour*.

**Mernyk, J. S.**<sup>1</sup>, Pink, S. L.<sup>1</sup>, Druckman, J., & Willer, R. 2022. "[Correcting Inaccurate Metaperceptions Reduces Americans' Support for Partisan Violence.](#)" *Proceedings of the National Academy of Sciences*.

### *Under Review*

Voelkel, J. G., Chu, J., Stagnaro, M., Pink, S. L., **Mernyk, J. S.**, ... Willer, R. "[Megastudy identifying successful interventions to strengthen Americans' democratic attitudes.](#)" *Under review at Science*.

### *Popular Writing*

**Joseph Mernyk**, Sophia Pink, and Robb Willer. Nov. 1, 2022. "[How can the U.S. help prevent more political violence?](#)" *The Washington Post*.

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<sup>1</sup> Authors contributed equally to this work. Author order was decided randomly.

## PRESENTATIONS

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Joseph Mernyk<sup>1</sup> and Sophia Pink<sup>1</sup>. *Correcting Inaccurate Metaperceptions Reduces Americans' Support for Partisan Violence*. Novel Psychological Tools for Reducing Political Animosity and Building Consensus Symposium. Society for Personality and Social Psychology Annual Meeting. San Francisco, CA. February, 2022.

*The Role of Partisan Identity in Political Participation*. University of Pittsburgh, Annual Undergraduate Poster Session. Pittsburgh, PA. April, 2019.

## HONORS AND AWARDS

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<b>Stanford Center for Philanthropy and Civil Society PhD Fellowship</b>	September 2023
<b>Barbara and Sandy Dornbusch Award for Contribution to the Understanding or Solution of a Social Problem</b>	June 2023
<b>Stanford Impact Labs PhD Fellowship</b>	June 2023
<b>THINK Fellowship</b>	January 2019
<b>Curiosity Grant</b>	August 2018
<b>Devito-Lipner Family Student Fund</b>	June 2018

## RESEARCH EXPERIENCE

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### *Stanford University*

**Polarization and Social Change Lab** August 2019 - May 2022

PI: Professor Robb Willer | *Research Coordinator, Lab Manager*

- Created datasets, data visualizations, and reproducible code for co-authored projects, developed and conducted individual research, served as liaison with numerous non-profits focused on polling, field experiments and fieldwork, regularly communicated and negotiated with online panel providers.
- Assisted and collaborated with faculty, graduate students, post-doctoral scholars to manage and design numerous research projects.
- Recruited, trained, and managed a team of 5-7 undergraduate research assistants.
- Member of Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion Committee, Stanford Center on Philanthropy and Civil Society.

### *University of Pittsburgh*

**Text Lab** November 2018 - July 2019

PI: Professor Michael Colaresi | *Undergraduate Research Assistant*

- Wrote web-scraping scripts to download and catalog updates and publications from international human rights organizations to use as machine learning training data.

**Diversity and Equity Lab** January 2018 - April 2019

PI: Professor Kevin Binning | *Undergraduate Research Assistant*

- Developed research questions, collected and analyzed data, and wrote up results in a journal article style paper for undergraduate honors thesis.

**Social-Health and Affective Neuroscience Lab** January 2016 - December 2017

PI: Professor Tristen Inagaki | *Undergraduate Research Assistant*

**PROFESSIONAL EXPERIENCE**

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**Grow Progress  
Consultant**

December 2021 - February 2022

- Designed and deployed training and evaluation materials to teach MTurk users how to identify moral values in persuasive messages, assembled a qualified panel of annotators, designed and deployed annotation task of over 1000 short persuasive messages ensuring 3 independent annotators rated each message, analyzed inter-rater reliability and created executive summary of results.

**COMMUNITY SERVICE**

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**AmeriCorps**

August 2014 – June 2015

**City Year Corps Member, Milwaukee, WI**

- Served as a full-time tutor and mentor in an under-served school, completing over 1700 hours of service. Member of Data and Evaluation team responsible for tracking progress toward dosage and efficacy goals of City Year teams at 9 public schools in Milwaukee.

**RELEVANT SKILLS**

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**Languages** – English *Native Speaker* | Spanish *Intermediate*

**Programming languages and applications** – Java, Python, HTML, CSS, JavaScript, PHP, SQL, R, SPSS *Intermediate* | Microsoft Office *Advanced* | Qualtrics Survey Software *Advanced*

**Operating Systems:** Microsoft Windows *Advanced* | Apple OS X *Advanced*