

Irene Melani

Department of Psychology, University of Michigan
imelani@umich.edu

EDUCATION

University of Michigan, Ann Arbor, USA Sept 2018 – Present
Ph.D. Candidate, Social Psychology
Master of Science, Social Psychology
Advisor: Dr Shinobu Kitayama

Nanyang Technological University, Singapore Aug 2011 – May 2015
Bachelor of Arts (Hons) Psychology, Second Class Upper Honors
Supervisor: Dr Peipei Setoh

ACADEMIC / RESEARCH POSITIONS

Nanyang Technological University, Singapore Apr 2021 – Present
Research Associate, Center for Lifelong Learning and Individualized Cognition
Supervisor: Dr Georgios Christopoulos

Nanyang Technological University, Singapore Jun 2015 – Jul 2018
Project Officer, Division of Psychology
Supervisor: Dr Bobby K. Cheon

PUBLICATIONS

- Yu, Q., Salvador, C., **Melani, I.**, Berg, M., Neblett, E. W., & Kitayama, S. (2021). Racial residential segregation and economic disparity jointly exacerbate COVID-19 fatality in large American cities. *Annals of the New York Academy of Sciences*.
- Cheon, B. K., **Melani, I.**, & Hong, Y. Y. (2020). How USA-Centric Is Psychology? An Archival Study of Implicit Assumptions of Generalizability of Findings to Human Nature Based on Origins of Study Samples. *Social Psychological and Personality Science*, 11(7), 928-937.
- Berg, M. K., Yu, Q., Salvador, C. E., **Melani, I.**, & Kitayama S. (2020). Mandated Bacillus Calmette-Guérin (BCG) vaccination predicts flattened curves for the spread of COVID-19. *Science Advances*, 6(32), DOI: 10.1126/sciadv.abc1463
- Melani, I.**, & Kitayama, S. (manuscript in preparation). An ERP Exploration of the Object-Centric Representation for European Americans.
- Cheon, B. K., & **Melani, I.** (manuscript in preparation). Exposure to culture mixing increases compensatory response to bolster heritage culture.

- Melani, I.,** Hong, Y-y., Christopoulos, G. I., & Cheon, B. K. (manuscript in preparation). Collective threat increases support for autocratic leaders despite expectations of abusive self-serving behavior.
- Melani, I.,** Christopoulos, G. I., Hong, Y-y., & Cheon, B. K. (manuscript in preparation). The bright side of bad bosses: Unfair leaders incidentally promote ingroup cohesion and favoritism.
- Melani, I. & Cheon, B. K.** (manuscript in preparation). The emergence of hierarchy-reinforcing values from collective threats.

CONFERENCES / PRESENTATIONS

- Melani, I., & Kitayama, S.** (2020). *Investigating the Apparent Negligence of Context for European Americans: A Directional Activation Hypothesis*. Oral presentation at the International Cultural Neuroscience Society virtual symposium.
- Melani, I.,** Christopoulos, G. I., Hong, Y-y., & Cheon, B. K. (2020). *When fairness can be compromised: Collective threat increases support for autocratic leaders despite self-serving decisions*. Poster presentation at the Society for Personality and Social Psychology Annual Meeting, New Orleans, Louisiana, USA.
- Melani, I.,** Ng, J. C. H., Hong, Y-y., & Cheon, B. K. (2019). *How WEIRD is Psychology? An Archival Study of Implicit Assumptions of Generalizability of Findings Based on Sample Characteristics*. Poster presentation at the Society for Personality and Social Psychology Annual Meeting, Portland, Oregon, USA.
- Melani, I.,** Cheon, B. K. (2018). *The emergence of hierarchy-reinforcing values from collective threats*. Poster presented at the Society for Personality and Social Psychology Annual Meeting Preconference, Atlanta, Georgia, USA.
- Melani, I.,** Christopoulos, G. I., Hong, Y-y., & Cheon, B. K. (2018). *The bright side of exploitative bosses: Unfair leader promotes ingroup favoritism and cooperation among exploited group members*. Poster presented at the Society for Personality and Social Psychology Annual Meeting, Atlanta, Georgia, USA.
- Melani, I.,** Christopoulos, G. I., Hong, Y-y., & Cheon, B. K. (2016). *Emergence of preferences for centralized leaders in response to collective threats*. Poster presented at The 23rd Congress of the International Association for Cross-Cultural Psychology, Nagoya, Japan.
- Melani, I. & Cheon, B. K.** (2015). *Emergence of leader preferences in response to threats*. Slide presentation at the Culture Science Institute Conference on Attachment, Culture Science Institute, Nanyang Business School, Nanyang Technological University, Singapore.

RESEARCH INTERESTS

- Emergence of diverse cultural norms and practices
- Power and status as dual motivation to social ascension
- Threat-sensitivity and its effects on high-ranking individuals
- Justifying social/status inequality and its implications on objective and subjective well-being
- Biological and environmental factors predicting resilience among low-status individuals
- Intra- and inter-status group processes and relations

TEACHING

University of Michigan, USA

Graduate Student Instructor for PSYCH280	Winter 2019
Graduate Student Instructor for PSYCH280	Fall 2019
Graduate Student Instructor for PSYCH280	Winter 2020

MENTORSHIP

University of Michigan, USA

Mentored four undergraduate research assistants	Winter 2019
Mentored five undergraduate research assistants	Fall 2019
Mentored five undergraduate research assistants	Winter 2020

Nanyang Technological University, Singapore

Mentored two senior undergraduate students on preparing and completing Honors thesis research projects.	Aug 2016 – Apr 2017
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PROFESSIONAL (NON-ACADEMIC) EXPERIENCE

TG Global Resources, Pte. Ltd., Singapore

Assistant Financial Controller, Intern	May 2014 – Jan 2015
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Office of Global Education and Mobility, Nanyang Technological University, Singapore

Secretary / Student Assistant, Part-Time	Jan 2014 – May 2014
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ELMWOOD Solutions, Pte. Ltd., Singapore

Accounts Assistant, Intern	Dec 2013 – Jan 2014
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SKILLS & INTERESTS

IT Microsoft Office (Word, Excel, PowerPoint), SPSS, R, MATLAB, E-Prime, BioSemi Active Two (EEG), ANT Neuro (EEG), MediaLab, DirectRT, z-Tree, MYOB

Statistics ANOVA, Linear Regression, Hierarchical Linear Modeling, Structural Equation Modeling

Languages English, Bahasa Indonesia, Malay, Chinese Mandarin (oral)

Hobbies Singing, Cooking / Food-Tasting, Travelling, Yoga