Joaquin Navajas Ahumada

Laboratorio de Neurociencia,
Universidad Torcuato Di Tella,
Av. Figueroa Alcorta 7350
Buenos Aires
Argentina

Director, "Laboratory of Neuroscience"
Assistant Professor, School of Business
Associate Researcher, National Scientific Research Council of Argentina

Profiles

website: https://sites.google.com/view/joaquin-navajas
e-mail: joaquin.navajas@utdt.edu
Google Scholar: https://scholar.google.com/citations?user=yP-eHqUAAAAJ&hl=en
Open Science Framework: https://osf.io/2kp65/

Education

- 2014: PhD in Neuroscience, University of Leicester, UK
- 2010: Licenciado (BSc + MSc) in Physics, Universidad de Buenos Aires, Argentina

Current Academic Positions

- Mar 2020 – now: Director of the "Laboratory of Neuroscience", an interdisciplinary research center at Universidad Torcuato Di Tella, Buenos Aires, Argentina (https://www.utdt.edu/neuro)
- Sep 2017 – now: Researcher at the National Scientific and Technical Research Council, the main government agency funding science in Argentina (https://www.conicet.gov.ar/?lan=en)
- Sep 2017 – now: Assistant Professor at the Business School - Universidad Torcuato Di Tella

Previous Positions

- Sep 2014 – Aug 2017: Research Associate (postdoc) at University College London, UK.
- Mar 2014 – Aug 2014: Research Associate (postdoc) at University of Leicester, UK.
- Ene 2011 – Feb 2014: PhD Candidate at University of Leicester, UK.
- Mar 2009 – Dec 2010: Research Assistant at Universidad de Buenos Aires, Argentina.

Awards and Fellowships

- 2023: Grant awarded by the Templeton World Charity Foundation, "*Individual and cross-cultural differences in the attraction to political extremes*", **USD 248,000.** (co PI with Amit Goldenberg at Harvard University, United States)
- 2023: Grant awarded by the Vaccine Confidence Fund, "*Personalizing social media strategies to address rising vaccine-ambivalence in Complementary Medicine users with chronic conditions*", **USD 396,000.** (co PI with Ophelia Deroy at LMU, Munich, Germany)
- 2022: Sponsored Research Project, Nudge Unit of Argentina, funded by the Inter-American Development Bank, "*Interventions to promote the adoption of bilingual bimodal education in Argentina*", **USD 10,000**. (PI)
- 2022: Visiting Research Fellowship, Center for Advanced Studies (CAS), Ludwig-Maximilian University (LMU), Munich, Germany. **EUR 30,000**
- 2021: Research Agreement with Meta AI Research "*The intelligence underlying human consensus*", **USD 175,000** (co PI with Mariano Sigman at Universidad Torcuato Di Tella, Buenos Aires, Argentina)

Five key publications

1) Zimmerman, F., Garbulsky, G., Ariely, D., Sigman, M., & **Navajas, J.** (2022). Political coherence and certainty as drivers of interpersonal liking, over and above similarity. *Science Advances*, 8(6), 1-14

Summary: *Three large-scale behavioral studies show that interpersonal attraction in the political domain does not depend only on the similarity of opinions but also on political coherence and certainty, two variables that correlate with political extremity.*

2) **Navajas, J.**, Heduan, F. Á., Garbulsky, G., Tagliazucchi, E., Ariely, D., & Sigman, M. (2021). Moral responses to the COVID-19 crisis. *Royal Society Open Science*, 8(9), 210096

Summary: *This is a survey experiment conducted in 10 Latin American countries and a pre-registered replication in the United States. It shows how moral values during the pandemic are shaped by country-level variables and individual differences in personality.*

3) Freira, L., Sartorio, M., Boruchowicz, C., Boo, F. L., & **Navajas, J.** (2021). The interplay between partisanship, forecasted COVID-19 deaths, and support for preventive policies. *Humanities and Social Sciences Communications*, 8(1), 1-10.

Summary: *This survey experiment tested the relationship between partisanship and COVID-19 policy support across four countries: Argentina, Uruguay, Brazil, and the United States.*

4) **Navajas, J.**, Armand, O., Moran, R., Bahrami, B., Deroy, O. (2022). Diversity of opinions promotes herding in uncertain crowds. *Royal Society Open Science*, 9: 191497

Summary: *This is a pre-registered report, where all hypotheses, methods, and analysis plans were peer-reviewed before data collection. It studies the effect of diversity on social influence.*

5) **Navajas, J.**, Alvarez Heduan, F., Garrido, J.M., Gonzalez, P.A., Garbulsky G., Ariely, D., & Sigman, M. (2019). Reaching consensus in polarized moral debates. *Current Biology*. 29(23): 4124-4129.e6

Summary: *In this paper, we collected data in two large-scale popular events and examined the conditions under which deliberating groups can reach consensus and change their minds about polarized moral issues.*

Collaboration with policymakers

Director of the "*Argentinian Network for Behavioral Science and Public Policy*", an association with over 200 members aimed at promoting the collaboration between behavioral scientists, practitioners, and policymakers in the Argentinian National Government.

Link: https://www.argentina.gob.ar/consejo/unidad-de-ciencias-del-comportamiento-y-politicas-publicas/red-argentina-de-ciencias-del

EXTENDED CV

Journal Publications

• Anlló, H., …, **Navajas, J.**, …, Palmintieri, S. (accepted). Outcome context-dependence is not WEIRD: Comparing reinforcement- and description-based economic preferences worldwide. *Nature Human Behaviour*

• Vlasceanu*, M., Doell*, …, **Navajas, J.**, …, Van Bavel, J. J. (accepted). Addressing Climate Change with Behavioral Science: A Global Intervention Tournament in 63 Countries. *Science Advances*

• Ruggeri, K., …, **Navajas, J.**, …, Willer, R. (2023). A synthesis of evidence for policy from behavioural science during COVID-19. *Nature.* https://doi.org/10.1038/s41586-023-06840-9

• Espina-Mairal, S., Bustos, F., Solovey, G., & **Navajas, J.** (2023). Interactive crowdsourcing to fact-check politicians. *Journal of Experimental Psychology: Applied.* https://doi.org/10.1037/xap0000492

• Fumagalli, E. Krick, C. B., Dolmatzian, M. B., Del Negro, J. E. & **Navajas, J.** (2023). Partisanship predicts COVID-19 vaccine brand preference: the insightful case of Argentina. *Humanities and Social Sciences Communications,* 10, 579.

• Röseler, L.., Barrera, F., Freira L., **Navajas, J.**, (...) & Schütz, A. (2022). The Open Anchoring Quest Dataset: Anchor estimates from 96 studies on anchoring effects. *Journal of Open Psychology Data*, 10(1), 16.

• Ruggeri, K., …, **Navajas, J**., …, García-Garzón, E. (2022). The globalizability of temporal discounting. *Nature Human Behaviour*, 6(10), 1386-1397.

• **Navajas, J.**, Armand, O., Moran, R., Bahrami, B., Deroy, O. (2022). Diversity of opinions promotes herding in uncertain crowds. *Royal Society Open Science*, 9: 191497.

• Zimmerman, F., Garbulsky, G., Ariely, D., Sigman, M., & **Navajas, J.** (2022). Political coherence and certainty as drivers of interpersonal liking, over and above similarity. *Science Advances*, 8(6), 1-14.

• **Navajas, J.**, Heduan, F. Á., Garbulsky, G., Tagliazucchi, E., Ariely, D., & Sigman, M. (2021). Moral responses to the COVID-19 crisis. *Royal Society Open Science*, 8(9), 210096.

• Freira, L., Sartorio, M., Boruchowicz, C., Boo, F. L., & **Navajas, J.** (2021). The interplay between partisanship, forecasted COVID19 deaths, and support for preventive policies. *Humanities and Social Sciences Communications*, 8(1), 1-10.

• Barrera Lemarchand, F., Semeshenko, V., **Navajas, J.**, & Balenzuela, P. (2020). Polarizing crowds: Consensus and bipolarization in a persuasive arguments model. *Chaos*, 30(6), 063141.

• **Navajas, J.**, Alvarez Heduan, F., Garrido, J.M., Gonzalez, P.A., Garbulsky G., Ariely, D., & Sigman, M. (2019). Reaching consensus in polarized moral debates. *Current Biology*. 29(23): 4124-4129.e6

• Lopes-dos-Santos, V., Rey, H. G., **Navajas, J.**, & Quiroga, R. Q. (2018). Extracting information from the shape and spatial distribution of evoked potentials. *Journal of Neuroscience Methods*. 296: 12-22

• **Navajas, J.**, Niella, T., Garbulsky, G., Bahrami, B., & Sigman, M. (2018). Aggregated knowledge from a small number of debates outperforms the wisdom of large crowds. *Nature Human Behaviour*, 2 (2):126-132.

• **Navajas, J.** Hindocha, C., Foda, H., Keramati, M., Latham, P.E., Bahrami, B (2017). The idiosyncratic nature of confidence. *Nature Human Behaviour*, 1(11): 810-818.

• **Navajas, J.**, Nitka, A.W., Quian Quiroga, R. (2017). Dissociation between the neural correlates of conscious face perception and visual attention. *Psychophysiology*, 54(8):1138-1150.

• **Navajas, J.**, Bahrami, B., Latham, P.E. (2016). Post-decisional accounts of biases in confidence. *Current Opinion in Behavioral Sciences*, 11:55-60.

• Caffaratti, H., **Navajas, J.**, Rey, H.G., Quian Quiroga, R. (2016). Where is the ball? Behavioral and neural responses elicited by a magic trick. *Psychophysiology*, 53(9):1441-8.

• Galeazzi, J.M., **Navajas, J.**, Mender, B.M.W., Quian Quiroga, R., Minini, L., Stringer, S. (2016). The visual development of handcentered receptive fields in a neural network model of the primate visual system trained with experimentally recorded human gaze changes. *Network: Computation in Neural Systems*, 27(1): 29–51.

• Campi, J., & **Navajas, J.** (2016). Overstating the importance of scientific results as optimal strategy to increase readership. *Revista da Biologia*, 15(1), 65-73.

• **Navajas, J.**, & Kaunitz, L. N. (2016). Late EEG Responses Are Absent for Conscious But Task-Irrelevant Stimuli. *Journal of Neuroscience*, 36(1), 4-6.

• **Navajas, J.**, Rey, H.G., Quian Quiroga, R. (2014). Perceptual and Contextual Awareness: Methodological Considerations in the Search for the Neural Correlates of Consciousness. *Frontiers in Psychology*, 2014, 5: 959.

• Barsakcioglu, D. Y., Liu, Y., Bhunjun, P., **Navajas, J.**, Eftekhar, A., Jackson, A., Quian Quiroga, R. & Constandinou, T. G. (2014). An analogue front-end model for developing neural spike sorting systems. *IEEE Transactions on Biomedical Circuits and Systems*, 8(2), 216-227.

• **Navajas, J.**, Sigman, M., & Kamienkowski, J. E. (2014). Dynamics of visibility, confidence, and choice during eye movements. *Journal of Experimental Psychology: Human Perception and Performance*, 40(3), 1213.

• **Navajas, J.**, Barsakcioglu, D. Y., Eftekhar, A., Jackson, A., Constandinou, T. G., & Quian Quiroga, R. (2014). Minimum requirements for accurate and efficient real-time on-chip spike sorting. *Journal of Neuroscience Methods*, 230, 51-64.

• **Navajas, J.**, Ahmadi, M., & Quian Quiroga, R. (2013). Uncovering the mechanisms of conscious face perception: a single-trial study of the N170 responses. *Journal of Neuroscience*, 33(4), 1337-1343.

• Kamienkowski, J. E., **Navajas, J.***, & Sigman, M. (2012). Eye movements blink the attentional blink. *Journal of Experimental Psychology: Human Perception and Performance*, 38(3), 555.

Patent

Co-inventor of patent No. US10820816B2, "System for a brain-computer interface", University of Leicester - University of Newcastle upon Tyne - Imperial Innovations plc.
https://patents.google.com/patent/US10820816B2/en

Editorial work

Member of the editorial board of "Humanities and Social Sciences Communications", an open- access journal published by Springer Nature covering all areas of the humanities, social and behavioral sciences.

Selected Talks in Conferences

- Attraction to those who hold coherent (and confident) political views: Evidence and simulations, 2022 Annual Meeting of the Society for Personality and Social Psychology, San Francisco, USA.
- Crowdsourcing strategies to fact check politicians are benefited from heterogeneous social influence, 2022 Annual Meeting of the Cognitive Science Society, Toronto, Canada.
- Computational and Neural Underpinnings of Individual Differences in Human Confidence, Neuroscience 2016, Society for Neuroscience (SfN), San Diego, USA.

Selected Media Coverage

- La Nación – Argentina: https://youtu.be/UsAbjL1UIDA
- TV Pública – Argentina: https://bit.ly/3CC0HYC
- El Pais – Spain: https://bit.ly/3T6jVge
- TED – USA: https://bit.ly/3Tlg9PB
- NPR – USA: https://n.pr/3ELi9wu

Selected Public Engagement Activities

- TEDx talk at TEDxRiodelaPlata 2017 (https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=HvyfQB878QA)
- TEDx talk at TEDxRiodelaPlata 2018 (https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=rX0VWFOrCJ8)
- Talk at the 2018 IDEA colloquium (https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=teZqp_lkmv0)