

Scott Claessens

20 Laurie Avenue, Parnell, Auckland, NZ, 1052

+64 (0) 27 551 7260

scott.claessens@gmail.com

<https://scottclaessens.github.io>

EDUCATIONAL QUALIFICATIONS

- 2018-2022 University of Auckland, PhD in Psychology
Thesis: "*Testing the dual evolutionary foundations of political ideology using incentivised behavioural tasks*"
Supervisor: Professor Quentin Atkinson
- 2016-2017 Newcastle University, MRes Evolution and Human Behaviour (Distinction)
Thesis: "*The benefits of being seen to be cooperative*"
Supervisor: Dr. Gilbert Roberts
- 2012-2015 University of Bristol, BSc in Psychology (First class honours)

RESEARCH EXPERIENCE

- 2022-current Postdoctoral Research Fellow, School of Psychology, University of Auckland, NZ
- *Running hierarchical Bayesian models in Stan and R*
 - *Conducting simulation studies*
 - *Developing reproducible analytic pipelines*
- 2017 Research Scholar, Department of Psychology, Arizona State University, US
- *Developed software in Python for online behavioural economics experiments*
 - *Conducted online real-time incentivised experiments on MTurk*
 - *Presented progress reports to the Human Generosity Project group*
- 2015-2016 Research Executive, Marketing Sciences, Winchester, UK
- *Produced large-scale quantitative market research for high-profile clients*
 - *Developed and conducted online surveys with international samples*
 - *Presented study results directly to clients*
- 2014 Research Intern, School of Psychological Science, University of Bristol, UK
- *Participated in pilot research in a postgraduate research environment*
 - *Attended talks and symposia on visual perception and behavioural ecology*

TEACHING EXPERIENCE

- 2019-2021 Graduate Teaching Assistant – Evolution, Behaviour and Cognition
Undergraduate course at University of Auckland, NZ
- *Key responsibilities: tutorial preparation, tutoring, coursework and examination marking, guest lecturing, responding to student queries*
- 2019-2020 Graduate Teaching Assistant – Evolution and Human Behaviour
Postgraduate honours course at University of Auckland, NZ
- *Key responsibilities: facilitating group discussions, presentation and examination marking, responding to student queries*
- 2017 Teaching Assistant – Introduction to Evolutionary Psychology
Undergraduate course at Arizona State University, US
- *Key responsibilities: facilitating group discussions, creating in-class quizzes*
- 2016-2017 Private Tutor in Psychology, Newcastle, UK
- *Key responsibilities: one-on-one tutoring and mentoring, detailed essay feedback*

SERVICE

2018-2020 Co-organised [Evolution Research @ Auckland](#) seminar series
University of Auckland
– Key responsibilities: seminar scheduling and organisation, social media

SCHOLARSHIPS

2018-2022 University of Auckland Doctoral Academic Scholarship

SKILLS

Programming (R, Python, Javascript, SPSS)
Bayesian multilevel modelling with *brms*
Structural equation modelling with *lavaan*
Reproducible analytic pipelines with *targets*
Agent-based modelling with *NetLogo*

Project version control with *Git*
Survey creation with *Qualtrics*
Behavioural economic games with *oTree*
Open science (e.g. preregistration)
High performance computing

RESEARCH INTERESTS

The evolution of cooperation; behavioural economics; cultural evolution; evolution and human behaviour; cross-cultural psychology; political psychology; open and reproducible science

RESEARCH

JOURNAL ARTICLES:

Atkinson, Q. D., **Claessens, S.**, Fischer, K., Forsyth, G. L., Kyritsis, T., Wiebels, K., Moreau, D. (in press). Being specific about generalisability. *Religion, Brain & Behavior*.

Hoogeveen, S. *et al.* (in press). A many-analysts approach to the relation between religiosity and well-being. *Religion, Brain & Behavior*.

Krems, J. A., **Claessens, S.**, Fales, M. R., Campenni, M., Haselton, M. G., & Aktipis, A. (2021). An agent-based model of the female rivalry hypothesis for concealed ovulation in humans. *Nature Human Behaviour*. 5, 726-735.

Claessens, S., Ayers, J. D., Cronk, L., & Aktipis, A. (2020). Need-based transfer systems are more vulnerable to cheating when resources are hidden. *Evolution and Human Behaviour*, 42(2), 104-112.

Claessens, S., Kyritsis, T., & Atkinson, Q. D. (2020). Revised analysis shows relational mobility predicts sacrificial behavior in Footbridge but not Switch or Loop trolley problems. *Proceedings of the National Academy of Sciences*, 117(24), 13203-13204.

Claessens, S., Fischer, K., Chaudhuri, A., Sibley, C. G., & Atkinson, Q. D. (2020). The dual evolutionary foundations of political ideology. *Nature Human Behaviour*, 4, 336–345.

Neilands, P., **Claessens, S.**, Ren, I., Hassall, R., Bastos, A. P., & Taylor, A. H. (2020). Contagious yawning is not a signal of empathy: no evidence of familiarity, gender or prosociality biases in dogs. *Proceedings of the Royal Society B*, 287(1920), 20192236.

BOOK CHAPTERS:

Claessens, S., Chaudhuri, A., Sibley, C. G. & Atkinson, Q. D. (2022). The evolutionary basis of political ideology. In C. G. Sibley & D. Osbourne (Eds.), *Cambridge Handbook of Political Psychology*. Cambridge, UK: Cambridge University Press.

PRE-PRINTS:

Claessens, S., & Atkinson, Q. D. (2022). The non-independence of nations and why it matters. *PsyArxiv*.

Claessens, S., & Kyritsis, T. (2022). Is partner choice related to prosociality? A cross-national investigation. *PsyArxiv*.

Kelly, D., **Claessens, S.**, Sibley, C. G., Chaudhuri, A., & Atkinson, Q. D. (2021). Cooperative phenotype predicts climate change belief and pro-environmental behaviour. *PsyArxiv*.

Claessens, S., Sibley, C. G., Chaudhuri, A., & Atkinson, Q. D. (2020). Cooperative and conformist behavioural preferences predict the dual dimensions of political ideology. *PsyArxiv*.

Ayers, J. D., Guevara Beltran, D., Alcock, J., Baciú, C., **Claessens, S.**, Cronk, L., ... Aktipis, A. (2020). How is the COVID-19 pandemic affecting cooperation? *PsyArxiv*.

ARTICLES IN PREPARATION / UNDER REVIEW:

Bastos, A. P., **Claessens, S.**, Nelson, X. J., Welch, D., Atkinson, Q. D., & Taylor, A. H. (in prep). Is tool use really so rare? Crowdsourcing and phylogenetic inference triple the number of potential tool-using parrot species.

Sheehan, O., Watts, J., Gray, R. D., Bulbulia, J., **Claessens, S.**, Ringen, E. J., & Atkinson, Q. D. (under review). Coevolution of religious and political authority in Austronesian societies. *Nature Human Behaviour*.

CONFERENCE PRESENTATIONS AND GUEST LECTURES:

Claessens, S. (2021). The evolution of politics. Guest lecture. PSYCH317: Evolution, Behaviour and Cognition, School of Psychology, University of Auckland, 1st June 2021.

Claessens, S., & Atkinson, Q. D. (2021). The dual evolutionary foundations of political ideology. Moral Molecules Conference (Online), 20th May 2021.

Claessens, S., Sibley, C. G., Chaudhuri, A., & Atkinson, Q. D. (2019). Political gaming: using economic games to study the foundations of political ideology. Conference presentation. 14th Annual Australia New Zealand Workshop in Experimental Economics, University of Melbourne, 25th November 2019.

Claessens, S. (2019). The dual evolutionary foundations of political ideology. Guest lecture. ECON271: Behavioural Economics, Business School, University of Auckland, 1st November 2019.

Claessens, S., Sibley, C. G., Chaudhuri, A., & Atkinson, Q. D. (2019). Political gaming: using economic games to study the foundations of political ideology. Poster. University of Auckland Research Showcase, 1st September 2019.

Claessens, S. (2019). The evolutionary foundations of political ideology. Conference presentation. 16th Annual InHouse Convention, School of Psychology, University of Auckland, 22nd February 2019.

Claessens, S., Ayers, J. D., Cronk, L., & Aktipis, A. (2018). Need-based transfer systems are more vulnerable to cheating when resources are hidden. Conference presentation. 13th Annual Australia New Zealand Workshop in Experimental Economics, University of Auckland, 26th November 2018.

THESES:

Claessens, S. (2022). Testing the dual evolutionary foundations of political ideology using incentivised behavioural tasks. PhD thesis, University of Auckland.

Claessens, S. (2017). The benefits of being seen to be cooperative. Masters thesis, Newcastle University.

MEDIA COVERAGE

Sample of responses to Krems et al., 2021, Nature Human Behaviour, An agent-based model of the female rivalry hypothesis for concealed ovulation in humans

[Radio interview with Scott Claessens](#), bFM, The Monday Wire with Zoë Larsen Cumming, 2nd February 2021.

[Radio interview with Scott Claessens](#), Radio New Zealand, Afternoons with Jesse Mulligan, 27th January 2021.

Chadwick, J. (2021). [Why ovulation is 'invisible' in humans: Prehistoric women evolved to hide their fertility status from other females 'to avoid conflict over mates'](#). *Daily Mail*. 26th January 2021.

Sample of responses to Neilands et al., 2020, Proceedings of the Royal Society B, Contagious yawning is not a signal of empathy: no evidence of familiarity, gender or prosociality biases in dogs

[Radio interview with Scott Claessens](#), bFM, Ready, Steady, Learn, 25th February 2020.

Scher, I. (2020). [A new study says human yawns are contagious to dogs but that may not mean what we think it means](#). *Insider*. 13th February 2020.

Martin, H. (2020). [Dogs' contagious yawning may not be a sign of empathy – study](#). *Stuff*. 12th February 2020.

[Yawning difference between us and dogs](#). *Scoop*. 12th February 2020.

ACADEMIC REFERENCES

Professor Ananish Chaudhuri	a.chaudhuri@auckland.ac.nz	+64 9 923 8307
Associate Professor Alexander Taylor	alexander.taylor@auckland.ac.nz	+64 9 923 5010
Assistant Professor Athena Aktipis	aktipis@asu.edu	(415) 843-1793