



**Teaching is a distinct form of social learning among hunter-gatherers**

Relative to other social learning processes

• **Systematic sample of ethnographic texts suggests...**

- **Teaching is more likely for opaque and socially complex phenomena, e.g., cultural values, social history, cultural change, features of community**

- **Teaching becomes more likely across development, up to adolescence**

**- Teaching is more likely to occur between older individuals and younger individuals; not necessarily within nuclear families**

- **Subsistence skills are equally likely to be learned via teaching or other processes of social learning; unlike cultural values, which are more exclusively learned via teaching**





Aranda initiation ceremony, 1904  
Source: <http://www.webpages.uidaho.edu>

# Teaching is a distinct form of social learning among hunter-gatherers

Relative to other social learning processes

- A systematic sample of ethnographic texts suggests...
  - Teaching is **more likely for opaque and socially complex phenomena**, e.g., cultural values, social history, cultural change, features of community
  - Teaching becomes **more likely across development**, up to adolescence
  - Teaching is **more likely to occur between older individuals and younger individuals**; not necessarily within nuclear families
  - **Subsistence skills are equally likely** to be learned via **teaching or other processes** of social learning; unlike cultural values, which are more exclusively learned via teaching



Aranda initiation ceremony, 1904

Source: <http://www.webpages.uidaho.edu>

# Thank you

Zachary GARFIELD, Research Fellow  
27 June 2022



**Institute for  
Advanced  
Study in  
Toulouse**