

# Kyle Andrew Thomas

## Curriculum Vitae

Department of Psychology, Harvard University  
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### Education

- 2015                      Doctor of Philosophy, Experimental Psychology      Harvard University  
Advisor: Steven Pinker  
Dissertation: *The Psychology of Common Knowledge: Coordination, Indirect Speech, and Self-conscious Emotions*
- 2004                      Bachelor of Arts, with honors                      University of California, Santa Cruz  
Psychology, Pre-medicine, Spanish

### Consulting and Entrepreneurship

- 2010–present              TipTapLab    Cambridge, MA  
Vice President of Research
- 2008-present              Signet Education                                      Cambridge, MA  
Director of Science Education 2008-2011  
Partner and Advisor 2011-present

### Publications

- Thomas, K. A., DeScioli, P., Haque, O. S., & Pinker, S. (2014). The psychology of coordination and common knowledge. *Journal of Personality and Social Psychology*.
- Chakroff, A., Thomas, K. A., Haque, O. S., & Young, L. (2014). An indecent proposal: The dual functions of indirect speech. *Cognitive Science*.
- Chiu, E. M., Thomas, K. A., Persike, M., Quan, J. R., & Bridgeman, B. (in press). A slippery slope: Estimated slant of hills increases with distance. *Perception*.

### Manuscripts

- Thomas, K. A., & Clifford, S. (under review). Validity and Mechanical Turk: An assessment of exclusion methods and interactive experiments.
- Haque, O. S., Everett, J. A. C., Rand, D., Thomas, K. A., & Pinker, S. (under review). Why is there distrust of atheists in America?
- Thomas, K. A., Mendes, W. B., & Pinker, S. (in preparation). Navigating relationships with

- language: The affective and social consequences of direct and indirect propositions.
- Thomas, K. A., DeScioli, P., & Pinker, S. (in preparation). Two kinds of public: Common knowledge amplifies self-conscious emotions.
- Thomas, K. A., De Freitas, J., DeScioli, P., & Pinker, S. (in preparation). The strategic bystander: Recursive theory of mind and common knowledge in decisions to help.
- Thomas, K. A., Hoffman, M., & Pinker, S. (in preparation). The role of social knowledge in indirect speech: Evidence for game-theoretic predictions of the Strategic Speaker theory.
- Thomas, K. A., Massenkoff, M., DeScioli, P., & Pinker, S. (in preparation). People use indirect speech to evade third-party punishment.

### **Educational Publications**

- Thomas, K. A. (2010). *GRE course book*. Cambridge, MA: Signet Education.
- Thomas, K. A. (2008). *How to succeed in physics*. Cambridge, MA: Signet Education.
- Thomas, K. A. (2008). *How to succeed in organic chemistry*. Cambridge, MA: Signet Education.

### **Presentations**

- Thomas, K. A., DeScioli, P., Haque, O. S., & Pinker, S. (2015). The psychology of common knowledge and coordination. Talk presented at 9<sup>th</sup> annual NEEPS conference, Boston, Massachusetts. \*\*\*Won Best Student Presentation Award
- Thomas, K. A., & Pinker, S. (2013). Common knowledge and the self-conscious emotions. Talk presented at 25<sup>th</sup> annual HBES conference, Miami, Florida.
- Thomas, K. A. (2012). The dissertation: Strategies for getting from beginning to end in the process. Invited talk presented at Harvard GSAS dissertation symposium, Harvard University, Cambridge, Massachusetts.
- Thomas, K. A., DeScioli, P., Haque, O. S., & Pinker, S. (2012). The psychology of common knowledge and coordination. Talk presented at 24<sup>th</sup> annual HBES conference, Albuquerque, New Mexico.
- Thomas, K. A. (2012). Attention checks in MTurk and Qualtrics integration. Invited talk presented at Amazon Mechanical Turk and the Social Sciences Symposium, Harvard University, Cambridge, Massachusetts.
- Thomas, K. A., Mendes, W. B., Pinker, S., & Nocera, C. C. (2011). "Do you want to see my etchings?" Evidence for a game-theoretic model of indirect speech. Talk presented at 23<sup>rd</sup> annual HBES conference, Montpellier, France.
- Thomas, K. A., DeScioli, P., & Pinker, S. (2011). Common knowledge and

- Coordination. Poster presented at 23<sup>rd</sup> annual HBES conference, Montpellier, France.
- Haque, O. S., Rand, D. G., Thomas, K. A., & Pinker, S. (2011). The unjustified mistrust of the irreligious. Talk presented at 1<sup>st</sup> annual ASREC conference, Washington D.C.
- Thomas, K. A., Mendes, W. B., & Pinker, S. (2010). What's special about off-record indirect speech acts? Invited talk presented at Role of Social Cognition and Language Processing Workshop, Cambridge, Massachusetts.
- Thomas, K. A., Mendes, W. B., Pinker, S., & Nocera, C. C. (2010). "Would you like to come up and see my etchings?" The costs and benefits of indirect speech. Poster presented at 12<sup>th</sup> annual SPSP conference, San Antonio, TX.
- Haque, O. S., Nocera, C. C., Thomas, K. A., & Pinker, S. (2010). Religious ritual postures and social cognition. Talk presented at Cognition, Religion and Theology Project, Oxford, England.
- Thomas, K. A. (2005-2006). Symbol cognition, mathematics, and the natural sciences. Talk presented at three tutor training sessions, UC Santa Cruz, Santa Cruz, CA.

### **Teaching**

- Invited lecture, Strategic speech: Evidence for a game-theoretic model of indirect speech, April 15, 2014. Game Theory and Psychology (undergraduate course), Harvard.
- Head Teaching Fellow, Psychological Science, Spring 2012. Under Professor Steven Pinker, Harvard.
- Teaching Fellow, Psychological Science, Spring 2011. Under Professor Steven Pinker, Harvard. \*\*\*Won Distinction in Teaching Award
- Teaching Fellow, Intermediate Statistical Analysis in Psychology (graduate course), Fall 2010. Under Professor Samuel Moulton, Harvard.
- Invited lecture, Introduction to statistics for the social sciences, October 13, 2010. Psychology/Anthropology Research Methods Proseminar (master's course), Harvard.
- Teaching Fellow, The Human Mind, Spring 2008. Under Professor Steven Pinker, Harvard.
- Course Developer and Instructor, GRE Preparation Course. Signet Education, 2009-2011.
- Course Developer and Instructor, How to Succeed in Physics. Signet Education, 2008-2010.
- Course Developer and Instructor, How to Succeed in Organic Chemistry. Signet Education, 2008-2010.
- GRE Course Instructor. Testmasters Educational Services Inc., 2007-2008.
- Peer Tutor. UCSC's Modified Supplemental Instruction program. 2003-2006. Tutored: physics, chemistry, organic chemistry, psychological statistics.

## Patents

- Cudgma, D., Nocera, C. C., & Thomas, K. A. (2014). Method and system for determining correlations between personality traits of a group of consumers and a brand/product. To be published September 2015, filed February 2014. Patent Pending.
- Thomas, K. A. (2012). Method and system for verifying and determining acceptability of unverified survey items. US Patent Application 2013-0122474, filed October 2012. Patent Pending.

## Honors, Awards, and Scholarships

Best Student Presentation Award, 9 <sup>th</sup> Annual NEEPS Conference	2015
Graduate Society Dissertation Completion Fellowship, Harvard University	2012
Distinction in Teaching Award, <i>Psychological Science</i> , Harvard University	2011
Restricted Funds Research Award, Harvard University	2010
Restricted Funds Research Award, Harvard University	2009
Stimson Grant, Harvard University	2008
Michelle Guard Memorial Scholarship, UC Santa Cruz	2001

## Other Research

Conducted educational research demonstrating effectiveness of university peer tutoring program at UC Santa Cruz. Published in Learning Support Service's *End of Year Report*, June 2006.

## Research Assistants

Maxim Massenkoff (2014); Tiana Press (2014); Cheng Li (2011–2013); Sophie Scolnik-Brower (2011–2012); Bay McCulloch (2009–2012); Natalie Aharon (2011–present); Sara Paul (2011–2012); Pooja Ami Patel (2011–present); Ari Brennar (2011); Ian Mark (2011); Julian deFreitas (2011–2015); Richard Truncellito (2009–2011); Kevin Verbael (2009–2010); Spencer Kline (2009–2010); Rebecca Jablonski (2009); Abigail Schachter (2009); Becca Feistritzer (2009); Ivana Viani (2009); Jared Horvath (2009); Christopher Kleinhenn (2009); Monica Liu (2009); Alex Lipton (2009).

## Professional Affiliations

Human Behavior and Evolution Society  
Society for Personality and Social Psychology  
American Psychological Association  
Association for Psychological Science  
NorthEastern Evolutionary Psychology Society

## **Research Interests**

Common knowledge, coordination, indirect speech, evolution of cooperation, self-conscious emotions, behavioral economics, moral cognition, evolutionary biology, personality psychology, psychometrics, applied consumer psychology