

**Steven B. Most**  
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Department of Psychology \* 108 Wolf Hall \* University of Delaware \* Newark, DE 19716-2577

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## Education

Ph.D. Harvard University, Cambridge, MA. Degree in psychology received in Spring, 2002.  
Dissertation Advisor: Daniel J. Simons  
Dissertation Topic: *Sustained inattentive blindness: What you see is what you set*

B.A. Brandeis University, Waltham, MA. Degree received Spring, 1994.  
Major: psychology; Minor: creative writing

## Appointments

Assistant Professor, Department of Psychology, University of Delaware, Newark, DE, 2006-present  
NIH Post-doctoral Research Fellow, Yale University, New Haven, CT, 2003-2006

Post-doctoral Advisor: Marvin M. Chun

Post-doctoral Research Fellow, Vanderbilt University, Nashville, TN, 2002-2003

Post-doctoral Advisor: Marvin M. Chun

## Fellowships and Academic Awards

### *Research fellowships and awards*

James McKeen Cattell Dissertation Award, New York Academy of Sciences, 2003

Center for Integrative & Cognitive Neuroscience post-doctoral fellowship, Vanderbilt University, 2002-2003

Eliot Dissertation Completion Fellowship, Harvard University, 2001-2002

Children's Studies Mentoring Award, Harvard University, Summer 1998

Elsie Hopestill Stimson Award, Harvard University, 1997

### *Teaching awards*

Twice nominated for Excellence in Teaching Award, University of Delaware, 2007, 2008

Derek Bok Teaching Award, Harvard University, Spring 2000

Derek Bok Teaching Award, Harvard University, Fall 1999

### *Travel awards*

Symposium on Cognitive Development, Carnegie Mellon University, 1998

## Research Grants

UD Research Foundation, "Using fMRI to investigate neural mechanisms of cognition-emotion interactions",  
2007-2009 (\$25,000). PI: Most.

NIMH/National Research Service Postdoctoral Award, "Attentional guidance by emotional salience",  
#F32MH66572, 2003-2006 (\$125,472). PI: Most.

NIMH. R01 MH074567. "The amygdala: Emotional modulation of attention". 2007-2012. PI: Zald, Consultant:  
Most.

## Teaching Experience

### *Course Instructor*

Fall 2006, Fall 2007, Fall 2008; Honors General Psychology, University of Delaware

### *Course Instructor*

Spring 2007; Cognition, Emotion, & Individual Differences, University of Delaware

### *Course Instructor*

Spring 2001; Becoming Who We Are: Issues in Social Development, Harvard University

### *Sophomore Tutor*

Fall 2000; Departmental Tutorial in Psychology, Harvard University

### *Head Teaching Fellow*

Spring 2000; Introduction to Psychology, Harvard University

### *Head Teaching Fellow*

Fall 1999; Introduction to Psychology, Harvard University

### *Teaching Fellow*

Spring 1999; Human Behavior & the Developing Brain, Harvard University

### *Teaching Fellow*

Fall 1998; Introduction to Psychology, Harvard University

## **Advising**

*Dissertation Committee Member.* Department of Psychology, University of Delaware

*Tracey Ko (expected Spring 2009); Erin Lewis (expected Spring 2009); Judith Morgan (expected Spring 2009); Jason Moser (expected Spring 2009); Jordan Cummings (expected Spring 2009)*

*Undergraduate Honors Thesis Advisor.* Department of Psychology, University of Delaware

*Hyun-Young Park (expected Spring 2009)*

*Undergraduate Honors Thesis Committee Member.* Department of Psychology, University of Delaware

*Mandy Skoranski (expected Spring 2009); Jenna Dietz (Spring 2008)*

*Undergraduate Research Supervisor.* Department of Psychology, University of Delaware

*Jen Buhler (Fall 2007); Aimee Burget (Spring 2007); John Dressler (Spring 2007);*

*Dustin Engelhardt (Spring 2007, Fall 2007, Spring 2008, Fall 2008); Frank Gonzalez (Fall 2008);*

*Nicole Hart (Fall 2008); Amy Lorenz (Fall 2008); Hyun-Young Park (Spring 2008, Fall 2008);*

*Julie Pearlmutter (Fall 2007); Aimee Stahl (Spring 2007); Nicole Tomlinson (Spring 2007, Spring 2008)*

*Resident Tutor,* Dunster House, Harvard University, Summer 1999 – Spring 2002

*Concentration Advisor,* Department of Psychology, Harvard University, Fall 1999 – Spring 2002

*Senior Thesis Reader,* Department of Psychology, Harvard University, Summer 1999 – Spring 2002

*Non-Resident Tutor,* Cabot House, Harvard University, Fall 1998-Spring 1999

## **Publications**

### ***Published and In Press***

Most, S.B., & Jungé, J.A. (2008). Don't look back: Retroactive, dynamic costs and benefits of emotional capture. *Visual Cognition*, 16, 262-278.

Most, S.B., Smith, S.D., Cooter, A.B., Levy, B.N., & Zald, D.H. (2007). The naked truth: Positive, arousing distractors impair rapid target detection. *Cognition & Emotion*, 21, 964-981.

Izard, C.E., Quinn, P.C., & Most, S.B. (2007). Many ways to awareness: A developmental perspective on cognitive access. [Commentary] *Behavioral & Brain Sciences*, 30, 506-507.

Most, S.B., Sorber, A.V., & Cunningham, J.G. (2007). Auditory Stroop reveals automatic gender associations in adults and children. *Journal of Experimental Social Psychology*, 43, 287-294.

Most, S.B. & Astur, R.S. (2007). Feature-based attentional set as a cause of traffic accidents. *Visual Cognition*, 15, 125-132.

Most, S.B., Chun, M.M., Johnson, M.R., & Kiehl, K.A. (2006). Attentional modulation of the amygdala varies with personality. *NeuroImage*, 31, 934-944.

Smith, S.D., Most, S.B., Newsome, L.A., & Zald, D.H. (2006). An "emotional blink" of attention elicited by aversively conditioned stimuli. *Emotion*, 6, 523-527.

Most, S.B., Chun, M.M., Widders, D.M., & Zald, D.H. (2005). Attentional rubbernecking: Cognitive control and personality in emotion-induced blindness. *Psychonomic Bulletin & Review*, 12, 654-661.

Gray, J.R., Schaefer, A., Braver, T.S., & Most, S.B. (2005). Affect and the resolution of cognitive control dilemmas. In L. Feldman Barrett, P. Niedenthal, & P. Winkielman (Eds.), *Emotion and Consciousness* (pp. 67-94). New York: Guilford Press.

Most, S.B., Scholl, B.J., Clifford, E., & Simons, D.J. (2005). What you see is what you set: Sustained inattentive blindness and the capture of awareness. *Psychological Review*, 112, 217-242.

Most, S.B., Simons, D.J., Scholl, B.J., Jimenez, R., Clifford, E., & Chabris, C.F. (2001). How not to be seen: The contribution of similarity and selective ignoring to sustained inattentive blindness. *Psychological Science*, 12, 9-17.

Most, S.B. & Simons, D.J. (2001). Attention capture, orienting, and awareness. In C. Folk & B. Gibson (Eds), *Attraction, distraction and action: Multiple perspectives on attentional capture* (pp. 151-173). Amsterdam: Elsevier.

Most, S.B., Simons, D.J., Scholl, B.J., & Chabris, C.F. (2000). Sustained inattentive blindness: The role of location in the detection of unexpected dynamic events. *Psyche*, 6(14). URL: <http://psyche.cs.monash.edu.au/v6/psyche-6-14-most.html>

### ***In Progress***

Most, S.B. (accepted). Emotional influences on perception. In E.B. Goldstein (Ed), *The Sage Encyclopedia of Perception*. Thousand Oaks, CA: Sage Publications, Inc.

Most, S.B. (accepted). Attention and emotion. In E.B. Goldstein (Ed), *The Sage Encyclopedia of Perception*. Thousand Oaks, CA: Sage Publications, Inc.

Most, S.B. & Laurenceau, J.-P., Graber, E., Belcher, A., & Smith, C.V. (under review). *Blind jealousy: Romantic insecurity increases emotion-induced failures of visual perception*.

Moser, J.S., Most, S.B., & Simons, R.F. (in revision). *Increasing negative emotions by reappraisal enhances subsequent attentional control: A combined behavioral and electrophysiology study*.

Most, S.B., Wang, L., Engelhardt, D., & Curby, K.M. (in revision). *Attention's the key: Emotional stimuli impair visual working memory selectively*.

Wang, L. & Most, S.B. (in revision). *The contingency of contingent capture: Working memory and the maintenance of attentional set*.

Moser, J.S., Most, S.B., & Simons, R.F. (in preparation). *Working memory capacity and negative affect*.

Engelhardt, D., Most, S.B., Reiss, J.E., Hoffman, J.E., Doran, M., & Wang, L. (in preparation). *Incentives modulate the attentional blink*.

Most, S.B. & Zald, D.H. (in preparation). Visual attention and emotion at the dawn of the 21<sup>st</sup> century: Implications for clinical psychology.

Most, S.B. & Chun, M.M. (in preparation). *Neural differentiation of emotional distractors varies with task load*.

### ***Conference Presentations***

Larson, C. L., Most, S., Marshall, J., Eidelman, S., & Davidson, R.J. Posterior EEG asymmetry differentiates between social phobics with high and low negative affect in response to phobic challenges. Poster presented at the 12<sup>th</sup> annual meeting of the Society for Research in Psychopathology, Palm Springs, CA, October, 1997.

Most, S.B. Auditory Stroop as a potential tool for investigating the development of implicit gender stereotypes. Poster presented at the biennial meeting of the Society for Research in Child Development, Albuquerque, New Mexico, April 18, 1999.

Most, S.B. Auditory Stroop reveals automatic gender associations. Poster presented at the annual meeting of the American Psychological Society, Denver, Colorado, June 5, 1999.

Most, S.B., Simons, D.J., & Scholl, B.J. Prolonged inattentive blindness for a visually distinctive, dynamic event. Invited talk in A. Gorea (Chair), Seen vs. unseen: New issues in the psychophysics of decision. Symposium conducted at the annual meeting of the European Conference on Visual Perception, Trieste, Italy, August 25, 1999.

Most, S.B., Clifford, E., Scholl, B.J., & Simons, D.J. What you see is what you set: The role of attentional set in explicit attentional capture. Poster presented at the 8<sup>th</sup> annual workshop on Object Perception and Memory, New Orleans, LA, November 16, 2000.

Sorber, A.V., Most, S.B., & Cunningham, J.G. The role of peer socialization in the development of emotion-display rules: Effects of gender and emotion. Poster presented at the biennial meeting of the Society for Research in Child Development, Minneapolis, MN, April, 2001.

Most, S.B. & Clifford, E. Set your sights higher: Category-level attentional effects in the detection of unexpected objects. Poster presented at the 1<sup>st</sup> annual meeting of the Vision Sciences Society, Sarasota, FL, May 6, 2001.

Most, S.B. & Alvarez, G.A. But it's the only thing there! Inattentive blindness for a solitary stimulus. Poster presented at the 2<sup>nd</sup> annual meeting of the Vision Sciences Society, Sarasota, FL, May 13, 2002.

Most, S.B., Chun, M.M., & Widders, D.M. Selective substitution: Attentional set modulates object substitution masking. Poster presented at the 3<sup>rd</sup> annual meeting of the Vision Sciences Society, Sarasota, FL, May 11, 2003.

Most, S.B., Chun, M.M., Widders, D.M., Zald, D.H., & Yi, D. Attentional rubbernecking: Negatively valenced images induce spontaneous attentional blinks. Poster presented at the 44<sup>th</sup> annual meeting of the Psychonomic Society, Vancouver, BC, November 8, 2003.

Most, S.B., Chun, M.M., & Zald, D.H. Cognitive control and personality in emotion-induced blindness. Poster presented at the 45<sup>th</sup> annual meeting of the Psychonomic Society, Minneapolis, MN, November 20, 2004.

Most S.B. & Astur, R.S. Attentional set as a contributing factor in virtual traffic accidents. Talk presented at the 4<sup>th</sup> annual meeting of the Vision Sciences Society, Sarasota, FL, May 10, 2005.

Smith, S.D., Most, S.B., Branick, L.A., & Zald, D.H. An "emotional blink" of attention elicited by aversively conditioned stimuli. Poster presented at the 13<sup>th</sup> annual meeting of the Canadian Society for Brain, Behavioural, and Cognitive Science, Montreal, QC, Canada, July 14-17, 2005.

Most, S.B., Chun, M.M., Johnson, M.R., & Kiehl, K.A. Attentional modulation of the amygdala varies with personality. Poster presented at the 46<sup>th</sup> annual meeting of the Psychonomic Society, Toronto, Ontario, November 12, 2005.

Most, S.B., Turk-Browne, N.B., & Jungé, J.A. Dynamic effects of emotion on perception. Talk presented at the 5<sup>th</sup> annual meeting of the Vision Sciences Society, Sarasota, FL, May 13, 2007.

Olson, I.R., Berryhill, M.E., & Most, S. The blinking emotional blink and the parietal lobe. Poster presented at the 5<sup>th</sup> annual meeting of the Vision Sciences Society, Sarasota, FL, May 13, 2007.

Lichtman, S.B. & Most, S.B. Demagoguery and its cognitive psychological dimensions. Paper delivered at the Annual Meeting for the Northeastern Political Science Association, Philadelphia, PA, November 16, 2007.

Bredemeier, K., Berenbaum, H., Simons, D., & Most, S. Neuroticism and disengagement of attention from nonemotional distractors. Talk presented at the annual meeting of the Midwestern Psychological Association, Chicago, IL, May 2, 2008.

Reiss, J.E., Hoffman, J.E., Heyward, F.D., Doran, M.M. & Most S.B. ERP evidence for temporary loss of control during the attentional blink. Poster presented at the 6<sup>th</sup> annual meeting of the Vision Sciences Society, Naples FL, May 9, 2008.

Most S.B., Wang, L., Engelhardt, D., & Curby, K.M. Selective effects of emotion on visual short-term memory. Poster presented at the 6<sup>th</sup> annual meeting of the Vision Sciences Society, Naples FL, May 10, 2008.

Wang, L. & Most, S.B. Is contingent attentional capture not contingent on working memory? Poster presented at the 6<sup>th</sup> annual meeting of the Vision Sciences Society, Naples FL, May 14, 2008.

Most, S.B., Laurenceau, J.-P., & Graber, E.C. Blind jealousy: Social insecurity increases emotion-induced failures of visual perception. Talk given at the 49<sup>th</sup> annual meeting of the Psychonomic Society, Chicago, IL, November 16, 2008.

### ***Invited Colloquia***

Most, S.B. The power of automatic associations. Invited talk given to representatives of Proctor & Gamble, Cambridge Focus, Cambridge, MA, May 11, 1999.

Most, S.B. The power of automatic associations. Invited talk given to representatives of The Coca-Cola Company, Harvard Business School, Cambridge, MA, May 17, 1999.

Most, S.B. Auditory Stroop reveals automatic gender associations in adults and children. Presentation given to the Department of Psychology, Harvard University, May 18, 1999.

Most, S.B. Memory development in infants and children. Invited lecture given at the Massachusetts School for Professional Psychology, Boston, MA, November 4, 1999.

Most, S.B. Great expectations: Top-down processes and the conscious perception of things. Colloquium given at the Department of Psychology, Harvard University, April 4, 2001.

Most, S.B. Great expectations: Top-down processes and the conscious perception of things. Colloquium given at the Department of Psychology, Macquarie University, Sydney, Australia, July 24, 2001.

Most, S.B. Setting sights: The relationship between top-down expectations and sustained inattention blindness. Colloquium given at the Psychology Department, Vanderbilt University, Nashville, TN, October 26, 2001.

Most, S.B. Looking hard or hardly looking: On not seeing what's there. Invited talk given to the National Traffic Safety Conference, Boise, Idaho, August 17, 2002.

Most, S.B. Looking hard or hardly looking: On not seeing what's there. Invited talk given to the 34<sup>th</sup> annual Traffic Education Workshop/Conference, Whitefish, Montana, April 27, 2003.

Most, S.B. Looking hard or hardly looking: Not seeing what's there. Invited talk given to the 47<sup>th</sup> annual meeting of the American Driver & Traffic Safety Education Association, Charlotte, NC, July 30, 2003.

Most, S.B. The nose on your face: It's not easy being seen. Invited talk given to the annual meeting of the National Association of State Motorcycle Safety Administrators, Columbus, OH, August 23, 2003.

Most, S.B. The nose on your face: It's not easy being seen. Invited talk given to the Driving for a Safer Ohio Traffic Safety Conference, Columbus, OH, October 2, 2003.

Most, S.B. The nose on your face: It's not easy being seen. Invited talk given to the annual meeting of the Virginia Association for Driver Education and Traffic Safety, Hampton, VA, October 4, 2003.

Most, S.B. Mind of the beholder: Top-down influences on conscious perception. Colloquium given at the Department of Psychology, Yale University, February 3, 2004.

Most, S.B. Looking hard or hardly looking: It's not easy being seen. Keynote address given to the annual meeting of the Wisconsin Driver Traffic Safety Education Association & Wisconsin Department of Public Instruction, Steven's Point, WI, March 5, 2004.

Most, S.B. Motivated perception: Constructing what we see (or don't). Invited talk given to the clinical lunch series, Department of Psychology, Yale University, September 29, 2005.

Most, S.B. Motivated perception: Constructing what we see (or don't). Invited talk given to the vision research seminar, Department of Psychology, Johns Hopkins University, October 21, 2005.

Most, S.B. It's not easy being seen: Not seeing what's there. Invited talk given to the Driving School Association of the Americas, San Diego, CA, November 18, 2005.

Most, S.B. Motivated perception. Invited talk given to the Department of Psychology, University of Pittsburgh, Pittsburgh, PA, December 5, 2005.

Most, S.B. Motivated perception. Invited talk given to the Department of Psychology, University of Delaware, Newark, DE, December 14, 2005.

Most, S.B. Motivated perception. Invited talk given to the Department of Psychology, Williams College, Williamstown, MA, January 16, 2006.

Most, S.B. Motivated perception. Invited talk given to the Department of Psychology, University of Colorado, Boulder, CO, January 18, 2006.

Most, S.B. Motivated perception. Invited talk given to the Department of Psychology, University of Denver, Denver, CO, January 23, 2006.

Most, S.B. Motivated perception. Invited talk given to the Psychology Department, Northeastern University, Boston, MA, January 26, 2006.

Most, S.B. Motivated perception: Constructing what we see (or don't). Invited talk given to the cognitive lunch series, Department of Psychology, Yale University, February 21, 2006.

Most, S.B. Selective effects of emotion on attention and working memory. Invited talk given to the Center for Cognitive Neuroscience, Duke University, March 27, 2008.

Most, S.B. Selective effects of emotion on attention and working memory. Invited talk to be given to the Department of Psychology, Lehigh University, October 17, 2008.

## **Selected Media Coverage of Research**

### TV

*Daily Planet*, "Blinded by Fear", The Discovery Channel, October 31, 2005.

URL: <http://www.exn.ca/dailyplanet/view.asp?date=10/31/2005>

### Radio

"Vega Café with Wendy Harmer." Vega 95.3 FM. Radio interview, Sydney, Australia, August 16, 2005.

"Wait wait... don't tell me!" NPR radio quiz show. September 3, 2005.

### Print and Web media

UDaily, February 13, 2007.

URL: <http://www.udel.edu/PR/UDaily/2007/feb/driving021307.html>

The Economist. August 20-26, 2005, p. 63.

URL: [http://www.economist.com/science/displayStory.cfm?story\\_id=4292593](http://www.economist.com/science/displayStory.cfm?story_id=4292593)

The New York Times Magazine. December 11, 2005, p.80. ("Year in Ideas: Microblindness").

URL: [http://www.nytimes.com/2005/12/11/magazine/11ideas\\_section2-16.html](http://www.nytimes.com/2005/12/11/magazine/11ideas_section2-16.html)

Discovery Channel News Online. August 22, 2005.

URL: <http://dsc.discovery.com/news/briefs/20050822/blindness.html> (inactive link)

ABC News Online. August 17, 2005.

URL: <http://abcnews.go.com/Technology/DyeHard/story?id=1042244&page=1>  
APA Monitor on Psychology. April, 2001.  
URL: <http://www.apa.org/monitor/apr01/blindness.html>

## Editorial Advisory Board

*Psychological Research (as of January 1, 2009)*

## Ad-hoc Reviewer

*Abnormal Psychology; Brain & Cognition; Cognitive, Affective, & Behavioral Neuroscience; Cognition; Cognition & Emotion; Consciousness & Cognition; Depression & Anxiety; Emotion; Experimental Psychology; Journal of Experimental Psychology: General; Journal of Experimental Psychology: HPP; Journal of Experimental Psychology: LMC; Memory & Cognition; Perception & Psychophysics; Psyche; Psychological Science; Psychonomic Bulletin & Review; Psychophysiology; Quarterly Journal of Experimental Psychology; Vision Research; Visual Cognition.*

## Departmental Service

*Coordinator, Cognitive Area Brown-Bag Series, University of Delaware (Fall 2006 – present)*  
*Colloquium Committee Member, Department of Psychology (Fall 2006 – present)*  
*Co-Chair, Human Subjects Committee, Department of Psychology (Fall 2008 – present)*  
*Co-Coordinator, Subject Pool, Department of Psychology (Fall 2008 – present)*  
*Chair, fMRI Exploration Committee, University of Delaware (Fall 2007 – Spring 2008)*  
*Human Subjects Committee Member, Department of Psychology (Fall 2007 – Spring 2008)*

## Pre-Doctoral Professional Experience

**Course Designer**, Introduction to Psychology, Harcourt Higher Learning – Boston, MA  
*Summer 2000.* Designed and wrote assignments and lectures for on-line Introduction to Psychology course.

**Resident Advisor**, Graduate School of Arts and Sciences, Harvard University – Cambridge, MA  
*Fall 1998 - June 1999.* Available as a resource to community of Harvard graduate students. Organized periodic social functions. Participated in regular staff meetings. Established friendly and supportive atmosphere in residence hall.

**Line Therapist**, Wisconsin Early Autism Project – Madison, WI  
*Spring 1997 - Summer 1997.* Provided home based one-on-one therapy to 5-year old with autism. Taught basic social, academic, and safety skills. Contributed to weekly team meetings.

**Associate Research Specialist**, Laboratory for Affective Neuroscience, University of Wisconsin – Madison, WI  
*Summer 1996 - Summer 1997.* Worked with Professor Richard Davidson to investigate cortical and sub-cortical processes underlying basic emotional experience.

**Research Assistant**, Harvard Infant Study, Harvard University – Cambridge, MA  
*Summer 1995 - Summer 1996.* Worked with Professor Jerome Kagan to investigate physiological differences between temperamentally inhibited and uninhibited children. Coded children's peer-plays live and from tape. Built lab equipment and maintained lab facilities.

**Mental Health Counselor**, Middlesex Hospital – Waltham, MA  
*Fall 1994 - Fall 1995.* Supervised, counseled and provided assistance in daily life activities to patients of secured in-patient psychiatric unit. Trained for crisis intervention.

## Additional Activities and Interests

**Travel Researcher-Writer**, Let's Go Publications – Cambridge, MA  
*Summer 2001.* Traveled solo in New Zealand for two months, evaluating accommodations, restaurants, and activities for 2002 edition of best-selling budget travel guide. Covered the most ground in *Let's Go: New Zealand* history. Contributing writer to the 2003 edition of *Let's Go: New Zealand*.

**Assistant Fencing Coach**, Brandeis University – Waltham, MA

*Fall 1994 - Spring 1996.* Developed and trained new undergraduate fencers on a varsity team through individual and group lessons. Built and maintained equipment. Provided coaching and moral support during team competitions.