

CATHERINE COLE THOMAS

Department of Psychology, Stanford University
ccthomas@stanford.edu, +1 601-750-1960

POSITIONS

Postdoctoral Scholar, Psychology, Stanford University 2022 – 2023

EDUCATION

Ph.D., Social Psychology, Stanford University 2022
Dissertation title: *Can psychologically and culturally wise narratives of aid better interrupt cycles of poverty and prejudice? Evidence from Kenya, Niger, and the US*
Advisors: Hazel Markus, Gregory Walton

M.Sc., Global Mental Health, University of London 2014

B.A., Sociocultural Anthropology, Yale University 2012
Distinction in Anthropology, *cum laude*

RESEARCH INTERESTS

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

AWARDS & FELLOWSHIPS

Stanford Interdisciplinary Graduate Fellowship, \$143,740 2019 – 2022
Competitive university-wide, three-year fellowship awarded to 32 Stanford doctoral students pursuing innovative interdisciplinary research

Horowitz Foundation for Social Policy Dissertation Prize, \$7,500 2021 – 2022
International award to 25 early social science scholars advancing urgent policy research
John L. Stanley Award for History and Ethics, \$1,500

P.E.O Scholar Award, \$20,000 2021 – 2022
Scholarship for academic excellence by women doctoral students in the U.S. and Canada

PUBLICATIONS

[1] Bossuroy, T., Goldstein, M., Karlan, D., Kazianga, H., Parienté, W., Premand, P., **Thomas, C. C.**, Udry, C., Vaillant, J., & Wright, K. (2022). Tackling Psychosocial and Capital Constraints Opens Pathways out of Poverty. *Nature*, 605(7909), 291-297. <https://doi.org/10.1038/s41586-022-04647-8>¹

¹ Alphabetical author order

[2] **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>

[3] 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>

[4] **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 in press, under review, and in preparation

Thomas, C. C., & Markus, H.R. Enculturating development science: Beyond the WEIRD independent paradigm. In press, *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 press, *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., Bossuoy, T., Premand, P., & Walton, G. M. Solidarity breeds prosperity? Comparing independent versus interdependent initiative interventions on women's economic development in Niger. In prep.

GRANTS

Berkeley Center for Effective Global Action (co-lead PI), \$8,500	2022 – 2023
Stanford King Center on Global Development (co-lead PI), \$4,000	2022 – 2023
Robert Wood Johnson Foundation (co-lead PI), \$684,195	2022 – 2023
“Updating the American Dream”	
Anonymous donor (co-lead PI), \$200,400	2016 – 2020
“Agenda Setting and Piloting on the Social Psychology of Barriers to Agency in Low-Income Countries”	
Berkeley Center for Effective Global Action (co-PI), \$10,000	2020
“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”	
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”

SELECTED ONGOING PROJECTS

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 2,700 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

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

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

Invited talks and panels

1. Shifting Social Norms through Social Protection Programs: Deep Dive into the experience in Niger, World Bank, Social Protection and Jobs. 2022. Presentation and Panel.
2. Aspirations, Stigma, and Related Research. Psychology and Economics of Poverty Convening 2022, University of California, Berkeley. 2022. Panel Moderator. [Link](#).
3. Leveraging agentic narratives of aid to disrupt cycles of inequality. Social Psychology Area Lunch Series, University of Virginia. 2021. Presentation.
4. Values-based appeal of universal basic income reduces partisanship and stereotyping. Brauer Lab, University of Wisconsin – Madison. 2021. Presentation.
5. International perspective in basic income messaging. Basic Income Research and Action Labs Seminar. 2021. Panel.
6. Culturally resonant basic income framings increase policy support and recipient dignity. What's in a Name? Practitioner's Workshop, Stanford, CA. 2020. Presentation.
7. The Politics of Basic Income. New Directions in Basic Income Research Workshop. University of Michigan. 2018. Panel.

Chaired symposia

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

Conference presentations

Thomas, C. C., Sambo, S. A., Premand, P., Bossuroy, T., Markus, H. R., & Walton, G. M. (2022, February). *Solidarity breeds prosperity? Comparing independent versus interdependent initiative interventions on women's economic development in Niger*. Advances in Cultural Psychology Pre-Conference at the Society for Personality and Social Psychology 2022 Annual Convention, San Francisco, CA. Presentation (**Winner of Data Blitz Award**).

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

Thomas, C., Sambo, S. A., Premand, P., Bossuroy, T., Markus, H. R., & Walton, G. (2021, February). *Leveraging interdependence to advance economic development in West Africa*. Society for Personality and Social Psychology 2021 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 2019 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 2018 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*. Intervention Science Pre-Conference at the Society for Personality and Social Psychology 2018 Annual Convention, Atlanta, GA. Poster (**Winner of Poster Session**).

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

Guest lecturer

1. PSYCH 75: Introduction to Cultural Psychology (200 students), Winter 2020
2. PUBLPOL1: Introduction to Public Policy (100 students), Fall 2021 and Fall 2022

Graduate Teaching Assistant

1. PSYCH 75: Introduction to Cultural Psychology with Professor Hazel Markus, Winter 2020
Co-taught class lecture, led weekly section of 23 students
2. PSYCH 138/238: Wise Interventions with Professor Greg Walton, Winter 2019
Led weekly section of 14 students
3. PSYCH 70/SOC 2: Self & Society: Introduction to Social Psychology with Professors Alia Crum and Robb Willer, Spring 2018
4. PSYCH 251: Experimental Methods with Professor Michael Frank (core course), Fall 2017
Co-taught class lecture on Ethics, led weekly support sessions
5. PSYCH 252: Statistical Methods with Professor Tobi Gerstenberg (core course), Winter 2021
Led 1-2 support sections per week

AFFILIATIONS & PROFESSIONAL SERVICE

Ad-hoc journal reviewer: *Proceedings of the National Academy of Sciences, Journal of Personality and Social Psychology, JAMA Psychiatry, Journal of Experimental Social Psychology, Economic Development and Cultural Change*

Professional service

SPSP Intervention Science Pre-Conference, Co-Organizer (2022 - present)

The Agency Fund, Advisor (2021 - present)

Diversity Committee and Service, Stanford Psychology (2021 - present)

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 (2016-2022)

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 (2018-2022)

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

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

Consultant, World Bank, Sahel Adaptive Safety Net Program, Niger	2017 – 2019
Research Specialist, Department of Psychology, Princeton University Busara Center for Behavioral Economics, Nairobi, Kenya PI: Johannes Haushofer	2014 – 2016
Mental Health Counselor, Third Way Center, Denver, CO	2013
Capacity Building Fellow in Microfinance, Project Muso, Boston, MA	2012 – 2013

FIELD EXPERIENCE

Philippines (Western Visayas), project period 2022-2023
India (Bihar), project period 2022-2023
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

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)