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Education

- 2013 **Ph.D.** Biological Anthropology, University of California, Los Angeles
Thesis: *Structures of Sentiment: Mapping the Affective Bases of Social Relationships in Yasawa, Fiji*
- 2008 **M.A.** Biological Anthropology, University of California, Los Angeles
Thesis: *Distinguishing Emotions and Attitudes in the Study of Contempt: Conceptual, Functional, and Phylogenetic Considerations*
- 2006 **B.S./B.A.** Psychobiology/Philosophy/Anthropology, Binghamton University
Thesis: *The Evolution and Functions of Laughter and Humor: A Synthetic Approach*. Summa Cum Laude; Certificate in Evolutionary Studies (EvoS)

Academic Positions

- Sept 2017-
Present **Postdoctoral Research Fellow**
Department of Psychology, University of British Columbia
Advisor: Jessica Tracy
- Sept 2014-
July 2017 **Postdoctoral Associate**
Department of Anthropology, Rutgers University
Advisor: Lee Cronk
- Sept 2013-
Aug 2014 **Junior Research Fellow**
SAGE Center for the Study of the Mind, University of California, Santa Barbara
Advisors: Heejung Kim (Psychology), Michael Gurven (Anthropology)

Additional Affiliations

- Sept 2014-
June 2017 **Visiting Researcher**
School of Human Evolution and Social Change, Arizona State University
- Dec 2014-
Aug 2016 **Assistant Director**
The Human Generosity Project

Research Summary

- Expertise:* Evolutionary Anthropology; Evolutionary Psychology; Cultural Psychology; Mixed-methods fieldwork; Behavioral experiments; Multilevel statistics.
- Topics:* Affective science; evolution of emotions; evolution of human sociality; psychology of social norms; gene-culture co-evolution; cooperation & punishment; morality; hierarchy; interaction rituals; nonverbal communication; social networks; risk management; experimental economics; psychopathy; contempt; laughter.
- Area:* Fiji, Polynesia, Oceania.

Publications ([Google Scholar](#): Total citations: 589; h-index: 7)

- 15) **Gervais, M.M.** & Fessler, D.M.T. (In press). Seeing the elephant: Parsimony, functionalism, and the emergent design of contempt and other sentiments. Author's Response to Commentaries, *Behavioral and Brain Sciences*.
- 14) **Gervais, M.M.** & Fessler, D.M.T. (In press). On the deep structure of social affect: Attitudes, emotions, sentiments, and the case of "contempt." Target Article, *Behavioral and Brain Sciences*.
- 13) **Gervais, M.M.** (2016). RICH economic games for networked relationships and communities: Development and preliminary validation in Yasawa, Fiji. *Field Methods*. DOI: 10.1177/1525822X16643709.
- 12) Fessler, D.M.T, Holbrook, C., Kanovsky, M., Barrett, H.C., Bolyanatz, A.H., **Gervais, M.M.**, Gurven, M., Henrich, J., Kushnick, G., Pisor, A.C., Stich, S., von Rueden, C., & Laurence, S. (2016). Moral parochialism misunderstood: A reply to Piazza & Sousa. *Proceedings of the Royal Society – Biology* 283(1823). DOI: 10.1098/rspb.2015.2628.
- 11) Fessler, D.M.T, Barrett, H.C., Kanovsky, M., Stich, S., Holbrook, C., Henrich, J., Bolyanatz, A.H., **Gervais, M.M.**, Gurven, M., Kushnick, G., Pisor, A.C., von Rueden, C., & Laurence, S. (2015). Moral parochialism and contextual contingency across seven disparate societies. *Proceedings of the Royal Society – Biology* 282(1813). DOI: 10.1098/rspb.2015.0907.
- 10) **Gervais, M.M.** (2014). Evolution after mirror neurons: Tapping the shared manifold through secondary adaptation. Commentary on Cook, R., Bird, G., Catmur, C., Press, C., & Heyes, C. (2014). Mirror neurons: From origin to function. *Behavioral and Brain Sciences* 37, 177-241. DOI: 10.1017/S0140525X13000903.
- 9) Manson, J.H., **Gervais, M.M.**, Fessler, D.M.T., & Kline, M.A. (2014). Subclinical primary psychopathy, but not physical formidability or attractiveness, predicts conversational dominance in a zero-acquaintance situation. *PLoS ONE*. DOI: 10.1371/journal.pone.0113135.
- 8) Fessler, D.M.T., Holbrook, C., & **Gervais, M.M.** (2014). Men's physical strength moderates conceptualizations of prospective foes in two disparate human societies. *Human Nature* 25, 393-409. DOI: 10.1007/s12110-014-9205-4.
- 7) Fessler, D.M.T., Tiokhin, L.B., Holbrook, C., **Gervais, M.M.**, & Snyder, J.K. (2014). Foundations of the Crazy Bastard hypothesis: Nonviolent risk-taking enhances conceptualized formidability. *Evolution and Human Behavior* 35, 26-33. DOI: 10.1016/j.evolhumbehav.2013.09.003.
- 6) **Gervais, M.M.**, Kline, M., Ludmer, M., George, R., & Manson, J. (2013). The strategy of psychopathy: Primary psychopathic traits predict defection on low-value relationships. *Proceedings of the Royal Society – Biology* 280(1757). DOI: 10.1098/rspb.2012.2773.
- 5) Manson, J.H., **Gervais, M.M.**, & Kline, M. (2013). Defectors cannot be detected from "small talk" with strangers. *PLoS ONE* 8, e82531. DOI: 10.1371/journal.pone.0082531.
- 4) Manson, J.H., Bryant, G.A., **Gervais, M.M.**, & Kline, M. (2013). Convergence of speech rate in conversation predicts cooperation. *Evolution and Human Behavior* 34, 419-426. DOI: 10.1016/j.evolhumbehav.2013.08.001.
- 3) Holbrook, C., Fessler, D.M.T. & **Gervais, M.M.** (2012). Revenge without redundancy: Functional outcomes do not require discrete adaptations for vengeance or forgiveness. Commentary on McCullough, M.E., Kurzban, R. & Tabak, B.A. (2012). Cognitive systems for revenge and forgiveness. *Behavioral and Brain Sciences*. DOI: 10.1017/S0140525X11002160.
- 2) Fessler, D.M.T. & **Gervais, M.M.** (2010). From whence the captains of our lives: Ultimate and phylogenetic perspectives on emotions in humans and other primates. In: P. Kappeler & J. Silk (Eds.), *Mind the Gap: The Origins of Human Universals* (pp 261-282). Springer: Heidelberg. DOI: 10.1007/978-3-642-02725-3.

- 1) **Gervais, M.M.** & Wilson, D.S. (2005). The evolution and functions of laughter and humor: A synthetic approach. *Quarterly Review of Biology* 80, 395-430. DOI: 10.1086/498281.

Manuscripts In Preparation or Under Review

Gervais, M.M. (In prep). The bookkeeping and commitment functions of affect: Evidence from RICH economic games in Fiji.

Gervais, M.M. & Fessler, D.M.T. (In prep). The forms and social functions of affect in Yasawa, Fiji: A cultural domain analysis.

Kline, M., **Gervais, M.M.**, Moya, C., & Boyd, R. (In prep). Populations vary in the developmental trajectory of overimitation: Experiments in Yasawa, Fiji and Huatasani, Peru.

Manson, J.H., **Gervais, M.M.**, & Bryant, G.A. (Under review). General trust impedes perception of primary psychopathy from thin-slices of zero-acquaintance interaction.

Cronk, L., Berbesque, C., Conte, T., **Gervais, M.M.**, Iyer, P., McCarthy, B., Sonkoi, D., Townsend, C., & Aktipis, A. (Under review). Managing risk through cooperation: Need-based transfers and risk-pooling among the societies of the Human Generosity Project. Invited chapter in Lozny, L.R. & McGovern, T.H. (Eds.), *Global Perspectives on Long-term Community Resource Management*.

Awards

Grants

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| 2017-2021 | Investigator, <i>The Effect of Social Networks on Inequality: A Longitudinal Cross-Cultural Investigation</i> (\$880k). National Science Foundation. PI: Jeremy Koster (Cincinnati) |
| 2014-2017 | Co-author, Postdoctoral Researcher: <i>Generous by Nature</i> (\$2.1m). John Templeton Foundation. Co-PIs: Lee Cronk (RU) & Athena Aktipis (ASU) |
| 2011-2012 | Doctoral Dissertation Improvement Grant (\$19,800). National Science Foundation. |
| 2009 | Research Grant (\$3600). UCLA Institute for Social Science Research |
| 2007 | Owen Aldis Award (\$8000). International Society for Human Ethology |

Fellowships

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| 2012-2013 | Dissertation Year Fellowship, UCLA Graduate Division |
| 2006-2009 | Graduate Research Fellowship, National Science Foundation |
| 2004-2006 | Barry M. Goldwater STEM Scholarship |

Honors

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| 2014 | Best New Investigator, Evolutionary Anthropology Society |
| 2013 | Top Selection, <i>Practice</i> , American Anthropological Association Photography Contest |
| 2012 | Top Selection, <i>Place</i> , American Anthropological Association Photography Contest |

Teaching Experience

Graduate

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| 2014 | Co-Organizer and Co-Instructor, <i>Behavioral Science: Are You Doing It Wrong?</i> UCSB Department of Psychological and Brain Sciences. |
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Undergraduate

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| 2012 | Instructor of Record, <i>Primate Behavior</i> . UCLA Department of Anthropology. |
| 2009 | Teaching Assistant, <i>Primate Behavior</i> . UCLA Department of Anthropology. |
| 2005 | Teaching Assistant, <i>Evolution & Human Behavior</i> . Binghamton University. |

Fieldwork Experience

- 2017 Yasawa Island, Fiji; two months in one village
Methods: Wealth inventories, everyday social support networks
- 2016 Yasawa Island, Fiji; two months in four villages
Methods: Social network interviews on help given & received during different shocks
- 2015 Yasawa Island, Fiji; two months in two villages
Methods: Structured and semi-structured interviews on risks and sharing norms
- 2009-2012 Yasawa Island, Fiji; 20 months in three villages
Methods: Cultural domain analysis, vignette experiments, economic games, time allocation sampling, demographics, anthropometrics, dried blood spots

Specialized Training

- 2014 *Cultural Domain Analysis*. NSF Short Course in Research Methods. Instructors: Rosalyn Negron, Russell Bernard. July 21-25. Duke Marine Lab, Beaufort, NC.
- 2014 *Statistics in Ethnographic Research*. NSF Short Course in Research Methods. Instructors: Dan Hruschka, David Nolan. July 28-Aug 1. Duke Marine Lab, Beaufort, NC.

Invited Talks

- Gervais, M.M.** (2016). Laughter, humor, and social play: Toward consilience. Templeton Workshop on Laughter & Humor. Institute for Advanced Studies, University of Notre Dame.
- Gervais, M.M.** (2015). Structures of sentiment: Mapping the affective bases of social relationships in Yasawa, Fiji. Center for Human Evolutionary Studies Colloquium, Rutgers University.
- Gervais, M.M.** (2015). Structures of sentiment: Mapping the affective bases of social relationships in Yasawa, Fiji. Evolution of Social Complexity Colloquium, Arizona State University.
- Gervais, M.M.** (2014). Egalitarian motives in a stratified society: Evidence from RICH economic games in Fiji. Evolutionary Studies Program (EvoS) Seminar Series, Binghamton University.
- Gervais, M.M.** (2014). On the deep structure of affect: Emotions, sentiments, and the case of “contempt”. Brown Bag Lectures, Binghamton University.
- Gervais, M.M.** (2013). Structures of sentiment: Mapping the affective bases of social relationships in Yasawa, Fiji. Lecture Series, Cognition, Perception, and Cognitive Neuroscience Group, University of California, Santa Barbara.
- Gervais, M.M.** (2013). Mapping an egalitarian hierarchy: RICH economic games and relational norms in Fiji. Seminar Series, Center for Behavior, Evolution, and Culture, UCLA.
- Gervais, M.M.** & Fessler, D.M.T. (2009). Phylogeny, form, and function in the study of emotions. Graduate Seminar, Department of Behavioral Science, Hokkaido University. Sapporo, Japan.
- Gervais, M.M.** (2009). Does the absence of a positive make a negative? Contempt as a wedge for intergroup hostility. Workshop on Emotions in Conflict, Max Planck Institute for Social Anthropology. Halle, Germany.

Invited Workshop Participation

- 2017 *Networks and inequality*. Santa Fe Institute. January 31-February 3. Organizers: Jeremy Koster, Monique Borgerhoff Mulder, & Sam Bowles.
- 2016 *The nature and impact of laughter and humor in today's digitized world*. Notre Dame Institute for Advanced Study. April 7-8. Organizer: Otto Santa Ana.
- 2015 *Advancing the study of cultural evolution: Academic integration and policy applications*. The Evolution Institute. March 19-21. Co-organizers: Michele Gelfand & DS Wilson.
- 2013 *Synthesizing the evolutionary and social science approaches to human cooperation: A NESCent Catalysis Meeting*. National Evolutionary Synthesis Center. Durham, NC. April 5-7. Co-organizers: Lee Cronk & Beth L. Leech.
- 2009 *Emotions in Conflict*. Max Planck Institute for Social Anthropology. Halle, Germany. January 29-30. Organizer: Birgitt Rottger-Rossler.

Conference Presentations

Talks

- Gervais, M.M.** (2015). The relational contexts of generosity in a Fijian social network: Evidence from a RICH economic game. 27th Human Behavior and Evolution Society. Columbia, MO.
- Gervais, M.M.** (2014). Attitudes regulate enduring relationships: Evidence from RICH economic games in Fiji. 113th American Anthropological Association. Washington, D.C.
- Gervais, M.M.** (2013). Mapping an egalitarian hierarchy: RICH economic games and relational norms in Fiji. 112th American Anthropological Association. Chicago, IL.
- Gervais, M.M.** & Fessler, D.M.T. (2013). Towards an evolutionary psychology of attitudes: Affective representations moderate social emotions and behavior in Fiji. 25th Human Behavior and Evolution Society. Miami, FL.
- Gervais, M.M.** (2009). Distinguishing emotions and attitudes in evolutionary psychology: The case of contempt. 21st Human Behavior and Evolution Society. Fullerton, CA. Talk.

Posters

- Gervais, M.M.** (2014). Attitudes regulate enduring relationships: Evidence from RICH economic games in Fiji. 15th Society for Personality and Social Psychology. Austin, TX.
- Gervais, M.M.** & Fessler, D.M.T. (2012). Relational games for "anonymous" norms: Evidence for need-based transfers and costly leveling in Fiji. 111th American Anthropological Association. San Francisco, CA.
- Gervais, M.M.** & Fessler, D.M.T. (2010). The relational contexts, forms, and functions of affect in Yasawa, Fiji. 109th American Anthropological Association. New Orleans, LA.

Service

Conference & Workshop Organizing

- 2014 Organizer and Chair, *Producing a vertically integrated evolutionary anthropology: Studies of proximate mechanisms in social dynamics*. Invited Session, EAS-sponsored. 113th American Anthropological Association. Washington, DC.
- 2014 Co-organizer, *Coordinating the study of social coordination: Addressing conceptual and methodological issues across disciplines*. SAGE Junior Research Fellow Workshop, University of California, Santa Barbara. November 6-10.

- 2013 Organizer and Chair, *Beyond anonymous games: Methodological advances in the evolutionary study of 'current engagements' and 'future publics.'* Contributed Session, EAS-sponsored. 112th American Anthropological Association. Chicago, IL.
- 2009 Co-Organizer, *3rd California Workshop on Evolutionary Social Science.* San Luis Obispo.

Committees

- 2017 Program Committee, Evolutionary Anthropology Society
- 2015 Awards Committee, Evolutionary Anthropology Society
- 2007-2008 Co-Chair, Four Fields Committee, UCLA Anthropology Graduate Student Association
- 2007-2008 Treasurer, UCLA Anthropology Graduate Student Association
- 2006-2007 Student Representative, Awards Committee, UCLA Department of Anthropology

Professional Memberships

- 2016-Present Cultural Evolution Society
- 2010-Present American Anthropological Association: EAS, BAS, SPA, & SAS
- 2009-Present Human Behavior and Evolution Society
- 2008-Present Society for Personality and Social Psychology

Ad Hoc Peer Reviewer for Journals:

- Cross-Cultural Research
- Current Anthropology
- Current Biology
- Ethos
- Evolution and Human Behavior
- Evolutionary Behavioral Sciences
- Evolutionary Psychology
- Field Methods
- Human Nature
- Motivation and Emotion

Ad Hoc Peer Reviewer for Granting Agencies:

- National Science Foundation: Social Psychology Program