

# Matthew M. Gervais

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## Education

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

## Academic Positions

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- July 2020-  
Present      **Lecturer in Psychology**  
Department of Life Sciences, Brunel University London
- May 2018-  
April 2020      **Term Lecturer**  
Department of Psychology, Simon Fraser University
- Sept 2017-  
Aug 2018      **Postdoctoral Research Fellow**  
Department of Psychology, University of British Columbia
- Sept 2014-  
July 2017      **Postdoctoral Associate**  
Department of Anthropology, Rutgers University
- Sept 2013-  
Aug 2014      **Junior Research Fellow**  
SAGE Center for the Study of the Mind, University of California, Santa Barbara

## Additional Affiliations

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- Sept 2018-  
July 2020      **Affiliate Postdoctoral Research Fellow**  
Department of Psychology, University of British Columbia
- 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 (<http://www.humangenerosity.org/>)

## Research Summary

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- Expertise:*      Affective Science; Cultural & Evolutionary Psychology; Evolutionary & Cognitive Anthropology; Mixed-methods fieldwork; Behavioral experiments; Economic games.
- Topics:*          Emotions; interpersonal attitudes; affect concepts; contempt & respect; laughter & social play; psychopathy; social interaction; social norms; hierarchy; power; morality; cooperation & coordination; risk pooling; social networks; gene-culture co-evolution.
- Regions:*        Fiji, Polynesia, Oceania; post-colonial communities.

**Publications** ([Google Scholar](#): Total citations: 1111; h-index: 12)

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- 21) Dale, R., Bryant, G.A., Manson, J.H., & **Gervais, M.M.** (In Press). Body synchrony in triadic interaction. *Royal Society Open Science*.
- 20) Pisor, A.C, **Gervais, M.M.**, Purzycki, B.G., & Ross, C.T. (2020). Preferences and constraints: The value of economic games for studying human behaviour. *Royal Society Open Science* 7: 192090. DOI: 10.1098/rsos.192090
- 19) Kline, M., **Gervais, M.M.**, Moya, C., & Boyd, R. (2019). Irrelevant-action imitation is short-term and contextual: Evidence from two under-studied populations. *Developmental Science*. DOI: 10.1111/desc.12903
- 18) Cronk, L., Berbesque, C., Conte, T., **Gervais, M.M.**, Iyer, P., McCarthy, B., Sonkoi, D., Townsend, C., & Aktipis, A. (2019). Managing risk through cooperation: Need-based transfers and risk pooling among societies of the Human Generosity Project. In: L.R. Lozny & T.H. McGovern (Eds.), *Global Perspectives on Long-Term Community Resource Management* (pp.41-76). Springer Nature: Switzerland. DOI: 10.1007/978-3-030-15800-2.
- 17) Brewis, A., Wutich, A., du Bray, M., Maupin, J., Schuster, R., & **Gervais, M.M.** (2018). Community hygiene norm violators are consistently stigmatized: Evidence from four global sites and implications for sanitation interventions. *Social Science & Medicine*. DOI: 10.1016/j.socscimed.2018.10.020
- 16) Manson, J.H., **Gervais, M.M.**, & Bryant, G.A. (2018). General trust impedes perception of self-reported primary psychopathy in thin slices of social interaction. *PLoS ONE* 13(5): e0196729. DOI: 10.1371/journal.pone.0196729.
- 15) **Gervais, M.M.** & Fessler, D.M.T. (2017). On the deep structure of social affect: Attitudes, emotions, sentiments, and the case of “contempt.” Target Article, *Behavioral and Brain Sciences* 40. DOI: 10.1017/S0140525X16000352.
- 14) **Gervais, M.M.** & Fessler, D.M.T. (2017). Seeing the elephant: Parsimony, functionalism, and the emergent design of contempt and other sentiments. Author’s Response to Commentaries, *Behavioral and Brain Sciences* 40. DOI: 10.1017/S0140525X17001236.
- 13) **Gervais, M.M.** (2017). RICH economic games for networked relationships and communities: Development and preliminary validation in Yasawa, Fiji. *Field Methods* 29(2), 113-129. 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.** & Ross, C. (In prep). Sentiments serve bookkeeping and commitment functions in social relationships: 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.

Szycer, D., Sullivan, D., van den Akker, O., **Gervais, M.M.**, Munoz, A., Cronk, L., & Aktipis, A. (In revision). Perceived fitness interdependence predicts willingness to help.

## **Awards**

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### *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 (Rutgers) & 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 Paper: New Investigator, Evolutionary Anthropology Society |
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- 2013 Top Selection, *Practice*, American Anthropological Association Photography Contest  
 2012 Top Selection, *Place*, American Anthropological Association Photography Contest

## Teaching

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### Undergraduate

- 2019-2020 Instructor of Record, *Cultural Psychology*, SFU Department of Psychology  
 Instructor of Record (x2), *Social Psychology of Emotions*, SFU Dept. of Psychology  
 2018-2019 Instructor of Record (x3), *Cultural Psychology*, SFU Department of Psychology  
 2012 Instructor of Record, *Primate Behavior*, UCLA Department of Anthropology

### Graduate

- 2014 Co-Organizer and Co-Instructor, *Behavioral Science: Are You Doing It Wrong?*  
 UCSB Department of Psychological and Brain Sciences

## Fieldwork Experience

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- 2017 Yasawa Island, Fiji; two months in one village  
*Methods*: Wealth inventories, social networks for aid, exchange, & socializing  
 2016 Yasawa Island, Fiji; two months in four villages  
*Methods*: Social networks for help given & received during different shocks  
 2015 Yasawa Island, Fiji; two months in two villages  
*Methods*: Structured and semi-structured interviews about 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 spot sampling

## Specialized Training

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- 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

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- Gervais, M.M.** (2019). Contempt. *Hostile Emotions: Philosophical and Psychological Perspectives*. International Workshop, Center for Interdisciplinary Research, University of Bielefeld.  
**Gervais, M.M.** (2018). The Attitude-Scenario-Emotion Model of sentiments: Implications for clinical psychology? Clinical Science Seminar, Simon Fraser University.  
**Gervais, M.M.** (2018). Structures of Sentiment: Mapping the affective bases of social relationships in Yasawa, Fiji. Social Psychology Seminar, Simon Fraser University.  
**Gervais, M.M.** (2018). Beyond anonymous games: Mapping sentiments and social relationships in Yasawa, Fiji. Keynote, Southeast Evolution & Human Behavior Society, Georgia State University.  
**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, 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. Cognition, Perception, and Cognitive Neuroscience Seminar, University of California, Santa Barbara.
- Gervais, M.M.** (2013). Mapping an egalitarian hierarchy: RICH economic games and relational norms in Fiji. Center for Behavior, Evolution, and Culture Seminar, 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

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- 2019 *Hostile emotions: Philosophical & psychological perspectives*. Center for Interdisciplinary Research, University of Bielefeld. March 28-30. Organizer: Thiemo Breyer.
- 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

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#### Talks

- Gervais, M.M.** (2019). Enacting resilience: Ritual exchanges, risk-pooling networks, and the scale of shocks in Fijian villages. 118<sup>th</sup> American Anthropological Association. Vancouver, BC.
- Gervais, M.M.** (2018). “Contempt” and the Attitude-Scenario-Emotion model of sentiments. Emotion Pre-conference, 19<sup>th</sup> Society for Personality & Social Psychology. Atlanta, GA.
- Gervais, M.M.** (2015). The relational contexts of generosity in a Fijian social network: Evidence from a RICH economic game. 27<sup>th</sup> Human Behavior and Evolution Society. Columbia, MO.
- Gervais, M.M.** (2014). Attitudes regulate enduring relationships: Evidence from RICH economic games in Fiji. 113<sup>th</sup> American Anthropological Association. Washington, D.C.
- Gervais, M.M.** (2013). Mapping an egalitarian hierarchy: RICH economic games and relational norms in Fiji. 112<sup>th</sup> 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. 25<sup>th</sup> Human Behavior and Evolution Society. Miami, FL.

**Gervais, M.M.** (2009). Distinguishing emotions and attitudes in evolutionary psychology: The case of contempt. 21<sup>st</sup> Human Behavior and Evolution Society. Fullerton, CA.

#### Posters

**Gervais, M.M.** (2014). Attitudes regulate enduring relationships: Evidence from RICH economic games in Fiji. 15<sup>th</sup> Society for Personality and Social Psychology. Austin, TX.

**Gervais, M.M.** & Fessler, D.M.T. (2012). Relational games for “nonymous” norms: Evidence for need-based transfers and costly leveling in Fiji. 111<sup>th</sup> 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. 109<sup>th</sup> American Anthropological Association. New Orleans, LA.

## Service

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### Conference & Workshop Organizing

- 2014 Organizer and Chair, *Producing a vertically integrated evolutionary anthropology: Studies of proximate mechanisms in social dynamics*. Invited Session, EAS-sponsored. 113<sup>th</sup> 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. 112<sup>th</sup> American Anthropological Association. Chicago, IL.
- 2009 Co-Organizer, *3rd California Workshop on Evolutionary Social Science*. San Luis Obispo.

### Committees

- 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:

Behavioral Processes	Evolutionary Psychology
Cross-Cultural Research	Field Methods
Current Anthropology	Human Nature
Current Biology	Journal of Experimental Social Psychology
Current Psychology	Journal of Nonverbal Behavior
Emotion	Journal of Personality and Social Psychology
Ethos	Motivation and Emotion
Evolution and Human Behavior	Psychological Science
Evolutionary Behavioral Sciences	