

# ROSEANNA SOMMERS

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## ACADEMIC APPOINTMENTS

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<b>University of Michigan Law School</b>	2020–present
Professor of Law	2025–present
Assistant Professor of Law	2020–2025
Faculty Associate, Department of Psychology	2020–present
Faculty Associate, Institute for Social Research	2020–present
<b>University of Chicago Law School</b>	2018–2020
Harry A. Bigelow Teaching Fellow & Lecturer in Law	

## EDUCATION

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<b>Yale Law School, J.D.</b>	2012–2018
<i>Yale Law Journal</i> , Vols. 123 & 124 (Diversity & Membership Editor) Israel H. Peres Prize: Best student publication appearing in the <i>Yale Law Journal</i> Margaret Gruter Prize: Best paper concerning behavioral science and law	
<b>Yale Graduate School of Arts &amp; Sciences, Ph.D. in Psychology</b>	2012–2018
Dissertation approved with distinction Graduate Policy Fellow at the Institution for Social and Policy Studies (ISPS)	
<b>Swarthmore College, B.A. in Psychology</b>	2006–2010
Highest Honors Phi Beta Kappa; Sigma Xi Scientific Research Society Oak Leaf Award: Most outstanding woman in the graduating class Solomon Asch Award: Most distinguished senior thesis in Psychology Flack Achievement Award: Most outstanding member of the junior class	

## PUBLICATIONS

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† Denotes equal authorship

## Articles and Essays

- Cheek, N.,<sup>†</sup> & **Sommers, R.**<sup>†</sup> (in press). Noneconomic tort damages and biased beliefs about vulnerability to harm. *DePaul Law Review*.
- Sommers, R.**, & Bohns, V. K. (2026). [Forms of commitment: Comparing written and verbal consent in three psychological experiments](#). *Journal of Legal Studies*, 55(1), 171-205.
- Jordan, J. J., & **Sommers, R.** (2024). [Sexual assault victims face a penalty for adjacent consent](#). *Proceedings of the National Academy of Sciences*, 121(34), e2403609121.
- Schlund, R., **Sommers, R.** & Bohns, V. K. (2024, May 22). [3 ways to make a request that doesn't feel coercive](#). *Harvard Business Review*.
- Sommers, R.**<sup>†</sup> & Weisburd, K.<sup>†</sup> (2024). [“Legally magic” words: An empirical study of the accessibility of Fifth Amendment rights](#). *Northwestern University Law Review*, 119(3), 637-688.
- Sommers, R.** (2024). [What do consumers understand about predispute arbitration agreements?](#) *PLOS ONE*.
- Schlund, R., **Sommers, R.** & Bohns, V.K. (2024). [Giving people the words to say no leads them to feel freer to say yes](#). *Scientific Reports*, 14(576). <https://doi.org/10.1038/s41598-023-50532-3>.
- Sommers, R.** & Bohns, V. K. (2023). [Consent searches and the underestimation of compliance: Robustness to type of search, consequences of search, and demographic sample](#). *Journal of Empirical Legal Studies*, 1–31. <https://doi.org/10.1111/jels.12375>.
- Korkmaz, A., <sup>†</sup> Mann, T. C., <sup>†</sup> Eibelman, J., **Sommers, R.**, & Ferguson, M. J. (2023). [Judging guilt: Implicit evaluations of defendants predict verdicts](#). *Social Psychological and Personality Science*, 0(0). <https://doi.org/10.1177/19485506231177328>.
- Burke, S. E. <sup>†</sup> & **Sommers, R.** <sup>†</sup> (2022). [Reducing prejudice through law: Evidence from experimental psychology](#). *University of Chicago Law Review*, 89, 1369-1417.
- Jordan, J. J. <sup>†</sup> & **Sommers, R.** <sup>†</sup> (2022). [When does moral engagement risk triggering a hypocrisy penalty?](#) *Current Opinion in Psychology*, 47, 101404.
- Demaree-Cotton, J. <sup>†</sup> & **Sommers, R.** <sup>†</sup> (2022). [Autonomy and the folk concept of valid consent](#). *Cognition*, 224, 105065.
- Sommers, R.** (2021). [Experimental jurisprudence](#). *Science*, 373, 394-395.

**Sommers, R.** (2021). [Contract schemas](#). *Annual Review of Law & Social Sciences*, 17, 293-308.

Nyarko, J., Goel, S., & **Sommers, R.** (2021). [Breaking taboos in fair machine learning: An experimental study](#). *Equity and Access in Algorithms, Mechanisms, and Optimization (EAAMO 2021)*.

Greiner, D. J., Degnan, E. L., Ferriss, T., & **Sommers, R.** (2021). [Using random assignment to measure court accessibility for low-income divorce-seekers](#). *Proceedings of the National Academy of Sciences*, 118(14).

**Sommers, R.** (2020). [Commonsense consent](#), *Yale Law Journal*, 129(8), 2232-2605.

Furth-Matzkin, M. † & **Sommers, R.** † (2020). [Consumer psychology and the problem of fine-print fraud](#), *Stanford Law Review*, 72(3), 503-560.

**Sommers, R.** & Bohns, V. K. (2019). [The voluntariness of voluntary consent: Consent searches and the psychology of compliance](#). *Yale Law Journal*, 128(7), 1792-2121.

Jordan, J. J., **Sommers, R.**, Rand, D. G., & Bloom, P. (2017). [Why do we hate hypocrites? Evidence for a theory of false signaling](#). *Psychological Science*, 28(3), 356-368.

**Sommers, R.** (2016). [Will putting cameras on police reduce polarization?](#) *Yale Law Journal*, 125(5), 1150-1547.

**Sommers, R.** (2015). [The psychology of punishment and the puzzle of why tortfeasor death defeats liability for punitive damages](#). *Yale Law Journal*, 124(4), 1295-1307.

Danis, M., **Sommers, R.**, Logan, J., Weidmer, B., Chen, S., Goold, S., Pearson, S., Donley, G., & McGlynn, E. (2014). [Exploring public attitudes toward approaches to discussing costs in the clinical encounter](#). *Journal of General Internal Medicine*, 29(2), 1-7.

**Sommers, R.**, Goold, S. D., McGlynn, E. A., Pearson, S. D., & Danis, M. (2013). [Focus groups highlight that many patients object to clinicians' focusing on costs](#). *Health Affairs*, 32(2), 338-346.

**Sommers, R.**, & Miller, F. G. (2013). [Forgoing debriefing in deceptive research: Is it ever ethical?](#) *Ethics & Behavior*, 23(2), 98-116.

## Book Chapters

Demaree-Cotton, J., † Knobe, J., † & **Sommers, R.** † (in press). Consent in a deeper sense. In B. D. Earp, B. Rodríguez López, & I. R. Hannikainen (Eds.), *Advances in experimental philosophical bioethics*. Bloomsbury.

**Sommers, R.** [Commonsense consent and action representation: What is “essential” to consent?](#) (2025). *Cambridge Handbook of Experimental Jurisprudence*.

Schwartz, B., & **Sommers, R.** (2013). [Affective forecasting and well-being](#). *Oxford Handbook of Cognitive Psychology*.

## Popular Writing

Jordan, J. & **Sommers, R.** (2024, Sept. 8). [“Slut-Shaming” Isn’t the Only Reason People Blame Rape Victims](#), *The New York Times*.

**Sommers, R.** (2021, March 5). [You Were Duped Into Saying Yes. Is That Still Consent?](#), *The New York Times*.

**Sommers, R.** & Bohns, V. K. (2019, April 30). [Would You Let the Police Search Your Phone?](#), *The New York Times*.

**Sommers, R.** (2018, January 22). [The “Reasonable” Way to Respond to Being Sexually Harassed](#), *Behavioral Scientist*.

Jordan, J. J., **Sommers, R.** & Rand, D. G. (2017, January 13). [The Real Problem with Hypocrisy](#), *The New York Times*.

## GRANTS

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<b>National Science Foundation</b> , with Vanessa K. Bohns Law & Social Sciences Grant “A Psychological Account of Voluntary Consent”	2018
<b>University of Chicago Booth Center for Decision Research</b> Thaler-Tversky Independent Research Grant “Getting Consent in Writing”	2018
<b>American Psychological Association</b> American Psychology-Law Society (Division 41) Grant-in-Aid “The Actor-Observer Gap in the Fourth Amendment: Assessing the Voluntariness of Consent Searches”	2017
<b>Harvard Program on Negotiation</b> , with Meirav Furth-Matzkin Next Generation Grant “Negotiating the Fine Print”	2017
<b>Yale Law School</b> Oscar M. Ruebhausen Grant “Diverse Populations Study”	2016

**Yale Law School**

2015

Oscar M. Ruebhausen Grant  
 “When Does Yes Mean Yes?”

**HONORS & AWARDS**

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Association for Psychological Science (APS) Rising Star	2025
SAGE Early Career Trajectory Award (SPSP)	2024
Harvard/Stanford/Yale Junior Faculty Forum participant (Tort Law)	2024
AALS Criminal Justice Junior Scholars Paper Competition, Honorable Mention	2022
Harvard/Stanford/Yale Junior Faculty Forum participant (Contract Law)	2022
Graduate Policy Fellowship at the Yale Institute for Social Policy Studies	2017–2018
Yale Graduate School of Arts & Sciences Conference Travel Award	2016
SPSP Graduate Travel Award	2016
SPSP Diversity Fund Travel Award	2016
Lucretia Mott Fellowship	2012
Phi Beta Kappa Fellowship	2012
Deans’ Award	2010
Outstanding Research Award: NSF Research Experience for Undergraduates	2009
Philip Evans Scholarship	2006–2010
Susan Kawaichi “Appreciating Diversity” Award	2006
National Merit Scholar	2006

**TEACHING**

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**University of Michigan Law School** (Assistant Professor of Law)

Torts  
 Seminar in Law and Psychology  
 Mini-Seminar: “Strangers to Ourselves”

**University of Chicago Law School** (Harry A. Bigelow Teaching Fellow & Lecturer in Law) \*

Seminar in Law and Psychology  
 Legal Research and Writing  
 Lawyering

**Yale Law School** (Teaching Assistant)

Torts  
 Empirical Research Methods

**Yale Psychology** (Teaching Fellow)

Developmental Psychology  
Psychology and the Good Life

## **SERVICE**

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Founder and Director, Psychology and Law Studies (PALS) Lab	2018–present
Faculty Advisor, Women of Color affinity group (Res Sista)	2023–present
Faculty Advisor, Consumer Advocacy and Financial Regulation Organization	2022–present
Faculty Advisor, Michigan Voting Project	2024–present
Woman Also Know Law (WAKL) Advisory Board	2020–2023
Behavioral Science and Policy Association Publication Awards committee	2023
Inclusive Pedagogy Committee	2022–2023
Conference Organizer, Experimental Jurisprudence Roundtable	2021–2022
Entry-Level Personnel Committee	2021–2022
Conference Organizer, New Frontiers of Experimental Jurisprudence	2019
Conference Organizer, Experimental Jurisprudence Workshop, Yale Law School	2017
Advisory Board, Access to Justice Lab at Harvard Law School	2017–2018
Co-Chair, YLS Student Advisory Committee on Faculty Recruitment	2016–2018
Diversity Committee, Yale Law Journal, Vols. 123–125	2013–2016

## **Ad Hoc Reviewer**

American Law and Economics Review  
Behavioral Science & Police Association (Best Paper Award)  
BMC Medical Ethics  
Child Development  
Cognition  
Cognitive Science  
Columbia Law Review  
Criminal Justice Review  
Journal of Empirical Legal Studies  
Journal of Experimental Criminology  
Journal of Experimental Psychology: General  
Journal of Experimental Psychology: Applied  
Journal of Experimental Social Psychology  
Journal of Legal Studies  
Journal of Personality and Social Psychology  
Judgment and Decision-Making  
Kriterion  
Law and Human Behavior  
Legal Theory  
Personality and Social Psychology Bulletin  
Proceedings of the National Academy of Sciences

Science  
Scientific Reports  
Time-Sharing Experiments for the Social Sciences  
University of Chicago Law Review  
Yale Law Journal

## **LEGAL EXPERIENCE**

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San Francisco Affirmative Litigation Project	2017–2018
National Consumer Law Center	Summer 2017
Temporary Restraining Order Project	2016–2017
American Psychological Association Office of the General Counsel	Summer 2013
Ethics Bureau at Yale	2013

## **PRESENTATIONS**

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### **Invited Talks**

2025 (Parental leave in Fall)

1. DePaul University College of Law, Clifford Symposium on Tort Law and Social Policy

2024 (Parental leave in Spring)

2. BYU Law School, Faculty workshop
3. UC Berkeley School of Law, Consumer Law & Economic Justice Workshop
4. Purdue University Department of Psychological Sciences, Social Psychology Seminar

2023

5. ETH Zurich & University of Zurich, Workshop & Lecture Series in Law & Economics
6. Institute of Advanced Study Toulouse, Experimental Jurisprudence Conference
7. University of Pennsylvania Law School, Psychology of Legal Decision-Making Seminar
8. University of Chicago Law School, Current Trends in Public Law Seminar
9. University of Iowa College of Law, Faculty workshop
10. University of Southern California, Center for Law & Social Science
11. Chicago-Kent College of Law, Faculty workshop
12. Southern Society for Philosophy and Psychology (invited speaker)
13. University of Michigan, Personality and Social Contexts Psychology Brown Bag

2022

14. University of Virginia Law School, Faculty workshop

15. University of Michigan, Social, Behavioral, and Experimental Economics (SBEE) seminar
16. University of North Carolina, Social Psychology Seminar
17. Duke University School of Law, Wilson Center
18. University of Wisconsin Law School, Dean's Office Speaker Series
19. University of Oxford, BioXPhi Workshop (Keynote address)
20. Yale University, Experimental Jurisprudence Workshop, "The Content of Consent"
21. University of Zurich Department of Economics, Seminar on experimental and behavioral economics
22. University of Maastricht Faculty of Law, Graduate School Methods Seminar
23. American Bar Foundation, Spring 2022 Speaker Series, "Lay Perceptions of Legal Consent"
24. Harvard Radcliffe Institute, Private Seminar on "Historicizing Consent"
25. George Washington University Law School, Faculty Workshop
26. Fordham Law School, Faculty Workshop, "The Lay Contract Schema and the Problem of Formalizing Consent"
27. Wayne State University Law School, Gershenson Faculty Workshop, "The Psychology of Consent"
28. University of Michigan Department of Psychology, Social Area Brown Bag, "What is Consent? Law vs. Moral Psychology"

2021

29. University of Michigan Ross School of Business, Management & Organizations Seminar Series, "Public Perceptions of Consent: Law vs. Moral Psychology"
30. Hebrew University, "Predicting Mock Jury Verdicts Using Implicit Measures" (with Arin Korkmaz)
31. South Carolina Bar Association, Diversity Committee Seminar, "The Psychology of Implicit Bias"

2020

32. CUNY, Group for Empirical Approaches to Morality and Society (GEMS), "Autonomy and the Folk Concept of Valid Consent" (with Joanna Demaree-Cotton)
33. University of Michigan Law School, Law & Economics Workshop, "Voluntary Consent and the Psychology of Compliance"
34. Association of American Law Schools (AALS) Annual Meeting, Panel on Experimental Jurisprudence, "What an Experimental Approach Can Teach Us About Consent"

2019

35. Yale Law School, Contemporary Issues in Legal Scholarship, "Commonsense Consent"
36. National Institutes of Health, Department of Bioethics Works in Progress Series, "What Do Laypeople Think Consent *Is*?"

37. University of Pennsylvania Law School, Empirical Contracts Workshop, “Contract Schemas and the Problem with Getting Consent in Writing”
38. University of Chicago Law School, Workshop on Regulation of Family, Sex, and Gender, “Commonsense Consent”
39. Loyola University Chicago, Psychology & Criminal Justice Program, “Voluntary Consent and the Psychology of Compliance”
40. University of Chicago Law School, Seminar on Consumer Contracts, “Consumer Psychology and the Problem of Fine Print Fraud”

2018

41. University of Chicago Booth School of Business, Center for Decision Research Brown Bag, “Consent and Deception in Law and Psychology”
42. Yale Law School, Contemporary Issues in Legal Scholarship, “The Voluntariness of Voluntary Consent: Consent Searches and the Psychology of Compliance”
43. Faculty of Law at Ruhr University Bochum, Experimental and Naturalistic Perspectives on the Philosophy of Law, “On the Folk Theory of Consent”
44. Yale Law School, Seminar in Law and Psychology, “Consent and Rape: An Experimental Jurisprudence Approach”
45. Yale Psychology, Social Psychology Brown Bag, “Judging the Voluntariness of a Consent Search by Police”

2017

46. National Consumer Law Center, “Consumer Law and Advocacy: Insights from Psychological Research”
47. Boston University, Morality Lab, “The Moral Psychology of Consent”
48. Cornell University ILR School, Micro OB Lab, “Lay Intuitions About Consent and Voluntariness”
49. Cornell University, Ferguson Automaticity Lab, “Social Prediction Errors and the Law of Consent”
50. Harvard Kennedy School, Behavioral Insights Student Group, “Behavioral Insights and Access to Justice”

2016

51. Brown University, Social Cognitive Science Brown Bag, “Commonsense Consent”
52. Harvard University, Moral Psychology Research Lab, “Consent and Voluntariness: Legal Versus Lay Views”
53. University of Pennsylvania, Character Lab, “What is Consent? A Psychological Perspective”
54. Boston Area Moral Cognition Group, “Deception and Commonsense Consent”
55. Harvard Business School, BX2016, “Law and Behavioral Insights”
56. Harvard Law School, Student Association for Law & Mind Sciences, “The Psychology of Consent”

57. Swarthmore College, Symposium in Honor of Barry Schwartz, “No Means No, But When Does Yes Mean Yes?”

## Conference Presentations

2024 (Parental leave in Spring)

1. Society for Philosophy and Psychology (SPP), 2024 Annual Meeting, “Sexual Assault Victims Face a Penalty for Adjacent Consent”

2023

2. Society for Personality and Social Psychology (SPSP) (data blitz)
3. AALS Criminal Procedure Section's First Annual Junior/Senior Scholars Conference, “Legally Magic Words” (with Kate Weisburd)

2022

4. University of Virginia, Conference on Empirical Legal Studies (CELS), “Consent Searches and Underestimation of Compliance: Robustness to Type of Search, Consequences of Search, and Demographic Sample”
5. University of Toronto, Conference on Empirical Legal Studies, “The Lay Contract Schema and the Problem of Formalizing Consent”
6. SPSP, 2022 Annual Meeting, Symposium on “Misunderstanding What’s Best for Us,” “Getting Consent: Can Formality Dispel the Social Pressure to Comply?”

2021

7. AP-LS Works in Progress, “The Lay Contract Schema and the Problem of Formalizing Consent”

2020

8. ETH Zürich, Experimental Methods in Legal Studies (EMLS), “What Does Nonconsent Look Like?”

2019

9. University of Chicago Law School, New Frontiers of Experimental Jurisprudence, “When Does Deception Undermine Consent?”
10. Academy of Management (AOM), 2019 Annual Meeting, “The Farce of Consent: Psychological Factors that Undermine the Voluntariness of Consent across Contexts”
11. AOM, 2019 Annual Meeting, “Underestimating the Difficulty of Denying Someone Access to One’s Personal Data”

12. American Law and Economics Association (ALEA), 2019 Annual Meeting, “Consumer Psychology and the Problem of Fine Print Fraud”
13. Law & Society Association (LSA), 2019 Annual Meeting, “Voluntary Consent and the Psychology of Compliance”
14. U.C. Berkeley Law, Consumer Law Scholars Conference, “Consumer Psychology and the Problem of Fine Print Fraud”

#### 2018

15. Loyola University Chicago School of Law, Junior Scholars Works-in-Progress Conference, “Commonsense Consent”
16. Society for Philosophy and Psychology, 2018 Annual Meeting, “On the Folk Theory of Consent”
17. Conference on Empirical Legal Studies in Europe (CELSE), “How Consumers and Lawyers Perceive the Fine Print in Deception Cases”
18. ALEA, 2018 Annual Meeting, “The Voluntariness of Voluntary Consent”

#### 2017

19. Society for Judgment and Decision Making (SJDM), “Judging Consent for Self, Other, and the Reasonable Person”
20. Yale Law School, Workshop on Experimental Jurisprudence, “Toward a Folk Theory of Consent”
21. Cornell Law School, CELS 2017, “Judging the Voluntariness of Consent: A Psychological Critique of the Fourth Amendment Reasonable Person Standard”

#### 2016

22. Carroll School of Management at Boston College, Boston Judgment and Decision Making Day, “Endurance Framing and Limited Resources: Implications for Health, Law, and Policy” (data blitz)
23. LSA, 2016 Annual Meeting, “Folk Theories of Consent”
24. SPSP, 2016 Annual Meeting, “Will Putting Cameras on Police Reduce Polarization?” (poster)

#### 2015

25. Washington University School of Law in St. Louis, CELS 2015, “Perplexing Public Attitudes Toward Consent”
26. Yale Law School, Doctoral Scholarship Conference, “Lay Versus Legal Theories of Consent”
27. SPSP, 2015 Annual Meeting, “Discrimination in Hiring via Motivated Reasoning” (poster)

#### Pre-2015

28. UC Berkeley School of Law, CELS 2014, “Jury Instructions and Biased Perceptions of Video Evidence”
29. American Society for Bioethics and the Humanities (ASBH), “Discussing Costs in the Clinical Encounter”
30. Advancing Ethical Research Conference, “Truth in Advertising: Research Participants May Be Deceived”