

Morality: Cognitive and Evolutionary Origins

Santiago, Chile
July 29 – August 1, 2015

Atoms have no morality, physics has no morality—so why do humans have morality? This conference explores the cognitive foundations and evolutionary origins of moral reasoning, moral judgments, and moral emotions.

Human social life is steeped in moral concepts (*right* versus *wrong*, *obligation*, *cheater*, *trustworthy*, *free rider*), moral judgments (*fair*, *unjust*, *entitled*, *praiseworthy*, *punishable*, *forbidden*); proto-moral sentiments (*empathy*, *altruism*, *disgust*); and full-blown moral emotions (*indignation*, *anger*, *guilt*, *gratitude*, *outrage*). A new field, moral psychology, is investigating the genesis and content of these concepts, judgments, and sentiments. This lively multidisciplinary area brings together psychologists, biologists, economists, sociologists, anthropologists, political scientists, neuroscientists, primatologists, and experimental philosophers. Their research seeks to understand how people produce moral judgments (i.e., which mental and social mechanisms are involved) and why those mechanisms evolved. It brings the methods of science to bear on questions that were once the sole province of the humanities. Is morality the product of pure reason, an arbitrary social construct, or a deep expression of human nature? Do infants have moral intuitions, or are we born amoral creatures? How do moral sentiments and moral cognition shape relationships among family, friends, and romantic partners? Within groups, coalitions, communities, and nations?

A growing body of research suggests that the human mind has a rich evolved architecture, which is interlaced with mechanisms producing judgments, reasoning, and emotions that we recognize as involving morality. This new understanding is provoking scholars in the social sciences and humanities to revisit key questions. Do moral concepts, judgments, and emotions arise from religious, political, economic, legal, and cultural institutions—from churches, courts, elections, property laws, social norms, banks, marriage, and other social arrangements? Or do evolved moral sentiments shape these social institutions, defeating some and making others stable? Or both? If evolved moral emotions exist, how does this connect to moral philosophy? Does research on moral psychology enrich moral philosophy or undercut it?

It casts new light on public life too. Moral sanctioning occurs when two people interact, in group interactions among many, and when groups interact with one another. It arises when people watch and judge third parties, and works its way up to the whole of society. Morality is the basis upon which political doctrines are built, making morality the cornerstone on which public policies rest. This makes research on the psychology and biology of morality relevant to political debates, social dilemmas, value considerations, religious disputes, and other topics which currently attract public attention.

Given the subject's importance, touching everyday current problems which go beyond pure science, the conference's organizers conceived this meeting as a unique occasion to explore the current state of that research program, through talks and discussions from some of its major contributors and participants. The speakers, drawn from the US, South America, Europe, and Asia, include the following scholars.

1. **Jean-Baptiste André** (Evolutionary Biology, Institute for Evolutionary Sciences, Montpellier CNRS France). Topic: “The evolution of cooperation through partner choice”.
2. **Nicolas Baumard** (Evolutionary Psychology, Cognitive Development; CNRS Paris). Topic: “The evolution of fairness”.
3. **Paul Bloom** (Cognitive Development, psycholinguistics; Yale University). Topic: “Moral emotions and moral reasoning”.
4. **Pascal Boyer** (Cognitive Anthropology, Evolutionary Psychology; Washington University at St. Louis). Topic: “Folk-economic beliefs and evolved morality”.
5. **David Buss** (Evolutionary Psychology; University of Texas, Austin). Topic: “The evolution of sexual morality”
6. **Leda Cosmides** (Evolutionary Psychology, University of California, Santa Barbara). Topic: “What questions do people ask in moral psychology?”
7. **Jean Decety** (Social Neuroscience, University of Chicago). Topic: “The complex relation between empathy and morality”.
8. **Andrew Delton** (Evolutionary Psychology; Stonybrook University). Topic: “Has natural selection created a specialized psychology for collective action?”
9. **Diego Gambetta** (Sociology & Political science; European University, Turin, Italy). Topic: “Keep your friends close and your hostages closer. Trust in unpromising situations”
10. **Ricardo Andrés Guzmán** (Behavioral Economics, Universidad del Desarrollo, Chile). “A theory of just market exchange: Where moral psychology meets moral philosophy”.
11. **Max Krasnow** (Evolutionary Psychology; Harvard University). Topic: “Looking under the hood of human cooperative behavior reveals design for a small scale social world”.
12. **Debra Lieberman** (Evolutionary Psychology, University of Miami). Topic: “Microbes, mating, and morality: How and why disgust informs our moral psychology.”
13. **Michael Munger** (Political Science, Duke University). Topic: “Voluntary or Euvoluntary? Unconscionable bargaining power, human nature, and moral philosophy.”
14. **Michael Bang Petersen** (Political Science, Aarhus University, Denmark). Topic: “The design of the political mind”
15. **Carlos Rodriguez-Sickert** (Behavioral Economics, Universidad del Desarrollo, Chile). Topic: How behavioral economics can inform moral psychology

16. **Daniel Sznycer** (Evolutionary Psychology; University of California, Santa Barbara). Topic: “Economic redistribution and the logic of zero-sum interactions”.
17. **John Tooby**, (Evolutionary Psychology; University of California, Santa Barbara). Topic: “Groups in Mind: The Evolutionary Origins of Morality”
18. **Karen Wynn** (Cognitive Development, Yale University). Topic: “Developmental Origins of Reciprocity”.
19. **Toshio Yamagishi** (Social Psychology, Sociology, & Behavioral Economics, Emeritus, Hokkaido University, Japan). Topic: “Self-control for Self-interest”;

It will be carried out during a four day period (July 29 – August 1), with 40 minute talks followed by 20 minute discussions. There will be plenty of time for coffee break and lunch interaction, so that attendants will be able to immerse themselves in the analyzed topics and participate in interesting informal debates.

This event has been possible due to the invaluable enthusiasm and cooperation of Leda Cosmides, John Tooby and Pascal Boyer, who have assembled an impressive group of scientists to the far away but intellectually and evolutionarily busy Santiago, Chile’s capital town. It is being organized by the [Science and Evolution Foundation](#), the [Center for Research on Social Complexity \(CICS\) at Universidad del Desarrollo](#), the [Laboratory of Evolution and Interpersonal Relationships \(LERI\) at Universidad de Santiago de Chile](#), and the [CEP think-tank, \(Center for Public Policies\)](#), all of them based in Santiago, and the [Center for Evolutionary Psychology](#) at University of California, Santa Barbara.

Where:

July 29 only: 17:00 talks and reception at Centro de Estudios Publicos (Calle Nuncio Monseñor Sotero, S 152, Providencia, Santiago, Chile)

July 30-August 1 (10:00-18:40): Hotel Director Vitacura (Av. Vitacura 3600, Vitacura, 8320000 Santiago, Chile)

To register and for information, monitor the website of the [Center for Research on Social Complexity](#) (<http://www.complejidadsocial.cl/>)

In the meantime, email Dr. Joel Thurston of the UCSB Center for Evolutionary Psychology for questions. He can also send you a copy of this program with active weblinks: thurston@psych.ucsb.edu.

Paul Bloom



Paul Bloom was born in Montreal, Quebec. He did his undergraduate degree at McGill University and got a PhD in Cognitive Psychology at MIT. He is currently Professor of Psychology and Cognitive Science at Yale University. His research explores how children and adults understand the physical and social world, with special focus on language, morality, religion, fiction, and art. He has written for popular outlets such as *The New Yorker* and *The Atlantic*, and is co-editor of the journal *Behavioral and Brain Sciences*.

Affiliation

Professor of Psychology and Cognitive Science, Yale University

[Bloom Web Page](#)

Discipline

Developmental psychology, cognitive science

Theme

Moral emotions and moral reasoning

Relevant Publications

Bloom, P. (2010). [The moral life of babies](#). *New York Times Magazine*, May.

Bloom, P. (2011). [Family, community, trolley problems, and the crisis in moral psychology](#), *Yale Review*, 99, 26-43.

Bloom, P. (2012). [Religion, morality, evolution](#). *Annual Review of Psychology*, 63, 179-199.

Bloom, P. (2013). [The baby in the well](#). *New Yorker*, May.

Bloom, P. (2014). [Against Empathy](#). *Boston Review*, September.

Pascal Boyer



Pascal Boyer is Henry Luce Professor of Individual and Collective Memory at Washington University in St. Louis, where he teaches in the Psychology and Anthropology departments. His research is focused on the evolved psychological mechanisms that make cultural acquisition possible. He has done experimental and field research on the transmission of religious representations, and is the author of *Religion explained: The evolutionary origins of religious thought*.

Affiliation

Henry Luce Professor of Individual and Collective Memory, Departments of Psychology and Anthropology, Washington University in St. Louis.

[Boyer Web Page](#)

Discipline

Cognitive anthropology, evolutionary psychology

Theme

Folk-economic beliefs and evolved morality

Relevant Publications

Boyer P (2001). [*Religion Explained. The Evolutionary Origins of Religious Thought*](#), New York: Perseus.

Boyer P & Lienard P (2006). [Why Ritualized Behaviour in Humans?](#) Precaution Systems and Action-parsing in Developmental Pathological and Cultural Rituals, *Behavioral and Brain Sciences*, 29, 1-56.

Boyer P (2008) [Evolutionary Economics of Mental Time-Travel?](#), *Trends in Cognitive Sciences* 12(6): 219-223.

Boyer P, Firat R, van Leeuwen F (2015) [Safety, threat and stress in inter-group relations](#). A coalitional index model, *Perspectives in Psychological Science* xx:xx-xx.

Boyer P, Petersen MB. (2011) [The Naturalness of \(many\) social institutions](#): Evolutionary and Cognitive Background, *Journal of Institutional Economics* 8(1): 1-25.

Leda Cosmides



Leda Cosmides is Distinguished Professor of Psychological & Brain Sciences at the University of California, Santa Barbara, where she co-directs the Center for Evolutionary Psychology with John Tooby. She was educated at Harvard (A.B. in biology, Ph.D. in cognitive psychology), did postdoctoral research at Stanford, and was a fellow of the Center for Advanced Study in the Behavioral Sciences before arriving at UCSB in 1990. Awards for her research include the 2005 NIH Director's Pioneer Award, the 1993 American Psychological Association's Early Career Award, and the 1988 American Association for the Advancement of Science Prize for Behavioral Science Research.

Affiliation

Distinguished Professor of Psychological & Brain Sciences and Co-Director of Center for Evolutionary Psychology, University of California, Santa Barbara.

Cosmides Web Page

Discipline

Evolutionary psychology, cognitive psychology

Theme

What questions do people ask in moral psychology?

Relevant Publications

Cosmides, L. & Tooby, J. (2013). [Evolutionary psychology: New perspectives on cognition and motivation](#). *Annual Review of Psychology*, 64, 201-229.

Cosmides, L. & Tooby, J. (2008). [Can a general deontic logic capture the facts of human moral reasoning? How the mind interprets social exchange rules and detects cheaters](#). In W. Sinnott-Armstrong (Ed.), *Moral psychology*. (pp. 53-119) Cambridge, MA: MIT Press.

Pietraszewski, D., Cosmides, L. & Tooby, J. (2014). [The content of our cooperation, not the color of our skin: An alliance detection system regulates categorization by coalition and race, but not sex](#). *PLoS ONE*, 9(2): e88534.

Tooby, J., Cosmides, L., Sell, A., Lieberman, D. & Sznycer, D. (2008). [Internal regulatory variables and the design of human motivation: A computational and evolutionary approach](#). In Andrew J. Elliot (Ed.), *Handbook of approach and avoidance motivation*. (pp. 251-271) NJ: Erlbaum

Cosmides, L. & Tooby, J. (2006). [Evolutionary psychology, moral heuristics, and the law](#). In G. Gigerenzer & Christoph Engel (Eds.), *Heuristics and the Law* (Dahlem Workshop Report 94). Cambridge, MA: MIT Press.

Karen Wynn



Karen Wynn is Professor of Psychology at Yale University. After earning her B.A. at McGill University in Montreal, she received her Ph.D. in Cognitive Science from the Massachusetts Institute of Technology. Her honors include the *National Academy of Sciences*' Troland Research Award, the *American Psychological Association*'s Distinguished Scientific Award for Early Career Contribution to Psychology, and a *James McKeen Cattell Foundation* Sabbatical Award. Her studies of infant cognition illuminate reasoning about morality, social interaction, other minds, numbers, and physical objects prior to the influences of language, culture, education, and extensive experience.

Affiliation

Professor of Psychology and Cognitive Science, Psychology Department, Yale University.

[Wynn Web Page](#)

Discipline

Infant Cognition/Cognitive Science

Theme

Developmental Origins of Reciprocity

Relevant Publications

Hamlin, J.K., Wynn, K., Bloom, P., & Mahajan, N. (2011). [How infants and toddlers react to antisocial others](#). *Proceedings of the National Academy of Sciences*, 108, 19931-19936.

Wynn, K. (2008). [Some innate foundations of social and moral cognition](#). In P. Carruthers, S. Laurence & S. Stich (Eds.), *The Innate Mind: Foundations and the Future*. Oxford: Oxford University Press.

Mahajan, N. & Wynn, K. (2012). [Origins of "us" versus "them": Prelinguistic infants prefer similar others](#). *Cognition*, 124, 227-233.

Hamlin, J., Wynn, K., & Bloom, P. (2007). [Social evaluation by preverbal infants](#). *Nature*, 450, 557-559.

Kuhlmeier, V., Wynn, K., & Bloom, P. (2003). [Attribution of dispositional states by 12-month-old infants](#). *Psychological Science*, 14, 402-408.

Jean Decety



Dr. Jean Decety is an American and French neuroscientist, who is Professor of Psychology and Psychiatry at the University of Chicago and the Director of the Child NeuroSuite. His research focuses on various aspects of empathy and morality, including its evolutionary origins and its development, as well as how the experience of empathy is modulated by social context and interpersonal relationships.

Affiliation

Irving B. Harris Distinguished Service Professor, Department of Psychology, University of Chicago.

[Decety Web Page](#)

Discipline

Social Neuroscience

Theme

The complex relation between empathy and morality

Relevant Publications

Decety, J., & Fotopoulou, A. (2015). Why empathy has a beneficial impact on others in medicine: unifying theories. *Frontiers in Behavioral Neuroscience*, 8, 457.

Cowell, J. M., & Decety, J. (2015). The neuroscience of implicit moral evaluation and its relation to generosity in early childhood. *Current Biology*, 25, 1-5.

Decety, J., Chen, C., Harenski, C. L., & Kiehl, K. A. (2015). Socioemotional processing of morally-laden behavior and their consequences on others in forensic psychopaths. *Human Brain Mapping*, epub ahead of print.

Decety, J., & Cowell, J. M. (2014). The complex relation between morality and empathy. *Trends in Cognitive Sciences*, 18(7). 337-339.

Yoder, K. J., & Decety, J. (2014). The good, the bad, and the just: Justice sensitivity predicts neural response during moral evaluation of actions performed by others. *The Journal of Neuroscience*, 34(12), 4161-4166.

David Buss



David Buss has taught at Berkeley, Harvard, Michigan, and Texas. He served as President of the *Human Behavior and Evolution Society*, and edited two editions of *The Handbook of Evolutionary Psychology* (2005, 2015). Buss is author of the first and leading textbook in the field, *Evolutionary Psychology: The New Science of the Mind*, now published in its 5th edition (2015). He also has authored books for wider audiences, notably *The Evolution of Desire: Strategies of Human Mating*, *The Dangerous Passion*, and *Why Women Have Sex*. Author of more than 300 scientific publications, his current research focuses on sexual morality and conflict between the sexes.

Affiliation

Professor of Psychology, Department of Psychology, University of Texas at Austin

[Buss Web Page](#)

Discipline

Evolutionary psychology, personality psychology

Theme

The Evolution of Sexual Morality

Relevant Publications:

Buss, D. M. (2015). *Evolutionary Psychology: The New Science of the Mind* (5th Edition). Boston: Pearson.

Buss, D.M. (2014). [Evolutionary criteria for considering an emotion ‘basic’: Jealousy as an illustration](#). *Emotion Review*, 6, 1-3.

Buss, D.M. (2013). [Sexual jealousy](#). *Psychological Topics*, 22, 155-182.

Buss, D.M., & Duntley, J.D. (2011). [The evolution of intimate partner violence](#). *Aggression and Violent Behavior*, 16, 411-419.

Buss, D.M. (2009). [The great struggles of life: Darwin and the emergence of evolutionary psychology](#). *American Psychologist*, 64, 140-148.

Buss, D.M. (2013). [The science of human mating strategies: An historical perspective](#). *Psychological Inquiry*, 24, 171-177.

Debra Lieberman



Debra Lieberman got her PhD in 2003 at the Center for Evolutionary Psychology at University of California Santa Barbara. The central goal of her research is to understand how evolution has shaped the social mind, applying theoretical tools from evolutionary biology to develop hypotheses regarding function, then generate information-processing models that specify how the functional mechanism operates, and then empirically test the validity of these models. She studies a range of phenomena including kinship, altruism, sexuality, disgust, morality, and, more recently, gratitude.

Affiliation

Associate Professor, Department of Psychology, University of Miami

Lieberman Web Page

Discipline

Evolutionary psychology

Theme

Microbes, mating, and morality: How and why disgust informs our moral psychology

Relevant Publications

- Tybur, J., Lieberman, D., Kurzban, R., & DeScioli, P. (2013). [Disgust: Evolved function and structure](#). *Psychological Review*, *120*, 65-84.
- Lieberman, D. & Smith, A. R. (2012). [It's all relative: Sexual aversions and moral judgments regarding sex among siblings](#). *Current Directions in Psychological Science*, *21*, 243-247.
- Lieberman, D. & Lobel, T. (2012). [Kinship on the Kibbutz](#): Coresidence duration predicts altruism, personal sexual aversions, and moral attitudes among communally reared peers. *Evolution and Human Behavior*, *33*, 26-34.
- Lieberman, D., Tooby, J., & Cosmides, L. (2007). [The architecture of human kin detection](#). *Nature*, *445* (7129), 727-731.
- Tybur, J., Lieberman, D., & Griskevicius, V. (2009). [Microbes, mating, and morality: Individual differences in three functional domains of disgust](#). *Journal of Personality and Social Psychology*, *97*, 103-122.

Toshio Yamagishi



Toshio Yamagishi is Professor Emeritus at Hokkaido University, where he established the Center for Experimental Research in Social Sciences and became Inaugural Director. He received his doctorate in sociology from the University of Washington. Honors Yamagishi has received include ten prizes from academic associations in psychology, the Nikkei Prize for Excellent Books in Economic Science (1999), a Medal of Honor with Purple Ribbon (2004), and Japan's 2014 Person of Cultural Merits. His research interests go from psychology and dynamic interactions to macro social structure. The research explores trust, cooperation, altruism, reciprocity, and related issues.

Affiliation

Professor emeritus, Hokkaido University and Adjunct Professor, Graduate School of International Corporate Strategy, Hitotsubashi University.

[Yamagishi Web Page](#)

Discipline

Social psychology, sociology, behavioral economics

Theme

Self-control for Self-interest

Relevant Publications

Yamagishi, T. (2012). [Social projection or the application of human models](#). *Psychological Inquiry*, 23(1), 80-84.

Yamagishi, T. et al. (2012). [Rejection of unfair offers in the ultimatum game is no evidence of strong reciprocity](#). *Proceedings of the National Academy of Sciences*, 109(50), 20364-20368.

Yamagishi, T., Horita, Y., Takagishi, H., Shinada, M., Tanida, S., & Cook, K. S. (2009). [The private rejection of unfair offers and emotional commitment](#). *Proceedings of the National Academy of Sciences*, 106(28), 11520-11523.

Shinada, M., & Yamagishi, T. (2007). [Punishing free riders: direct and indirect promotion of cooperation](#). *Evolution and Human Behavior*, 28(5), 330-339.

Yamagishi, T. (2005). Preferences, beliefs, and heuristics. *Behavioral and Brain Sciences*, 28(06), 836-837.

Daniel Sznycer



Daniel Sznycer is an evolutionary psychologist doing postdoctoral research at the UCSB Center for Evolutionary Psychology. After graduating from the University of Buenos Aires in Argentina, he got his PhD in Anthropology at the University of California, Santa Barbara in 2010. His research explores political attitudes, the motivational architecture for welfare tradeoffs, and the psychology of shame.

Affiliation

Center for Evolutionary Psychology, University of California, Santa Barbara

[Sznycer Web Page](#)

Discipline

Evolutionary psychology, anthropology

Theme

Economic redistribution and the logic of zero-sum interactions

Relevant Publications

Sznycer, D., Tooby, J., Cosmides, L., Shalvi, S., Halperin, E., and Porat, R. Shame closely tracks audience devaluation, even across cultures. Manuscript under submission.

Sznycer, D., Schniter, E., Tooby, J., & Cosmides, L. (2015). [Regulatory adaptations for delivering information: the case of confession](#). *Evolution and Human Behavior*, 36(1), 44-51.

Petersen, M. B*, Sznycer, D.*, Sell, A., Cosmides, L., & Tooby, J. (2013). [The ancestral logic of politics: Upper body strength regulates men's assertion of self-interest over economic redistribution](#). *Psychological Science*, 24(7), 1098-1103.

Sznycer, D., Takemura, K., Delton, A. W., Sato, K., Robertson, T., Cosmides, L. & Tooby, J. (2012). [Cross-cultural differences and similarities in proneness to shame: An adaptationist and ecological approach](#). *Evolutionary Psychology*, 10(2), 352-370.

Jean-Baptiste André



Jean-Baptiste André received his Ph.D in evolutionary biology at University of Montpellier, France, and his undergraduate degree from the Ecole Normale Supérieure in Paris. He is currently a research fellow at the Institute for Evolutionary Sciences, CNRS (National Center for Scientific Research) in Montpellier. He is interested primarily in the evolution of cooperation and, in particular, the evolution of fairness and reciprocity. His goal is to understand human behavior, using the tools of evolutionary biology.

Affiliation

Research Fellow at Institut des Sciences de l'Evolution CNRS in Montpellier, France.

[André Web Page](#)

Discipline

Theoretical evolutionary biology

Theme

The evolution of cooperation through partner choice

Relevant Publications

Debove, S., J.B. André and N. **Baumard**. (2015). [Partner choice creates fairness in humans](#), *Proceedings of the Royal Society B*, 282.

André, J. B. (2015). [Contingency in the Evolutionary Emergence of Reciprocal Cooperation](#). *The American Naturalist*, 185(3), 303-316.

Debove, S., Baumard, N., & André, J-B. 2015. [Evolution of equal division among unequal partners](#). *Evolution*. 69:561-569.

André, J.B. 2014. [Mechanistic constraints and the unlikely evolution of reciprocal cooperation](#). *Journal of Evolutionary Biology*, 27, 784-795.

André, J. B., & Morin, O. (2011). [Questioning the cultural evolution of altruism](#). *Journal of evolutionary biology*, 24(12), 2531-2542.

André, J. B., & Baumard, N. (2011). [The evolution of fairness in a biological market](#). *Evolution*, 65(5), 1447-1456.

Nicolas Baumard



Nicolas Baumard holds the Chair of Research Excellence and co-leads the Evolution and Social Cognition Group at the Department of Cognitive Science, Ecole Normale Supérieure in Paris. His Ph.D. was from the École des Hautes Études en Sciences Sociales, and he takes an evolutionary approach to moral psychology. Baumard investigates mutualistic theories of cooperation, moral judgments, and fairness, and explores how life history theory be applied to explain behavioral variability in morality across development and cultures. His goal is to explain why some public policies naturally work better.

Affiliation

Chaire d'Excellence Recherche and co-leader of the Evolution and Social Cognition Group, Department of Cognitive Science, Ecole Normale Supérieure in Paris, France.

Baumard Web Page

Discipline

Moral psychology, evolutionary psychology, cognitive science

Theme

The evolution of fairness

Relevant Publications

Baumard, N., André, J.B. et Sperber, D. (2013) [A mutualistic theory of morality: The evolution of fairness by partner choice](#), *Behavioral and Brain Sciences*, Target article, 36 (1).

Baumard, N. & Sheskin, M. (in press) [Partner Choice and the Evolution of a Contractualist Morality](#), in Decety, J. & Wheatley, T., *The Moral Brain*, M.I.T. Press.

Baumard, N., Mascaro, O. and Chevallier, C. (2012) [Preschoolers are able to take merit into account when distributing goods](#), *Developmental Psychology*, 48(2) 492-498.

Baumard, N., Hyafil, A., Morris, I., and Boyer, P., (in press) [Explaining the Axial Age: How Energy Capture Favored Ascetic Wisdoms and Moralizing Religions](#), *Current Biology*

Sheskin, M., Chevallier, C., Lambert, S., and Baumard, N. (2014) [Life-history theory explains childhood moral development](#), *Trends in Cognitive Sciences*.

Baumard, N. (2013) [Why evolutionary psychology matters for human development: Humannature as a constraint and a lever in policy design](#) (Report written in preparation to the World Bank Report 2015)

Michael Munger



Professor Munger received his Ph.D. in Economics from Washington University in St. Louis. He is currently director of the interdisciplinary Philosophy, Politics, and Economics Program at Duke University. His research interests include the study of the morality of exchange and the workings of the “sharing economy.” His core interests focus on the question of whether exchange is “truly voluntary,” for which he coined the term *euvoluntary*.

Affiliation

Professor, Departments of Political Science, Economics, and Public Policy, Duke University

[Munger Web Page](#)

Discipline

Political science, economics

Theme

Voluntary or Euvoluntary? Unconscionable bargaining power, human nature, and moral philosophy

Relevant Publications

Munger, M. (2011) [Euvoluntary or Not, Exchange is Just](#). *Social Philosophy and Policy*, 28(2): 192-211

Guzmán, R. A., & Munger, M. C. (2014). [Euvoluntariness and just market exchange: moral dilemmas from Locke’s Venditio](#). *Public Choice*, 158(1-2), 39-49.

Munger, Michael, and Kevin Munger. (2015). [Choosing in Groups](#). New York: Cambridge University Press. 2015.

Couyoumdjian, Juan Pablo, and Michael Munger. (2015). “The Entrepreneurial Virtues.” In Iskra Fileva (ed), *Philosophy of Character*, Oxford University Press.

Munger, Michael. (2015). Symposium on Basic Income Guarantee (BIG). Editor and contributor, “Editor’s Introduction” (pp. 485-488) and “[One and One-Half Cheers for BIG](#)” (pp. 503-514) in *Independent Review*. Vol 20, No. 1, Summer.

Andrew Delton



Andrew Delton studies how evolution has crafted psychological abilities to cooperate in groups, to exchange and trade, and to share and be generous. His research shows how each of these abilities relies on a series of emotional and conceptual specializations. He received his PhD in evolutionary psychology from the University of California, Santa Barbara. He is currently an assistant professor at Stony Brook University with joint appointments in the Department of Political Science and the College of Business.

Affiliation

Assistant Professor at the Center for Behavioral Political Economy, Department of Political Science and College of Business, Stony Brook University.

[Delton Web Page](#)

Discipline

Evolutionary psychology, social psychology, political psychology

Theme

Has natural selection created a specialized psychology for collective action?

Relevant Publications

- Delton, A. W. & Krasnow, M. M. (2015). [Adaptationist approaches to moral psychology](#). In J. Decety and T. Wheatley (Eds.), *The moral brain* (pp. 19-34). Cambridge, MA: MIT Press.
- Delton, A. W., Nemirow, J., Robertson, T. E., Cimino, A., & Cosmides, L. (2013). [Merely opting out of a public good elicits moralization: An error management approach to cooperation](#), *Journal of Personality and Social Psychology* 105, 621- 638.
- Delton, A. W., Cosmides, L., Guemo, M., Robertson, T. E., & Tooby, J. (2012). [The psychosemantics of free riding: Dissecting the architecture of a moral concept](#). *Journal of Personality and Social Psychology*, 102, 1252-1270.
- Krasnow, M.M., Delton, A.W., Cosmides, L. & Tooby, J. (2015). [Group cooperation without group selection: Modest punishment can recruit much cooperation](#). *PLoS ONE*, 10(4): e0124561. doi:10.1371/journal.pone.0124561
- Delton, A. W. & Sell, A. (2014). [The co-evolution of concepts and motivation](#). *Current Directions in Psychological Science*, 23, 115-120.

Ricardo Andrés Guzmán



Ricardo Guzmán got his PhD in economics at Pontificia Universidad Católica de Chile, where he also earned degrees in finance and computer science. After teaching there, he joined the Faculty of Government at the Universidad del Desarrollo, where he is Co-Director of the Center for Research in Social Complexity and Director of Research. His research on cooperation bridges evolutionary psychology, behavioral and experimental economics, and economic anthropology. It informs his work in moral philosophy, on theories of just market exchange.

Affiliation

Co-director and Director of Research, Center for Research in Social Complexity, Associate Professor, Faculty of Government, Universidad Del Desarrollo, Santiago, Chile.

[Guzmán Web Page](#)

Discipline

Behavioral economics

Theme

A theory of just market exchange: Where moral psychology meets moral philosophy

Relevant Publications

- Guzmán, R. A., & Munger, M. C. (2014). [Euvoluntariness and just market exchange: moral dilemmas from Locke's Venditio](#). *Public Choice*, 158(1-2), 39-49.
- Gelcich, S., Guzman, R., Rodríguez-Sickert, C., Castilla, J. C., & Cárdenas, J. C. (2013). [Exploring external validity of common pool resource experiments: insights from artisanal benthic fisheries in Chile](#). *Ecology and Society*, 18(3), 2.
- Guzmán, R. A., & Weisdorf, J. (2011). [The Neolithic Revolution from a price-theoretic perspective](#). *Journal of Development Economics*, 96(2), 209-219.
- Rodríguez-Sickert, C., Guzmán, R. A., & Cárdenas, J. C. (2008). [Institutions influence preferences: Evidence from a common pool resource experiment](#). *Journal of Economic Behavior & Organization*, 67(1), 215-227.
- Guzmán, R. A., Rodríguez-Sickert, C., & Rowthorn, R. (2007). [When in Rome, do as the Romans do: the coevolution of altruistic punishment, conformist learning, and cooperation](#). *Evolution and Human Behavior*, 28(2), 112-117.

Carlos Rodriguez - Sickert



Carlos Rodriguez-Sickert obtained his BA in economics from the Universidad Católica de Chile, and his PhD in economics from the University of Cambridge, specializing in game theory. He taught at Universidad Católica and became an International Fellow of the Santa Fe Institute before coming to the Universidad del Desarrollo. He is currently Co-Director of the Center for Research on Social Complexity in the Faculty of Government of UDD, and Director of its PhD program in social complexity. Rodríguez-Sickert's research currently focuses on the cultural and biological mechanisms that allow humans to cooperate.

Affiliation

Co-director of the Center for Research in Social Complexity and Director of the PhD program in Social Complexity, Faculty of Government, Universidad Del Desarrollo, Santiago, Chile.

[Rodriguez-Sickert Web Page](#)

Discipline

Economics, culture/biology dynamics, social networks

Theme

How behavioral economics can inform moral psychology

Relevant Publications

Gelcich, S., Guzman, R., Rodríguez-Sickert, C., Castilla, J. C., & Cárdenas, J. C. (2013). [Exploring external validity of common pool resource experiments: insights from artisanal benthic fisheries in Chile](#). *Ecology and Society*, 18(3), 2.

Rowthorn, R., Guzmán, R., & Rodríguez-Sickert, C. (2011). [The economics of social stratification in premodern societies](#). *Journal of Mathematical Sociology*, 28(3), 175-202.

Hidalgo, C. A., & Rodriguez-Sickert, C. (2008). [The dynamics of a mobile phone network](#). *Physica A: Statistical Mechanics and its Applications*, 387(12), 3017-3024.

Rodriguez-Sickert, C., Guzmán, R. A., & Cárdenas, J. C. (2008). [Institutions influence preferences: Evidence from a common pool resource experiment](#). *Journal of Economic Behavior & Organization*, 67(1), 215-227.

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Michael Bang Petersen



Michael Bang Petersen is Professor of Political Science at Aarhus University in Denmark. He received his PhD from Aarhus University in 2007 and did postdoctoral research at the UCSB Center for Evolutionary Psychology. His research focuses on how the adaptive challenges of human evolutionary history shape the way modern citizens think about mass politics. Petersen has applied this perspective to criminal justice, social welfare, redistribution, and social trust. He co-directs The Politics and Evolution Lab, a research lab dedicated to the intersection of evolutionary psychology and political science.

Affiliation

Professor of Political Science, Aarhus University, Denmark

Petersen Web Page

Discipline

Political science, evolutionary psychology, political psychology

Theme

The design of the political mind

Relevant Publications

Petersen, M. B. (2015). [Evolutionary Political Psychology: On the Origin and Structure of Heuristics and Biases in Politics](#). *Political Psychology*, 36(S1): 45-78.

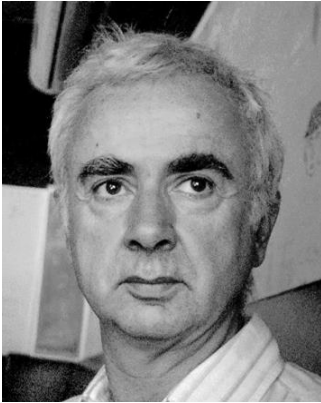
Aarøe, Lene & Petersen, M. B. (2013). [Hunger Games: Fluctuations in Blood Glucose Levels Influence Social Welfare Support](#). *Psychological Science*, 24(12), 2550-2556.

Petersen, M. B., Sznycer, D., Sell, A., Cosmides, L. & Tooby, J. (2013). [The Ancestral Logic of Politics: Upper Body Strength Regulates Men's Assertion of Self-Interest over Economic Redistribution](#). *Psychological Science*, 24 (7), 1098-1103.

Petersen, M. B. & Aarøe, L. (2013). [Politics in the Mind's Eye: Imagination as a Link between Social and Political Cognition](#). *American Political Science Review*, 107 (2), 275-293.

Petersen, M. B. (2012). [Social Welfare as Small-Scale Help: Evolutionary Psychology and the Deservingness Heuristic](#). *American Journal of Political Science*, 56 (1), 1-16.

Diego Gambetta



Diego Gambetta is Professor and Chair of Social Theory at the European University Institute and Professor of Sociology at University of Oxford. He received his PhD in Social & Political Sciences from the University of Cambridge, and was Research Fellow at King's College, Cambridge. *New Scientist* named his award-winning book, *Codes of the Underworld*, one of the best books of 2009. Gambetta is a Fellow of the British Academy and a founding fellow of the European Academy of Sociology. His research interests include analytical sociology, mafias, signaling theory and applications, trust and mimicry, and violent extremism.

Affiliation

Professor of Social Theory at the European University Institute, Florence, Italy, and Professor of Sociology, University of Oxford, Official Fellow of Nuffield College, Oxford.

[Gambetta Web Page](#)

Discipline

Sociology

Theme

Keep your friends close and your hostages closer. Trust in unpromising situations

Relevant Publications

Gambetta, D. (2009). *Codes of the underworld. How criminals communicate*. Princeton: Princeton University Press

Flashman, J., & Gambetta, D. (2014). [Thick as thieves: Homophily and trust among deviants](#). *Rationality and society*, 26(1), 3-45.

Bigoni, M., Bortolotti, S., Casari, M., & Gambetta, D. (2013). [It takes two to cheat: An experiment on derived trust](#). *European Economic Review*, 64, 129-146.

Gambetta, D., & Origgi, G. (2013). [The L-L game the curious preference for low quality and its norms](#). *Politics, Philosophy & Economics*, 12(1), 3-23.

Ermisch, J., & Gambetta, D. (2010). [Do strong family ties inhibit trust?](#). *Journal of Economic Behavior & Organization*, 75(3), 365-376.

Gambetta, D., & Hertog, S. (2009). [Why are there so many Engineers among Islamic Radicals?](#) *European Journal of Sociology*, 50(02), 201-230.

Max Krasnow



Max Krasnow received his Ph.D in Psychology in 2010 from the University of California, Santa Barbara in the area of Developmental and Evolutionary Psychology. His research focuses on the evolutionary origins and cognitive basis of human cooperation and sociality, such as dyadic and group interactions and social learning. Other research interests include specializations in human spatial cognition and conceptual knowledge for hominid foraging, with particular focus on plant food gathering. He is currently Assistant Professor of Psychology at Harvard University.

Affiliation

Assistant Professor of Psychology, Harvard University

[Krasnow Web Page](#)

Discipline

Evolutionary psychology

Theme

Looking under the hood of human cooperative behavior reveals design for a small scale social world

Relevant Publications

Krasnow, M.M., Cosmides, L., Pedersen, E. & Tooby, J. (2012). [What Are Punishment and Reputation for?](#) *PLoS ONE* 7(9): e45662. doi:10.1371/journal.pone.0045662

Delton, A. W, Krasnow, M. M., Cosmides, L. & Tooby, J. (2011). [Evolution of direct reciprocity under uncertainty can explain human generosity in one-shot encounters.](#) *Proceedings of the National Academy of Sciences of the United States of America*, 108, 13335-13340.

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Krasnow, M.M., Delton, A.W., Cosmides, L. & Tooby, J. (2015). [Group cooperation without group selection: Modest punishment can recruit much cooperation.](#) *PLoS ONE*, 10(4): e0124561. doi:10.1371/journal.pone.0124561

John Tooby



John Tooby is Distinguished Professor of Anthropology at the University of California, Santa Barbara, where he co-directs the Center for Evolutionary Psychology with Leda Cosmides. He was educated at Harvard (A.B. in psychology, Ph.D. in biological anthropology), did postdoctoral research at Stanford, and was a fellow of the Center for Advanced Study in the Behavioral Sciences before arriving at UCSB in 1990. His honors include a 1991 Presidential Young Investigator Award from the National Science Foundation, a J.S. Guggenheim Fellowship, and the presidency of the Human Behavior and Evolution Society.

Affiliation

Distinguished Professor of Anthropology and Co-Director of Center for Evolutionary Psychology, University of California, Santa Barbara.

Tooby Web Page

Discipline

Evolutionary psychology, biological anthropology

Theme

Groups in Mind: The Evolutionary Origins of Morality

Relevant Publications

- Tooby, J. & Cosmides, L. (2010). [Groups in mind: Coalitional psychology and the roots of war and morality](#). In Høgh-Olesen, Henrik (Ed.), *Human morality and sociality: Evolutionary and comparative perspectives*. (pp.191-234) Palgrave Macmillan.
- Tooby, J. & Cosmides, L. (2008). [The evolutionary psychology of the emotions and their relationship to internal regulatory variables](#). In: (M. Lewis, J. M. Haviland-Jones, & L. Feldman Barrett, eds.) *Handbook of Emotions*, 3rd Edition. NY: Guilford.
- Sell, A., Tooby, J. & Cosmides, L. (2009). [Formidability and the logic of human anger](#). *Proceedings of the National Academy of Sciences*, 106(35), 15073-15078.
- Tooby, J., Cosmides, L., & Price, M. (2006). [Cognitive adaptations for n-person exchange: The evolutionary roots of organizational behavior](#). *Managerial and Decision Economics*, 27, 103-129.
- Kurzban, R., Tooby, J. & Cosmides, L. (2001). [Can race be erased?: Coalitional computation and social categorization](#). *Proceedings of the National Academy of Sciences*, 98(26), 15387-15392.