

Department of Biosciences, College of Life and Environmental Sciences
University of Exeter Cornwall Campus, Penryn TR10 9FE, United Kingdom.

Email: a.mesoudi@exeter.ac.uk

Website: alexmesoudi.com

Academic Positions

Sep 2019 – July 2015 – Aug 2019	<i>Professor in Cultural Evolution</i> <i>Associate Professor in Cultural Evolution</i> Human Behaviour and Cultural Evolution Group Department of Biosciences College of Life and Environmental Sciences University of Exeter (Cornwall Campus), UK
Aug 2012 – July 2015	<i>Reader in Anthropology</i> Department of Anthropology Durham University, UK
Sep 2008 – Jul 2012	<i>Lecturer in Psychology [equivalent to US Assistant Professor]</i> Biological and Experimental Psychology Group School of Biological and Chemical Sciences Queen Mary, University of London, UK
Sep 2007 – Aug 2008	<i>Mellon Foundation Postdoctoral Fellow</i> Department of Social and Developmental Psychology / Leverhulme Centre for Human Evolutionary Studies University of Cambridge, UK Advisors: Prof. Michael Lamb, Prof. Robert Foley
Sep 2006 – Aug 2007	<i>Postdoctoral Research Fellow</i> W. Maurice Young Centre for Applied Ethics University of British Columbia, Canada Advisor: Prof. Peter Danielson
Sep 2005 – Aug 2006	<i>Postdoctoral Research Fellow</i> Department of Anthropology University of Missouri-Columbia, USA Advisor: Prof. Michael O'Brien

Education

Sep 2002 – Aug 2005	Ph.D. "The Transmission and Evolution of Human Culture" (passed with no corrections) School of Psychology, University of St. Andrews, UK Primary supervisor: Prof. Andrew Whiten Secondary supervisor: Prof. Kevin Laland
Sep 2001 - Aug 2002	M.Sc. Evolutionary Psychology (with Distinction) University of Liverpool, UK Dissertation supervisor: Prof. Robin Dunbar
Sep 1998 – Aug 2001	B.Sc. Psychology (First Class Honours) University College London, UK Dissertation supervisor: Prof. Henry Plotkin

Research Interests

I study social learning and cultural evolution in humans. My research intersects anthropology, archaeology, biology and psychology, and centres on the following areas:

- Human culture as a Darwinian evolutionary process
Exploring the parallels between genetic evolution and human cultural change, and developing a Darwinian theory of cultural evolution (Mesoudi, Whiten & Laland 2004; Mesoudi 2011, 2017). Consequently, using tools, methods, concepts and theories from evolutionary biology to study cultural change, and using the structure of evolutionary biology as a model framework that can serve to unify and integrate the social sciences (Mesoudi, Whiten & Laland 2006).
- The experimental study of human social learning
Using the methods of experimental social psychology to uncover systematic biases in human social learning, the processes by which we acquire beliefs, skills and knowledge from other people. These include content-based biases that favour the transmission of certain kinds of information over others (e.g. social information: Mesoudi, Whiten & Dunbar 2006), and model-based biases that describe from whom people tend to learn from (e.g. successful people: Mesoudi & O'Brien 2008; Mesoudi 2008, 2011).
- Mathematical/agent-based models of cultural evolution
Using mathematical modelling methods from biology and agent-based computer simulation methods from sociology to explore the population-level consequences of small-scale social learning biases. Previous models have examined the co-evolution of mating systems and paternity beliefs (Mesoudi & Laland 2007), the cultural dynamics of copycat suicide (Mesoudi 2009), the degree to which popular culture can be described as random (Mesoudi & Lycett 2009), and constraints on cumulative cultural evolution (Mesoudi 2011; Kempe et al. 2014).

Grants

Major grants (>£10,000)

- £172,822** Supervisor for Marie Skłodowska-Curie Fellowship awarded to Maxime Derex, "Experimental Programme Investigating Cumulative Culture", 2017-2019
- £217,042** Leverhulme Trust Research Project Grant, "The Cultural Evolution of Social Hierarchy: An Experimental Investigation", 2017-2020
- £369,437** ESRC Standard Research Grant (fEC £473,891), "Why do people from different cultures think differently? Explaining cultural variation in psychological traits" (PI, with co-Is Prof. P. McOwan, Prof. P. Nair & Dr. D. Sharma, Queen Mary University of London), 2013-2016
- £80,567** ESRC Bilateral (Hong Kong) Scheme (fEC £99,968), "An experimental study of East-West differences in social learning" (with co-PI Prof. Lei Chang, Chinese University of Hong Kong), 2013-2014
- £115,964** Leverhulme Trust Research Project Grant, "Human Cultural Transmission: From Psychology Lab to the Artefactual Record" (with co-PI Dr. S.J. Lycett, University of Kent), 2010-2013
- £26,071** EPSRC Pump-Priming Research Funding for Cross-Faculty Initiatives, "Darwinian Neurodynamics for Cognitive Adaptation" (with co-PI Dr. C. Fernando, Queen Mary University of London), 2011-2012

Small grants (<£10,000)

- £3900** Outward Mobility Academic Fellowship, University of Exeter (with A. Thornton) to conduct academic visits to Brazil and Uruguay
- £2000** Institute of Advanced Study, Durham University, workshop grant "Emerging mathematics: bringing together anthropological, psychological, biological and educational views of the development of early mathematical concepts" (with P. Barmby, J. Adams, M. Tan), 2013

- £2936** Centre for the Study of Migration, Queen Mary University of London, Small Research Project grant, 2011-2012
- £3000** The Genetics Society (£1000), Galton Institute (£1000) and Centre for Ecology and Evolution (£1000). Contributions towards a symposium, "Integrating genetic and cultural evolutionary approaches to language" (all with Dr A. McElligott, Queen Mary University of London), Feb 2010
- £3000** Centre for Research in the Arts, Social Sciences and Humanities (£1000), Galton Institute (£1000) and Mellon Foundation (£1000). Contributions towards a conference entitled "Why Aren't the Social Sciences Darwinian?", May 2009
- £1000** Mellon Foundation. Contribution towards a symposium "Biology, Evolution and the Social Science Curriculum" at the University of Cambridge, Apr 2008

Publications

Beginning 2004 I have published 67 peer-reviewed journal articles, 1 single-authored book, 2 edited volumes, 13 book chapters and various short comments and book reviews. Papers can be downloaded from [my website](#) and citation data found on [my Google Scholar page](#).

Books:

1. **Mesoudi, A.** (2011). *Cultural Evolution: How Darwinian theory can explain human culture and synthesize the social sciences*. Chicago, IL: University of Chicago Press.
[Japanese translation published 2016 by NTT Publishing]
[Russian translation published 2019 by Delo Publishing House]
Quotes from reviews:
 - "a terrific new book [that] gives an accessible, authoritative survey of this burgeoning field" (Rob Boyd, Arizona State University, in *Trends in Ecology and Evolution*)
 - "a valuable book [that] elegantly encapsulates the state of the art in what is shown to be a mature field of enquiry" (Tim Lewens, University of Cambridge, in *Biology and Philosophy*)
2. **Mesoudi, A.** & Aoki, K. (Eds.) (2015). *Learning Strategies and Cultural Evolution During the Palaeolithic (Replacement of Neanderthals by Modern Humans Vol. 3)*. Osaka: Springer Japan.
3. Adams, J., Barmby, P. & **Mesoudi, A.** (Eds.) (2017). *The Nature and Development of Mathematics: Cross Disciplinary Perspectives on Cognition, Learning and Culture*. London, UK: Routledge.

Peer-Reviewed Journal Articles (published or accepted for publication):

67. **Mesoudi, A.** (in press) Blind and incremental or directed and disruptive? On the nature of novel variation in human cultural evolution. *American Philosophical Quarterly*.
66. Jiménez, Á. V., & Mesoudi, A. (2020). The cultural transmission of prestige and dominance social rank cues: An experimental simulation. *Evolutionary Psychological Science*. Preprint on PsyArxiv: <https://psyarxiv.com/tc6w4/>
65. Brand, C.O., Heap, S., Morgan, T. & Mesoudi, A. (2020) The emergence and adaptive use of prestige in an online social learning task. *Scientific Reports* 10, 12095. Preprint on PsyArxiv: <https://psyarxiv.com/mn9t6/>
64. **Mesoudi, A.** (2020) Cultural evolution of football tactics: Strategic social learning in managers' choice of formation. *Evolutionary Human Sciences* 2, e25. Preprint on SocArxiv: <https://osf.io/preprints/socarxiv/wrx9f/>
63. Derex, M. & **Mesoudi, A.** (2020) Cumulative cultural evolution within evolving population structures. *Trends in Cognitive Science*.
62. Jiménez, A.V. & **Mesoudi, A.** (2020) Prestige does not affect the social transmission of controversial arguments. *Journal of Cognition and Culture*. Preprint on PsyArxiv: <https://psyarxiv.com/3u9wh>
61. Jiménez, A.V., **Mesoudi, A.** & Tehrani, J.J. (2020) No evidence that omission and congruity biases affect the perception and recall of vaccine-related information. *PLOS ONE*. Preprint on PsyArxiv: <https://psyarxiv.com/uqdn6/>
60. Brand, C.O., Acerbi, A. & **Mesoudi, A.** (2019) Cultural evolution of emotional expression in 50 years of song lyrics. *Evolutionary Human Sciences* 1, e11. Preprint on SocArxiv: <https://osf.io/preprints/socarxiv/3j6wx/>
59. Altman, A. & **Mesoudi, A.** (2019) Understanding agriculture within the frameworks of cumulative

- cultural evolution, gene-culture coevolution and cultural niche construction. *Human Ecology* 47, 483–497.
58. Brand, C.O. & **Mesoudi, A.** (2019) Prestige and dominance based hierarchies exist in naturally occurring human groups, but are unrelated to task-specific knowledge. *Royal Society Open Science* 6, 181621. Preprint on PsyArXiv <https://psyarxiv.com/s32rv/>
 57. Derex, M., Bonnefon, J.-F., Boyd, R. & **Mesoudi, A.** (2019) Causal understanding is not necessary for the improvement of culturally evolving technology. *Nature Human Behaviour* 3, 446–452. Preprint on PsyArXiv <https://psyarxiv.com/nm5sh/>
 56. Jiménez, A.V. & **Mesoudi, A.** (2019) Prestige-biased social learning: Current evidence and outstanding questions. *Palgrave Communications* 5, 20. Preprint on PsyArXiv <https://psyarxiv.com/j5ekb/>
 55. **Mesoudi, A.** (2018) Migration, acculturation and the maintenance of between-group cultural variation. *PLOS ONE* 13(10) e0205573.
 54. **Mesoudi, A.** & Thornton, A. (2018) What is cumulative cultural evolution? *Proceedings of the Royal Society B* 285, 20180712.
 53. Magid, K., Sarkol, V. & **Mesoudi, A.** (2017) Experimental priming of independent and interdependent activity does not affect culturally-variable psychological processes. *Royal Society Open Science* 4, 161025.
 52. **Mesoudi, A.** (2017) Pursuing Darwin's curious parallel: Prospects for a science of cultural evolution. *Proceedings of the National Academy of Sciences*, 114(30), 7853–7860.
 51. Schillinger, K., **Mesoudi, A.** & Lycett, S.J. (2017) Differences in manufacturing traditions and assemblage-level patterns: The origins of cultural differences in archaeological data. *Journal of Archaeological Methods and Theory*, 1–19.
 50. Acerbi, A., Tennie, C. & **Mesoudi, A.** (2016) Social learning solves the problem of narrow-peaked search landscapes: experimental evidence in humans. *Royal Society Open Science* 3, 160215.
 49. Reyes-García, V., Balbo, A.L., Gómez-Baggethun, E., Gueze, M., **Mesoudi, A.**, Richerson, P.J., Rubio-Campillo, X., Ruiz-Mallén, I., Shennan, S.J. (2016) Multilevel processes and cultural adaptation: Examples from past and present small-scale societies. *Ecology and Society* 21:2
 48. Schillinger, K., Mesoudi, A. & Lycett, S.J. (2016) Copying error, evolution, and phylogenetic signal in artifactual traditions: an experimental approach using "model artifacts". *Journal of Archaeological Science* 70, 23–34.
 47. **Mesoudi, A.**, Magid, K., Hussain, D. (2016) How do people become W.E.I.R.D.? Migration reveals the cultural transmission mechanisms underlying variation in psychological processes. *PLOS ONE* 11(1): e0147162.
 46. **Mesoudi, A.**, Chang, L., Dall, S.R.X., Thornton, A. (2016) The evolution of individual and cultural variation in social learning. *Trends in Ecology and Evolution* 31(3) 215–225.
 45. Whiten, A., Caldwell, C.A. & **Mesoudi, A.** (2016) Cultural diffusion in humans and other animals. *Current Opinion in Psychology* 8, 15–21.
 44. Lycett, S.J., Schillinger, K., Eren, M.I., von Cramon-Taubadel, N. & **Mesoudi, A.** (2016) Factors affecting Acheulean handaxe variation: Experimental insights, microevolutionary processes, and macroevolutionary outcomes. *Quaternary International* 411, 386–401.
 43. **Mesoudi, A.** (2016) Cultural evolution: Integrating psychology, evolution and culture. *Current Opinion in Psychology* 7, 17–22.
 42. **Mesoudi, A.** (2016) Cultural evolution: A review of theory, findings and controversies. *Evolutionary Biology* 43(4), 481–497.
 41. Priestley, M. & **Mesoudi, A.** (2015) Do online voting patterns reflect evolved features of human cognition? An exploratory empirical investigation. *PLOS ONE* 10(6), e0129703.
 40. Schillinger, K., **Mesoudi, A.** & Lycett, S.J. (2015) The impact of imitative versus emulative learning mechanisms on artifactual variation: implications for the evolution of material culture. *Evolution and Human Behavior* 36(6), 446–455.
 39. Acerbi, A. & **Mesoudi, A.** (2015) If we are all cultural Darwinians what's the fuss about? Clarifying recent disagreements in the field of cultural evolution. *Biology and Philosophy* 30, 481–503.
 38. **Mesoudi, A.**, Chang, L., Murray, K. & Lu, H. (2015) Higher frequency of social learning in China than in the West shows cultural variation in the dynamics of cultural evolution. *Proceedings of the Royal Society of London B* 282: 20142209.
 37. Kempe, M., Lycett, S.J. & **Mesoudi, A.** (2014) From cultural traditions to cumulative culture: parameterizing the differences between human and nonhuman culture. *Journal of Theoretical Biology* 359, 29–36.
 36. Schillinger, K., **Mesoudi, A.** & Lycett, S.J. (2014) Considering the role of time budgets on copy-

- error rates in material culture traditions: an experimental assessment. *PLOS ONE* 9(5), e97157.
35. Kempe, M. & **Mesoudi, A.** (2014) An experimental demonstration of the effect of group size on cultural accumulation. *Evolution and Human Behavior* 35, 285-290.
 34. Kempe, M. & **Mesoudi, A.** (2014) Experimental and theoretical models of human cultural evolution: A review. *WIREs Cognitive Science* 5, 317-326.
 33. Schillinger, K., **Mesoudi, A.** & Lycett, S.J. (2014) Copying error and the cultural evolution of 'additive' versus 'reductive' material traditions: an experimental assessment. *American Antiquity* 79(1), 128-143.
 32. Pitcher, B., **Mesoudi, A.** & McElligott, A.G. (2013) Sex-biased sound symbolism in English-language first names. *PLOS ONE* 8(6): e64825.
 31. **Mesoudi, A.**, Blanchet, S., Charmantier, A., Danchin, E., Fogarty, L., Jablonka, E., Laland, K.N., Morgan T.J.H., Müller, G.B., Odling-Smee, F. J., Pujol, B. (2013) Is non-genetic inheritance just a proximate mechanism? A corroboration of the Extended Evolutionary Synthesis. *Biological Theory* 7(3), 189-195.
 30. Kempe, M., Lycett, S.J. & **Mesoudi, A.** (2012) An experimental test of the accumulated copying error model of cultural mutation for Acheulean handaxe size. *PLOS ONE* 7(11), e48333
 29. Atkisson, C., O'Brien, M.J. & **Mesoudi, A.** (2012) Adult learners in a novel environment use prestige-biased social learning. *Evolutionary Psychology* 10(3), 519-537.
 28. **Mesoudi, A.** (2011). Variable cultural acquisition costs constrain cumulative cultural evolution. *PLOS ONE* 6(3), e18239.
 27. Danchin, E., Charmantier, A., Champagne, F.A., **Mesoudi, A.**, Pujol, B., Blanchet, S. (2011). Beyond DNA: integrating inclusive inheritance into an extended theory of evolution. *Nature Reviews Genetics* 12, 475-486.
 26. **Mesoudi, A.** (2011) An experimental comparison of human social learning strategies: Payoff-biased social learning is adaptive but under-used. *Evolution and Human Behavior* 32, 334-342.
- ***Winner of the 2012 Margot Wilson Award for best paper in Evolution and Human Behavior*****
25. **Mesoudi, A.** (2011). Culture and the Darwinian Renaissance in the social sciences and humanities. *Journal of Evolutionary Psychology* 9(2), 109-124.
 24. **Mesoudi, A.**, McElligott, A. & Adger, D. (2011) Integrating genetic and cultural evolutionary approaches to language. *Human Biology* 83(3), 141-151.
 23. **Mesoudi, A.** (2010). Evolutionary synthesis and the social sciences and humanities. *Cultural Science* 3(1).
 22. O'Brien, M.J., Lyman, R.L., **Mesoudi, A.**, & VanPool, T. (2010) Cultural traits as units of analysis. *Philosophical Transactions of the Royal Society B* 363, 3797-3806.
 21. **Mesoudi, A.**, Veldhuis, D. & Foley, R.A. (2010) Why aren't the social sciences Darwinian? *Journal of Evolutionary Psychology*, 8(2), 93-104.
 20. **Mesoudi, A.** (2009). How cultural evolutionary theory can inform social psychology, and vice versa. *Psychological Review* 116(4), 929-952.
 19. **Mesoudi, A.** (2009). The cultural dynamics of copycat suicide. *PLOS ONE* 4(9), e7252.
 18. **Mesoudi, A.** & Lycett, S.J. (2009) Random copying, frequency-dependent copying and culture change. *Evolution and Human Behavior*, 30(1), 41-48.
 17. **Mesoudi, A.** & O'Brien, M.J. (2008) The learning and transmission of hierarchical cultural recipes. *Biological Theory*, 3(1), 63-72.
 16. Danielson, P., **Mesoudi, A.** & Stanev, R. (2008) N.E.R.D. and norms: framework and experiments. *Philosophy of Science* 75(5), 830-842.
 15. **Mesoudi, A.** & Whiten, A. (2008) The multiple roles of cultural transmission experiments in understanding human cultural evolution. *Philosophical Transactions of the Royal Society B*, 363, 3489-3501.
 14. Whiten, A. & **Mesoudi, A.** (2008) The experimental science of animal culture: social diffusion experiments. *Philosophical Transactions of the Royal Society B*, 363, 3477-3488.
 13. **Mesoudi, A.** & O'Brien, M.J. (2008) The cultural transmission of Great Basin projectile point technology II: An agent-based computer simulation. *American Antiquity*, 73(4), 627-644.
 12. **Mesoudi, A.** (2008) An experimental simulation of the "copy-successful-individuals" cultural learning strategy: Adaptive landscapes, producer-scrrounger dynamics, and informational access costs. *Evolution and Human Behavior*, 29, 350-363.
 11. **Mesoudi, A.** & Danielson, P. (2008) Ethics, evolution and culture. *Theory in Biosciences*, 127(3), 229-240.
 10. **Mesoudi, A.** & O'Brien, M.J. (2008) The cultural transmission of Great Basin projectile point

- technology I: An experimental simulation. *American Antiquity*, 73(1), 3-28.
9. **Mesoudi, A.** (2008) Foresight in cultural evolution. *Biology and Philosophy*, 23(2), 243-255.
 8. **Mesoudi, A.** (2007) A Darwinian theory of cultural evolution can promote an evolutionary synthesis for the social sciences. *Biological Theory*, 2(3), 263-275.
 7. **Mesoudi, A.** (2007) Biological and cultural evolution: Similar but different. *Biological Theory*, 2(2), 119-123.
 6. **Mesoudi, A.** & Laland, K.N. (2007) Partible paternity and the evolution of human mating systems. *Proceedings of the Royal Society B* 274, 1273-1278.
 5. **Mesoudi, A.** (2007) Using the methods of experimental social psychology to study cultural evolution. *Journal of Social, Evolutionary and Cultural Psychology*, 1(2), 35-58.
 4. **Mesoudi, A.**, Whiten, A. & Dunbar, R. (2006) A bias for social information in human cultural transmission. *British Journal of Psychology*, 97(3), 405-423.
 3. **Mesoudi, A.**, Whiten, A. & Laland, K.N. (2006) Towards a unified science of cultural evolution. *Behavioral and Brain Sciences*, 29(4), 329-383.
 2. **Mesoudi, A.**, Whiten, A. & Laland, K.N. (2004) Is human cultural evolution Darwinian? Evidence reviewed from the perspective of The Origin of Species. *Evolution*, 58(1), 1-11.
 1. **Mesoudi, A.** & Whiten, A. (2004) The hierarchical transformation of event knowledge in human cultural transmission. *Journal of Cognition and Culture*, 4(1), 1-24.

Submitted papers and preprints:

6. Brand, C.O., **Mesoudi, A.** & Smaldino, P. (under review) Analogy as the core of cumulative cultural evolution. Preprint on PsyArxiv: <https://psyarxiv.com/ynkqf>
5. Jiménez, Á. V., Flitton, A. & **Mesoudi, A.** (under review) When do people prefer dominant over prestigious political leaders?
4. Jiménez, Á. V., & **Mesoudi, A.** (in prep). The integrative dual evolutionary model of social hierarchy. Preprint on PsyArxiv: <https://psyarxiv.com/sh7mg/>
3. Gehrig, S., **Mesoudi, A.** & Lamba, S. (under review) Banking on cooperation: An evolutionary analysis of microfinance loan repayment. Preprint on OSF: <https://osf.io/tmpqj/>
2. André Luiz Borba Nascimento, Lamba, S., **Mesoudi, A.**, Muniz de Medeiros, P., Albuquerque, U.P. (in prep) Adaptive permissiveness to the establishment of ineffective health treatments in human populations.
1. Koschate-Reis, M., **Mesoudi, A.** & Levine, M. (in prep) Shared group membership facilitates the persistence of culturally transmitted behaviour. Preprint on PsyArXiv, doi: <https://doi.org/10.31234/osf.io/fpxqw>

Book Chapters:

13. **Mesoudi, A.** (2020) The study of culture and evolution across disciplines. In Workman, L., Reader, W. & Barkow, J. (Eds) *Cambridge Handbook of Evolutionary Perspectives on Human Behavior*, 61-74. Cambridge, UK: Cambridge University Press. Preprint: <https://osf.io/preprints/socarxiv/epdfv/>
12. **Mesoudi, A.** (2019) Cultural evolution and cultural psychology. In Kitayama, S. & Cohen, D. (Eds.) *Handbook of Cultural Psychology 2nd edition*, pp.144-162. Guilford Press. Preprint: <https://psyarxiv.com/7k86h/>
11. Adams, J., Barmby, P. & **Mesoudi, A.** (2017) Introduction: Will 3 into 1 go? A multi-disciplinary view of emergent maths. In Adams, J., Barmby, P. & Mesoudi, A. (Eds.) (2017). *The Nature and Development of Mathematics*. London, UK: Routledge.
10. Aoki, K. & **Mesoudi, A.** (2015) Introduction. In Aoki, K. & Mesoudi, A. (Eds.) *Learning Strategies and Cultural Evolution During the Palaeolithic (Replacement of Neanderthals by Modern Humans Series Vol. 3)*. Osaka: Springer Japan.
9. O'Brien, M.J., Buchanan, B., Boulanger, M.T., **Mesoudi, A.**, Collard, M., Bentley, R.A., & Lyman, R.L. (2015) Transmission of cultural variants in the North American Paleolithic. In Aoki, K. & Mesoudi, A. (Eds.) *Learning Strategies and Cultural Evolution During the Palaeolithic (Replacement of Neanderthals by Modern Humans Series Vol. 3)*. Osaka: Springer Japan.
8. Lycett, S.J., Schillinger, K., Kempe, M. & **Mesoudi, A.** (2015) Learning in the Acheulean: Experimental insights using handaxe form as a 'model organism'. In Aoki, K. & Mesoudi, A. (Eds.) *Learning Strategies and Cultural Evolution During the Palaeolithic (Replacement of Neanderthals by Modern Humans Series Vol. 3)*. Osaka: Springer Japan.
7. **Mesoudi, A.** (2014) Experimental studies of modern human social and individual learning in an archaeological context: People behave adaptively, but within limits. In *Dynamics of Learning in*

Neanderthals and Modern Humans: Cognitive and Physical Perspectives (Replacement of Neanderthals by Modern Humans), edited by T. Akazawa, pp. 65-76. Osaka: Springer Japan. Preprint: <https://osf.io/preprints/socarxiv/gn7pa/>

6. **Mesoudi, A.**, Laland, K.N., Boyd, R., Buchanan, B., Flynn, E., McCauley, R.N., Renn, J., Reyes-Garcia, V., Shennan, S.J., Stout, D., Tennie, C. (2013) The cultural evolution of technology and science. In *Cultural Evolution: Society, Technology, Language, and Religion (Strüngmann Forum Reports)*, edited by P.J. Richerson & M.H. Christiansen, pp. 193-216. Cambridge, MA: MIT Press.
5. **Mesoudi, A.** (2013). Studying cultural transmission within an interdisciplinary cultural evolutionary framework. In: *Cultural Transmission: A Critical Anthropological Synthesis*, edited by R. Ellen, S. J. Lycett & S.J. Johns, pp. 131-147. Oxford, UK: Berghahn Books.
4. **Mesoudi, A.** & Jensen, K. (2012). Culture and the evolution of human sociality. In: *The Oxford Handbook of Comparative Evolutionary Psychology*, edited by J. Vonk & T. Shackelford). Oxford, UK: Oxford University Press.
3. **Mesoudi, A.** (2010) Studying cultural innovation in the psychology lab. In *Cultural Innovation: Contributions from Evolutionary Anthropology*, edited by M.J. O'Brien and S. Shennan. Cambridge, MA: MIT Press.
2. **Mesoudi, A.** & O'Brien, M.J. (2009) Placing archaeology within a unified science of cultural evolution. In *Pattern and Process in Cultural Evolution*, edited by S. J. Shennan, 21-32. Berkeley, CA: University of California Press.
1. **Mesoudi, A.** (2008) The experimental study of cultural transmission and its potential for explaining archaeological data. In *Cultural Transmission and Archaeology: Issues and Case Studies*, edited by M.J. O'Brien, 91-101. Washington, D.C.: Society for American Archaeology Press.

Short Comments / Replies:

10. **Mesoudi, A.** (2017) Cultural evolution: Subsistence and social learning (News and Views). *Nature Human Behaviour* 1:0110.
9. **Mesoudi, A.** (2017) Commentary on "Improving working memory to enhance maths performance." In Adams, J., Barmby, P. & Mesoudi, A. (Eds.) (2017). *The Nature and Development of Mathematics*. London, UK: Routledge.
8. Henrich J., Boyd R., Derex M., Kline M.A., **Mesoudi A.**, Muthukrishna M., Powell A.T., Shennan S.J. & Thomas M.G. 2016. Understanding cumulative cultural evolution. *Proceedings of the National Academy of Sciences*, 113:E6724-E6725.
7. Ellis, E., Richerson, P.J., **Mesoudi, A.**, Svenning, J-C, Odling-Smee, J., Burnside, W.R. (2016) Evolving the human niche. *Proceedings of the National Academy of Sciences*, 113:E4436.
6. **Mesoudi, A.** (2014) Cultural evolution in more than two dimensions: distinguishing social learning biases and identifying payoff structures. Commentary on Bentley, R.A., O'Brien, M.J. & Brock, W., Mapping collective behavior in the big data era. *Behavioral and Brain Sciences* 37, 91-92.
5. **Mesoudi, A.** & O'Brien, M.J. (2012) Statistical analyses cannot be divorced from archaeological theory: A reply to Potter. *American Antiquity* 77, 372-375.
4. **Mesoudi, A.** (2007) Extended evolutionary theory makes human culture more amenable to evolutionary analysis. Commentary on Jablonka, E. & Lamb, M. J., Précis of Evolution in Four Dimensions. *Behavioral and Brain Sciences*, 30(4), 374.
3. **Mesoudi, A.** (2007) Has mental time travel really affected human culture? Commentary on Suddendorf, T. & Corballis, M. C. The evolution of foresight: What is mental time travel and is it unique to humans? *Behavioral and Brain Sciences*, 30(3), 326-327.
2. **Mesoudi, A.**, Whiten, A. & Laland, K.N. (2007) Science, evolution and cultural anthropology: A response to Ingold. *Anthropology Today*, 23(2), 18.
1. **Mesoudi, A.** & Laland, K.N. (2007) Extending the behavioral sciences framework: Clarification of methods, predictions and concepts. Commentary on H. Gintis, A framework for the unification of the behavioral sciences, *Behavioral and Brain Sciences*, 30(1), 36-37.

Encyclopaedia Entries:

3. **Mesoudi, A.** (2018) Cultural evolution. In *Encyclopedia of Life Sciences (eLS)*. Chichester, UK: John Wiley.
2. **Mesoudi, A.** (2015) Cultural evolution: Overview. In *The International Encyclopaedia of the Social and Behavioral Sciences, Second Edition* (Ed. James Wright). Oxford, UK: Elsevier.
1. **Mesoudi, A.** (2012) Cultural evolution. In *Oxford Bibliographies Online* (<http://oxfordbibliographiesonline.com/>). New York, NY: Oxford University Press.

Book Reviews:

7. **Mesoudi, A.** (2013) Making sense of culture (review of Whiten, A., Hinde, R., Stringer, C. & Laland, K.N., *Culture Evolves*). *Trends in Ecology and Evolution* 28(11), 626-627.
6. Dawson, E.H. & **Mesoudi, A.** (2011) Democratic decision-making by the hive mind (review of Seeley, T., *Honeybee Democracy*). *Trends in Ecology and Evolution* 26, 268-269.
5. **Mesoudi, A.** (2011) Book review of Blute, M. Darwinian Sociocultural Evolution. *Journal of Anthropological Research* 67, 157-158.
4. Chittka, L. & **Mesoudi, A.** (2011) Insect swarm intelligence (review of Seeley, T., *Honeybee Democracy*). *Science* 331, 401-402.
3. **Mesoudi, A.** (2011) Evolutionary psychology meets cultural psychology. Book review of Schaller, M., Norenzayan, A., Heine, S.J., Yamagishi, T. & Kameda, T. Evolution, Culture and the Human Mind. *Journal of Evolutionary Psychology* 9, 83-87.
2. **Mesoudi, A.** (2007) Book review of Levinson, S. C. and Jaisson, P. Evolution and Culture. *Quarterly Review of Biology*, 82(1), 45.
1. **Mesoudi, A.** (2005) Book review of Richerson, P. J. and Boyd, R. Not By Genes Alone: How Culture Transformed Human Evolution. *Quarterly Review of Biology*, 80(4), 506-507.

PhD and Masters Student Supervision/Examination

PhD students (primary or joint supervisor):

Andoni Sergiou (Exeter, 2020-present)

Dugald Foster (Exeter, 2018-present)

Angel V. Jimenez (Exeter, 2017 – 2020; passed with minor corrections within four years)

Alice Williams (Exeter, 2018-2019 [took over as main supervisor]; passed with minor corrections within four years)

Marius Kempe (Queen Mary / Durham, 2010-2013; passed with minor corrections within four years; now faculty at St John's College, Annapolis, USA)

Vera Sarkol (Queen Mary, 2010-2014; passed with minor corrections within four years; now employed outside academia)

External PhD examining:

Helen Wasielewski (Department of Anthropology, Rutgers University, 2012), Jacqui Hutchison (Department of Psychology, University of Aberdeen, 2015), Keely Bebbington (School of Psychology, University of Western Australia, 2017), Elena Miu (University of St Andrews, 2017), Damian Ruck (University of Bristol, 2018)

Internal PhD examining:

Lara Wood (Dept of Psychology, Durham, 2013), Gill Vale (Dept of Anthropology, Durham, 2013), Caroline Walters (Dept of Anthropology, Durham, 2014), Joe Stubbersfield (Dept of Anthropology, Durham, 2014)

Internal Masters examining:

LuElla Parks (University of Missouri, 2006), Daniel Wigmore-Shepherd (Durham University, 2012), Verity Bridger (University of Exeter, 2016)

Postdoctoral Fellows Supervised

Dr Charlotte Brand, 2017-present

Dr Maxime Derex, 2017-2019 (now has CNRS position, University of Toulouse)

Dr Kesson Magid, 2013-2016 (now at the Department of Anthropology, University of Oxford)

Dr Delwar Hussain, 2013-2014 (now at the Department of Anthropology, University of Edinburgh)

Dr Keelin Murray, 2013-2014 (now employed outside academia)

Presentations

Invited Departmental Seminars:

2020 Department of Cognitive Science, Central European University, Budapest, Hungary

- 2019 Centre for Culture and Evolution, Brunel University London, UK
- 2018 School of Psychological Sciences, University of Manchester, UK
Department of Human Behavior, Ecology and Culture, Max Planck Institute for Evolutionary Anthropology, Leipzig, Germany
Behaviour, Economics and Evolution seminar series, University of Lausanne, Switzerland
- 2017 Department of Management and Economics, Kochi University of Technology, Japan
Meiji Institute for Advanced Study of Mathematical Sciences, Meiji University, Japan
Department of Psychology, University of Exeter, UK
- 2016 Department of Psychology, University of Macau, Macau
Institute of Biosciences, Universidade Federal do Rio Grande do Sul, Porto Alegre, Brazil
Erasmus Institute for Philosophy & Economics, Erasmus University, Rotterdam, Netherlands
- 2015 Unit of Culture Research / Institute for Advanced Study, Tel Aviv University, Israel
- 2014 Department of Ecology and Evolution, University of Lausanne, Switzerland
Department of Biosciences, University of Exeter, UK
- 2013 Department of Archaeology and Anthropology, Bristol University, UK
Department of Anthropology, Durham University, UK
- 2011 Department of Anthropology, Rutgers University, USA
Department of Psychology, Brooklyn College (CUNY), New York, USA
- 2010 Department of Psychology, Goldsmiths University of London, UK
Division of Psychology and Language Sciences, University College London, UK
Department of Psychology, University of Stirling, UK
Max Planck Institute for Evolutionary Anthropology, Leipzig, Germany
School of Innovation Sciences, Eindhoven University of Technology, The Netherlands
Department of Anthropology, University College London, UK
Department of Psychology, Nottingham Trent University, UK
- 2009 Evolutionary Psychology Research Group, University of Liverpool, UK
Department of Biology, Utrecht University, Netherlands.
Institute for Empirical Research in Economics, University of Zurich, Switzerland
Department of Anthropology, University of Kent at Canterbury, UK
Institute of Archaeology, University College London, UK
Programme in Culture and Cognition Seminar, LSE, UK
- 2008 School of Biological and Chemical Sciences, Queen Mary, University of London, UK
Department of Psychology, Sheffield Hallam University, UK
Philosophy of the Biological and Cognitive Sciences Seminar Series, King's College London
Department of Archaeology, Simon Fraser University, Canada
Department of Anthropology, University of Washington, USA
Department of Experimental Psychology, University of Cambridge, UK
- 2007 Department of Social and Developmental Psychology, University of Cambridge
Leverhulme Centre for Human Evolutionary Studies, University of Cambridge
McDonald Institute for Archaeology, University of Cambridge, UK
Evolutionary Anthropology Seminar Series, University of Liverpool, UK
Center for Behavior, Evolution and Culture, UCLA, USA
- 2006 Department of Psychology, University of British Columbia, Canada
Centre for Applied Ethics, University of British Columbia, Canada
Department of Environmental Science and Policy, University of California-Davis, USA
Department of Anthropology, University of Missouri-Columbia, USA

Conference/Symposia Talks:

- 2018 “How do migration and acculturation shape between-group cultural variation? Insights from modern migration and cultural psychology”, PaleoAsia conference, Kyoto, Japan
“Experimental studies of human social learning”, Santa Fe Institute workshop on social

- learning, Santa Fe, NM, USA
 “The Viability of a Theory and Science of Cultural Evolution” (**keynote**), The Generalised Theory of Evolution conference, University of Dusseldorf, Germany
- 2017 “Interdisciplinarity in Cultural Evolution Research”, International Workshop on Advanced Methods in Cultural Evolution, University of Exeter, UK
 “Cultural traits as cues”, Towards a Darwinian Framework for Integrating Genetic and Non-Genetic Cues, University of Exeter, UK
 “Experimental studies of human cultural evolution” (**keynote**), 1st Interdisciplinary Workshop on Social Learning and Cultural Evolution, Keele University, UK
- 2016 “Ongoing prospects for a unified science of cultural evolution”, NAS Sackler Colloquium on Culture as an Extension of Biology, USA
 “Cumulative culture’s catalysts and constraints” (**keynote**), at conference entitled “When and How does Cumulative Culture Emerge?”, University of Birmingham, UK
 “Lab experiments as a bridge between models and historical data”, at conference entitled “How wrong is my model? Empirical Challenges in Archaeology, History, and Anthropology”, SimulPast Workshop, Barcelona, Spain
 “Darwinism and the Social Sciences” public debate, London School of Economics, UK
- 2014 “Small-scale societies and environmental transformations: co-evolutionary dynamics”, Autonomous University of Barcelona, Spain
 International Society for Behavioral Ecology (ISBE), New York City, USA
 European Association of Social Psychologists (EASP) small group meeting, “Culture and Psychology”, Leuven, Belgium
 European Human Behaviour and Evolution Association (EHBEA) conference, Bristol, UK
- 2013 International Association for Cross-Cultural Psychology regional meeting (keynote speaker), UCLA, Los Angeles, USA
 Human Behavior and Evolution Society conference, Miami, Florida, USA
- 2012 International Conference on Replacement of Neanderthals by Modern Humans: Testing Evolutionary Models of Learning, Tokyo, Japan
 Ernst Strungmann Forum on Cultural Evolution, Frankfurt, Germany
 Wenner-Gren symposium on “Systematic Assessment And Reform Of Archaeological Systematics”, Mississippi State University, USA
 Cambridge Student Scientific Society, University of Cambridge, UK
- 2011 London Evolution Research Network conference (keynote speaker), UCL, UK
 Human Behaviour and Evolution Society conference, Montpellier, France
 European Human Behaviour and Evolution Association conference, Giessen, Germany
 Human Sciences Symposium, “Human Evolution: Past and Future”, UCL, UK
- 2010 Language as an Evolutionary System. University of Edinburgh, UK
 Operational Adaptation Conference, University of Edinburgh, UK
- 2009 Symposium “The Darwinian Renaissance in the Humanities and Social Sciences”, Queen Mary University of London, UK
 CRASSH symposium “Why Aren’t the Social Sciences Darwinian?”, University of Cambridge, UK
 European Human Behaviour and Evolution Association, St Andrews, UK
 AAPA Wiley-Liss symposium on Human Natures and Human Cultures, Chicago, USA
- 2007 LERN workshop on cultural evolution, Department of Anthropology, UCL, UK
 Workshop on “Cultural Innovation: Contributions from Evolutionary Anthropology”, Konrad Lorenz Institute, Vienna, Austria
 Workshop on the Evolutionary Analysis of Culture, University of British Columbia, Canada.
- 2006 XVth Congress Of International Union For Prehistoric And Protohistoric Sciences, Lisbon, Portugal.

Human Behavior and Evolution Society Conference, Philadelphia, USA

2004 Workshop on Innovation and Culture in Animals and Humans, University of St Andrews, UK

Teaching

2015-present, College of Life and Environmental Sciences, University of Exeter. Programmes: BSc/BA Human Sciences, BSc Biology and BA Geography programmes

- 8 lectures, 1 practical on cultural evolution for 2nd year undergraduate module “Evolution of Human Societies” (2015-present)
- 4 lectures on cultural evolution for 3rd year undergraduate module “The Complexity of Human Societies” (2016-present)
- 8 lectures and 2 practicals for 3rd year module “Human Behavioural Ecology” (2017-present)
- 2 lectures on evolution and human behaviour for 2nd year undergraduate module “Behavioural Ecology” (2015-2018)
- >20 undergraduate project students supervised (2015-present)

2012-2015, Department of Anthropology, Durham University. Programmes: BSc Anthropology, BSc Health & Human Sciences, BA Anthropology, MSc Evolutionary Anthropology

- Module organiser, 10 lectures, 3 practicals on evolutionary anthropology for first-year undergraduate module “ANTH1091: Human Evolution and Diversity” (previously HUSS1131: Human Diversity)
- 4 lectures, 1 practical on the evolution of human cognition and culture for 2nd year undergraduate module “ANTH2071: Our Place in Nature”
- 3 lectures on cultural evolution for masters-level module “ANTH42715: Cultural Evolution”
- >10 final year undergraduate dissertation students supervised
- 4 MSc/MAnth student dissertations supervised
- 6 lectures/seminars on controversies and methods in the human behavioural sciences for 3rd year undergraduate module “HUSS3301: Understanding Behaviour” (2012-2014)
- Module organiser and 6 seminars on current issues in biological anthropology for “HUSS3261: Current Issues in Biological Anthropology” (2012-2014)
- 6 seminars on research design for “HUSS2111: Methods and Analysis II” (2012-2014)

2009-2012, School of Biological and Chemical Sciences, Queen Mary University of London.

Programmes: BSc Psychology; BSc Biology with Psychology

- Module organiser and 11 lectures on social psychology for “SBC202: Social and Developmental Psychology”
- Module organiser and 16 lectures on evolution and human behaviour for “SBC240: Evolutionary Psychology”
- 6 lectures on evolution and human behaviour for “SBC105: Cognition, Evolution and Behaviour”
- >10 final year undergraduate dissertation students supervised

2007-2009, Department of Social and Developmental Psychology, University of Cambridge

- 3 lectures on evolution and human behaviour for “Psy1: Social Psychology”
- 2 lectures on evolutionary approaches to gender development for “Psy6: Gender Development: Biological, Psychological and Clinical Perspectives”

Academic Affiliations/Activities

Associations / societies

- Treasurer / Executive Committee Member, *Cultural Evolution Society* (2016-)
- Former Treasurer and Steering Committee member, *European Human Behaviour and Evolution Association* (www.ehbea.com) (2011-2014)
- Member, *Human Behavior and Evolution Society*, *European Human Behaviour and Evolution Association*, *Galton Institute*, *Cultural Evolution Society*
- Fellow, *Higher Education Academy*

Journal activity

- Editorial Board: *PLOS ONE* (Editorial Board 2011-2020, Section Editor 2013-2020)
- Associate Member, *Behavioral and Brain Sciences*.
- Guest editor (with R. Foley and D. Velduis) of a special issue of *Journal of Evolutionary Psychology* entitled “Why aren’t the social sciences Darwinian?” (June 2010)
- Guest editor (with A. McElligott and D. Adger) of a special issue of *Human Biology* entitled “Integrating genetic and cultural evolutionary approaches to language” (April 2011)
- Section Editor of the *International Encyclopedia of Social and Behavioral Sciences 2nd Edition* (Evolutionary Sciences section)
- Ad-hoc reviewer for *Advances in Complex Systems*, *American Anthropologist*, *Animal Behaviour*, *Australasian Journal of Philosophy*, *Behavioral and Brain Sciences*, *Biolinguistics*, *Biology Letters*, *Biology and Philosophy*, *British Journal for the Philosophy of Science*, *British Journal of Psychology*, *Child Development*, *Cliodynamics*, *Cognition*, *Cognitive Science*, *Current Anthropology*, *Evolution and Human Behavior*, *Evolutionary Anthropology*, *Evolutionary Biology*, *Evolutionary Psychology*, *Frontiers in Evolutionary Psychology*, *History and Philosophy of the Life Sciences*, *Human Biology*, *Human Nature*, *Journal of Anthropological Archaeology*, *Journal of Archaeological Method and Theory*, *Journal of Evolutionary Psychology*, *Journal of Human Evolution*, *Journal of Institutional Economics*, *Journal of Social, Evolutionary and Cultural Psychology*, *Learning and Behavior*, *Mind & Society*, *Nature*, *Nature Communications*, *Nature Human Behavior*, *Neuron*, *New Ideas in Psychology*, *Philosophical Transactions of the Royal Society*, *Philosophy of Science*, *PLOS ONE*, *PNAS*, *Proceedings of the Royal Society B*, *Psychological Review*, *Psychological Science*, *Psychology and Society*, *Royal Society Interface*, *Royal Society Open Science*, *Science*, *Sociological Theory*, *Synthese*, *Trends in Cognitive Science*, *Trends in Ecology and Evolution*
- Reviews for publishers: *Cambridge University Press*, *University of Chicago Press*, *Oxford University Press*, *Princeton University Press*, *WW Norton*, *Wiley*.

Grant / tenure reviewing

- Invited member of ESRC Peer Review College, 2010-present
- Reviewer of grant applications for British Academy (UK), ERC Starting Grant and Synergy Grant (European Union), ESRC (UK), Faraday Institute (UK), Leakey Foundation (USA), Leverhulme Trust (UK), National Science Foundation (USA), Netherlands Organisation for Scientific Research, Research Foundation Flanders (Belgium), Royal Society (UK), SSHRC (Canada), Swiss National Science Foundation, Templeton Foundation (USA), Austrian Science Fund, National Commission for Science and Technology, CONICYT (Chile), Max Planck Society (Germany), Alexander von Humboldt Foundation (Germany)
- Reviewed 4 US tenure applications

Symposium/conference organisation

- Organising committee, International Society for Behavioral Ecology (ISBE) Conference in Exeter, July 2016
- Organiser (with A. McElligott) of one-day Centre for Ecology and Evolution symposium ‘Integrating Genetic and Cultural Evolutionary Approaches to Language’, March 2010.
- Head organiser of one-day Mellon Foundation-sponsored symposium, ‘Biology, Evolution and the Social Science Curriculum’, University of Cambridge, April 2008.
- Head organiser of 3-day conference “Why aren’t the social sciences Darwinian?”, University of Cambridge, May 2009. Supported by the Mellon Foundation, CRASSH and the Galton Institute.

External degree examining

- External examiner, MSc Cognitive and Evolutionary Anthropology, Oxford University, 2014-2016
- External examiner, MSc Culture and Evolution, Brunel University London, 2019-

Departmental administration

College of Life and Environmental Sciences, University of Exeter Cornwall Campus

- 2018-, Director of Postgraduate Research
- 2017-, Programme Director, BSc/BA Human Sciences
- 2016-2018, International Student Director

Department of Anthropology, Durham University:

- 2014-2015, Director of Education / Deputy Head of Department
- 2013-2014, Departmental Website Coordinator
- 2012-2014, Admissions Tutor for Queen's Campus Anthropology Programmes (BSc Anthropology; BSc Health and Human Sciences)
- 2012-present, Durham University ESRC Liaison Group, Anthropology Representative

School of Biological and Chemical Sciences, Queen Mary University of London:

- 2011-2012, Queen Mary Psychology Section Coordinator of the Queen Mary/Goldsmiths ESRC Doctoral Training Centre
- 2010-2011, Psychology Admissions Tutor
- 2009-2010, Organiser of the Neurobiology, Behaviour and Cognition seminar series

Other Qualifications

Postgraduate Certificate in Academic Practice (PGCAP). The Learning Institute, Queen Mary University of London, 2011.

Media and Public Engagement

- Research reported in New Scientist (UK, 26 Sep 2012, 30 Sep 2009, 18 Feb 2006), The Daily Mail (UK, 16 Feb 2006), Le Figaro (France, 16 Feb 2006), Yahoo! news (Internet, 15 Feb 2006), The Scotsman (UK, 11 Mar 2006), Ladies' Home Journal (USA, June 2006), SmartMoney (Russia, 4 Nov 2008), Wired magazine (USA, 8 March 2012), The Montreal Review (Canada, Feb 2012), The New York Times (USA, 30 March 2013), Science Daily (Internet, 5 June 2013, [link](#)), British Council Cubed Magazine (September 2015), Pacific Standard (Feb 2016), Al Jazeera America (Feb 2016), BBC Futures magazine (January 2017), ESRC Society Now magazine (Winter 2017)
- Interviewed for the online magazine "Evolution: This View of Life", June 2012.
- Interviewed for PLOS Biology news feature "Across the Curious Parallel of Language and Species Evolution" by J. Whitfield (PLOS Biol. 6, 1370-1372)
- Articles written for The Conversation (Jan 2016) and Social Evolution Forum (Feb 2016)
- Interactive exhibit "Treasure Hunt: Is it better to copy or explore?" at SBCS Science Expo "Why are we scientists?", Queen Mary University of London, June 2010.
- Assisted with Royal Society of Edinburgh public presentation at Edinburgh Zoo (UK) on Chimpanzee Cultures, March 2004
- Contributor to BBC Radio 4's The Human Zoo (12 July 2016)
- Opinion piece for Geographical Magazine, "Does immigration really harm cultural identity?" (30 Nov 2018)
- Podcast interview on cultural evolution with David Sloan Wilson for This View of Life (11 Sep 2020)