

Dr. Alexandros Giannelis

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EDUCATION

University of Minnesota Twin Cities , Minneapolis, MN, U.S.A. Ph.D. in Psychology (Personality, Individual Differences & Behavior Genetics)	2019–2024
King's College London, Institute of Psychiatry, Psychology & Neuroscience Social, Genetic & Developmental Psychiatry Centre , London, U.K. MSc (<i>Distinction</i>) in Genes, Environment & Development in Psychology & Psychiatry	2018–2019
Athens University of Economics and Business, School of Economic Science Department of International & European Economic Studies , Athens, Greece BSc in Economics and International Relations Certificate of Pedagogical and Teaching Proficiency (Secondary Education Teaching License)	2012–2016

PROFESSIONAL EXPERIENCE (ACADEMIC)

Teaching and Research Faculty Member <i>Department of Social Sciences UNIC Athens, Athens, Greece</i>	<i>September 2026 – present</i>
Postdoctoral researcher: Health & Labour Economics Group <i>Erasmus School of Economics Erasmus University Rotterdam, Rotterdam, Netherlands</i>	<i>September 2024 – December 2026</i>
Lecturer: Economics & Genetics <i>Erasmus School of Economics Erasmus University Rotterdam, Rotterdam, Netherlands</i>	<i>September 2026 – December 2026</i>
Co-lecturer: Economics & Genetics With Dr. Dilnoza Muslimova <i>Erasmus School of Economics Erasmus University Rotterdam, Rotterdam, Netherlands</i>	<i>September 2025 – December 2025 September 2024 – December 2024</i>
Doctoral researcher Biological mechanisms of personality and intelligence <i>University of Minnesota, Minneapolis, MN, USA</i>	<i>September 2022 – May 2024</i>
Lecturer: Introduction to Individual Differences <i>University of Minnesota, Minneapolis, MN, USA</i>	<i>January 2022 – May 2022</i>
Teaching assistant: Introduction to Personality Lecturer: Prof. Colin DeYoung <i>University of Minnesota, Minneapolis, MN, USA</i>	<i>September 2021 – December 2021</i>
Teaching assistant: Introduction to Learning and Behavior Lecturer: Prof. Thomas Brothen <i>University of Minnesota, Minneapolis, MN, USA</i>	<i>September 2021 – December 2021</i>
Lecturer: Introduction to Individual Differences <i>University of Minnesota, Minneapolis, MN, USA</i>	<i>January 2021 – May 2021</i>
Co-lecturer: Introduction to Individual Differences With Dr. Emily Willoughby	<i>September 2020 – December 2020</i>

NON-ACADEMIC EXPERIENCE (SELECTED)

Military Service

January 2017 – October 2017

1st Paratrooper Squadron, Maleme, Greece

Special Paratrooper Detachment, Nea Peramos, Greece

Hellenic National Defense General Staff - Special Operations Command, Athens, Greece

Teacher: Introduction to Economic Theory

September 2014 – May 2015

3rd Lyceum, Galatsi, Greece

1st Lyceum, Galatsi, Greece

Teacher: Business Administration

September 2014 – May 2015

2nd Lyceum, Galatsi, Greece

Teacher: Civic Education

September 2014 – May 2015

2nd Vocational High School, Galatsi, Greece

PUBLICATIONS

Schwaba T., ... **Giannelis, A.**, ... & Tucker-Drob, E. (2026). Robust inference and correlates from genetic associations with personality. *Nature*. DOI: <https://doi.org/10.1038/s41586-026-10992-9>

Dobson, R. T., Edwards, T., **Giannelis, A.**, Miller, G. F., March, M. J., Willoughby, E. A., ... & McGue, M. (2026). Higher quality parent-offspring relationships predict lower-risk adolescent sexual behavior: a genetically informed sibling comparison. *Journal of Adolescent Health*, 9 (4), 476–482. DOI: [10.1016/j.jadohealth.2026.05.007](https://doi.org/10.1016/j.jadohealth.2026.05.007)

Starr, A., Ruks, M., **Giannelis, A.**, ... & Von Stumm, S. (2026). Within-and between-family genetic effects on educational achievement vary across countries and ages. *Molecular Psychiatry*, 31 (4), 2029–2037. DOI: <https://doi.org/10.1038/s41380-025-03342-0>

Giannelis, A., Willoughby, E.A., Edwards, T., McGue, M., & Lee, J.J. (2025). A genetic common factor underlying self-reported math ability and highest math class taken. *Molecular Psychiatry*, 30 (5), 5701–5709. DOI: [10.1038/s41380-025-03237-0](https://doi.org/10.1038/s41380-025-03237-0)

Willoughby, E.A., Love, A., McGue, M., Edwards, T., **Giannelis, A.**, & Lee, J.J. (2025). The freedom to believe in free will: evidence from an adoption study against the first law of behavioral genetics. *Philosophical Psychology*, 1-25. DOI: [10.1080/09515089.2025.2533519](https://doi.org/10.1080/09515089.2025.2533519)

Edwards, T., March, M.J., Willoughby, E.A., & **Giannelis, A.** (2025). Intelligence and individual differences in astrological belief. *Journal of Individual Differences*, 46 (1), 50-57. DOI: [10.1027/1614-0001/a000434](https://doi.org/10.1027/1614-0001/a000434)

Kweon, H., ... **Giannelis, A.**, ... & Koellinger, P.D. (2025). Associations between common genetic variants and income provide insights about the socio-economic health gradient. *Nature Human Behaviour* 9, 794–805. DOI: [10.1038/s41562-024-02080-7](https://doi.org/10.1038/s41562-024-02080-7)

Assary, E., ... **The Within Family Consortium** ... & Keers, R. (2025). Genetics of monozygotic twins reveals the impact of environmental sensitivity on psychiatric and neurodevelopmental phenotypes. *Nature Human Behaviour*, 9, 1683–1696. DOI: [10.1038/s41562-025-02193-7](https://doi.org/10.1038/s41562-025-02193-7)

Johnson E.C., ., ... **Giannelis, A.**, ... & Agrawal A. (2025) Multi-ancestral genome-wide association study of clinically defined nicotine dependence reveals strong genetic correlations with other substance use disorders and health-related traits. *Psychological Medicine*, 55, e234.. DOI: [10.1017/S0033291725100883](https://doi.org/10.1017/S0033291725100883)

- Edwards, T., **Giannelis, A.**, Willoughby, E.A., & Lee, J.J. (2024). Predicting political beliefs with polygenic scores for cognitive performance and educational attainment. *Intelligence*, 104, 101831. DOI: [10.1016/j.intell.2024.101831](https://doi.org/10.1016/j.intell.2024.101831)
- Kim, Y., Saunders, G.R., **Giannelis, A.**, Willoughby, E.A., DeYoung, C.G., & Lee, J.J. (2023). Genetic and neural bases of the neuroticism general factor. *Biological Psychology*, 108692. DOI: [10.1016/j.biopsycho.2023.108692](https://doi.org/10.1016/j.biopsycho.2023.108692)
- Howe, L., Rasheed, H., Jones, P.R., Boomsma, D.I., Evans, D. M., **Giannelis, A.**, ... & Davies, N. M. (2023). Educational attainment, health outcomes and mortality: a within-sibship Mendelian randomization study. *International Journal of Epidemiology*, 52 (5), 1579-1591. DOI: [10.1093/ije/dyad079](https://doi.org/10.1093/ije/dyad079)
- Giannelis, A.**, Willoughby, E.A., Corley, R., Hopfer, C., Hewitt, J.K., Iacono, W.G., Anderson, J., Rustichini, A., Vrieze, S., McGue, M., & Lee, J.J. (2023). The association between saving disposition and financial distress: A genetically informed approach. *Journal of Economic Psychology*, 96, 102610. DOI:[10.1016/j.joep.2023.102610](https://doi.org/10.1016/j.joep.2023.102610)
- Willoughby, E.A., **Giannelis, A.**, Iacono, W.G., McGue, M., & Vrieze, S. (2023). A century of behavioral genetics at the University of Minnesota. *Twin Research and Human Genetics*, 25 (6), 211-225. DOI:[10.1017/thg.2023.1](https://doi.org/10.1017/thg.2023.1)
- Howe, L.J., ... **Giannelis, A.**, ... & Davies, N.M. (2022). Within-sibship genome-wide association analyses of 25 phenotypes improve estimates of direct genetic effects. *Nature Genetics*, 54, 581–592. DOI:[10.1038/s41588-022-01062-7](https://doi.org/10.1038/s41588-022-01062-7)
- McGue, M., Anderson, E.L., Willoughby, E.A., **Giannelis, A.**, Iacono, W.G., & Lee, J.J. (2022). Not by g alone: The benefits of a college education among individuals with low levels of general cognitive ability. *Intelligence*, 92, 101642. DOI:[10.1016/j.intell.2022.101642](https://doi.org/10.1016/j.intell.2022.101642)
- Willoughby, E.A., **Giannelis, A.**, Ludeke, S., Klemmensen, R., Nørgaard, A.S., Iacono, W.G., Lee, J.J., & McGue, M. (2021). Parent contributions to the development of political attitudes in adoptive and biological families. *Psychological Science*, 32 (12), 2023–2034. DOI:[10.1177/09567976211021844](https://doi.org/10.1177/09567976211021844)
- Giannelis A.**, Palmos A., Hagenaaers S.P., Breen G., Lewis C.M. & Mutz J. (2021). Examining the association between family status and depression in the UK Biobank. *Journal of Affective Disorders*, 279, 585-598 DOI:[10.1016/j.jad.2020.10.017](https://doi.org/10.1016/j.jad.2020.10.017)
- Giannelis A.** & Drivas K. (2017). Socioeconomic conditions and political fractionalization. *Current Politics and Economics of Europe*, 28 (2), 131-149. ISSN:[1057-2309](https://doi.org/10.1016/j.cpe.2017.03.001) (non-peer-reviewed)

CONFERENCE PRESENTATIONS

International Society for Intelligence Research, Warsaw, Poland	July 2026
Behavior Genetics Association, Amsterdam, Netherlands	June 2026
European Social Science Genetics Network, Bologna, Italy	May 2026
International Society for the Study of Individual Differences, Vienna, Austria	July 2025
International Society of Political Psychology, Prague, Czechia	July 2025
International Society for Intelligence Research, Chicago, IL, U.S.A.	July 2025
International Gene Forum, Tartu, Estonia	September 2024
International Society for Intelligence Research, Zurich, Switzerland	July 2024
International Society for Intelligence Research, San Francisco, CA, U.S.A.	July 2023
Behavior Genetics Association, Murcia, Spain	June 2023

European Social Science Genetics Network, Bologna, Italy	<i>May 2023</i>
International Society for Intelligence Research, Vienna, Austria	<i>July 2022</i>
Behavior Genetics Association, Los Angeles, CA, U.S.A.	<i>June 2022</i>
1 st European Social Science Genomics Network, Bologna, Italy	<i>May 2022</i>
International Society for Twin Studies, Budapest, Hungary	<i>November 2021</i>
Behavior Genetics Association, online	<i>June 2020</i>

WORKSHOPS

Introduction to Methods and Applications in Ancient DNA, Athens, Greece	<i>May 2026</i>
Russel Sage Foundation Summer Institute in Social Science Genomics, Stowe, VT, U.S.A.	<i>August 2021</i>
International Statistical Genetics Workshop, Boulder, CO, U.S.A. (Genomics)	<i>March 2020</i>
International Statistical Genetics Workshop, Boulder, CO, U.S.A. (Biometrics)	<i>March 2019</i>

INVITED TALKS

University of Piraeus, Piraeus, Greece	<i>January 2026</i>
Brain and Mind Congress, Athens, Greece	<i>December 2025</i>
Universiteit van Amsterdam, Amsterdam, Netherlands	<i>October 2025</i>
American College of Greece, Athens, Greece	<i>January 2025</i>

GRANT WRITING

Foundations and Implications of Human Cognitive Ability - \$530,000 Pls: Prof. James J. Lee and Dr. Emily Willoughby <i>Institute of Mental Chronometry</i>	<i>2023-2024</i>
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AWARDS & HONORS

Graduate Student Research Award <i>University of Minnesota</i>	<i>Spring 2023</i>
David Campbell Graduate Research Fellowship <i>University of Minnesota</i>	<i>Spring 2023</i>
Thomas J. Bouchard Fellowship <i>University of Minnesota</i>	<i>Summer 2022</i>
Hellenic Link Midwest Scholarship <i>Hellenic Link Midwest</i>	<i>Spring 2022</i>
Graduate Research Fellowship <i>University of Minnesota</i>	<i>Summer 2021</i>

Louis Gerondelis Fellowship
Gerondelis Foundation

Fall 2020

Thomas J. Bouchard Fellowship
University of Minnesota

Summer 2020

Department of Psychology Graduate Fellowship
University of Minnesota

Fall 2019 – Spring 2020

SERVICE

Elected Appointments

- President, Hellenic Student Association *2020–2021*
University of Minnesota, Minneapolis, MN

Peer Review

2022 – present

- *Nature Human Behaviour*
- *Nature Mental Health*
- *Scientific Reports*
- *Translational Psychiatry*
- *Humanities and Social Sciences Communications*
- *BMC Medical Genomics*
- *BMC Psychiatry*
- *Clinical Psychology & Psychotherapy*
- *Twin Research and Human Genetics*
- *Acta Psychologica*
- *Journal of Neuroscience, Psychology, and Economics*
- *JCPP Advances*

Memberships & Affiliations

2019 – present

- *Behavior Genetics Association*
- *International Society for the Study of Individual Differences*
- *International Society for Intelligence Research*
- *International Society for Twin Studies*
- *International Society of Political Psychology*
- *British Society for the Psychology of Individual Differences*

STUDENT SUPERVISION

Supervisor: 5 Bsc theses *Spring 2026*
Second assessor: 4 Bsc theses & 1 Msc thesis
Department of Economics; Department of Econometrics
Erasmus University Rotterdam, Rotterdam, Netherlands

Supervisor: 5 Bsc theses *Spring 2025*
Second assessor: 5 Bsc theses & 1 Msc thesis
Department of Economics; Department of Econometrics
Erasmus University Rotterdam, Rotterdam, Netherlands

MEDIA

- *New York Times* – “[Scientists Find More Than 1,000 Genetic Variants Linked to Personality](#)” *September 4, 2026*
- *The Guardian* – “[A grey matter? Nature, nurture and the study of forming political leanings](#)” *September 25, 2024*

- Yahoo – [“Researchers Find That Higher Intelligence Is Correlated With Left-Wing Beliefs”](#) April 13, 2024
- Ethnos – [“Health and fitness: nature or nurture?”](#) (Greek) February 27, 2023
- Daily Mail – [“Parents of large families at more risk of mental illness”](#) December 22, 2020