

Curriculum Vitae

Maria Magdalena Babińska, PhD

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EDUCATION

PhD in Psychology, Faculty of Psychology, University of Warsaw 2017-2023
Defended with honours. Dissertation: *Individual and intergroup determinants of social representations of bystanders to the Holocaust*.

MA in Sociology, Faculty of Sociology, University of Warsaw 2013-2016
Master's thesis: *Role of historical analogies in creating the Other: the example of the migrant crisis debate of 2015 in Poland*.

Master's studies, Faculty of Psychology, University of Warsaw 2013-2016

Visiting student, Psychology, Université catholique de Louvain 2015-2016
Erasmus+ exchange programme (all classes taken in French).

BA in Sociology, Faculty of Applied Social Sciences, University of Warsaw 2010-2013
Anthropology of multiculturalism specialisation. Bachelor's thesis: *Between modernity and tradition: sexual education discourses in political debate*.

POSITIONS AND AFFILIATIONS

Postdoctoral researcher, Centre for Social and Cultural Psychology (CeSCuP), Université libre de Bruxelles 2025-present
Confidently Changing Colonial Heritage (CONCILIARE), Horizon Europe (supervisor: Prof. Laurent Licata). Museum visitor responses to colonial artefacts and framing effects on attitudes toward restitution and reparations.

Team member, UNESCO Chair for Interdisciplinary Studies on Antisemitism and Other Forms of Group Hatred, Robert Zajonc Institute for Social Studies, University of Warsaw 2026-present

GRANTS AND FUNDING

Principal Investigator, Preludium grant, Polish National Science Centre (NCN) 2019-2023
The role of conspiracy theories in political mobilization: processes of radicalization and system justification.

Short Term Scientific Mission, COST network 2018
False memory paradigm in conspiracy theory research, under the supervision of Prof. Robbie Sutton, University of Kent.

Humanity in Action Fellowship, Warsaw 2016

RESEARCH EXPERIENCE

Postdoctoral researcher, Center for Excellence in Social Sciences, University of Warsaw 2024
Red Giant research project, led by Prof. Magdalena Wojcieszak.

Junior Researcher, OPUS grant, Polish National Science Centre 2023-2024
Political representation of women in local government: stereotypes, election rules, and results of public policies, under the supervision of Prof. Adam Gendźwiłł.

Junior Researcher, NCBiR Gospostrateg project, SWPS University 2022-2023
Effective methods to promote vaccination, under the supervision of Prof. Dariusz Doliński.

Study visit, Centre for Social and Cultural Psychology, Université libre de Bruxelles 2022
Under the supervision of Prof. Laurent Licata.

Research expert, Tom Lantos Institute 2021
Research project on antisemitism in Central and Eastern Europe. Qualitative research and questionnaire design for a representative survey in Hungary, the Czech Republic, Slovakia, and Poland.

Junior Researcher , NCN and DFG Beethoven grant <i>Motivated History: Representations of Groups' History as a Function of Current Motivations</i> (PI: Michał Bilewicz, University of Warsaw, and Immo Fritzsche, University of Leipzig).	2017-2020
Research Assistant , IUVENTUS Plus, Polish Ministry of Science and Higher Education <i>Control deprivation and intergroup relations</i> (PI: Michał Bilewicz, University of Warsaw).	2016-2017
Research Internship , Centre for Social and Cultural Psychology, Université libre de Bruxelles Qualitative analysis of historical analogies of the Crimean crisis in Belgian press articles (supervisor: Djouaria Ghilani). Quantitative analysis of social representations of the First World War in Eastern Europe (supervisor: Pierre Bouchat).	2016
Research Assistant , NCN grant <i>Representations of the Past as Preconditions of Intergroup Contact</i> (2012-2015).	2013-2014
Research Assistant , Ethnographic Archive project Semi-structured interviews on Polish-Jewish relations with residents of villages and small towns near Łomża and Lublin, Poland.	2012, 2013

PUBLICATIONS

Journal articles

- Babińska, M.**, Bilewicz, M., & Winiewski, M. (forthcoming). Lay perceptions of Holocaust attitudes in the times of right-wing populist governance. In *POLIN: Studies in Polish Jewry, Vol. 40: Holocaust Studies in Poland Today*.
- Babińska, M.**, Rees, J., & Bilewicz, M. (2026). Revisiting secondary antisemitism: Antisemitism as a cause, not a consequence, of ingroup-serving Holocaust distortions. *American Psychologist*, 81(4), 544-557. <https://doi.org/10.1037/amp0001616>
- Wertz, E., **Babińska, M.**, Batorski, D., Louison-Lavoy, D., Blazer, N., Noble, N. S., & Wojcieszak, M. (2026). Ad-based social media interventions increase belief accuracy and generate pro-social opinions among non-news readers. *PLOS ONE*, 21(6), e0352588. <https://doi.org/10.1371/journal.pone.0352588>
- Babińska, M.**, & Licata, L. (2026). Mnemonic asymmetries: How collective memory shapes and reflects intergroup relations. *Current Opinion in Psychology*, 67, 102150. <https://doi.org/10.1016/j.copsyc.2025.102150>
- Siemiątkowski, M., Bilewicz, M., & **Babińska, M.** (2026). The bright side of authoritarian submission. Distinct cross-lagged effects of right-wing authoritarianism facets on intergroup helping intentions and susceptibility to anti-helping misinformation during wartime mobilization. *Political Psychology*, 47(2), e70054. <https://doi.org/10.1111/pops.70054>
- Bilewicz, M., **Babińska, M.**, & Gromova, A. (2024). High rates of probable PTSD among Ukrainian war refugees: The role of intolerance of uncertainty, loss of control and subsequent discrimination. *European Journal of Psychotraumatology*, 15(1). <https://doi.org/10.1080/20008066.2024.2394296>
- Babińska, M.**, & Bilewicz, M. (2023). Moral exemplars and moral disillusionment: How the perception of Poles' behavior during the Holocaust shapes current Polish-Israeli conflicted relations. *Conflict Resolution Quarterly*, 41(1), 73-91. <https://doi.org/10.1002/crq.21379>
- Imhoff, R., Zimmer, F., Klein, O., António, J. H., **Babińska, M.**, Bangerter, A., ... van Prooijen, J. W. (2022). Conspiracy mentality and political orientation across 26 countries. *Nature Human Behaviour*, 6(3), 392-403. <https://doi.org/10.1038/s41562-021-01258-7>
- Babińska, M.**, Bilewicz, M., Górka, P., Toruńczyk-Ruiz, S., & Wypych, M. (2022). Poles toward Ukrainians: The results of survey studies after the Russian invasion of Ukraine in 2022. *Nauka*, 37-58. <https://doi.org/10.24425/nauka.2022.142919>
- Adam-Troian, J., Wagner-Egger, P., Motyl, M., Arciszewski, T., Imhoff, R., Zimmer, F., ... **Babińska, M.**, ... van Prooijen, J. W. (2021). Investigating the links between cultural values and belief in conspiracy theories: The key roles of collectivism and masculinity. *Political Psychology*, 42(4), 597-618. <https://doi.org/10.1111/pops.12716>
- Bouchat, P., Licata, L., Rosoux, V., Allesch, C., Ammerer, H., **Babińska, M.**, ... Klein, O. (2019). Greedy elites and poor lambs: How young Europeans remember the Great War. *Journal of Social and Political Psychology*, 7(1), 52-75. <https://doi.org/10.5964/jsp.7i1.781>
- Babińska, M.**, & Bilewicz, M. (2018). Self-sacrifice for in-group's history: A diachronic perspective. *Behavioral and Brain Sciences*, 41, e194. <https://doi.org/10.1017/S0140525X18001796>
- Bilewicz, M., Bulska, D., **Babińska, M.**, Haska, A., & Winiewski, M. (2018). March in February? The study of Poles' attitudes toward Jews and the Holocaust history in the context of the Holocaust law debate in Poland. *Nauka*, 2, 7-41.
- Bilewicz, M., & **Babińska, M.** (2018). Bystander, czyli kto? Potoczne wyobrażenia Polaków na temat stosunku do Żydów w czasie okupacji hitlerowskiej [Bystanders: Who are they? Poles' current perceptions of attitudes towards Jews during the Nazi occupation]. *Teksty Drugie*, 3, 97-116.
- Bilewicz, M., Mikołajczak, M., & **Babińska, M.** (2017). Speaking about the preborn: How specific terms used in the abortion debate reflect attitudes and (de)mentalization. *Personality and Individual Differences*, 111, 256-262.

Book chapters

Licata, L., **Babińska, M.**, & Zian, Y. (2026). "Can't you see it?": A cultural psychological approach to the role of heritage in shaping collective memory and identity. In R. Cabecinhas, L. Abadia, & L. Lins (Eds.), *Living Memories & Media / Memória Viva & Media* (pp. 17-32). Húmus Editora. <http://hdl.handle.net/2013/ULB-DIPOT:oai:dipot.ulb.ac.be:2013/406374>

Babińska, M., Soral, W., & Bilewicz, M. (2026). The political psychology of vaccination: Ideology, sense of control, and conspiracy theories in public health. In W. Kulesza, D. Doliński, & T. Grzyb (Eds.), *Vaccines and Vaccinations: A Psychological Perspective*. Springer. https://doi.org/10.1007/978-3-032-18151-0_11

Babińska, M., Soral, W., & Bilewicz, M. (2024). Polityczna psychologia szczepień: Ideologia, poczucie kontroli oraz teorie spiskowe w obszarze zdrowia publicznego [Political psychology of vaccinations: Ideology, sense of control, and conspiracy theories in public health]. In W. Kulesza, T. Grzyb, & D. Doliński (Eds.), *Psychologiczne konteksty szczepień: Badania i rekomendacje* (pp. 219-238). Smak Słowa.

Bilewicz, M., & **Babińska, M.** (2024). Past victimization and responses to the COVID-19 pandemic. In M. K. Miller (Ed.), *The Social Science of the COVID-19 Pandemic: A Call to Action for Researchers*. Oxford University Press. <https://doi.org/10.1093/oso/9780197615133.003.0031>

Babińska, M., Bilewicz, M., Barth, M., & Fritsche, I. (2020). Rola motywacji w reprezentacjach przeszłości: Kontrola i moralność [The role of motivation in representations of the past: Control and morality]. In M. Kofta & M. Rędzio (Eds.), *Poczucie kontroli i niepewność: Konsekwencje dla rozumienia świata społecznego*. Libri Libris.

Babińska, M., & Bilewicz, M. (2019). Teorie spiskowe i polityka [Conspiracy theories and politics]. In M. Winiewski & A. Stefaniak (Eds.), *Uprzedzenia w Polsce 2: Oblicza przemocy międzygrupowej*. Libri Libris.

Mikołajczak, M., & **Babińska, M.** (2019). Postawy wobec przemocy płciowej i praw reprodukcyjnych kobiet [Attitudes towards gender-based violence and women's reproductive rights]. In M. Winiewski & A. Stefaniak (Eds.), *Uprzedzenia w Polsce 2: Oblicza przemocy międzygrupowej*. Libri Libris.

Bilewicz, M., Witkowska, M., Fritsche, I., Barth, M., & **Babińska, M.** (2019). Motivated histories: How visions of national past reflect human motivations in Poland and Germany. In P. Salter & S. Mukharjee (Eds.), *History and Collective Memory from the Margins: A Global Perspective*. Nova Science.

Research reports

Cáceres Quezada, E., Wijnja, L., Smeekes, A., Gilodi, A., Franc, R., Maglić, M., Neralić, M., Leone, G., Di Carlo, G., Mastropietro, A., Licata, L., **Babińska, M.**, & Martinovic, B. (2025). *Technical report on how young Europeans engage with changes in products and traditions related to the European colonial cultural heritage*. CONCILIARE, Horizon Europe.

Barna, I., Kohut, T., Bilewicz, M., Gyarfášová, O., Kocián, J., Mesežnikov, G., & **Babińska, M.** (2022). *Survey on antisemitic prejudice in the Visegrád countries: Research report*. Tom Lantos Institute. ISBN 978-615-6324-06-1

Babińska, M. (2021). *Ratowali czy wydawali? Wyobrażenia Polaków i Izraelczyków na temat stosunków polsko-żydowskich w okresie II wojny światowej* [Rescuers or informers? Polish and Israeli perceptions of Polish-Jewish relations during World War II]. Centrum Badań nad Uprzedzeniami, Uniwersytet Warszawski, 04/2021.

Babińska, M. (2021). *Polacy o globalnym ociepleniu* [Poles on global warming]. Centrum Badań nad Uprzedzeniami, Uniwersytet Warszawski, 05/2021.

Babińska, M., Matera, J., & Bilewicz, M. (2020). *Zaraza ponad podziałami: Związki poglądów politycznych z postawami wobec epidemii SARS-CoV-2* [A plague above divisions: Links between political views and attitudes toward the SARS-CoV-2 epidemic]. Centrum Badań nad Uprzedzeniami, Uniwersytet Warszawski, 02/2020.

Babińska, M., Bilewicz, M., Bulska, D., Haska, A., & Winiewski, M. (2018). *Stosunek do Żydów i ich historii po wprowadzeniu ustawy o IPN* [Attitudes toward Jews and their history after the introduction of the IPN law]. Centrum Badań nad Uprzedzeniami, Uniwersytet Warszawski, 01/2018. Analysis prepared for the Polish Commissioner for Human Rights.

Winiewski, M., Bulska, D., & **Babińska, M.** (2018). *Doświadczenie molestowania wśród studentek i studentów: Analiza i zalecenia* [Experiences of harassment among students: Analysis and recommendations]. Biuro Rzecznika Praw Obywatelskich, Zasada równego traktowania: Prawo i praktyka nr 25. ISSN 0860-7958.

MANUSCRIPTS SUBMITTED AND IN PREPARATION

Brunarska, Z., & **Babińska, M.** (manuscript submitted to *Social Science Research*). Outgroup contact and majority members' perceptions of the prevalence of religious discrimination in Europe.

Babińska, M., & Gendźwiłł, A. (in preparation). Why women don't get to be mayors? The discrepancy between perceived warmth and competence in mayors and councilwomen among members of local councils.

Babińska, M., Siemiątkowski, M., & Bilewicz, M. (in preparation). Helping before remembering: Moral action and historical meaning-making in Poland's response to the Russian invasion of Ukraine.

Babińska, M., & Bilewicz, M. (in preparation). The role of exclusive and inclusive victim consciousness in Holocaust distortions: The case of Central and Eastern Europe.

Babińska, M., Bilewicz, M., Siemiątkowski, M., & Toruńczyk-Ruiz, S. (in preparation). Opportunity or threat? Identity-related determinants of perceiving the reception of Ukrainian refugees in Poland.

CONFERENCE PRESENTATIONS

- Babińska, M. (2026, June). Helping before remembering: Moral action and historical meaning-making in Poland's response to the Russian invasion of Ukraine. EASP General Meeting, Strasbourg, France. [blitz talk]
- Babińska, M. (2025, December). Projection of individual (im)morality onto groups in the past: Individual motives in biased representations of the Holocaust. Social Psychology of Historical Distortion Conference, Goldegg, Austria. [paper]
- Babińska, M., & Licata, L. (2025, September). Confronting colonial legacies: Visitors' reactions to contested spaces in Belgium's Africa Museum. 19th Polish Society of Social Psychology Meeting, Warsaw, Poland. [paper]
- Babińska, M., & Licata, L. (2025, July). Confronting colonial legacies: Visitors' reactions to contested artifacts in Belgium's Africa Museum. ISPP Annual Meeting, Prague, Czech Republic. [paper]
- Babińska, M., & Bilewicz, M. (2025, July). The role of exclusive and inclusive victim consciousness in Holocaust distortions: The case of Central and Eastern Europe. ISPP Annual Meeting, Prague, Czech Republic. [paper]
- Babińska, M., & Gendźwiłł, A. (2024, September). Government closer to people: Differentiating the effects of local and national level conspiracy theories. 18th Polish Society of Social Psychology Meeting, Katowice, Poland. [paper]
- Babińska, M., & Gendźwiłł, A. (2023, September). Right-wing authoritarianism and leadership style among elected representatives in Polish local government councils. 17th Polish Society of Social Psychology Meeting, Łódź, Poland. [paper]
- Babińska, M. (2023, July). Efficacy-based historical narratives and political collective action. ISPP Annual Meeting, Montreal, Canada. [paper]
- Babińska, M. (2023, June). Identity-related determinants of perceiving the reception of Ukrainian refugees in Poland as an opportunity and a threat. EASP General Meeting, Kraków, Poland. [paper]
- Babińska, M. (2022, September). Sprawcza historia est magistra vitae, czyli jak postrzegana sprawczość w historii wpływa na zbiorowe działanie dzisiaj [Historical agency est magistra vitae: How perceived agency in history affects collective action today]. 17th Polish Society of Social Psychology Meeting, Gdańsk, Poland. [paper]
- Babińska, M. (2022, July). Defensive bias in historical perception: The role of individual sense of (im)morality. ISPP Annual Meeting, Athens, Greece. [paper]
- Babińska, M. (2022, June). How efficacy-based historical narratives can enhance the willingness to engage in political collective action. Warsaw Seminar on Intergroup Relations, Warsaw, Poland. [paper]
- Babińska, M., & Bilewicz, M. (2020, July). Different shades of bystandership: Social representations of Polish-Jewish relations during World War II. ISPP Annual Meeting. [paper]
- Babińska, M., & Bilewicz, M. (2019, March). Group-based control restoration through shifting moral foundations. International Convention of Psychological Science, Paris, France. [poster]
- Babińska, M., & Bilewicz, M. (2018, September). Psychologiczne uwarunkowania potocznych wyobrażeń Polaków na temat stosunku do Żydów w trakcie okupacji hitlerowskiej [Psychological determinants of ordinary Poles' perceptions of their attitudes towards Jews during the Nazi occupation]. 15th Polish Society of Social Psychology Meeting, Lublin, Poland. [paper]
- Bilewicz, M., & Babińska, M. (2018, February). How victimhood affects interpretations of contemporary political events. From Conflict to Dialogue? Learning the Lessons of the Polish Round Table, Warsaw, Poland. [paper]
- Babińska, M. (2017). Different shades of bystandership. EASP Small Group Meeting: Understanding and Transforming Challenging Relationships, Setting a Research Agenda for a 21st Century Social Psychology. [poster]
- Babińska, M., & Bilewicz, M. (2017, August). Projecting existential motives onto avatars representing the in-group in video games. 19th ESCON Transfer of Knowledge Conference, Gdańsk, Poland. [paper]
- Babińska, M., Bilewicz, M., & Mikołajczak, M. (2017, July). Is it a fetus or an unborn baby? How individual linguistic differences reflect abortion attitudes and perceptions of humanness. EASP General Meeting, Granada, Spain. [poster]
- Babińska, M. (2017, June). "Będą zdobywać Rzym, jak kiedyś zdobyli Konstantynopol": Rola analogii historycznych w kreowaniu wizerunku uchodźców ["They will conquer Rome as they once conquered Constantinople": The role of historical analogies in creating the image of refugees]. VII Tajfel Seminar, Warsaw, Poland. [paper]
- Bilewicz, M., & Babińska, M. (2017, January). Child or fetus? Abortion attitudes as motivated lay anthropology. Winter Seminar on Social Cognition and Intergroup Relations, Szczyrk, Poland. [paper]
- Babińska, M., Ghilani, D., Luminet, O., & Klein, O. (2016, September). "Putin is like Hitler": Usage of historical analogies in French-speaking Belgian press coverage of the Crimean crisis. 13th Polish Society of Social Psychology Meeting, Wrocław, Poland. [poster]
- Babińska, M., & Bouchat, P. (2016, July). Historical representations of the Great War in Eastern Europe. Final COST Action IS1205 Conference, *Agents Through Time: How Do People "Make History"?*, Limerick, Ireland. [poster]
- Babińska, M., Ghilani, D., Luminet, O., & Klein, O. (2016, June). « Poutine est comme Hitler » : L'usage des analogies historiques dans les journaux belges francophones durant la crise de Crimée. IPSY Day, Université catholique de Louvain, Belgium. [poster]

TEACHING AND MENTORING

- Academic Skills (30h), 1st-year undergraduate course
- Political Psychology (15h), 4th-year undergraduate course
- Social Psychology Seminar (30h), 2nd-year undergraduate course
- Introduction to Statistics in SPSS (30h), 2nd-year undergraduate course
- Introduction to Statistics in jamovi (30h), 2nd-year undergraduate course
- Empirical Seminar: mentoring and supervision of 3rd-year psychology students' bachelor theses
- Mentoring of research assistants, resulting in three manuscripts in preparation
- Supervision of interns, CeSCuP, Université libre de Bruxelles

WORKSHOPS AND SUMMER SCHOOLS

- 14th ECPR Summer School in Methods and Techniques: Applied Experimental Research (30h)
- 13th ECPR Summer School in Methods and Techniques: Introduction to Structural Equation Modelling (30h)
- EASP Summer School, University of Zurich: Control and Motivation workshop (Prof. Baruch Eitam, Prof. Ruud Custers)
- COST Training School: Quantitative Methods in the Study of Conspiracy Theories

LANGUAGES

Polish (native), English (fluent), French (fluent), Spanish (intermediate), Hebrew (basic)