

# Cody Moser

PHD CANDIDATE  
COGNITIVE AND INFORMATION SCIENCES  
UNIVERSITY OF CALIFORNIA, MERCED

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## Academic Employment

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### Mohammed VI Polytechnic University (UM6P)

SCHOOL OF COLLECTIVE INTELLIGENCE

Assistant Professor non-HDR

Rabat, Morocco

Beginning Summer 2025

## Education and Research Experience

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### University of California, Merced

PHD COGNITIVE AND INFORMATION SCIENCES

- Advisor: Dr. Paul Smaldino
- Committee: Tyler Marghetis, Alex Petersen, Justin Yeakel
- Dissertation: "Epistemic Ecologies: Structure and Agency in Dynamics of Collective Thought"

Merced, CA

Expected May 2025

MS COGNITIVE AND INFORMATION SCIENCES

- Thesis: "Design Principles of Generative Adaptive Systems"

### University of California, Los Angeles

GRADUATE FELLOW, INSTITUTE FOR PURE AND APPLIED MATHEMATICS (IPAM)

- Program: Mathematics of Intelligence

Los Angeles, CA

Fall 2024

### Harvard University

VISITING FELLOW, GRADUATE SCHOOL OF ARTS AND SCIENCES

- Principal Investigator: Dr. Samuel Mehr
- Affiliated Department: Psychology

Boston, MA

2018–2022

### Texas A&M University

MA ANTHROPOLOGY

- Advisor: Dr. Jeffrey Winking
- Thesis: "Aggressive Mimicry as a Human Hunting Strategy"

College Station, TX

2019

### Florida State University

BS ANTHROPOLOGY, MINORS IN BIOLOGY AND STATISTICS

- Thesis advisors: Drs. Elizabeth Peters, Dean Falk, Emily Lemmon
- Honor's Thesis: "Anti-Predator Behaviors in Nocturnal Strepsirrhines"

Tallahassee, FL

2016

## Professional Experience

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- 2022-2024 **Oskar Morgenstern Fellow**, Mercatus Center, George Mason University
- 2020 **Transportation Policy Intern**, Reason Foundation
- 2020 **Poverty and Inequality in California Research Project Intern**, Cato Institute
- 2015-2016 **Lab Assistant**, Center for Anchored Phylogenomics

## Publications

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\*Denotes co-principal authorship; <sup>1</sup>Awarded “Feature paper” by journal

### REFEREED PUBLICATIONS

- Smaldino, P. E., Russell, A., Zefferman, M., Donath, J., Foster, J., Guilbeault, D., ... **Moser, C.**, ... Patt, D. (In press). Information Architectures: A Framework for Understanding Socio-Technical Systems. *npj Complex*, 2: 13
- Smaldino, P. E., **Moser, C.**, Pérez Velilla, A., Werling, M. (2024). Maintaining transient diversity is a general principle for improving collective problem solving. *Perspectives on Psychological Science*.
- Moser, C.**, & Smaldino, P. E. (2023). Innovation-Facilitating Networks Create Inequality. *Proceedings of the Royal Society B: Biological Sciences*, 290: 20232281.
- Falandays, J. B., Kaaronen, R. O., **Moser, C.**, Rorot, W., Tan, J., Varma, V., Williams, T., Youngblood, M. (2023). All Intelligence is Collective Intelligence. *Journal of Multiscale Neuroscience*, 2(1), 169-191.
- Moser, C.**, Buckner, W., Sarian, M., Winking, J. (2023). Aggressive Mimicry and the Evolution of the Human Cognitive Niche. *Human Nature*.
- \*Hilton, C. B., \***Moser, C.**, Bertolo, M., Lee-Rubin, H., Amir, D., Bainbridge, C. M., ... & Mehr, S. A. (2022). Acoustic regularities in infant-directed speech and song across cultures. *Nature Human Behaviour*, 1-12.
- <sup>1</sup>**Moser, C.**, & Smaldino, P. E. (2022). Organizational Development as Generative Entrenchment. *Entropy*, 24(7), 879.
- Holbrook, C., Yoon, L., Fessler, D. M. T., **Moser, C.**, Delgado, J. D., Kim, H. (2022). Moral Parochialism and Causal Appraisal of Transgressive Harm in Seoul and Los Angeles. *Scientific Reports*, 12, 14227.

### REFEREED CONFERENCE PROCEEDINGS

- \*Milzman, J. & \***Moser, C.** (2023). Decentralized core-periphery structure in social networks accelerates cultural innovation in an agent-based model. In Proc. of the 22nd International Conference on Autonomous Agents and Multiagent Systems (AAMAS 2023), London, United Kingdom, May 29 – June 2, 2023, IFAAMAS.

### COMMENTARIES & WHITE PAPERS

- Abbas, M., Alharthi, D., Balbas, J., Beckelhymer, D., Beylkin, G., Bruna, P., ... **Moser, C.**, ... Zhu, Y. (2025). White Paper: “Mathematics of Intelligences.” Institute for Pure and Applied Mathematics. <https://www.ipam.ucla.edu/reports>
- Moser, C.** (2025). Myth as Model: Group-Level Interpretive Frameworks. [commentary on Sijlmasi et al.]. *Behavioral and Brain Sciences*, 47.
- Peréz Velilla, A., **Moser, C.**, Smaldino, P. E. (2022). Hidden Clusters Beyond Ethnic Boundaries. [commentary on Uchiyama et al.] *Behavioral and Brain Sciences*, 45.
- Moser, C.**, Ackerman, J., Dayer, A., Proksch, S., Smaldino, P. E. (2021). Why don't cockatoos have war songs? [commentary on Mehr et al. and Savage et al.]. *Behavioral and Brain Sciences*, 44.

### ARTICLES SUBMITTED

- Moser, C.**, Ortega, A., & Marghetis, T. (2025). The network science of philosophy. [https://doi.org/10.31234/osf.io/ep3ub\\_v1](https://doi.org/10.31234/osf.io/ep3ub_v1)
- \*Garg, K., **Moser, C.**, Dromiack, H., Anwarzai, Z., & Ramos-Fernandez, G. (2025). The causal role of synergy in collective problem-solving. [https://doi.org/10.31235/osf.io/6r2h5\\_v2](https://doi.org/10.31235/osf.io/6r2h5_v2)
- Moser, C.**, Holbrook, C., Ellks, R., & Jones, A. (2025). Possessing Potential Weapons (Still) Heightens Anger Perception: Replicating and Extending a Test of Error Management Theory. <https://doi.org/10.31234/osf.io/jsurq>

## Presentations

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### CONTRIBUTED TALKS

- Moser, Cody**. 2024. Gradient Descent with Modification: Wright's Adaptive Landscape and the Candidate Solutions Approach to Intelligence. IPAM Junior Seminar Series.

**Moser, Cody.** 2024. Innovation-Facilitating Networks Create Inequality.  
Markets & Society 2024 Conference.

**Moser, Cody.** 2024. Identifying leverage points in opinion dynamic networks with external influences.  
Institute for Humane Studies 2024 Graduate Conference.

**Moser, Cody.** 2024. Innovation-Facilitating Networks Create Inequality.  
Cultural Evolution Society 2024 Conference.

**Moser, Cody.** 2023. Innovation-Facilitating Networks Create Inequality.  
Templeton World Charity Foundation Diverse Intelligences Summit

Milzman, Jesse, **Moser, C.** 2023. Decentralized core-periphery structure in social networks accelerates cultural innovation in an agent-based model.  
International Conference on Autonomous Agents and Multiagent Systems.

**Moser, Cody.** 2022. The Network Science of Cumulative Innovations.  
Institute for Humane Studies 2022 Graduate Conference.

**Moser, Cody.** 2021. Structural and Mechanistic Analogies in Evolutionary Thinking.  
California Workshop on Evolutionary Social Science

## CONTRIBUTED POSTERS

**Moser, Cody,** Johnson, K. 2024. Don't Say No: A Game Theoretic Model of Rejection with Reputational Costs.  
PPE Society Eighth Annual Meeting.

Clemotte, Clifford, **Moser, C.** 2024. The Ecological Origins of Property: An Extension of Wilson's Evolutionary Account of Property-Rights Cognition.  
PPE Society Eighth Annual Meeting.

**Moser, Cody,** Milzman, J. 2023. Decentralized core-periphery structure in social networks accelerates cultural innovation in an agent-based model.  
Santa Fe Institute Collective Intelligence Symposium.

Milzman, Jesse, **Moser, C.** 2023. Decentralized core-periphery structure in social networks accelerates cultural innovation in an agent-based model.  
22<sup>nd</sup> International Conference on Autonomous Agents and Multiagent Systems.

**Moser, Cody.** 2022. The Network Science of Cumulative Innovations.  
8<sup>th</sup> International Conference on Computational Social Science.

**Moser, Cody.** 2019. Aggressive Mimicry as a Human Hunting Strategy.  
Human Behavior and Evolution Society 31<sup>st</sup> Annual Conference.

**Moser, Cody,** et al. 2019. Acoustical Regularities in Infant-Directed Vocalizations Worldwide.  
Acoustical Society of America 177<sup>th</sup> Meeting.

Gursky, Sharon, **Moser, C.** 2018. Echolocation in a nocturnal primate?  
American Association of Physical Anthropologists 87<sup>th</sup> Annual Meeting.

**Moser, C.** 2016. Anti-predator behaviors in four species of nocturnal strepsirrhine.  
American Association of Physical Anthropologists 85<sup>th</sup> Annual Meeting.

**Moser, C.** 2015. Spatial height preferences in wild *Cebus capucinus*.  
American Association of Physical Anthropologists 84<sup>th</sup> Annual Meeting.

## INVITED TALKS

Spring 2025. *Dynamics and Structure in Epistemic Ecologies*.  
Department of Natural Philosophy and History of Science, Charles University, Prague.

Fall 2024. *Bringing the Individual into Collective Intelligence*.  
Center for Behavior, Evolution, and Culture, UCLA.

Summer 2024. *Philosophical Energy and the Sociology of Philosophies*.  
Institute for Humane Studies Fellows Summer Workshop.

Fall 2023. *Organizational Development as Generative Entrenchment*.  
Prosocial World Case Studies in Cultural Evolution Working Group.

Spring 2023. *Innovation-Facilitating Networks Create Inequality*.  
Santa Fe Institute Information Architectures as Sociotechnical Competitions Workshop.

Spring 2023. *Innovation-Facilitating Networks Create Inequality*.  
Future Gallo School of Management External Advisory Council Meeting, UC Merced.

Fall 2022. *Little Fish in Small Ponds Panel: Early Career Researchers in Big Science*.  
2022 Big Team Science Conference.

Fall 2022. *Acoustic Regularities in Infant-directed Speech and Song Across Cultures*.  
UC Merced Developmental Psychology Colloquium.

Spring 2022. *Acoustic Regularities in Infant-directed Speech and Song Across Cultures*.  
University of Cambridge Centre for Music and Science Colloquium.

Spring 2021. *Theory of Mind Towards Non-Human Animals*.  
Yale Department of Psychology Computational Social Cognition Group.

Fall 2016. *Anti-Predator Behaviors in Four Species of Nocturnal Strepsirrhine*.  
Duke Lemur Center 50<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Symposium.

## Non-Academic Articles

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- 2023 **Works in Progress Magazine**, On the origins of empathy for other species
- 2022 **Hungarian Conservative Print Edition Special Issue on Conservatism and Innovation**, The Ties That Bind Us  
**Quillette Magazine**, Saving Twitter – A Roundtable w/ Bo Winegard, Jim Rutt, Cody Moser
- 2020 **Areo Magazine**, Freeman Dyson, *In Memoriam*  
**Reason.org**, Driver's License Suspensions and Fees Unfairly Impact the Poor And Are in Need of Reform
- 2019 **Skeptic Magazine 24.3**, The Enigma of Stephen Jay Gould  
**Areo Magazine**, There's Little Reason to Worry About the SAT's New Adversity Score  
**Areo Magazine**, "Is Science Racist?" Book Review
- 2018 **Areo Magazine**, The Selfish Nature of Human Cooperation  
**Quillette Magazine**, The Dangers of Dugin's Particularism  
**Areo Magazine**, Alice Dreger's Middle Finger: Sex, Gender and Unhelpful Hair-Splitting

## Fellowships & Awards

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- 2025 **Legacy Leadership Award**,  
UC Merced Office of Leadership
- 2024 **Fletcher Jones Fellowship**, \$ 50,000  
UC Merced, Fletcher Jones Foundation
- Junior Fellowship**, \$ 6,000  
Institute for Humane Studies
- 2023 **Oskar Morgenstern Fellowship**, \$ 7,000  
The Mercatus Center
- Winning Research Proposal**,  
SFI Complexity-GAINS Workshop on Representation and Intelligence
- Cognitive & Information Sciences Graduate Student Spotlight Award**,  
UC Merced Department of Cognitive and Information Sciences
- DISI Alumni Award**, \$ 750  
Diverse Intelligences Summer Institute

2022	<b>Oskar Morgenstern Fellowship,</b> The Mercatus Center	\$ 7,000
2021	<b>Humane Studies Fellowship,</b> Institute for Humane Studies	\$3,000
2016	<b>International Awareness Fellowship,</b> Texas A&M MSC LT Jordan Institute	\$2,000
2015	<b>Florida State University Homepage Featured Student,</b> Florida State University	

## Grants

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2025	<b>Institute for Humane Studies Travel Grant,</b> <i>for CSH Vienna International Winter School on Social Complexity</i>	\$ 1,000
2024	<b>Institute for Humane Studies Faculty Mentorship Grant,</b> <i>with Dr. Ryan Muldoon, University at Buffalo</i>	\$ 8,000
	<b>Institute for Humane Studies Event Support Grant,</b> <i>Event Funding: Understanding the Emergence of Group Knowledge in Social Systems: Complexity, Synergy, and Innovation in Social Groups</i>	\$ 3,500
	<b>Institute for Humane Studies Travel Grant,</b> <i>for PPE Society 8th Annual Meeting</i>	\$ 1,300
2023	<b>Institute for Humane Studies Publication Accelerator Grant,</b> <i>for Identifying Leverage Points in Opinion Dynamic Networks with External Influence</i>	\$ 5,000
	<b>UC Merced Office of the Dean of Social Sciences, Humanities and Arts Grant,</b> <i>Event Funding: CWESS 2023</i>	\$ 5,000
	<b>UC Merced Center for Analytic Political Engagement (CAPE),</b> <i>for How Effective Media Propaganda Works in Social Networks</i>	\$ 700
	<b>Mercatus Center Travel Award,</b> <i>for SFI Collective Intelligence Symposium</i>	\$ 200
	<b>AAMAS Student Scholarship,</b> <i>for AAMAS 2023</i>	\$ 460
	<b>Institute for Humane Studies Hayek Travel Award,</b> <i>for AAMAS 2023</i>	\$ 750
2022	<b>UC Merced Graduate Student Association Travel Award,</b> <i>for IC2S2 2022</i>	\$ 400
	<b>Institute for Humane Studies Hayek Travel Award,</b> <i>for CSH Vienna International Spring School on Social Complexity</i>	\$ 800
	<b>UC Merced Graduate Fellowship Incentive Award,</b> <i>for External Grant Applications</i>	\$ 200
2016	<b>TAMU Department of Anthropology Pilot Research Funding Award ,</b> <i>for Ultrasonic Communication in Bornean Tarsiers</i>	\$ 2,400
	<b>Murray &amp; Celeste Fasken Chair in Liberal Arts Research Award,</b> <i>for Ultrasonic Communication in Bornean Tarsiers</i>	\$ 500
2015	<b>ACC Undergraduate Collaborative Summer Research Award,</b> <i>for Anti-Predator Behaviors in Nocturnal Strepsirrhines</i>	\$ 5,000

## Teaching Experience

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- Spring '24 **Modeling Social Behavior**, Teaching Assistant
- Fall '23 **Introduction to Cognitive Science**, Teaching Assistant
- Spring '23 **Senior Thesis Writing Course**, Teaching Assistant
- Fall '22 **Language and Linguistics**, Teaching Assistant
- Spring '21 **Philosophy of Cognitive Science**, Teaching Assistant
- Fall '20 **Introduction to Cognitive Science**, Teaching Assistant
- Spring '18 **Introduction to Anthropology**, Head Teaching Assistant
- Fall '17 **Introduction to Anthropology**, Teaching Assistant
- Spring '17 **Peoples and Cultures of the World**, Teaching Assistant
- Fall '16 **Introduction to Anthropology**, Teaching Assistant

## Outreach & Professional Development

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### WORKSHOPS & TRAINING

- 2025 **Institute for Human Ecology and The Thomistic Institute**, Civitas Dei Fellowship on The Future of Personhood and the Ethics of Artificial Intelligence
- Complexity Science Hub**, Winter School on Complex Systems in Our Changing World
- 2024 **\*Institute for Humane Studies**, Emergence of Group Knowledge in Social Systems: Complexity, Synergy, and Innovation in Social Groups
- \*Santa Fe Institute**, Assessing Representation in Minds and Artificial Systems Workshop
- Berggruen Institute**, Computational Consciousness Workshop
- Chapman University**, Philosophy, Politics and Economics Graduate Summer Workshop
- Acton Institute**, The Person and Technological Society: A Free and Virtuous Society Workshop
- 2023 **Diverse Intelligences Summer Institute (DISI)**, University of St. Andrews
- Santa Fe Institute**, Complexity-GAINS International Summer School on Intelligence and Representation
- Santa Fe Institute**, Collective Intelligence Short Course
- Santa Fe Institute**, Information Architectures as Sociotechnical Competitions Workshop
- Institute for Humane Studies**, A Responsible Singularity: Tech Ethics and Unpredictable Change Workshop
- 2022 **Santa Fe Institute**, Complexity-GAINS International Summer School on Disintegration of Societies
- Complexity Science Hub**, International Spring School on Social Complexity
- Institute for Progress**, Economics of Ideas, Science, and Innovation PhD Course
- 2021 **National Science Foundation**, Societal Shock Resilience Workshop
- 2020 **Santa Fe Institute**, Evolution of Collective Computational Abilities of (Pre)Historical Societies Workshop

*\*Organizer role*

### SERVICE POSITIONS

- 2024 **Founder & Primary Coordinator**, UCM CogSci Mentorship for Undergraduates (MUG) Program
- Mentor**, UCM CogSci Mentorship for Undergraduates (MUG) Program
- 2021–24 **Graduate Student Mentor**, Cognitive Science Student Association at UC Merced
- Campus Representative**, California Workshop on Evolution Social Sciences
- Twitter Administrator**, UC Merced Department of Cognitive and Information Sciences
- 2022–23 **Senior Organizer**, California Workshop on Evolution Social Sciences
- 2021–22 **Junior Organizer**, California Workshop on Evolution Social Sciences
- 2016–18 **Coordinator**, Texas A&M Department of Anthropology Graduate-Undergraduate Mentorship Program
- Mentor**, Texas A&M Department of Anthropology Graduate-Undergraduate Mentorship Program
- Mentor**, Texas A&M GLBT+ Mentorship Program

## SELECTED MEDIA COVERAGE

*The Jim Rutt Show*: Innovation-Facilitating Networks Create Inequality (12/19/2023)

*The Guardian*: Gaga for goo goo: Wellington named the global capital of baby talk (07/22/2022)

*New York Times*: Front cover, 'Parentese' Is Truly a Lingua Franca, Global Study Finds (07/25/2022)

*The Today Show*: Baby Talk is Universal (07/25/2022)

*NPR, All Things Considered*: The science is in: Everyone recognizes and uses baby talk with infants (07/31/2022)

*NPR, Goats and Soda*: Scholars confirm what itsy bitsy babies around the world already know (08/14/2022)

*Every Little Thing Podcast*: Why do we baby talk? (09/26/2022)

## PEER REVIEW

### Journals:

Behavioral Ecology

Child Development

Cognition and Emotion

Cognitive Science

Developmental Science

Evolution and Human Behavior (4)

Evolutionary Human Sciences (2)

Humanities and Social Sciences Communications

Nature Human Behaviour

npj Complexity

Physica A

PLOS One

PNAS Nexus

Philosophy of Science

Proceedings of the Royal Society B: Biological Sciences

Royal Society Open Science

Topics in Cognitive Science

### Conferences:

CogSci 2024, 2025

### Funders:

ManyLanguages Consortium

UK Research and Innovation Economic and Social Research Council (UKRI-ERSC)

## PROFESSIONAL MEMBERSHIPS

The Polanyi Society

Cultural Evolution Society

Long Now Foundation Member #11096

Human Behavior and Evolution Society

## PROFICIENCIES, ETC.

Citizenship: United States, United Kingdom

Languages: English (native), German (intermediate)

Programming: Python, R, NetLogo, MATLAB

Skills: Agent-based models, networks, information theory, bioacoustics, web scraping, data visualization