

Dorsa Amir

Boston College, Department of Psychology

www.dorsaamir.com | @DorsaAmir

dorsa.amir@bc.edu

ACADEMIC POSITIONS

2018 - now: **Postdoctoral Research Fellow**
Boston College, Department of Psychology
Adviser: Katherine McAuliffe

EDUCATION

2018: **Yale University**
Ph.D. in Biological Anthropology
Committee: Richard Bribiescas, Claudia Valeggia, Yarrow Dunham

2012: **University of California, Los Angeles**
B.S. in Anthropology, *cum laude*
Adviser: Daniel M.T. Fessler

PEER-REVIEWED PUBLICATIONS

[Click ↗ to access the papers]

2019: **Amir D.**, Valeggia C.R., Srinivasan, M., Sugiyama L.S., Dunham Y. Measuring subjective social status in children of diverse societies. *PLoS ONE*. ↗

2019: **Amir D.**, Jordan M.R., McAuliffe K., Valeggia C.R., Sugiyama L.S., Bribiescas R.G., Snodgrass J.J., Dunham Y. The developmental origins of risk and time preferences across diverse populations. *Journal of Experimental Psychology: General*. ↗

2019: Cepon-Robins T.J., Schrock J., Eick G., Bedbury A., Liebert M.A., Urlacher S.S., Madimenos F.C., Harrington C.J., **Amir D.**, Bribiescas R.G., Sugiyama L.S., Snodgrass J.J. Soil-transmitted helminth infection & intestinal inflammation among the Shuar of Amazonian Ecuador. *American Journal of Physical Anthropology*. ↗

2018: **Amir D.***, Jordan M.R.* , Rand D. An uncertainty management perspective on long-run impacts of adversity: The influence of childhood socioeconomic status on risk, time, and social preferences. *Journal of Experimental Social Psychology*. ↗

- 2018: Bryant G.A., Fessler D.M.T., Fusaroli R., Clint E., **Amir D.**, Chavez B., Denton K.K., Diaz C., et al. The perception of spontaneous and volitional laughter across 21 societies. *Psychological Science*. ↗
- 2017: **Amir D.**, Jordan M.R. The behavioral constellation of deprivation may be best understood as risk management. Response to Pepper & Nettle's "The Behavioural Constellation of Deprivation: Causes and Consequences". *Behavioral and Brain Sciences*. ↗
- 2016: Jordan M.R., **Amir D.**, Bloom P. Are empathy and concern psychologically distinct? *Emotion*. ↗
- 2016: Polous A.M., Mehta N., **Amir D.**, Zhuravka I., Reger M.L., Fanselow M.S. Conditioning- and time-dependent increases in context fear and generalization. *Learning and Memory*. ↗
- 2016: **Amir D.**, Jordan M.R., Bribiescas R.G. A longitudinal assessment of associations between early life environment, adversity perception, and economic status on fertility and age of menarche. *PLoS ONE*. ↗
- 2016: Urlacher S.S., Liebert M.A., Snodgrass J.J., Blackwell A.D., Cepon-Robins T.J., Gildner T.E., Madimenos F.C., **Amir D.**, Bribiescas R.G., Sugiyama L.S. Heterogeneous effects of market integration on subadult body size and nutritional status among the Shuar of Amazonian Ecuador. *Annals of Human Biology*. ↗
- 2016: **Amir D.**, Jordan M.R., Rand D.G. Cultural evolution need not imply group selection. Response to Richerson et al.'s "Cultural Group Selection Plays an Essential Role in Explaining Human Cooperation: A Sketch of the Evidence". *Behavioral and Brain Sciences*. ↗
- 2015: **Amir D.**, Ellison P.T., Hill K.R., Bribiescas R.G. Diurnal variation in salivary cortisol across age classes in Ache Amerindian males of Paraguay. *American Journal of Human Biology* 27(3):344-348. ↗
- 2013: **Amir D.***, Fessler D.M.T.F.* Boots for Achilles: Progesterone's down-regulation of cholesterol is a second-order adaptation. *Quarterly Review of Biology* 88(2): 97-116.↗
- 2012: Long V., Fujioka W., **Amir D.**, Fanselow M. Pharmacological resistance of stress enhanced fear learning in an animal model of post-traumatic stress disorder. *Anxiety Disorders / Book 2*. InTech Publishing. ↗

MANUSCRIPTS IN REVISION

- In revision:* **Amir D.**, McAuliffe K. Cross-cultural developmental psychology: Integrating approaches and key insights. *Evolution and Human Behavior*.

In revision: **Amir D.**, Warneken F., Blake P., Callaghan T.C., Corbin J., Barry O., Bowie A., Kleutsch L., Kramer K.L., Wrangham R., Ross E., Vongsachang H., McAuliffe K. Beyond choice: Signatures of inequity aversion in children across seven societies.

In revision: Ahl R., **Amir D.**, Keil F. The world within: Children are sensitive to internal complexity cues.

Submitted: **Amir D.**, Parsons W.S., Ahl R., McAuliffe K. Children are more forgiving of accidental harms across development.

GRANTS, FELLOWSHIPS, & HONORS

- 2018-2021:* John Templeton Foundation, “Building Virtue: Environmental and social influences on the development of fairness, forgiveness, honesty, and trustworthiness” with Katherine McAuliffe and Liane Young (\$946,264) ↗
- 2019:* Boston College Postdoctoral Association Travel Grant
- 2017:* Cognitive Development Society Diversity Travel Award
- 2016:* Yale MacMillan International Dissertation Research Fellowship (\$17,600)
- 2013:* Yale Albert Williams Fund
- 2014:* Yale Schwartz Family Foundation Fund
- 2014:* Yale Latin American & Iberian Studies Tinker Grant

MEDIA COVERAGE

- “Personality is not only about who but also where you are”. *Aeon Magazine*. ↗
- “How Does Your Childhood Environment Shape Your Preferences as an Adult?” *ScienceTrends*. ↗
- “Can You Tell a Real Laugh from a Fake One?”. *Science Magazine*. ↗
- “You’re Not Fooling Everyone with Your Pretend Laughter”. *The Washington Post*. ↗
- “Empathy is Nice, But It’s Not Exactly Necessary”. *New York Magazine*. ↗
- “The Perils of Empathy”. *The Wall Street Journal*. ↗

INVITED TALKS

- 2020:* Max Planck Institute for Evolutionary Anthropology, Comparative Cultural Psychology Seminar. Leipzig, Germany.
- 2020:* York University, Department of Psychology eSeminar. York, UK.

- 2020: Social Cognitive Neuroscience Lab Meeting, MIT, Cambridge, MA.
- 2020: Harvard Graduate School of Education Colloquium, Cambridge, MA.
- 2020: Harvard Psych-Ed Meeting, Cambridge, MA. (*Canceled due to COVID-19*)
- 2020: Northeastern Social/Personality Area Meeting, Boston, MA. (*Canceled due to COVID-19*)
- 2020: Dartmouth Department of Anthropology Colloquium, Hanover, NH. (*Canceled due to COVID-19*)
- 2020: Emory Department of Anthropology Colloquium, Atlanta, GA.
- 2020: Johns Hopkins Department of Psychological & Brain Sciences, Baltimore, MD.
- 2020: Stanford Department of Psychology Colloquium, Stanford, CA.
- 2019: Early Childhood Cognition Lab Meeting, MIT, Cambridge, MA.
- 2019: Boston University Social Development & Learning Lab, Boston, MA.
- 2019: UC Berkeley Developmental Colloquium, Berkeley, CA.
- 2019: Harvard Women in Psychology Trends in Psychology Summit, Harvard University, Cambridge, MA.
- 2018: Cognition, Brain, and Behavior Seminar, Harvard University, Cambridge, MA.
- 2018: Monday Seminar, Columbia University, New York City, NY.
- 2018: Human Evolutionary Biology Colloquium, Harvard University, Cambridge, MA.
- 2017: Lab for Experimental Evolutionary Psychology, University of Pennsylvania, Philadelphia, PA.
- 2016: Evolutionary Psychology Lab, Harvard University, Cambridge, MA.

SCIENCE COMMUNICATION & OUTREACH

- 2019: What's Missing From Childhood Today? *WGBH Boston*. ↗
- 2019: Human Vestigial Structures. *TED-Ed Lesson*. ↗
- 2019: We have slashed & burned the core features of childhood. *The Washington Post*. ↗
- 2019: How Industrialization Changed Childhood. *TED | TEDxCambridge*. ↗
- 2019: Evolutionary Anthropology Live Phone-In. *BBC Radio Five Live*. ↗
- 2019: "Are We Still Evolving?" *BrainsOn* podcast. ↗
- 2017: Love, Death, and Other Forgotten Traditions. *Nautilus Magazine*. ↗

CONFERENCE ACTIVITY

[first author only]

Amir D. (*Forthcoming*) “The ontogeny of social decision-making across diverse cultural contexts”. Talk at the 2020 Cognitive Science meeting.

Amir D. (2020) “Best practices for cross-cultural research networks”. Talk at the “Building sustainable global collaborative research networks” symposium. New York, NY. (*Canceled due to COVID-19*)

Amir D. (2020) “The development of decision-making across diverse contexts”. Talk at the international Symposium on Biology of Decision-Making in Paris, France.

Amir D. (2020) “The development of decision-making across diverse contexts”. Talk at the Society for Cross-Cultural Research Meeting in Seattle, WA.

(Part of larger **organized symposium**: “Developing frameworks for understanding cross-cultural variation in child development”)

Invited discussion leader. (2019) “Integrated approaches to research on culture: Professional and practical considerations”. Human Behavior and Evolution Society Meeting in Boston, MA.

Amir D., Parsons W.S., McAuliffe K. (2019) “The dual roles of intent and remorse in the development of forgiveness”. Talk at the Human Behavior and Evolution Society Meeting in Boston, MA.

Amir D., Ahl R.E., Dunham Y. (2019) “Children make increasingly optimal decisions about risk throughout development”. Poster at the Society for Research in Child Development Biennial Meeting, Baltimore, MD.

Amir D., Ahl R.E., Young L., McAuliffe K. (2019) “The development of virtue”. Talk at the Reasoning in Moral Thought and Action Workshop, Boston, MA.

Amir D., Jordan M.R., McAuliffe K., Vallengia C.R., Sugiyama L.S., Bribiescas R.G., Snodgrass J.J., Dunham Y. (2017) “Risk & time preferences as adaptive strategies: An evolutionary and cross-cultural perspective”. Talk presented at the American Anthropological Association meeting, San Jose, CA.

Amir D., Jordan M.R., McAuliffe K., Vallengia C.R., Sugiyama L.S., Bribiescas R.G., Snodgrass J.J., Dunham Y. (2018) “The developmental origins of patience: Evidence from diverse cultures ” Talk at SRCD — Promoting Character Development Among Diverse Children and Adolescents: The Roles of Families, Schools, and Out-Of-School-Time Youth Development Programs, Philadelphia, PA.

Amir D., Jordan M.R., McAuliffe K., Vallengia C.R., Sugiyama L.S., Bribiescas R.G., Snodgrass J.J., Dunham Y. (2017) “Risk & time preferences as adaptive strategies: An evolutionary and

cross-cultural perspective”. Talk presented at the Human Behavior and Evolution Society meeting, Boise, ID.

Amir D., Jordan M.R., McAuliffe K., Vallengia C.R., Sugiyama L.S., Bribiescas R.G., Snodgrass J.J., Dunham Y. (2017) “Cross-cultural variation in children’s risk and time preferences”. Talk at the Cognitive Development Society Biannual Meeting, Portland, OR.

(Part of larger **organized symposium**: “Exploring cross-cultural variation in the development of children’s attitudes toward risk”)

Amir D., Dunham Y., McAuliffe K., Jordan M.R., Liebert M., Snodgrass J., Urlacher S., Madimenos F., Sugiyama L., Bribiescas R.G. (2016). “Socioeconomic environment, intertemporal choice, and risky decision-making among Shuar children”. Poster at the Human Biology Association Annual Meeting; Atlanta, GA.

Amir D., Jordan M.R., Bribiescas R.G. (2015). “A longitudinal assessment of associations between early life environment, adversity perception, and economic status on fertility and age of menarche”. Poster at the Northeastern Evolutionary Psychology Society Meeting; Boston, MA.

Amir D., Jordan M.R., Bribiescas R.G. (2015). “A longitudinal assessment of associations between early life environment, adversity perception, and economic status on fertility and age of menarche”. Poster at the Yale Day of Data; New Haven, CT.

Amir D., Jordan M.R., Bribiescas R.G. (2015). “A longitudinal assessment of associations between early life environment, adversity perception, and economic status on fertility and age of menarche”. Poster at the Human Biology Association Annual Meeting; St. Louis, MO.

Amir D., Fessler D.M.T.F. (2013) “Boots for Achilles: Progesterone’s Down-Regulation of Cholesterol is a Second-Order Adaptation.” Poster at the CA Workshop on Evolutionary Perspectives of Human Behavior; San Luis Obispo, CA.

FIELD EXPERIENCE

2019: **Kabarole District, Uganda.** The Kasiisi Project.
2016 - present: **Gujarat, India,** Berkeley LCD Lab & Yale SCD Lab
2014 - present: **Ecuador,** Shuar Health and Life History Project
2012 - 13: **Azrou, Morocco,** U of Lincoln Barbary Macaque Project

ACADEMIC & COMMUNITY SERVICE

2018 - 2019: Treasurer, *Women of HBES*
2017-18: Co-Founder/Organizer, *Harvard-Yale Conference on Human Evolution*

2017: Mentor, UC Berkeley LCD Lab Research Internship
2015: Co-Founder/Coordinator, *Yale Conversations in Cognition Series*
2015: Yale Humanist Society, STEAMM Mentoring Service Program
2014-15: Yale Graduate Affiliate Mentorship Program, Trumbull College
2013-17: Webmaster & Online Coordinator, Yale University Anthropology
2011-12: Administrator, *UCLA Behavior, Evolution, & Culture Speaker Series*
2008-13: Project Director, *UCLA InterAxon Neuroscience Outreach Group*

TEACHING & MENTORSHIP

Teaching Fellow: Introduction to Biological Anthropology, Instructor: David Watts
Human Evolutionary Biology, Instructor: Claudia Valeggia
Introduction to Cognitive Science, Instructor: Brian Scholl

Guest Lecturer: Yale University, Boston College, University of New Haven

Mentorship: *Senior Thesis Advisory:* Shelby Parsons, Boston College, class of '20
Research Mentorship: Erica Luzzi (Tufts), Nicole Russo (BC),
Ava Schiebler (BC), Sidney Saint-Hilaire (Yale),
Vanessa Liu (Yale), Shangzan Liu (U Rochester),
Marya Husary (SCU)

PROFESSIONAL ACTIVITIES

Ad-Hoc Reviewer: *Proceedings of the Royal Society: B, Developmental Science, American Journal of Human Biology, Human Nature, Evolution and Human Behavior, Evolutionary Psychological Science, Social Psychological and Personality Science, Frontiers in Psychology, Evolutionary Human Sciences, Evolutionary Psychology, Public Library of Science (PLoS), Child Development*

Member: Cognitive Development Society, Human Biology Association, Association for Psychological Science, Society for Research in Child Development, Human Behavior and Evolution Society

COLLABORATIVE RESEARCH NETWORKS

2019 - present: Director of Outreach, *Forager Child Studies Research Group* ↗
2018 - present: Executive Committee Member, *Culture & Ontogeny Research Initiative* ↗
2018 - present: Researcher, *The Virtue Project at Boston College* ↗
2014 - present: Senior Member, *Shuar Health & Life History Project* ↗