

# 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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- May 2018-  
Present      **Term Lecturer**  
Department of Psychology, Simon Fraser University
- Sept 2017-  
Aug 2018      **Postdoctoral Research Fellow**  
Department of Psychology, University of British Columbia  
Supervisor: Jessica Tracy, Ph.D.
- Sept 2014-  
July 2017      **Postdoctoral Associate**  
Department of Anthropology, Rutgers University  
Supervisor: Lee Cronk, Ph.D.
- 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-  
Present      **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; morality; hierarchy; power; cooperation & coordination; risk pooling; social networks; gene-culture co-evolution.
- Regions:*        Fiji, Polynesia, Oceania; post-colonial communities.

**Publications** ([Google Scholar](#): Total citations: 761; h-index: 10)

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- 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.** (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.

Kline, M., **Gervais, M.M.**, Moya, C., & Boyd, R. (Under review). Irrelevant-action imitation is short-term and contextual: Evidence from two under-studied populations.

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*.

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

Brewis, A., Wutich, A., du Bray, M., Maupin, J., Schuster, R., & **Gervais, M.M.** (Under review). Community hygiene norm violators are consistently stigmatized: Evidence from four global sites and implications for sanitation interventions.

## **Awards**

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### *Grants*

- 2017-2021 Investigator, *The Effect of Social Networks on Inequality: A Longitudinal Cross-Cultural Investigation* (\$880k). National Science Foundation. PI: Jeremy Koster (Cincinnati)
- 2014-2017 Co-author, Postdoctoral Researcher: *Generous by Nature* (\$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*

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

### *Honors*

- 2014 Best Paper: New Investigator, Evolutionary Anthropology Society
- 2013 Top Selection, *Practice*, American Anthropological Association Photography Contest
- 2012 Top Selection, *Place*, American Anthropological Association Photography Contest

## **Teaching**

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### *Graduate*

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

*Undergraduate*

- 2018-2019 Instructor of Record (x3), *Cultural Psychology*, SFU Department of Psychology  
 2012 Instructor of Record, *Primate Behavior*, UCLA Department of Anthropology

**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.** (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. Talk.

#### *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 "anonymous" 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*

- 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:*

Behavioral Processes  
 Cross-Cultural Research  
 Current Anthropology  
 Current Biology  
 Emotion  
 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