Andrew Scutt

Educational Background

University of Toronto — Toronto, Ontario
Sept. 2022 – Jun 2027

- Psychology Research Specialist
- Economics Specialist With a Focus in Data Analytics
- Mathematics Minor

Honors and Awards

Economics Undergraduate Research Grant — December 2025
Undergraduate Research Fund — April 2025
UofT Dean's List Scholar Designation — June 2023 – Present
Later Life Learning OSOTF Award (x2) — June 2023 and June 2025
University of Toronto Engineering Science Entrance Scholarship — March 2022
Bronze Governor General's Award — June 2022

Prior Positions

Research Practicum Student — January. 2026 – Present
Einstein Lab (PI: Gillian Einstein) — *Toronto, Ontario*

∗ Help with processing diffusion tensor imaging data to determine the relationship between estradiol intake and the organization of the brain's white matter microstructures

Research Assistant — September. 2025 – Present
Social AI Lab (PI: William Cunningham) — *Toronto, Ontario*

∗ Leading an experiment focused on determining people's preferences when solving problems: follow their surrounding's behaviour or derive the optimal solution themselves
∗ Help with the development of Sorrel, a multi-agent reinforcement learning framework
∗ Strongly improve the laboratory's vibrant culture by leading social and academic activities

Research Assistant — March. 2025 – Present
Toronto Experimental Economics Lab (PI: Yoram Halevy) — *Toronto, Ontario*

∗ Help efficiently run in-person experiments
∗ Proposed an experimental design to determine whether Kahneman et al.'s (1991) endowment effect ultimately stems from uncertainty aversion

Senior Research Assistant — Sept. 2023 – Present
Centre for Mind and Morality (PI: Paul Bloom) — *Toronto, Ontario*

∗ Schedule and test young children and adults in-person and online using Qualtrics, Prolific, and Salesforce (surveys and looking-time paradigm)
∗ Develop a new baby-looking time software using Python
∗ Analyze and refine participant data collection and coding procedures
∗ Set up and worked with the EyeLink 1000 Plus
∗ Comprehensively analyze and apply complex mathematical literature to the laboratory's research questions
∗ Strongly improve the laboratory's vibrant culture by leading social activities

Inbound and Outbound Volunteer — Sept. 2023 – Sept. 2025
Distress Centres of Greater Toronto — *Toronto, Ontario*

∗ Deliver personalized outbound calls to citizens who are in need of emotional support, safety check-ins, and/or medication reminders
∗ Provide active and empathetic listening support without judgment
∗ Extensively trained in client-centered therapy with solution-focused approach that addresses suicide, abuse, violence, self-harm, crisis support, and risk assessment

Research Projects

Demyelination and Disorganization of White Matter Tissue in Aging Populations

* Performed data organization, bash coding
* Processed pipeline development for neuroimaging
* Quality checked structural MRI data (T1, T2, and DTI)

Moral Judgments of Schadenfreude (Ongoing Data Collection)

* Developed a structural equation model capturing schadenfreude intensity and its moral evaluation by translating psychological constructs into formal mathematical representations
* Designed both a naturalistic experiment and an economically-inspired factorial design to validate the model
* Planning predictive analyses using multi-layer neural networks, K-nearest neighbors, random forests, and regression trees
* Awarded Undergraduate Research Fund to support this project
* Repository: github.com/Andrew01221/PSY405

Self-defense Legislature Preferences and Cultural Background (Ongoing Data Collection)

* Analyzing the relationship between an individual's level of individualism-collectivism and their preferences regarding permissive-restrictive self-defense legislature
* Developed an n-dimensional stochastic choice utility model that uses strict preference rankings to recover population-level preferences
* Designed a randomized within-subjects experiment measuring individualism–collectivism (Hofstede scale) and preferences over communities varying in self-defense laws and violent crime rates
* Awarded Economics Undergraduate Research Grant to support this project
* Repository: github.com/Andrew01221/ECO499

Determining the Provenance of Higher Willingness to Pay in the American Housing Market

* Wanted to determine whether status quo bias or the endowment effect contribute to a higher willingness to accept in the American housing market
* Constructed a 2015-2023 panel dataset from the American Housing Survey (around 500,000 observations)
* Operationalized status quo bias using the homeowner's number of self-reported daily difficulties
* Operationalized the endowment effect using homeowner tenure
* Used a two-way fixed effects model with my status quo bias and endowment effect variables
* Found that only status quo bias is associated with a higher willingness to accept
* Repository: github.com/Andrew01221/ECO475

Investigating Erroneous Theory of Mind in the Context of Speed-Dating

* Found that overconfidence bias and social projection bias heavily mediate a person's accuracy when determining if a partner is romantically interested in them
* Data used: 4913 match-level speed-dating observations
* Used logistic regression with ridge and lasso regularizations, KNN, Random Forests, and XGBoost with hyperparameter tuning and 5-fold cross-validation for statistical analysis
* The presentation associated with this project was Professor Koffi's personal favourite
* Github link: https://github.com/Andrew01221/ECO482

Exploring the Impact of Economic Factors on Sentiment: A Test of Economic Voting Theory

* Found a significant relationship between how often people posted negative tweets about Trump and county-level economic factors during the 2020 presidential election
* Data used: 1.8 million 2020 political tweets targeted at Trump and Biden and period-relevant county and state-level economic conditions
* Used pandas, geopandas, BeautifulSoup, RandomForestRegressor, matplotlib, and TextBlob for data cleaning, geographical mapping, web scraping, statistical modeling, and sentiment analysis, respectively
* Github link: https://github.com/Andrew01221/ECO225

Social Proof Theory as a Decision-making Mechanism in Online Negotiations

* Found that social proof theory is present when negotiating item prices on eBay
* Developed a multiple linear regression model to examine the effect of external social influences—the price of a previously sold similar item and the seller's starting price—on a consumer's behavioural output—the buyer's initial offering price, using STATA
* GitHub Link: https://github.com/Andrew01221/ECO375

Preferential Distribution of Harmful and Beneficial Experiences across a Population

* Determined how people prefer to distribute harmful and beneficial experiences across a neutral and homogeneous population
* Created an adaptation of Thurstone's method of paired comparisons for social values, which was coded in Python using pandas, NumPy, and PySR
* GitHub Link: https://github.com/Andrew01221/PSY299

Conference Presentations

Scutt, A. (2024). Preferential Distributions of Harmful and Beneficial Experiences Across a Population. Poster presented at the Research Opportunities Program Poster Fair at the University of Toronto, Toronto, ON.

Scutt, A. (2024). Preferential Distributions of Harmful and Beneficial Experiences Across a Population. Flash talk presented at the Psychology Undergraduate Research Club at the University of Toronto, Toronto, ON.

Relevant Coursework

ECO482: Machine Learning Applications in Macroeconomic Finance

University of Washington: Computational Neuroscience

DeepLearning AI: Unsupervised Learning, Recommenders, Reinforcement Learning

DeepLearning AI: Deep Learning Specialization (5 Courses) coupled with Deep Learning textbook by Ian Goodfellow, Yoshua Bengio, and Aaron Courville

Stanford University: Introduction to Logic

Relevant Skills

Languages and Framework: Qualtrics, Prolific, Salesforce, Python (pandas, NumPy, scikit, geopandas, BeautifulSoup, TextBlob, sklearn, TextBlob, Sorrel, PsychoPy, and tensorflow), R, STATA, Django, Java, JavaScript, Go, Bash, PowerShell, SQL, React, Redux, HTML, CSS, JASP, MatLab, and Kali Linux

Personal Skills: Perseverant, Perceptive, Creative, Curious, and Positive attitude

Github: https://github.com/Andrew01221

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