

# Coltan Scrivner

Ph.D. Student, Department of Comparative Human Development  
Fellow, Institute for Mind and Biology  
The University of Chicago  
(773) 834-4657

[cscrivner@uchicago.edu](mailto:cscrivner@uchicago.edu)

Website: <https://coltanscrivner.com/>

## *Curriculum Vitae*

---

### EDUCATION

---

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

---

### PROFESSIONAL APPOINTMENTS

---

- |            |  |
|------------|--|
| 2021       | <b>Facebook</b><br>User Experience Research Graduate Intern  |
| 2017-22    | <b>Institute for Mind and Biology, The University of Chicago, USA</b><br>Fellow                                      |
| 2017, 2020 | <b>Interacting Minds Centre / Recreational Fear Lab,</b><br><b>Aarhus University, Denmark</b><br>Visiting Researcher |

---

## PEER-REVIEWED PUBLICATIONS

---

### Journal Articles

- Under Review***      **Scrivner, C.** The Psychology of Morbid Curiosity.
- 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.**, & Maestripieri, 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., & Maestripieri, 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., Maestriperi, D., & Berman, M.G. Violence reduces attention to faces and draws attention to points of contact. *Scientific Reports*.
- 2018**      **Scrivner, C.** & Maestriperi, 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. 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.** & Maestriperi, 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*.

---

## GRANTS, FELLOWSHIPS, & AWARDS

---

### Competitive Grants

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

### Travel Grants

<b>2019</b>	Gianinno Conference Fund (\$1000)
<b>2018</b>	Institute for Mind and Biology Travel Fund (\$1000)
<b>2018</b>	Gianinno Conference Fund (\$750)
<b>2018</b>	Institute for Mind and Biology Travel Fund (\$750)

### Fellowships

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

## Awards

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

---

## INVITED TALKS

---

<b>2020</b>	Pomona College, Claremont, CA.
<b>2020</b>	Interacting Minds Centre, Aarhus University. Aarhus, Denmark
<b>2019</b>	Psychology Club. Carthage College. Kenosha, WI.
<b>2019</b>	Justice, Attention, and Motivation Lab. Department of Psychology, Loyola University Chicago. Chicago, IL.
<b>2019</b>	Social, Personality, and Organizational Brown Bag. Psychology Department, University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign. Urbana-Champaign, IL.
<b>2015</b>	Tri-Beta Speaker Series at Oklahoma Baptist University. Shawnee, OK.

---

## CONFERENCE ACTIVITY

---

### Organized Conferences, Workshops, & Symposia

<b>2019</b>	<b>Weekly Workshop:</b> <i>Social Cognition, Aggression, and Research in Evolution (SCARE)</i> at The University of Chicago, Chicago, IL.
<b>2019</b>	<b>Symposium:</b> <i>Cognitive Evolutionary Foundations of Conflict</i> 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 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., Maestriperi, 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., Maestriperi, D., & Berman, M.G.  
*Taking a Look at Violence* at the Midwestern Psychological Association Conference. Chicago, IL.
- 2018**      **Scrivner, C.**, Choe, K.W., Maestriperi, 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., & Maestriperi, 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.**, & Maestriperi, 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.

---

## TEACHING EXPERIENCE

---

### 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 Maestripieri).

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)

---

## PUBLISHED ESSAYS

---

- |             |   |
|-------------|---|
| <b>2021</b> | <b>Scrivner, C.</b> Why Horror Films Are More Popular Than Ever. <i>Nautilus</i> .          |
| <b>2020</b> | <b>Scrivner, C.</b> Horror Fans Have More Fun During A Pandemic. <i>Nautilus</i> .          |
| <b>2018</b> | <b>Scrivner, C.</b> Diversity and Inclusion vs Free Speech on Campus.<br><i>Quillette</i> . |
| <b>2017</b> | <b>Scrivner, C.</b> Guest Blogger at <i>Savage Minds/Anthrodendum</i> .                     |



- 2016**      **Scrivner, C.** When DNA Isn't Enough: Methylation, Forensics, and Twins – Part 2. *Forensic Outreach*.
- 2016**      **Scrivner, C.** When DNA Isn't Enough: Methylation, Forensics, and Twins – Part 1. *Forensic Outreach*.
- 2016**      **Scrivner, C.** The Paleo Diet: Brilliantly Simple, or Simply Wrong? *Anthro/Zine*.
- 2015**      **Scrivner, C.** Neanderthals: Were They "Human?" *Anthro/Zine*.

---

## SELECT MEDIA INTERVIEWS

---

"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](#)

---

## PROFESSIONAL SERVICE AND ACTIVITIES

---

### 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**

Human Behavior and Evolution Society (HBES)

International Society for Human Ethology (ISHE)

Society for Personality and Social Psychology (SPSP)

Association for Psychological Science (APS)