

Coltan Scrivner

Ph.D. Candidate

Department of Comparative Human Development

Fellow

Institute for Mind and Biology

The University of Chicago

Office Phone: (773) 834-4657

Email: cscrivner@uchicago.edu

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

EDUCATION

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

PROFESSIONAL APPOINTMENTS & POSITIONS

- | | |
|-------------------|---|
| 2021 | <i>Facebook</i>
User Experience Research Graduate Intern – <i>Mental Health Team</i> . |
| 2021 | <i>Institute of Cognitive and Evolutionary Anthropology, Oxford University</i>
Research Consultant – <i>Ritual Intuitions project</i> . |
| 2017–22 | <i>Institute for Mind and Biology, The University of Chicago</i>
Fellow. |
| 2017, 2020 | <i>Interacting Minds Centre / Recreational Fear Lab,</i>
<i>Aarhus University, Denmark</i>
Visiting Researcher. |

BOOKS

- | | |
|-------------|--|
| 2023 | <i>Scrivner, C.</i> Morbidly Curious: The Science Behind Our Fascination With The Mysterious And Macabre. <i>Penguin Random House</i> . |
|-------------|--|

PEER-REVIEWED PUBLICATIONS

Journal Articles

- Preprint** **Scrivner, C., Andersen, M., Schjoedt, U., & Clasen, M.** *The psychological benefits of scary play in three types of horror fans.*
- Preprint** **Scrivner, C. & Christensen, K. A.** Scaring Away Anxiety: Therapeutic Avenues for Horror Fiction to Enhance Treatment for Anxiety Symptoms.
- 2021** **Scrivner, C.** The Psychology of Morbid Curiosity: Development and Initial Validation of the Morbid Curiosity Scale. *Personality and Individual Differences.*
- 2021** 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. *PLoS One.*
- 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.*
- 2021** **Scrivner, C.** An Infectious Curiosity: Morbid Curiosity and Media Preferences During a Pandemic. *Evolutionary Studies in Imaginative Culture.*
- 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., 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*.

GRANTS, FELLOWSHIPS, & AWARDS

Competitive Grants (\$72,933 total)

- 2021** Mary Anne and James L. Rynerson Research Grant (\$10,000)
- 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** Mary Anne and James L. Rynerson Research Grant (\$10,000)
- 2018** Neubauer Collegium for Culture and Society Collaborative Research Project (\$35,433)
- 2018** 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)
- 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)
2017	The University of Chicago Graduate Student Council Advanced Travel Fund (\$600)

Fellowships

2020-21	Social Science Research Center Graduate Student Fellowship
2016-22	The University of Chicago Social Sciences Fellowship

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)

INVITED TALKS

2021	Chicago Center for Practical Wisdom. The University of Chicago, Chicago, IL.
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.

CONFERENCE ACTIVITY

Organizer

2019	<i>Weekly Workshop: Social Cognition, Aggression, and Research in Evolution (SCARE)</i> at The University of Chicago, Chicago, IL.
2019	<i>Symposium: 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 & 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

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: Mechanisms of the Mind (Winter 2020)

Mind I: Historical and Philosophical Foundations of the Study of the Mind (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: The Mind in Context (Spring 2019; Dr. Jean Decety)

Mind II: Mechanisms of the Mind (Winter 2019; Dr. Katherine Krpan)

Mind I: Historical and Philosophical Foundations of the Study of the Mind (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

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

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, International Journal of the Psychology of Religion, 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)