

Nicolle Simonovic

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Office 311, Department of Nursing, Ben Gurion University

EMPLOYMENT

- 2024 – Present **Assistant Professor**, Ben Gurion University, Israel
Department of Nursing, Recanati School for Community Health Professions
- 2022 – 2024 **Fulbright Postdoctoral Fellow**, University of Haifa, Israel
Health and Risk Communication Research Center, School of Public Health

EDUCATION

- 2022 **Ph.D., Psychological Science**, Kent State University, Ohio, United States
Dual specialization in Social Psychology and Health Psychology
- 2020 **M.A., Psychological Science**, Kent State University, Ohio, United States
Dual specialization in Social Psychology and Health Psychology
- 2016 **B.S., Psychological Science**, *summa cum laude*, John Carroll University, Ohio, United States
Specialization in Mental Health Services

AWARDS, HONORS, AND RECOGNITION

- 2022-2024 US Fulbright Postdoctoral Scholarship Award
- Spring 2022 Zuckerman STEM Leadership Postdoctoral Scholarship Award (Declined)
- Spring 2022 Notable Alum Recognition and Feature, John Carroll University
- Fall 2021 Graduate Student Paper Award, Kent State University Applied Psychology Center
- Summer 2021 Excellent Trainee Newsletter Feature, Society of Behavioral Medicine HDM SIG
- Summer 2021 Emerging Student Leader Award, Society for Health Psychology
- Spring 2020 Finalist, Psychological Science Accelerator Call for Rapid and Impactful COVID-19 Studies
- Spring 2016 DiCaprio Award for Distinguished Graduate in Psychological Science, John Carroll University
- Spring 2016 Psychological Science Scholastic Achievement, John Carroll University
- Spring 2016 Research Recognition Award, John Carroll University
- Spring 2015 Outstanding Student Leader Award, John Carroll University
- Spring 2014 Outstanding Student Leader Award, John Carroll University
- 2012-2016 Dean's List Achievements, John Carroll University
- 2012-2016 Leadership Scholarship Award, John Carroll University

RESEARCH FUNDING

- Spring 2022 \$11,400 Zuckerman STEM Leadership Postdoctoral Research Funding (Declined with award)
- Fall 2021 \$1000 Lasser Graduate Psychology Research Award, Kent State University
- Fall 2021 \$2000 Graduate Student Senate Research Award, Kent State University
- Fall 2020 \$200 Graduate Student Senate Book Award, Kent State University
- Fall 2020 \$500 Graduate Student Research Award, Kent State University Applied Psychology Center
- Fall 2019 \$750 Lasser Graduate Psychology Research Award, Kent State University
- Spring 2016 \$250 Student Research Grant, John Carroll University

TRAVEL FUNDING

Spring 2021	\$60 (Virtual Conference) Domestic Travel Award, Kent State University
Summer 2020	\$1500 International Travel Award, Kent State University
Spring 2020	\$500 Domestic Travel Award, Kent State University
Summer 2019	\$1500 International Travel Award, Kent State University
Summer 2019	\$500 Domestic Travel Award, Kent State University
Fall 2018	\$1000 Special Contingency Travel Award, Kent State University

PEER-REVIEWED PUBLICATIONS

- Cheng, I., Taber, J. T., **Simonovic, N.**, Coifman, K., Sidney, P., & Thompson, C. (2023). The associations of worldviews, political orientation, and trust with COVID-19 risk beliefs among U.S. participants. *Social and Personality Psychology Compass*. <https://doi.org/10.1111/spc3.12867>
- Simonovic, N.**, Taber, J. M., Scherr, C., Dean, M., Hua, J., Howell, J., Chaudry, B., Wain, K., & Politi, M. (2022). Uncertainty in health decision making: Five methodological and conceptual recommendations from an interdisciplinary team. *Journal of Behavioral Medicine*. <https://doi.org/10.1007/s10865-022-00384-5>
- Legate, N., Nguyen, T. T., Weinstein, N....**Simonovic, N.**, Taber, J.M.... (2022). A global experiment on motivating social distancing during the COVID-19 pandemic. *PNAS*. This study was conducted through the Psychological Science Accelerator and has 100+ authors. Our lab contributed to data collection and provided feedback on the manuscript. <https://doi.org/10.1073/pnas.211109111>
- Thompson, C. A., Taber, J. M., Sidney, P. G., Fitzsimmons, C. J., Mielicki, M. K., Matthews, P. G., Schemmel, E. A., **Simonovic, N.**, Foust, J. L., Aurora, P., Disabato, D. J., Seah, T. H. S., Schiller, L. K., & Coifman, K. G. (2021). Math matters: A novel, brief educational intervention decreases whole number bias when reasoning about COVID-19. *Journal of Experimental Psychology: Applied*, 27(4), 632–656. <https://doi.org/10.1037/xap0000403>
- Simonovic, N.**, & Taber, J. M. (2021). Psychological impact of ambiguous health messages about COVID-19. *Journal of Behavioral Medicine*. Advance Online Publication. <https://doi.org/10.1007/s10865-021-00266-2>
- Simonovic, N.**, & Taber, J. M. (2021). Effects of construal level on responses to ambiguous health information about alcohol consumption. *Health Communication*, 2, 1-14. <https://doi.org/10.1080/10410236.2021.1945197>
- Wang, K., Goldenberg, A., Dorison, C.A....**Simonovic, N.**, Taber, J.M.... (2021). A multi-country test of brief reappraisal interventions on emotions during the COVID-19 pandemic. *Nature Human Behavior*. This study was conducted through the Psychological Science Accelerator and has 400+ authors. Our lab contributed to data collection and provided feedback on the manuscript. <https://doi.org/10.1038/s41562-021-01173-x>
- Coifman, K. G., Disabato, D. J., Aurora, P., Seah, T. H. S., Mitchell, B., **Simonovic, N.**, Foust, J. L., Sidney, P. G., Thompson, C. A., & Taber, J. M. (2021). What drives preventive health behavior during a global pandemic? Emotions and worry. *Annals of Behavioral Medicine*, 55(8), 791-804. <https://doi.org/10.1093/abm/kaab048>
- Simonovic, N.**, Taber, J. M., Klein, W. M. P., & Ferrer, R. A. (2020). Evidence that perceiving and being averse to medical ambiguity are distinct constructs: An analysis of nationally representative U.S. data. *Health Expectations*, 23(3), 603-613. <https://doi.org/10.1111/hex.13037>
- Taber, J. M., McQueen, A., **Simonovic, N.**, & Waters, E. A. (2019). Adapting a self-affirmation intervention for use in a mobile application for smokers. *Journal of Behavioral Medicine*, 42, 1050-1061. <https://doi.org/10.1007/s10865-019-00028-1>

MANUSCRIPTS UNDER REVISION

Simonovic, N., & Taber, J. M. (Revise and Resubmit). Examining the relationship between perceived ambiguity and predictors of health behavior across three contexts: The COVID-19 pandemic, antibiotic regimens, and e-cigarette use.

MANUSCRIPTS UNDER REVIEW

Simonovic, N., Gesser-Edelsburg, A., & Taber, J. M. (Under Review). Testing psychological correlates of ambiguity aversion in the context of COVID-19 vaccination: Evidence for motivated reasoning and the appraisal tendency framework.

Simonovic, N., Gesser-Edelsburg, A., & Taber, J. M. (Under Review). Examining psychological determinants of vaccine hesitancy: A comparative study between the US and Israel.

MANUSCRIPTS IN PREPARATION

Simonovic, N., Taber, J. M., & Scherr, C. (In Prep). Advancing research on ambiguity in health contexts.

Simonovic, N., & Taber, J. M. (In Prep). Ambiguity about cigarettes and e-cigarettes among users and non-users.

Cheng, I., Taber, J. M., **Simonovic, N.**, O'Brien, A. G., Foust, J., McGhee-Dinvaut, A., Sidney, P. G., Coifman, K. G., and Thompson, C. A., (In Prep). Risk beliefs and COVID-19 vaccination intentions and behavior among U.S. Adults: Two prospective studies.

BOOK CHAPTERS

Taber, J. M., **Simonovic, N.**, Foust, J. L., & O'Brien, A. (2021). Beliefs and health. In Gurung, R. A. R. (Ed.). *Routledge Encyclopedia of Psychology in the Real World*. Routledge.

ORAL PRESENTATIONS

Simonovic, N., Gesser-Edelsburg, A., & Taber, J. M. (February, 2024). Evidence for motivated reasoning as a psychological mechanism in responses to ambiguity. On demand research spotlight presentation at the annual meetings of the Society for Personality and Social Psychology, Virtual Conference.

Simonovic, N. (November, 2023). Examining psychological determinants of vaccine hesitancy. Oral Presentation at the Fulbright Program Seminar for Postdoctoral Fellows, Virtual Seminar.

Simonovic, N. (June, 2023). The role of ambiguity in health decisions. Oral Presentation at the School of Public Health Departmental Seminar, University of Haifa, Haifa, Israel.

Simonovic, N. (December, 2022). Examining psychological determinants of and cultural factors involved in vaccine hesitancy. Oral Presentation at the Fulbright Program Seminar for Postdoctoral Fellows, Jerusalem, Israel.

Taber, J. M., **Simonovic, N.**, O'Brien, A. G., Foust, J. L., Coifman, K. G., Thompson, C. A. (April, 2022). Risk beliefs and COVID-19 vaccination among U.S. adults: A prospective study. Oral Presentation at the Annual Meeting of the Society of Behavioral Medicine, Baltimore, MD.

Simonovic, N., & Taber, J. M. (July, 2021). Perceived ambiguity about cigarettes and e-cigarettes: Associations with risk perceptions and use. Oral Presentation at the International Congress of Psychology, Virtual Conference.

Simonovic, N., & Taber, J. M. (May, 2021). Examining a “normalized-uncertainty” intervention for ambiguous health messages about COVID-19. Oral Presentation at the Association for Psychological Science, Virtual Conference.

Simonovic, N. (April, 2021). The role of ambiguity in health decisions. Oral Presentation at the Psychological Science Brownbag, Kent State University, Virtual Conference.

Simonovic, N., & Taber, J. M. (July, 2020). Smokers’ defensive behavior to tobacco control as a perspective gap in healthcare. 4th Annual Conference of the Center for the Study of Medical Decision Making, Kiryat Ono, Israel. (Conference canceled due to COVID-19 pandemic).

Simonovic, N., Taber, J. M., Klein, W. M. P., & Ferrer, R. A. (May, 2019). Perceiving and being averse to medical ambiguity: Associations with cancer perceptions. Oral presentation at the National Cancer Institutes’ Health Information National Trends Survey Data Users Conference, Bethesda, MD.

Simonovic, N., & Taber, J. M. (November, 2018). Smoker stigmatization and reactance following a recently implemented tobacco free policy. Oral presentation at the UNESCO Chair in Bioethics 13th World Conference: Bioethics, Medical Ethics, and Health Law, Jerusalem, Israel. Co-chair of the session.

POSTER PRESENTATIONS

Simonovic, N., & Taber, J. M. (February, 2023). Examining the relationship between perceived ambiguity and predictors of health behavior across three contexts: The COVID-19 pandemic, antibiotic regimens, and e-cigarette use. Poster presentation at the annual meetings of the Society for Personality and Social Psychology, Atlanta, Georgia.

Simonovic, N., & Taber, J. M. (February, 2021). Effects of construal level on responses to ambiguous health information about alcohol consumption. Poster presentation at the annual meetings of the Society for Personality and Social Psychology, Virtual Conference.

Simonovic, N., Taber, J. M. (April, 2020). Perceptions of ambiguity about cigarettes and e-cigarettes among users and non-users. Poster presentation at Society of Behavioral Medicine’s 41st Annual Meeting & Scientific Sessions, San Francisco, CA. (Conference canceled due to COVID-19 pandemic).

Simonovic, N., Taber, J. M. (February, 2020). Self-moralization higher among cigarette than e-cigarette users. Poster presented at the annual meetings of the Society for Personality and Social Psychology, New Orleans, LA.

Taber, J. M., McQueen, A., **Simonovic, N.**, & Waters, E.A. (February, 2019). Adapting a self-affirmation intervention for use in a mobile application: Smokers who self-affirm report greater intentions to smoke. Poster presented at the Annual Meetings of the Society for Personality and Social Psychology, Portland, OR.

TEACHING EXPERIENCE

Fall 2024 Assistant Professor, Ben Gurion University
Research Seminar and Project

Spring 2022 Course Instructor, Kent State University
Social Psychology

Fall 2021 Course Instructor, Kent State University
Social Psychology

Summer 2021	Course Instructor, Kent State University Research Methods
Spring 2021	Course Instructor, Kent State University Health Psychology
Fall 2020	Course Instructor, Kent State University Psychology of Everyday Life
Spring 2020	Course Instructor, Kent State University <i>Honors</i> Psychology of Everyday Life
Fall 2019	Course Instructor, Kent State University Psychology of Everyday Life
Spring 2019	Course Instructor, Kent State University Career Pathways in Psychology
Spring 2016	Teaching Assistant, John Carroll University Experimental Design and Analysis in Psychology
Fall 2015	Teaching Assistant, John Carroll University Experimental Design and Analysis in Psychology

CONTINUING EDUCATION & CERTIFICATIONS

Spring 2024	Advancing LGBTQI+ Research Across the Globe, the Society for Personality and Social Psychology Annual Meeting Pre-Conference Workshop <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Gained education on the latest research and future research directions in the study of sexual orientation, gender identity/expression, and sex characteristics
Summer 2023	Public Health in the “New Normal” Era Conference, The Annual Conference of the Association of Public Health Physicians and Schools of Public Health <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Participated in a leadership in public health professions workshop
Fall 2021	Cultural Competency Workshop, Rutgers University School of Social Work <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Attended sessions on trauma in the Jewish community and healing racialized trauma
Summer 2021	Curran-Bauer Analytics, The Center for Statistical Training <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Obtained instruction through a livestream workshop on how to conduct structural equation modeling
Spring 2021	Society for Behavioral Medicine, Annual Meeting Pre-Conference Workshop <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Received training on enhancing behavioral health research studies through qualitative methods
Fall 2020	Graduate Professional and Academic Development, Kent State University <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Completed assessments to receive a Research Fundamentals Certification
Summer 2020	Center for Teaching and Learning, Kent State University <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Participated in a workshop to develop strategies for remote learning including synchronous vs. asynchronous engagement, communication, collaborative work, and student accountability

- Summer 2019 Summer Institute of Advanced Epidemiology and Preventive Medicine, Tel Aviv University
- Completed a week-long intensive course on uncertainty in medical decision making with a focus on judgment and choice biases, expected utility theory, and decision tree models
- Spring 2018 Graduate Professional and Academic Development, Kent State University
- Attended sessions on how to expand skills in online teaching
- Fall 2017 Teaching Assistant Training Program, Kent State University
- Viewed sessions on creating a syllabus, complex conversations, and student diversity

NATIONAL AND INTERNATIONAL SERVICEJ

- Spring 2024 Society for Health Psychology Poster Reviewer, APA 2024 Conference
- Fall 2023 Visiting Scholar Application Reviewer, Fulbright Ukraine
- Spring 2023 Open Research Fellowship Application Reviewer, Fulbright Israel
- Fall 2022 Student Poster Award Reviewer, SPSP 2023 Conference
- Fall 2022 Outstanding Research Award Reviewer, SPSP 2023 Conference
- Fall 2021 Outstanding Research Award Reviewer, SPSP 2022 Conference
- Spring 2021 Division 8 Programming Reviewer, APA 2021 Virtual Convention
- Fall 2020-Spring 2021 Campus Representative, APA Society for Health Psychology
- Fall 2020 Outstanding Research Award Reviewer, SPSP 2021 Conference
- Fall 2019 Graduate Student Poster Award Reviewer, SPSP 2020 Conference
- Fall 2018 Research Session Co-Chair, UNESCO Chair in Bioethics 13th World Conference

DEPARTMENTAL & UNIVERSITY SERVICE

- Fall 2020-Spring 2022 Special Contingency Award Review Committee, Kent State Graduate Student Senate
- Fall 2020-Spring 2021 Health Psychology Representative, Psychological Sciences Experimental Training Committee
- Fall 2020- Spring 2021 Mental Health Subcommittee, Kent State Graduate Student Senate
- Spring 2019 Special Contingency Award Review Committee, Kent State Graduate Student Senate
- Fall 2019-Spring 2021 Chair of Recruitment and Retention, Multicultural and Diversity Committee
- Fall 2018- Spring 2019 Vice Chair of Recruitment and Retention, Multicultural and Diversity Committee
- Fall 2018-Spring 2019 Health Psychology Representative, Psychological Sciences Experimental Training Committee
- Fall 2018-Spring 2019 Public Health Student Alliance, Kent State University
- Fall 2018 Health and Wellness Subcommittee, Kent State Graduate Student Senate
- Fall 2018 International Travel Award Review Committee, Kent State Graduate Student Senate
- Spring 2016 Student Representative, Director of the University Counseling Center Hiring Committee
- Spring 2016 Student Representative, Center for Diversity and Inclusion Advisory Committee
- Fall 2015-Spring 2016 President, John Carroll University Psychology Club
- Spring 2013-2016 Student Representative, John Carroll University Sustainability Committee
- Spring 2013 Student Representative, John Carroll University Counseling Center Advisory Committee

MENTORING

- Fall 2024-Spring 2024 Mentor, Society for Personality and Social Psychology Peer Advising Program
- Fall 2020-Spring 2021 Peer Mentor, Kent State University Graduate Peer Mentorship Program
- Fall 2019-Spring 2020 Mentor, Society for Personality and Social Psychology Peer Advising Program
- Fall 2018- Spring 2021 Mentor, Multicultural and Diversity Undergraduate Mentorship Program

PROFESSIONAL MEMBERSHIPS

*Ongoing

Spring 2021*	Association for Psychological Science
Spring 2020*	Psychological Science Accelerator
Fall 2018*	American Psychological Association
Fall 2018*	American Psychological Association of Graduate Students
Fall 2018*	Society for Health Psychology, APA Division 38
Fall 2018*	Society for Personality and Social Psychology, APA Division 8
Fall 2017*	Social and Health Area Meeting Group, Kent State University
Spring 2014*	Psi Chi International Honor Society in Psychology

AD HOC MANUSCRIPT REVIEWING EXPERIENCE

- BMC Primary Care
- Social and Personality Psychology Compass
- PLOS ONE
- Patient Education and Counseling
- Journal of Behavioral Medicine
- Health Communication

RELEVANT SKILLS AND PROFICIENCIES

- Trained with several statistical software packages and add-ons including SPSS, SAS, and SUDAAN
- Use of multiple data collection sources including Qualtrics, Medialab, Actigraph, and MTurk