Jonah Berger

The Wharton School • University of Pennsylvania

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**Academic Positions**

*The Wharton School, University of Pennsylvania*

Associate Professor of Marketing (with tenure) May 2013 –

James G. Campbell, Jr. Assistant Professor of Marketing July 2010— May 2013

Assistant Professor of Marketing July 2007 – June 2010

*Cornell NYC Tech*, Cornell University

Visiting Professor of Marketing July 2014— June 2015

*Fuqua School of Business, Duke University*

Visiting Associate Professor of Marketing July 2013 – Dec 2013

Education  
Ph.D., Marketing, Stanford University, Graduate School of Business, 2007

B.A., Human Judgment and Decision Making (with Distinction),Stanford University, 2002

Honors and Awards

AMA-Sheth Foundation Doctoral Consortium Fellow, 2019, 2020

Wharton Teaching Excellence Award 2019, 2020

William F. O’Dell Award, Journal of Marketing Research, 2017

Top 5 Most Productive Researchers in Marketing 2008-17, AMA DocSig 2017

Outstanding Reviewer Award, *Journal of Consumer Research* 2015-2016

Best 2012 Article Finalist, *Journal of Consumer Research,* 2015

Top 30 Leaders in Business, American Management Association, 2015

Emerald Citations of Excellence, article published in 2012, 2015

Berry-AMA Book Prize for Best Book in Marketing, 2014

Top 5 Most Productive Researchers in Marketing 2009-13, AMA DocSig 2013

Most Creative People in Business, Fast Company, 2013

Paul Green Award, *Journal of Marketing Research*, Finalist 2013

Early Career Award, *Association for Consumer Research*, 2013

Early Career Award, *Society for Consumer Psychology*, 2012

Dean’s Research Grant, The Wharton School, 2012

Outstanding Reviewer Award, *Journal of Consumer Research* 2010-2011

Outstanding Reviewer Award, *Journal of Consumer Psychology*, 2010-2011

“Iron Prof” Award for “awesome faculty research,” The Wharton School, 2011

MBA Teaching Commitment and Curricular Innovation Award, The Wharton School, 2011

Dean’s Research Grant, The Wharton School, 2011

Young Scholars Program, Marketing Science Institute, 2011

Alex Panos Research Grant, The Wharton School, 2011

*Journal of Consumer Research* Best 2007 Article Award Finalist, 2010

James G. Campbell, Jr. Memorial Term Professorship, 2010

Dean’s Research Grant, The Wharton School, 2010

AMA-Sheth Foundation Doctoral Consortium Fellow, 2006

## Society for Consumer Psychology, Best Student Paper Award (Honorable Mention), 2006

Management Science Institute/JCP Research Competition (Honorable Mention), 2004

Jaedeke Scholar, Stanford Graduate School of Business, 2003

Publications

1. Rifkin, Jacqueline, Katherine Crain, and Jonah Berger, “Penny for Your Preferences: Leveraging Self-Expression to Increase Prosocial Giving,” forthcoming, Journal of Marketing.
2. Packard, Grant and Jonah Berger (2020) “Thinking of You: How Second Person Pronouns Shape Cultural Success,” Psychological Science.
3. Bellezza, Silvia and Jonah Berger (2020), “Trickle-Round Signals: When Low Status Becomes High,”Journal of Consumer Research.
4. Berger, Jonah, Ashlee Humphreys, Stephen Ludwig, Wendy Moe, Oded Netzer, and David Schweidel (2020), “Uniting the Tribes: Using Text for Marketing Insight,” Journal of Marketing, 84 (January).
5. Van Zant, Alex and Jonah Berger (2019) “How the Voice Persuades,”Journal of Personality and Social Psychology.
6. Berger, Jonah and Grant Packard (2018), “Are Atypical Things More Popular?” Psychological Science, 29(7), 1178-1184.
7. Gullo, Kelley, Jonah Berger, Jordan Etkin, and Bryan Bollinger (2018), “Does Time of Day Affect Variety Seeking?” Journal of Consumer Research
8. Berger, Jonah and Alixandra Barasch (2018) “A Candid Advantage? The Social Benefits of Candid Photos,”Social Psychological and Personality Science*,* 9(8), 1010-1016.
9. Buechel, Eva and Jonah Berger (2018), “Microblogging and the Value of Undirected Communication” Journal of Consumer Psychology, 28(1), 40-55.
10. Grant Packard and Jonah Berger (2017), “How Language Shapes Word of Mouth’s Impact,” Journal of Marketing Research,54(4), 572-588.
11. Aner Sela, Jonah Berger, and Joshua Kim (2017) “How Self-Control Shapes the Meaning of Choice”Journal of Consumer Research.
12. Weingarten, Evan and Jonah Berger (2017) “Fired Up for the Future: How Time Shapes Sharing,” Journal of Consumer Research,44(2), 432-447.
13. Akpinar, Ezgi and Jonah Berger (2017), “Valuable Virality,” Journal of Marketing Research,54(2), 318-330*.*
14. Berger, Jonah (2016), “Does Presentation Order Impact Choice After Delay?” Topics in Cognitive Science, 8(3), 670-684.
15. Chen, Zoey and Jonah Berger (2016) “How Content Acquisition Method Affects Word of Mouth,” Journal of Consumer Research, 43(1), 86-102.

1. Park, Minsu, Mor Naaman, and Jonah Berger (2016) A Data-driven Study of View Duration on YouTube, 10th International AAAI Conference on Weblogs and Social Media (ICWSM).
2. Gregory Park, Andrew Schwartz, Margaret Kern, Maarten Sap, Evan Weingarten, Johannes Eichstaedt, Jonah Berger, David Stillwell, Michal Kosinski, Lyle Ungar, and Martin Seligman (2016) “Living in the Past, Present, and Future: Measuring Temporal Orientation with Language,” Journal of Personality, 85(2), 270-280*.*
3. Akpinar, Ezgi and Jonah Berger (2015), “Drivers of Cultural Success: The Case of Sensory Metaphors,” Journal of Personality and Social Psychology, 109 (1), 20-34*.*
4. Schwartz, H. Andrew, Park, G., Sap, M., Weingarten, E., Eichstaedt, J., Kern, M., Stillwell, D., Kosinski, M., Berger, J., Seligman, M., & Ungar, L. (2015). Extracting Human Temporal Orientation from Facebook Language. NAACL-2015: Conference of the North American Chapter of the Association for Computational Linguistics.
5. Berger, Jonah (2014) “Word-of-Mouth and Interpersonal Communication: A Review and Directions for Future Research”Journal of Consumer Psychology, 24(4), 586-607.
6. Barasch, Alix and Jonah Berger (2014) “Broadcasting and Narrowcasting: How Audience Size Impacts What People Share,” Journal of Marketing Research, 51(3), 286-299.
7. Bhattacharjee, Amit, Jonah Berger and Geeta Menon (2014), “When Identity Marketing Backfires: Consumer Agency in Identity Expression,” Journal of Consumer Research, 41(2), 294-309.
8. Milkman, Katherine and Jonah Berger (2014), “The Science of Sharing and the Sharing of Science” Proceedings of the National Academy of Sciences*.* 111(4), 13642-13649.
9. Berger, Jonah (2014), “Beyond Viral: Interpersonal Communication in the Internet Age,” Psychological Inquiry, 24, 293-296.
10. Berger, Jonah and Raghuram Iyengar (2013), “Communication Channels and Word of Mouth: How the Medium Shapes the Message,” Journal of Consumer Research*,* 40(3), 567-579*.*
11. Chen, Zoey and Jonah Berger (2013), “When, Why, and How Controversy Causes Conversation,” Journal of Consumer Research*,* 40(3), 580-593*.*
12. Sela, Aner and Jonah Berger (2012) “How Attribute Quantity Influences Option Choice,”Journal of Marketing Research, December, 942-953.
13. McShane, Blakely, Eric T. Bradlow, and Jonah Berger (2012), “Visual Influence and Social Groups” Journal of Marketing Research, December, 854-871.
14. Berger, Jonah, Eric Bradlow, Alex Braunstein, and Yao Zhang (2012), “From Karen to Katie: Using Baby names to Study Cultural Evolution” Psychological Science, 23 (10), 1067-1073.
15. Chan, Cindy, Jonah Berger, and Leaf Van Boven (2012), “Identifiable but not Identical: Combining Social Identity and Uniqueness Motives in Choice” Journal of Consumer Research*,* 39(3), 561-573.
16. Berger, Jonah and Katy Milkman (2012), “What Makes Online Content Viral?” Journal of Marketing Research, 49 (2), 192-205.
    * **William F. O’Dell Award, Journal of Marketing Research, 2017**
    * **Paul Green Award Finalist, Journal of Marketing Research, 2013**
    * **Emerald Citations of Excellence, 2015**
17. Sela, Aner and Jonah Berger (2012), “Decision Quicksand: How Trivial Choice Suck Us In” Journal of Consumer Research, 39(2), 360-370*.*
    * **Best 2012 Article Finalist,Journal of Consumer Research**
18. Berger, Jonah and Eric Schwartz (2011), “What Drives Immediate and Ongoing Word of Mouth?” Journal of Marketing Research, October, 869-880.
19. Berger, Jonah and Baba Shiv (2011), “Food, Sex, and the Hunger for Distinction.” Journal of Consumer Psychology, 21, 464-472.
20. Berger, Jonah (2011), “Arousal Increases Social Transmission of Information,” Psychological Science*,* 22(7), 891-893*.*
21. Berger, Jonah and Devin Pope (2011), “Can Losing Lead to Winning?” Management Science, 57(5), 817-827.
22. Berger, Jonah and Morgan Ward, (2010) “Subtle Signals of Inconspicuous Consumption,” Journal of Consumer Research, 37(4), 555-569. (Lead Article)
23. Berger, Jonah, Alan T. Sorensen, and Scott J. Rasmussen (2010), “Positive Effects of Negative Publicity: When Negative Reviews Increase Sales,” Marketing Science, 29(5), 815-827.
24. Berger, Jonah and Gael Le Mens (2009), “Key Considerations in Studying Cultural Abandonment Using Baby Names,” Proceedings of the National Academy of Sciences.
25. Berger, Jonah and Gael Le Mens (2009), “How Adoption Speed Affects the Abandonment of Cultural Tastes,” Proceedings of the National Academy of Sciences, 106, 8146-8150.
26. Sela, Aner, Jonah Berger, and Wendy Liu (2009), “Variety, Virtue, and Vice: How Assortment Size Influences Option Choice,” Journal of Consumer Research, 35(3), 941-951.
27. Berger, Jonah and Chip Heath (2008) “Who Drives Divergence? Identity Signaling, Outgroup Dissimilarity, and the Abandonment of Cultural Tastes,” Journal of Personality and Social Psychology, 95(3), 593-607.
28. Berger, Jonah and Lindsay Rand (2008), “Shifting Signals to Help Health: Using Identity Signaling to Reduce Risky Heath Behaviors,” Journal of Consumer Research, 35(2), 509-518.
29. Berger, Jonah, Marc Meredith, and S. Christian Wheeler (2008), “Contextual Priming: Where People Vote Affects How They Vote,” Proceedings of the National Academy of Sciences, 105 (26), 8846-8849.

* **Featured in *Nature* (2008). 453, 1197.**

1. Berger, Jonah and GráinneM. Fitzsimons (2008), “Dogs on the Street, Pumas on Your Feet: How Cues in the Environment Influence Product Evaluation and Choice,” Journal of Marketing Research, 45(1), 1-14*.* (Lead Article)
2. Wheeler, S. Christian and Jonah Berger (2007), "When the Same Prime Leads to Different Effects,” Journal of Consumer Research, 34(3), 357-368.
3. Berger, Jonah and Chip Heath (2007), “Where Consumers Diverge from Others: Identity-Signaling and Product Domains,” Journal of Consumer Research, 34(2), 121-134. (Lead Article)
   * **Best 2007 Article Finalist, *Journal of Consumer Research***
   * **3rd highest cited JCR paper, 2011-2014**
4. Berger, Jonah, Michaela Draganska, and Itamar Simonson (2007), “The Influence of Product Variety on Brand Perceptions and Choice,” Marketing Science, 26, 460-472. (Lead Article)
5. Pronin, Emily, Jonah Berger, and Sarah Molouki (2007), “Alone in a Crowd of Sheep: Asymmetric Perceptions of Conformity and Their Roots in an Introspection Illusion,” Journal of Personality and Social Psychology*,* 92(4), 585-595.

* **Featured in Editor's Choice section of *Science* (2007). 316, 1814.**

1. Heath, Chip, Ben Ho, and Jonah Berger (2006), “Focal Points in Coordinated Divergence,” Journal of Economic Psychology, 27(5), 635-647.
2. Berger, Jonah and Chip Heath (2005), “Idea Habitats: How the Prevalence of Environmental Cues Influences the Success of Ideas,” Cognitive Science, 29, 195-221. (Lead Article)

Books, Chapters, and Other Publications

1. Berger, Jonah (2020), *The Catalyst: How to Change Anyone’s Mind,* Simon & Schuster.
   * **New York Times and Wall Street Journal Bestseller**
2. Berger, Jonah (2016), *Invisible Influence: The Hidden Forces that Shape Behavior,* Simon & Schuster.
   * **New York Times Bestseller**
3. Berger, Jonah (2013), *Contagious: Why Things Catch On*, Simon & Schuster.
   * **New York Times, Wall Street Journal Bestseller, Amazon Best Business Book of 2013, AMA-Berry Book Prize for Best Book in Marketing 2014**
   * **Half a million copies in print in over 35 languages**
4. Buechel, Eva C. and Jonah Berger (2015), “Motivations for Consumers Engaging with Social Media,” Consumer Psychology in a Social Media World.
5. Berger, Jonah (2015), “Word of Mouth and Interpersonal Communication,” Cambridge Handbook of Consumer Psychology
6. Berger, Jonah (2012), “Crafting Contagious,” Google Think Quarterly*.* August, 60-61.
7. Berger, Jonah (2012), “Bad Reviews Can Boost Sales. Here’s Why,” Harvard Business Review*.* March 28.
8. Berger, Jonah (2011), “Social Contagion and Word-of-Mouth,” in *Consumer Insights: Findings from Behavioral Research*, Ed Joseph Alba, Marketing Science Institute.
9. Berger, Jonah (2011), “If You Want to Win, Tell Your Team It’s Losing (a Little),” Harvard Business Review*.* October.
10. Rand, Lindsay and Jonah Berger (2010) “Using Identity Signaling to Improve Public Health” in *Leveraging Consumer Psychology for Effective Health Communications: The Obesity Challenge,* Eds. Rajeev Batra, Punam Anand Keller, and Victor J. Strecher, M. E. Sharpe.
11. Berger, Jonah (2008) “Identity-Signaling, Social Influence, and Social Contagion,” in *Peer Influence Processes among Youth*, Eds. Mitch Prinstein and Ken Dodge, Guilford Press.

Working Papers

1. Berger, Jonah, Yoon Duk Kim, and Robert Meyer, “Emotional Volatility and Cultural Success.” *Under Review*.
2. Packard, Grant and Jonah Berger, “How Concrete Language Shapes Customer Satisfaction,” *Under review.*
3. Boghrati, Reihane and Jonah Berger, “Quantifying Cultural Change: An Application to Misogyny in Music.” *Under Review*
4. McDuff, Daniel and Jonah Berger, “Facial Expressions and Ad Sharing: A Large-Scale Observational Study.” *Under Review*
5. Berger, Jonah, Wendy Moe, and David Schweidel, “What Leads to Longer Reads? Psychological Drivers of Reading Online Content,” *Under Revision*.
6. Jacqueline Rifkin and Jonah Berger, “How Ordinary Items Become Treasures” *Under Revision*
7. Quantifying the Shape of Narratives
8. Near Past, Distant Future
9. Fast, Nate and Jonah Berger, “Message Splitting: Using Self-Relevant Material to Increase Prosocial Behavior”.
10. Disposal in Response to Social Rejection
11. Nir Grinberg, Xiao Ma, Dan Valente, Josh Schwartz, Jonah Berger, and Mor Naaman, “Reading Patterns in Online News Media”
12. Sela, Aner and Jonah Berger, “On Culture and Metacognition”
13. Aner Sela, Jonah Berger, and Gia Nardini “How Tradeoffs Shrink Attribute Hierarchy”
14. Iyengar, Raghu and Jonah Berger, “How the Quantity and Timing of Social Influence Impact Product Adoption”
15. Stephen, Andrew and Jonah Berger, “Creating Contagious: How Social Networks and Item Characteristics Combine to Spur Ongoing Consumption and Drive Social Epidemics.”
16. Berger, Jonah, Ben Ho, and Yogesh Joshi, “Identity Signaling with Social Capital: A Model of Symbolic Consumption.”
17. Berger, Jonah, “When Does Social Influence Attract versus Repel? Identity-Signaling, Conformity, and Divergence.”
18. Dover, Yaniv, Jonah Berger, Jacob Goldenberg, and Daniel Shapira, “Using the Internet to Spot Secrets.”

Select Research in Progress

“Emotional Arcs and Movie Success”

“Trajectories within Narratives”

“Productive Leisure”

“Language, Paralanguage, and Customer Satisfaction”

“Sharing through text and photos”

Service

Wharton Digital Press Faculty Advisory Board

University of Pennsylvania Faculty Senate Executive Committee October 2018-

MBA Executive Committee, The Wharton School, July 2017-present

Undergraduate Marketing Coordinator, The Wharton School, July 2016-present

Co-Founder, Technology and Behavioral Science Initiative, The Wharton School, 2015-present

PhD Committee, The Wharton School, Sept 2009-July 2015

Curriculum Review Committee, The Wharton School, Sept 2015 – July 2016

MBA Class of 2014 Convocation Speaker 2012

Dean’s Advisory Council, The Wharton School, Sept 2011 – July 2012

Decision Process Seminar, Co-Organizer, The Wharton School, Sept 2008 - July 2010

Course Development: MKTG 228/728 (Contagious: How Products, Ideas, and Behaviors Catch On)

**Editorial Activities**

Associate Editor*, Journal of Marketing,* June 2018 -

Associate Editor*, Journal of Marketing Research,* July 2012 -

Associate Editor*,* Special Issue on Social Media*, Information Systems Research*, 2011

Guest Editor, *Proceedings of the National Academy of Sciences*

Guest Editor, *Journal of Marketing*

Editorial Review Boards*: Journal of Consumer Research, Marketing Science, Journal of Consumer Psychology, Journal of Marketing Research, Journal of Marketing.*

Program Committees: *Association for Consumer Research* (2009, 2011, 2013, 2014), *Society for Consumer Psychology* (2008, 2013, 2014)

Selected Ad-Hoc Reviewing

*Journal of Personality and Social Psychology, Journal of Experimental Social Psychology, Journal of Personality, Journal of Decision Making, Organizational Behavior and Human Decision Processes, Trends in Cognitive Science, Journal of Experimental Psychology: Applied, International Journal of Research in Marketing, Psychological Science, Personality and Social Psychology Bulletin, Society for Judgment and Decision Making Conference, PLoS ONE, Social and Personality Psychology Compass, Management Science, Proceedings of the National Academy of Sciences, Evolution and Human Behavior, Journal of Behavioral Decision Making, Advances in Complex Systems, Nature: Human Behavior, Self and Identity*

Dissertation Committees

Ezgi Akpinar (co-advisor) winner, 2014 McKinsey Dissertation Award

Zoey Chen (committee member)

Cindy Chan (committee member)

Amit Bhattacharjee (committee member)

Nicole Verrochi (committee member)