

Name: **Kentaro Fujita**

Institutional affiliation: **The Ohio State University**

Area of specialization: **Social & Decision Psychology**

[Website](#)



Brief (1 paragraph) summary of professional interests:

My research explores how motivational and cognitive processes influence goal-directed decisions and behavior. Much of my work explores self-control: the ability to prioritize more distant goals over immediately available rewards. My lab examines the questions of who, when, and why some people succeed and others fail at self-control. My other research interests include: how do people pursue goals over time, places, people, and possibilities; what are people's beliefs about motivation and what are the consequences of these beliefs; what motivates individuals, groups, and institutions to change and grow; and how can people use motivation science to promote fair and equal opportunities & experiences for all.

Representative publications (no more than five):

Fujita, K. (2011). On conceptualizing self-control as more than the effortful inhibition of impulses. *Personality and Social Psychology Review, 15*, 352-366.

Fujita, K., Trope, Y., & Liberman, N. (2025). Understanding self-control as a problem of regulatory scope. *Psychological Review, 132*, 50-75.

Johnson, I. R., & Fujita, K. (2012). Using perceptions of changeability to promote system-change motives over system-justification motives in information search. *Psychological Science, 23*, 133-140.

Scholer, A. A., Miele, D. B., Murayama, K., & Fujita, K. (2018). New directions in self-regulation: The role of metamotivational beliefs. *Current Directions in Psychological Science, 27*, 437-442.

Wallace, L. E., Murphy, M. C., Hernandez, A., & Fujita, K. (2026). When do mindsets predict an interest in a culture of growth vs. genius? A mindset strength perspective. *Journal of Personality and Social Psychology, 130*(2), 291–307.

Representative honors or awards (no more than five):

SAGE Young Scholars Award, Foundation for Personality and Social Psychology, 2010

Fellow, Association for Psychological Science (elected 2019)

Faculty Mentor of the Year Award, Office of Postdoctoral Affairs, The Ohio State University, 2020

Joan N. Huber Social and Behavioral Faculty Fellowship Award, College of Arts & Sciences, The Ohio State University, 2025

Susan M. Hartmann Mentoring and Leadership Award, College of Arts & Sciences, The Ohio State University, 2025

Involvement in MPA:

I have attended MPA with my students nearly every year for two decades. As a member of MPA, in addition to presenting my own research, I have moderated numerous research talk sessions, organized several topical symposia, volunteered in mentoring programs, led professional development workshops, and discussed students' research at poster sessions. I was elected Fellow in 2018.

My students—both undergraduate and graduate students—have benefited from the intimate, interactive, and supportive community that MPA provides. As a faculty member, I believe it is important for us to be present and visible, engaging students and others to not only advance their research and professional growth, but also to promote the inclusion and belonging that are characteristic of this conference. I think this is particularly important for me as a person of color—our students need to have role models and see what is possible.