

# Coltan Scrivner

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## *Curriculum Vitae*

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### EDUCATION

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- 2022**      **PhD Comparative Human Development – Behavioral Biology**  
The University of Chicago.
- 2016**      **MS Forensic Science – Biology/Chemistry with Honors**  
University of Central Oklahoma.
- 2014**      **BA with Honors in Anthropology,**  
Minors in Biology and Natural Science  
Oklahoma Baptist University.

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### PROFESSIONAL APPOINTMENTS

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- 2021**      **Facebook**  
User Experience Research Graduate Intern
- 2021**      **Institute of Cognitive and Evolutionary Anthropology,**  
**Oxford University**  
Research Consultant
- 2017-22**      **Institute for Mind and Biology, The University of Chicago**  
Fellow
- 2017, 2020**      **Interacting Minds Centre / Recreational Fear Lab,**  
**Aarhus University, Denmark**  
Visiting Researcher

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## PEER-REVIEWED PUBLICATIONS

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### Journal Articles

- Preprint**     **Scrivner, C. & Christensen, K. A.** Scaring Away Anxiety: Therapeutic Avenues for Horror Fiction to Enhance Treatment for Anxiety Symptoms.
- R&R**         **Scrivner, C.** The Psychology of Morbid Curiosity: Development and Initial Validation of the Morbid Curiosity Scale.
- R&R**         Rim, N.W., Choe, K.W., **Scrivner, C.**, & Berman, M.G. Introducing Point-of-Interest as an alternative to Area-of-Interest for fixation duration analysis.
- 2021**         **Scrivner, C.** An Infectious Curiosity: Morbid Curiosity and Media Preferences During a Pandemic. *Evolutionary Studies in Imaginative Culture*.
- 2021**         **Scrivner, C.**, Johnson, J.A., Kjeldgaard-Christiansen, J., & Clasen, M. Pandemic Practice: Horror Fans and Morbidly Curious Individuals Are More Psychologically Resilient During the COVID-19 Pandemic. *Personality and Individual Differences*.
- 2020**         Andersen, M., Schjoedt, U., Price, H., Rosas, F., **Scrivner, C.**, & Clasen, M. Playing with Fear: A Field Study in Recreational Horror. *Psychological Science*
- 2020**         Taji, W., **Scrivner, C.**, & Maestriperieri, D. Toward a general theory of human individual differences: Can evolutionary psychology meet the challenge? *Evolutionary Behavioral Sciences*.
- 2020**         **Scrivner, C.**, Holbrook, C., Fessler, D.M.T., & Maestriperieri, D. Gruesomeness conveys formidability: Perpetrators of gratuitously grisly

acts are conceptualized as larger, stronger, and more likely to win.  
*Aggressive Behavior.*

- 2019**      **Scrivner, C.**, Choe, K.W., Henry, J., Lyu, M., Maestripieri, D., & Berman, M.G. Violence reduces attention to faces and draws attention to points of contact. *Scientific Reports.*
- 2018**      **Scrivner, C.** & Maestripieri, D. Creativity patterns in the production of scientific theories and literary fiction. *KNOW: A Journal on the Formation of Knowledge.*

### **Book Chapters**

- Accepted**      **Scrivner, C.** Curiosity: A Behavioral Biology Perspective. In T. Shackelford & L. Al-Shawaf (Eds.), *The Oxford Handbook of Evolution and the Emotions.*
- Accepted**      **Scrivner, C.**, Sznycer, D., Lukaszewski, A., and Al-Shawaf, L. Social emotions are governed by a common grammar of social valuation: Theoretical foundations and applications to human personality and the criminal justice system. In T. Shackelford & L. Al-Shawaf (Eds.), *The Oxford Handbook of Evolution and the Emotions.*
- Accepted**      Sell, A., **Scrivner, C.**, Landers, M. & Lopez, A. The Neutralization Theory of Hatred. In T. Shackelford & L. Al-Shawaf (Eds.), *The Oxford Handbook of Evolution and the Emotions.*
- 2018**      Marvel-Coen, J., **Scrivner, C.** & Maestripieri, D. Morningness-eveningness and sociosexuality from a life history perspective. In V. Zeigler-Hill & T. Shackelford (Eds.), *The SAGE Handbook of Personality and Individual Differences.*

## **Book Reviews**

- 2017**      **Scrivner, C.** Human Behavioral Biology: It's Complicated [Review of the book *Behave: The Biology of Humans at Our Best and Worst*]. *Human Ethology*.

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## **GRANTS, FELLOWSHIPS, & AWARDS**

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### **Competitive Grants**

- 2020**      Gianinno Graduate Research Grant (\$1500)
- 2019**      Gianinno Graduate Research Grant (\$2000)
- 2019**      Human Behavior and Evolution Society, student funding grant (\$1600)
- 2019**      Pozen Family Center for Human Rights symposium event co-sponsorship (\$400)
- 2019-20**    Mary Anne and James L. Rynerson Research Grant (\$10,000)
- 2018-20**    Neubauer Collegium for Culture and Society Collaborative Research Project (\$35,433)
- 2018-19**    Mary Anne and James L. Rynerson Research Grant (\$10,000)
- 2018**      Pozen Family Center for Human Rights Graduate Student Master Class and Workshop Fund (\$1500)
- 2017**      The University of Chicago Graduate Student Council Advanced Travel Fund (\$600)
- 2015**      University of Central Oklahoma Student Research, Creative, & Scholarly Activities Grant (\$500)

### **Travel Grants**

- 2019**      Gianinno Conference Fund (\$1000)
- 2018**      Institute for Mind and Biology Travel Fund (\$1000)
- 2018**      Gianinno Conference Fund (\$750)
- 2018**      Institute for Mind and Biology Travel Fund (\$750)

### **Fellowships**

- 2020-21** Social Science Research Center Graduate Student Fellowship  
**2016-21** The University of Chicago Social Sciences Fellowship (\$31,000/Year)

### **Awards**

- 2020** SPSP Graduate Registration Award  
**2015** University of Central Oklahoma Student Research, Creative, & Scholarly Activities Award (\$1000)  
**2015** ARL/DNA Solutions Endowed Scholarship Award (\$1000)  
**2015** Forensic Science Institute Endowed Scholarship Award (\$1000)  
**2015** TA Tuition Waiver Award, UCO Department of Biology (\$1129)

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### **INVITED TALKS**

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- 2021** Science on Screen. Colonial Theatre. Phoenixville, PA.  
**2020** Pomona College, Claremont, CA.  
**2020** Interacting Minds Centre, Aarhus University. Aarhus, Denmark  
**2019** Psychology Club. Carthage College. Kenosha, WI.  
**2019** Justice, Attention, and Motivation Lab. Department of Psychology, Loyola University Chicago. Chicago, IL.  
**2019** Social, Personality, and Organizational Brown Bag. Psychology Department, University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign. Urbana-Champaign, IL.  
**2015** Tri-Beta Speaker Series at Oklahoma Baptist University. Shawnee, OK.

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## CONFERENCE ACTIVITY

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### Organized Conferences, Workshops, & Symposia

- 2019**      **Weekly Workshop:** *Social Cognition, Aggression, and Research in Evolution (SCARE)* at The University of Chicago, Chicago, IL.
- 2019**      **Symposium:** *Cognitive Evolutionary Foundations of Conflict* at the Institute for Mind and Biology, The University of Chicago. Chicago, IL.
- 2019**      **Symposium:** *Experiencing Violence: From Laboratory to Community* at the Midwestern Psychological Association Conference. Chicago, IL.
- 2018**      **Conference:** *The Allure of Violence: Bridging Perception, Cognition, and Culture* at The Neubauer Collegium for Culture and Society, The University of Chicago. Chicago, IL.

### Conference Presentations (first author/presenter only)

- 2021**      **Scrivner, C.** *The Psychology of Morbid Curiosity* at the Society for Personality and Social Psychology Annual Convention
- 2020**      **Scrivner, C.** *Morbid Curiosity and Monsters* at the Zombie Apocalypse Medicine Meeting.
- 2020**      **Scrivner, C.** *The Psychology of Morbid Curiosity: Development of the Morbid Curiosity Scale and its Relationship to Behavior* at the Evolutionary Psychology Preconference at the Society for Personality and Social Psychology.
- 2020**      **Scrivner, C.** *The Psychology of Morbid Curiosity* at the Association for Psychological Science. Chicago, IL. (cancelled due to COVID-19).
- 2020**      **Scrivner, C.,** Holbrook, C., Fessler, D.M.T., & Maestripieri, D. *Gruesomeness Conveys Formidability* at the Midwestern Psychological Association Conference. Chicago, IL. (cancelled due to COVID-19)

- 2020**      **Scrivner, C.** *The Psychology of Morbid Curiosity* at the European Human Behaviour and Evolution Association Conference. Krakow, Poland (cancelled due to COVID-19).
- 2019**      **Scrivner, C.,** Choe, K.W., Henry, J., Lyu, M., Maestripieri, D., & Berman, M.G. *Watching People People Watch: Using Eye Tracking to Study the Perception of Violent Social Interactions* at the International Society for Human Ethology Summer Institute. Zadar, Croatia.
- 2019**      **Scrivner, C.,** Choe, K.W., Lyu, M., Maestripieri, D., & Berman, M.G. *Fixating on Violence: Visual assessment of violent social interactions* at the Human Behavior and Evolution Society Conference. Boston, MA.
- 2019**      **Scrivner, C.,** Choe, K.W., Lyu, M., Maestripieri, D., & Berman, M.G. *Taking a Look at Violence* at the Midwestern Psychological Association Conference. Chicago, IL.
- 2018**      **Scrivner, C.,** Choe, K.W., Maestripieri, D., & Berman, M.G. *Visual Attention Biases in Viewing Scenes of Violence* at the International Society for Human Ethology Congress. Santiago, Chile.
- 2018**      **Scrivner, C.,** Ibarra, F., & Maestripieri, D. *An Evolutionary Approach to Attentional and Emotional Biases in Coalitional Violence* at the Human Behavior and Evolution Society Conference. Amsterdam, Netherlands.
- 2018**      **Scrivner, C.,** & Maestripieri, D., *An Evolutionary Cost-Benefit Framework of Religious Beliefs and Behaviors* at Future Directions on the Evolution of Rituals, Beliefs, and Religious Minds. Erice, Sicily, Italy.
- 2016**      **Scrivner, C.,** Gibson, K., & Creecy, J. *Beyond DNA: An Epigenetic Approach to Identical Twin Identification* at the American Academy of Forensic Sciences Conference. Las Vegas, Nevada.
- 2016**      **Scrivner, C.,** Gibson, K., & Creecy, J. *Twin Identification: Moving Beyond DNA* at Oklahoma Research Day. Talequah, Oklahoma

### **Campus and Departmental Talks**

- 2020**      Proseminar at the Institute for Mind and Biology, The University of Chicago. Chicago, IL.
- 2019**      Proseminar at the Institute for Mind and Biology, The University of Chicago. Chicago, IL.

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## **TEACHING EXPERIENCE**

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### **The University of Chicago**

#### **Lecturer**

Mind II (Winter 2020)  
Mind I (Autumn 2020, 2 Sections)

#### **Teaching Assistant**

Habits of a Free Mind (Spring 2020; Dr. Pamela Paresky)  
Computing for Social Sciences (Spring 2019; Dr. Ben Soltoff)  
Mind III (Spring 2019; Dr. Jean Decety)  
Mind II (Winter 2019; Dr. Katherine Krpan)  
Mind I (Autumn 2018; Dr. Dario Maestriperi).  
Intro to Comparative Human Development (Autumn 2018; Dr. Eugene Raikhel)

### **The University of Central Oklahoma**

#### **Lecturer**

General Biology Laboratory (2014 – 2016; 9 Sections)

#### **Teaching Assistant**

Embryology (Autumn 2015; Dr. Nikki Seagraves)



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## PUBLISHED ESSAYS

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- 2021-** Morbid Minds. *Psychology Today Blog*
- 2021** Why Horror Films Are More Popular Than Ever. *Nautilus*.
- 2020** Horror Fans Have More Fun During A Pandemic. *Nautilus*.
- 2018** Diversity and Inclusion vs Free Speech on Campus. *Quillette*.
- 2017** Guest Blogger at *Savage Minds/Anthrodendum*.
- 2016** When DNA Isn't Enough: Methylation, Forensics, and Twins – Part 2. *Forensic Outreach*.
- 2016** When DNA Isn't Enough: Methylation, Forensics, and Twins – Part 1. *Forensic Outreach*.
- 2016** Paleo Diet: Brilliantly Simple, or Simply Wrong? *Anthro/Zine*.
- 2015** Neanderthals: Were They "Human?" *Anthro/Zine*.

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## SELECT MEDIA INTERVIEWS

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"You know you want to look: University of Chicago grad student has made a specialty of morbid curiosity." (Profile; front page of Sunday paper). [The Chicago Tribune](#)

"Horror movie fans are better at coping with the coronavirus pandemic." [New Scientist](#)

"Why the zombie apocalypse prepared us for pandemic Coronavirus." [Forbes](#)

"I feel fine: fans of world-ending films 'coping better with the pandemic.'" [The Guardian](#)

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## PROFESSIONAL SERVICE AND ACTIVITIES

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### **University and Departmental Service**

#### **Dean's Advisory Council, Division of Social Sciences.**

University of Chicago. 2019-20.

#### **Fellows Council, Institute for Mind and Biology.**

University of Chicago. 2019-21.

#### **Social Chair, Comparative Human Development Student Association.**

University of Chicago. 2017-18

### **Ad-Hoc Reviewer**

*Personality and Individual Differences, Adaptive Human Behavior & Physiology,  
Evolutionary Studies in Imaginative Culture, EvoS Journal*

### **Member**

American Psychological Association (APA – Divisions 1, 3, 6, & 8)

Human Behavior and Evolution Society (HBES)

International Society for Human Ethology (ISHE)

Society for Personality and Social Psychology (SPSP)

Association for Psychological Science (APS)