Updated September 2026

CURRICULUM VITAE

Nathan Cofnas

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AREAS OF RESEARCH

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

EMPLOYMENT

Ghent University
Postdoc, Department of Philosophy and Moral Sciences, 2026–present

University of Cambridge
Leverhulme Early Career Fellow, Faculty of Philosophy, 2022–2025

EDUCATION

University of Oxford
DPhil in Philosophy, Balliol College, 2021

University of Cambridge
MPhil (Distinction) in History and Philosophy of Science, Darwin College, 2016

Lingnan University
Hong Kong PhD Fellow, Philosophy Department, 2012–2015

Columbia University
BA in Philosophy, Columbia College, 2011

PAPERS

"Natural Selection Requires No Teleology in Addition to Heritable Variation in Fitness," *Biology & Philosophy* 39, no. 4 (2024): 18.

"Still No Evidence for a Jewish Group Evolutionary Strategy," *Evolutionary Psychological Science* 9, no. 2 (2023): 236–259.

- >50,000 downloads.

"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.
- >40,000 downloads.

"Are Moral Norms Rooted in Instincts? The Sibling Incest Taboo as a Case Study," *Biology & Philosophy* 35, no. 5 (2020): 47.
- >35,000 downloads.

"A Debunking Explanation for Moral Progress," *Philosophical Studies* 177, no. 11 (2020): 3171–3191.
- >10,000 downloads.

"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. >150,000 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. >60,000 downloads.

"Is Kevin MacDonald's Theory of Judaism 'Plausible'? A Response to Dutton (2018)," *Evolutionary Psychological Science* 5, no. 1 (2019): 143–150.
- >20,000 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. >90,000 downloads.

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

"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. >120,000 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 I Became the Scapegoat in the Jason Arday Affair," *Wall Street Journal,* August 21, 2026, https://www.wsj.com/opinion/free-expression/how-i-became-the-scapegoat-in-the-jason-arday-affair-dc134088.

"DEI Fraud and Cover-Up at Cambridge," *Nathan Cofnas's Newsletter,* July 21, 2026, https://ncofnas.com/p/dei-fraud-and-cover-up-at-cambridge.

"Cambridge University's War on Free Speech," *Nathan Cofnas's Newsletter,* May 11, 2026, https://ncofnas.com/p/cambridge-universitys-war-on-free.

"Don't Scapegoat Women," *Nathan Cofnas's Newsletter,* January 7, 2026, https://ncofnas.com/p/dont-scapegoat-women.

"Beating Woke with Facts and Logic," *Nathan Cofnas's Newsletter,* October 9, 2025, https://ncofnas.com/p/beating-woke-with-facts-and-logic.

"Podcast Bros and Brain Rot," *Nathan Cofnas's Newsletter,* May 5, 2025, https://ncofnas.com/p/podcast-bros-and-brain-rot.

"MAGA Communism and the End of America," *Nathan Cofnas's Newsletter,* April 4, 2025, https://ncofnas.com/p/maga-communism-and-the-end-of-america.

"Was I Wrong about Woke?," *Nathan Cofnas's Newsletter,* January 29, 2025, https://ncofnas.com/p/was-i-wrong-about-woke.

"Wokism Is Just Beginning," *Nathan Cofnas's Newsletter,* October 29, 2024, https://ncofnas.com/p/wokism-is-just-beginning.

"Thomas Sowell's Wishful Thinking about Race," *Nathan Cofnas's Newsletter,* August 12, 2024, https://ncofnas.com/p/thomas-sowells-wishful-thinking-about.

"Are Smart People Superior? A Reply to Noah Carl and Charles Murray," *Nathan Cofnas's Newsletter,* April 26, 2024, https://ncofnas.com/p/are-smart-people-superior-a-reply.

"A Guide for the Hereditarian Revolution," *Nathan Cofnas's Newsletter,* February 5, 2024, https://ncofnas.com/p/a-guide-for-the-hereditarian-revolution.

"Why We Need to Talk about the Right's Stupidity Problem," *Nathan Cofnas's Newsletter,* January 2, 2024, https://ncofnas.com/p/why-we-need-to-talk-about-the-rights.

"Twilight of the Liberal Jew," *The Critic,* September 19, 2023, https://thecritic.co.uk/twilight-of-the-liberal-jew/.

"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://academicquestions.org/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://web.archive.org/web/20180816043444/http://www.weeklystandard.com/dadaist-science/article/2008803.

"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 AND CONFERENCES

"The Logic of Wokism," Catholic Flemish Student Association – Ghent (April 2, 2026).

"Endogamy, Ethnicity, and Immigration," Philosophy, Politics, and Economics Society: Ninth Annual Meeting (November 15, 2025).

"Challenges to Interdisciplinarity and Consilience," Integrating Science & Humanities, University of Chicago John W. Boyer Center in Paris (February 21, 2025).

"Agency in Human Evolution," Integrating Science & Humanities, University of Chicago John W. Boyer Center in Paris (February 21, 2025).

"Woke Academia," Freedom Society, University of Exeter (November 4, 2024).

"Race and the Origins of Wokism," Classical Liberalism Initiative, Stanford University (September 5, 2024).

"The Rise of Liberalism," Ghent University (May 17, 2024).

"Is Evolution Directed?," Serious Metaphysics Group, University of Cambridge (October 12, 2023).

"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 Part II Ethics paper supervisions, Wolfson College (Michaelmas Term 2023)

Undergraduate extended 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)

ADMINISTRATION

University of Cambridge

MPhil examiner, Faculty of Philosophy, Michaelmas Term 2023

Host for a graduate student from Collegio Ghislieri, Italy, Summer 2023

College Research Associates Committee, Research Subcommittee, Emmanuel College, 2023–2024

REFEREEING

American Journal of Psychology, American Philosophical Quarterly (3x), *Analysis, Antisemitism Studies, Asian Journal of Philosophy, Biology & Philosophy,* Bloomsbury Academic, *The British Journal for the Philosophy of Science* (3x), *Critical Reviews in Food Science and Nutrition, Current Nutrition Reports, Diegesis, Erasmus Journal for Philosophy and Economics, Erkenntnis, Evolutionary Behavioral Sciences, Evolutionary Psychological Science* (4x), *Foundations of Science, Frontiers in Nutrition, Futures, Inquiry, Journal of Business Research, Journal of Controversial Ideas* (11x), *Journal of Human Nutrition and Dietetics, Journal of Philosophical Research, Journal of Social Philosophy, Journal of the Royal Anthropological Institute, Neuroethics, Nutrition Reviews, Philosophia* (4x), *Philosophical Psychology, The Philosophical Quarterly* (3x), *Philosophy of Science, Philosophy of the Social Sciences, Ratio,* Routledge, *Social Problems,* Society for Philosophy and Psychology, *Sociological Methods & Research, Synthese*

REFERENCES

Available on request.