

# Robert Jagiello

Centre for the Study of Social Cohesion, University of Oxford, OX2 6PE, UK

Personal Site — Department — Google Scholar — [r.d.jagiello@gmail.com](mailto:r.d.jagiello@gmail.com)

Nationality: Luxembourg

Research Interests: Human evolution; social learning; cultural transmission; rituals; norm psychology; morality as cooperation; supernatural and conspiratorial beliefs

## Education

---

- 2019–2025    **PhD in Cognitive Evolutionary Anthropology**, University of Oxford (UK)  
Thesis: *Social Learning in Cultural Evolution: On the Psychological Motivations Underlying High Fidelity Transmission and Innovation*  
Supervisor: Prof. Harvey Whitehouse  
Published in *Behavioral and Brain Sciences*; recipient of departmental thesis prize
- 2018–2019    **MSc in Cognitive Evolutionary Anthropology**, University of Oxford (UK)  
Grade: Distinction; recipient of departmental thesis prize
- 2016–2017    **MSc in Brain and Mind Sciences**, University College London (UK)  
Grade: Distinction; thesis published in *Scientific Reports*
- 2013–2016    **BSc in Psychology**, University of Warwick (UK)  
Grade: First-Class Honours; recipient of departmental and national thesis prize; published in *Risk Analysis*

## Awards and Honors

---

- 2025    Dr Nicola Knight Prize for Best PhD Thesis, School of Anthropology and Museum Ethnography, University of Oxford
- 2020    Dr Nicola Knight Prize for Best Master's Thesis, School of Anthropology and Museum Ethnography, University of Oxford
- 2018    Study grant for higher education (CEDIES), Luxembourg
- 2018    Warwick Doctoral Scholarship in Psychology (declined)
- 2018    Society for Risk Analysis Best Paper Award
- 2016    Experimental Psychology Society / British Science Association Undergraduate Project Prize
- 2016    Simon Heywood Prize, Department of Psychology, University of Warwick

## Publications

---

**Jagiello, R.**, & Whitehouse, H. (in review). Magic and Ritual as Affiliative Strategies in Response to Ostracism Threat. *Evolution and Human Behavior*.

**Jagiello, R.**, & Whitehouse, H. (in review). Ostracism and the Spread of Natural and Supernatural Concepts. *Religion, Brain and Behavior*.

**Jagiello, R.**, Heyes, C., & Whitehouse, H. (2022). Tradition and Invention: The Bifocal Stance Theory of Cultural Evolution. *Behavioral and Brain Sciences*, 45, e249. doi:10.1017/S0140525X22000383

**Jagiello, R.**, Heyes, C., & Whitehouse, H. (2022). Bifocal stance theory: An effort to broaden, extend, and clarify. *Behavioral and Brain Sciences*, 45. doi:10.1017/S0140525X2200173X

**Jagiello, R.** (2021). An overview of Harvey Whitehouse's *The Ritual Animal*. *Journal for the Cognitive Science of Religion*, 8(2), 102–114.

**Jagiello, R.**, Pomper, U., Yoneya, M., Zhao, S., & Chait, M. (2019). Rapid brain responses to familiar vs. unfamiliar music. *Scientific Reports*, 9(1). doi:10.1038/s41598-019-51759-9

**Jagiello, R.**, & Hills, T. T. (2018). Bad news has wings: Dread risk mediates social amplification in risk communication. *Risk Analysis*, 38(10), 2193–2207. doi:10.1111/risa.13117

## Additional Research and Teaching

---

2019–2023	<b>Tutor in Cognition and Culture</b> , St Catherine’s College, University of Oxford
2020–2021	<b>Research Assistant</b> , Laudato Si’ Research Institute, Campion Hall, University of Oxford
2019–2021	<b>Tutor in Behaviour and its Evolution</b> , Human Sciences (BA), University of Oxford
2019–2021	<b>Tutor in Human Development and Evolution</b> , Human Sciences (BA), University of Oxford
2017–2018	<b>Research Assistant</b> , Chait Lab, Ear Institute, University College London
2016–2017	<b>Research Assistant</b> , Department of Psychology and CAGE Research Group, University of Warwick

## Research Skills

---

Data Analysis	R, Python, SPSS, MATLAB
Computational Modelling	Agent-based modelling in R and NetLogo
Experimental Methods	EEG, pupillometry, eyetracking
Experimental Design & Data Collection	Qualtrics, PsychoPy, Pavlovia
Stimulus Creation	GIMP, Blender, Audacity

## Academic Service and Leadership

---

2019–2024	PhD and Postgraduate Representative, Centre for the Study of Social Cohesion, University of Oxford
2022–2023	Rowing Captain (Men’s Division), St Antony’s College Boat Club
Mar. 2022	Rowing Captain (Men’s First Boat), St Antony’s College Boat Club

## Languages

---

English (fluent); Luxembourgish (native); German (native); French (fluent)