

CURRICULUM VITAE

Nathan Cofnas

Faculty of Philosophy
University of Cambridge
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RESEARCH INTERESTS

Philosophy of science (especially biology), moral psychology, values in science, ethics

EMPLOYMENT

University of Cambridge

Leverhulme Early Career Fellow, Faculty of Philosophy, 2022–present

EDUCATION

University of Oxford

DPhil in Philosophy, 2021

University of Cambridge

MPhil (Distinction) in History and Philosophy of Science, 2016

Lingnan University

Hong Kong PhD Fellow, Philosophy Department, 2012–2015

Columbia University

BA in Philosophy, 2011

PAPERS

“Still No Evidence for a Jewish Group Evolutionary Strategy,” *Evolutionary Psychological Science*. Advance online publication.

“How Gene–Culture Coevolution Can—but Probably Did Not—Track Mind-Independent Moral Truth,” *The Philosophical Quarterly* 73, no. 2 (2023): 414–434.

“The Golden Rule: A Naturalistic Perspective,” *Utilitas* 34, no. 3 (2022): 262–274.

“The Anti-Jewish Narrative,” *Philosophia* 49, no. 4 (2021): 1329–1344.

- >15,000 downloads.

“Are Moral Norms Rooted in Instincts? The Sibling Incest Taboo as a Case Study,” *Biology & Philosophy* 35, no. 5 (2020): 47.

- >10,000 downloads.

“A Debunking Explanation for Moral Progress,” *Philosophical Studies* 177, no. 11 (2020): 3171–3191.

“Coercive Paternalism and the Intelligence Continuum,” *Behavioural Public Policy* 4, no. 1 (2020): 88–107.

“Research on Group Differences in Intelligence: A Defense of Free Inquiry,” *Philosophical Psychology* 33, no. 1 (2020): 125–147.

- Altmetric Attention Score in the 99th percentile. >65,000 downloads.

“Should Dietary Guidelines Recommend Low Red Meat Intake?” (with F. Leroy), *Critical Reviews in Food Science and Nutrition* 60, no. 16 (2020): 2763–2772.

- Altmetric Attention Score in the 99th percentile. >50,000 downloads.

“Is Kevin MacDonald’s Theory of Judaism ‘Plausible’? A Response to Dutton (2018),” *Evolutionary Psychological Science* 5, no. 1 (2019): 143–150.

- >10,000 downloads.

“Is Vegetarianism Healthy for Children?,” *Critical Reviews in Food Science and Nutrition* 59, no. 13 (2019): 2052–2060.

- Altmetric Attention Score in the 99th percentile. >70,000 downloads.

“Power in Cultural Evolution and the Spread of Prosocial Norms,” *The Quarterly Review of Biology* 93, no. 4 (2018): 297–318.

- Of all papers ever published in the journal, the third most read in a 12-month period (April–July 2019).

“Judaism as a Group Evolutionary Strategy: A Critical Analysis of Kevin MacDonald’s Theory,” *Human Nature* 29, no. 2 (2018): 134–156.

- Altmetric Attention Score in the 99th percentile. >100,000 downloads on Springer and PhilPapers.

“Religious Authority and the Transmission of Abstract God Concepts,” *Philosophical Psychology* 31, no. 4 (2018): 609–628.

“Larregue’s Critique of Cofnas et al.: A Rejoinder” (with N. Carl and M. A. Woodley), *The American Sociologist* 49, no. 2 (2018): 328–335.

“Does Activism in Social Science Explain Conservatives’ Distrust of Scientists?” (with N. Carl and M. A. Woodley), *The American Sociologist* 49, no. 1 (2018): 135–148.

- Altmetric Attention Score in the 99th percentile.

“Innateness as Genetic Adaptation: Lorenz Redivivus (and Revised),” *Biology & Philosophy* 32, no. 4 (2017): 559–580.

“A Teleofunctional Account of Evolutionary Mismatch,” *Biology & Philosophy* 31, no. 4 (2016): 507–525.

“Scientific Literacy, Optimism about Science and Conservatism” (with N. Carl and M. A. Woodley), *Personality and Individual Differences* 94 (2016): 299–302.

“Science Is Not Always ‘Self-Correcting’: Fact–Value Conflation and the Study of Intelligence,” *Foundations of Science* 21, no. 3 (2016): 477–492.

- Altmetric Attention Score in the 99th percentile. >10,000 downloads on Springer and PhilPapers.

POPULAR ARTICLES

“How to Take Back Academia,” *Heterodox STEM*, April 10, 2023, <https://hxstem.substack.com/p/how-to-take-back-academia>.

“Four Reasons Why Heterodox Academy Failed,” *Academic Questions* 35, no. 4 (2022): 13–24, <https://www.nas.org/academic-questions/35/4/four-reasons-why-heterodox-academy-failed>.

“My ‘Debunked’ Views,” *The Critic*, November 2, 2022, <https://thecritic.co.uk/my-debunked-views/>.

“Should Philosophers Censor Kevin MacDonald?,” *Quillette*, January 13, 2022, <https://quillette.com/2022/01/13/philosophers-want-to-censor-kevin-macdonald/>.

“Philosophers Smear One of Their Own for Gender Heresy,” *Quillette*, January 14, 2021, <https://quillette.com/2021/01/14/philosophers-smear-one-of-their-own-for-gender-heresy/>.

“Philosophy Is Being Hijacked by Woke Twitter Mobs,” *Quillette*, October 21, 2020, <https://quillette.com/2020/10/21/philosophy-is-being-hijacked-by-woke-twitter-mobs/>.

“Academics Are Trying to Get My Paper Retracted—and Some of Them Haven’t Even Read It,” *Spectator World*, January 31, 2020, <https://spectatorworld.com/topic/academics-get-paper-retracted-some-havent-read-nathan-cofnas/>.

“Deplatforming Won’t Work,” *Quillette*, July 8, 2019, <https://quillette.com/2019/07/08/deplatforming-wont-work/>.

“From Foolish Talk to Evil Madness—The Grievance Studies Scandal: Five Academics Respond,” *Quillette*, October 1, 2018, <https://quillette.com/2018/10/01/the-grievance-studies-scandal-five-academics-respond/>.

“Kevin MacDonald Won’t Accept Evidence Supporting Alternative Theories about Jewish Influence,” *Genetic Literacy Project*, May 2, 2018, <https://geneticliteracyproject.org/2018/05/02/viewpoint-kevin-macdonald-wont-accept-evidence-supporting-alternative-theories-about-jewish-influence/>.

“Analyzing Kevin MacDonald’s ‘Culture of Critique’ and the Alt-Right’s Embrace of Anti-Jewish Ideology,” *Genetic Literacy Project*, April 16, 2018, <https://geneticliteracyproject.org/2018/04/16/analyzing-kevin-macdonalds-culture-of-critique-and-the-alt-rights-embrace-of-anti-jewish-ideology/>.

“What the Alt-Right Gets Wrong about Jews” (with J. Anomaly), *Quillette*, March 15, 2018, <https://quillette.com/2018/03/15/alt-right-gets-wrong-jews/>.

“PC Corporate Culture Is a Plague that Government Helps Spread,” *The Weekly Standard*, August 24, 2017, <https://www.washingtonexaminer.com/weekly-standard/pc-corporate-culture-is-a-plague-that-government-helps-spread>.

“Dadaist Science,” *The Weekly Standard*, July 13, 2017, <https://www.washingtonexaminer.com/weekly-standard/dadaist-science>.

“When Accusations Lose Their Bite,” *Quillette*, May 22, 2017, <https://quillette.com/2017/05/22/accusations-lose-bite/>.

“Are College Admissions Officers Equipped to Judge Who Is Ethical?,” *National Review Online*, June 28, 2016, <https://www.nationalreview.com/2016/06/college-admissions-ethical-students-need-apply/>.

INVITED TALKS

“A Defense of Free Inquiry into the Cause of Population Differences,” Brown Bag Meeting of the Institute of Psychology, Chemnitz University of Technology (May 10, 2023).

“A Debunking Explanation for Moral Progress,” The (Meta)Ethics of Moral Progress, Utrecht University (January 17, 2020).

“Jewish Overrepresentation in Liberal Intellectual Movements: A Conspiracy?,” Department of Economics and International Studies, University of Buckingham (November 28, 2018).

TEACHING

University of Cambridge

Undergraduate expended essay supervision, St John’s College (Lent Term 2023)

Undergraduate Part IB Ethics paper supervisions, St Catharine’s College (Michaelmas Term 2022)

Lingnan University

Evolution and Human Nature (co-instructor with Neven Sesardić; Fall 2012, Spring 2014, Spring 2015)

REFEREEING

American Journal of Psychology, American Philosophical Quarterly, Analysis, Antisemitism Studies, The British Journal for the Philosophy of Science, Critical Reviews in Food Science and Nutrition, DIEGESIS, Erkenntnis, Evolutionary Behavioral Sciences, Evolutionary Psychological Science, Foundations of Science, Inquiry, Journal of Business Research, Journal of Controversial Ideas, Journal of Human Nutrition and Dietetics, Journal of Philosophical Research, Journal of the Royal Anthropological Institute, Nutrition Reviews, Philosophia, Philosophy of Science, Philosophy of the Social Sciences, Ratio, Society for Philosophy and Psychology, Sociological Methods & Research

REFERENCES

Alexander Bird
Bertrand Russell Professor of Philosophy
University of Cambridge
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Roger Crisp
Professor of Moral Philosophy
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Distinguished Professor of Psychology
Oakland University
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