



# 2023 PSYCHOLOGY PROSEMINAR SPEAKER SERIES

**DR. JOHANNA PEETZ**

**Thursday, January 19, 2023  
11:30am • Humphrey Hall 228**

## **Close relationships across time: Biases in memories and forecasts**

How do people perceive their romantic relationship over time? Following people in relationships over time, our studies show a retrospective bias of remembering the relationship as being worse in the past than what it was judged as at the time. This bias was increased among people who broke up. Thus, memories of one's relationships through time show a motivational bias towards perceiving improvement or derogating unsuccessful relationships. Additionally, a pattern of projection bias emerged: participants projected their current feelings onto predicted and remembered relationship quality. This projection reduced the overall negative retrospective bias for those currently perceiving higher relationship quality and increased positive forecasting bias. In sum, both motivational and cognitive biases can colour people's thoughts about their relationship in the past and in the future.

### **ABOUT DR. JOHANNA PEETZ**

JOHANNA PEETZ, PhD, is a full professor at Carleton University. Johanna completed her undergraduate studies in her native Berlin, Germany and her graduate studies at Wilfrid Laurier University, Waterloo. Her first appointment was at the University of Cologne and she joined the Department of Psychology at Carleton University over a decade ago. Her research includes a range of topics broadly connected to cognition about time, money, and relationships.

Dr. Peetz has published more articles than she is years old and her research has been consistently SSHRC-funded. Her research aims to foster better everyday decisions, including decisions about time management, financial decisions, and relationship maintenance.



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