

# Mason Youngblood

Minds & Traditions Research Group  
Max Planck Institute for the Science of Human History

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## EDUCATION

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- **Graduate Center, CUNY** New York, NY  
*PhD in Animal Behavior and Comparative Psychology*  
Dissertation: “From psychology to phylogeny: bridging levels of analysis in cultural evolution”  
April 2021
- **Graduate Center, CUNY** New York, NY  
*Master of Philosophy in Psychology*  
February 2020
- **Hunter College, CUNY** New York, NY  
*Master of Arts in Psychology*  
January 2018
- **University of South Carolina, Honors College** Columbia, SC  
*Bachelor of Science in Biology, Minors in Neuroscience and Anthropology, 3.87 GPA*  
May 2015

## EXTERNAL COURSEWORK

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- **University of Southern Denmark** Odense, DK  
*Acoustic Communication - Methods and techniques for studying animal sound communication*  
August 2017

## TEACHING

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- **Genspace, Community Biology Lab** Brooklyn, NY  
*Instructor*
  - Models of Cultural Transmission in Human Populations (Interactive Coding Workshop): May 2021 (4 hours)
- **Queens College, CUNY** Flushing, NY  
*Teaching Assistant*
  - Introduction to College Biology (BIOL 011): Spring 2020 (3 credits), Fall 2019 (3 credits), Spring 2019 (6 credits)
  - Principles of Evolutionary Biology (BIOL 287 & 587): Fall 2020 (6 credits), Fall 2019 (3 credits), Fall 2018 (6 credits), Fall 2017 (3 credits)
  - Animal Behavior (BIOL 345W & 685): Spring 2021 (3 credits), Spring 2018 (4 credits)
- **Hunter College, CUNY** New York, NY  
*Instructor*
  - General Experimental Psychology (PSYCH 25000): Spring 2017 (4 credits), Fall 2016 (4 credits)
- **Hunter College, CUNY** New York, NY  
*Teaching Assistant*
  - General Experimental Psychology (PSYCH 25000): Spring 2016 (4 credits), Fall 2015 (4 credits)
  - Neuroscience (PSYCH 22400): Spring 2016 (3 credits)
  - Personality Psychology (PSYCH 22000): Fall 2015 (3 credits)

## PUBLICATIONS & SOFTWARE

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### • Journal Articles

- [1] Youngblood, M., Baraghith, K., & Savage, P. E. (2021). Phylogenetic reconstruction of the cultural evolution of electronic music via dynamic community detection (1975–1999). *Evolution & Human Behavior*, 42(6). DOI: 10.1016/j.evolhumbehav.2021.06.002
- [2] Kornreich, A., Youngblood, M., Mundinger, P. C., & Lahti, D. C. Female song can be as long and complex as male song in wild house finches (*Haemorhous mexicanus*). *The Wilson Journal of Ornithology*, 132(4). DOI: 10.1676/19-00126
- [3] Youngblood, M. (2020). Extremist ideology as a complex contagion: the spread of far-right radicalization in the United States between 2005 and 2017. *Humanities & Social Sciences Communications*, 7(49). DOI: 10.1057/s41599-020-00546-3

- [4] Youngblood, M. (2020). A Raspberry Pi-based, RFID-equipped birdfeeder for the remote monitoring of wild bird populations. *Ringling & Migration*. DOI: 10.1080/03078698.2019.1759908
- [5] Youngblood, M. (2019). Conformity bias in the cultural transmission of music sampling traditions. *Royal Society Open Science*, 6(9). DOI: 10.1098/rsos.191149
- [6] Youngblood, M. (2019). Cultural transmission modes of music sampling traditions remain stable despite delocalization in the digital age. *PLoS ONE*, 14(2). DOI: 10.1371/journal.pone.0211860
- [7] Youngblood, M., & Lahti, D. (2018). A bibliometric analysis of the interdisciplinary field of cultural evolution. *Palgrave Communications*, 4(120). DOI: 10.1057/s41599-018-0175-8

• **Preprints**

- [8] Youngblood, M., Stubbersfield, J. M., Morin, O., Glassman, R., & Acerbi, A. (2021). Cultural transmission bias in the spread of voter fraud conspiracy theories on Twitter during the 2020 US election. *PsyArXiv*. DOI: 10.31234/osf.io/2jksg
- [9] Youngblood, M., Ozaki, Y., & Savage, P. E. (2021). Cultural evolution and music. *PsyArXiv*. DOI: 10.31234/osf.io/xsb7v
- [10] Youngblood, M., & Lahti, D. (2021). Content bias in the cultural evolution of house finch song. *bioRxiv*. DOI: 10.1101/2021.03.05.434109
- [11] GomezdelaTorre Clavel, M. G., Youngblood, M., & Lahti, D. (2020). Relationship between personality and cognitive traits in domestic rabbits (*Oryctolagus cuniculus*). *bioRxiv*. DOI: 10.1101/2020.10.12.336024

• **Other**

- [12] Youngblood, M. (2021, Spring). Birdsong diversity in the urban environment. *Plot, Vol. 10: X*. URL: <https://www.plotjournal.com/issues>
- [13] Friedman, A. & Youngblood, M. (2020, June). Poorer cities spend more of budget on police, even where crime is lower. *Sludge*. URL: <https://bit.ly/2BhR5H4>
- [14] Youngblood, M. (2019, June). A study of collaborative sampling across international networks. *Red Bull Music Academy Daily*. URL: <https://win.gs/2xc9v6s>

• **Software**

- [15] Youngblood, M. (2021). *TransmissionBias*: agent-based model of biased cultural transmission (R package). URL: <https://github.com/masonyoungblood/TransmissionBias>
- [16] Youngblood, M. (2020). *DynCommPhylo*: phylogenetic reconstruction via dynamic community detection (R package). URL: <https://github.com/masonyoungblood/DynCommPhylo>

PRESENTATIONS

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(\*invited)

• **Talks**

- New America Foundation, Digging into the Data on January 6 (Washington, DC, December 2021): Cultural transmission bias in the spread of voter fraud conspiracy theories on Twitter during the 2020 US election
- \*Queens College, Biology Department Colloquium (Flushing, NY, October 2021): From psychology to phylogeny: bridging levels of analysis in cultural evolution
- \*Early Career Social Learning Researcher's Society (Virtual Meeting, October 2021): Cultural transmission bias in the spread of voter fraud conspiracy theories on Twitter during the 2020 US election
- \*Max Planck Institute for Evolutionary Anthropology, Theory in Cultural Evolution Lab (Leipzig, DE, September 2021): Cultural transmission bias in the spread of voter fraud conspiracy theories on Twitter during the 2020 US election
- \*Max Planck Institute for Evolutionary Anthropology, Department of Linguistic and Cultural Evolution (Leipzig, DE, September 2021): From psychology to phylogeny: bridging levels of analysis in cultural evolution
- \*University of Pennsylvania, Social and Cultural Evolution Working Group (Philadelphia, PA, September 2021): From psychology to phylogeny: bridging levels of analysis in cultural evolution
- Cultural Evolution Society Conference (Virtual Meeting, June 2021): Content bias in the cultural evolution of house finch song

- \*International Council on Systems Engineering, Social Systems Working Group (Virtual Meeting, May 2021): Agent-based modeling and generative inference in cultural evolution
  - \*Animal Behavior at Queens College (Flushing, NY, May 2021): Cultural evolution
  - European Human Behaviour and Evolution Association (Virtual Conference, March 2021): Phylogenetic reconstruction of the cultural evolution of electronic music via dynamic community detection (1975–1999)
  - \*Thinking About the Cultural Evolution of Thinking Workshop (Düsseldorf, DE, January 2021): Inferring cognitive phenomena from cultural evolutionary patterns
  - \*Principles of Evolutionary Biology at Queens College (Flushing, NY, November 2020): Cultural evolution
  - Animal Behavior Society (Virtual Conference, July 2020): A Raspberry Pi-based, RFID-equipped birdfeeder for the remote monitoring of wild bird populations
  - Cultural Evolution Society Conference (Tempe, AZ, October 2018): The cultural transmission of sampling traditions in a network of musical collaborators
  - Cultural Evolution Society Conference (Tempe, AZ, October 2018): A bibliometric analysis of interdisciplinary collaboration in the field of cultural evolution
  - Cognition and Comparative Psychology Colloquium at the Graduate Center (New York, NY, September 2018): Pattern and process in cultural evolution
  - \*Principles of Evolutionary Biology at Queens College (Flushing, NY, September 2018): Genes, development, and environment
  - International Behavioral Ecology Congress (Minneapolis, MN, August 2018): A bibliometric analysis of interdisciplinary collaboration in the field of cultural evolution
  - Applications in Cultural Evolution Conference (Tartu, EE, June 2018): The cultural transmission of sampling traditions in a network of musical collaborators
  - Applications in Cultural Evolution Conference (Tartu, EE, June 2018): A bibliometric analysis of interdisciplinary collaboration in the field of cultural evolution
  - Queens College Biology Symposium (Flushing, NY, January 2018): A bibliometric analysis of interdisciplinary collaboration in the field of cultural evolution
  - \*Principles of Evolutionary Biology at Queens College (Flushing, NY, November 2017): Cultural evolution
  - Cultural Evolution Society Conference (Jena, DE, September 2017): A bibliometric analysis of interdisciplinary collaboration in the field of cultural evolution
  - South Carolina Junior Academy of Science Annual Meeting (Orangeburg, SC, April 2011): Characterization of gene function in the epithelium of female *Drosophila melanogaster* egg chambers by using in vivo RNA interference
  - South Carolina Governor’s School for Science and Math Annual Research Colloquium (Hartsville, SC, February 2011): Characterization of gene function in the epithelium of female *Drosophila melanogaster* egg chambers by using in vivo RNA interference
- **Posters**
    - Animal Behavior Society (Twitter Conference, January 2021): Transmission bias in the cultural evolution of house finch song
    - Psychology Research Day at the Graduate Center (New York, NY, March 2019): Cultural transmission modes of music sampling traditions remain stable despite delocalization in the digital age
    - SNAK Acoustic Communication Symposium (Faaborg, DE, August 2017): A bibliometric analysis of interdisciplinary collaboration in the field of cultural evolution
    - Queens College Biology Symposium (Flushing, NY, January 2017): A bibliometric analysis of interdisciplinary collaboration in the field of cultural evolution
    - UTEP Undergraduate Research Symposium (El Paso, TX, August 2013): The role of dopamine D2 receptor in brain development and ethanol-induced behavioral disinhibition

## AWARDS, GRANTS, & FELLOWSHIPS

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(\*personnel not PI)

- **External Sources**

- Sigma Xi Grant-In-Aid of Research (2018, \$1,000): The neural basis and spatiotemporal dynamics of female preferences for male bird song

- \*John Templeton Foundation (2016-2018, \$89,000): Towards a new synthesis for cultural evolution
- Summer Research Training, Methods in the Neuroscience of Drug Abuse, University of Texas at El Paso (2013): The role of dopamine D2 receptor in brain development and ethanol-induced behavioral disinhibition
- **Institutional Sources**
  - Doctoral Student Mini-Grant, Queens College (2018, \$500): A Raspberry Pi-based, RFID-equipped birdfeeder for the remote monitoring of wild bird populations
  - Doctoral Student Research Grant, Graduate Center (2018, \$1,000): The neural basis and spatiotemporal dynamics of female preferences for male bird song
  - Research Enhancement Award, Queens College (2017, \$6,000): The neural basis and spatiotemporal dynamics of female preferences for male bird song
  - Science Undergraduate Research Fellowship (2012-2014): The epigenetic expression of dopamine receptor D4 in the deer mouse (*Peromyscus*)

## ADVISING

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- **Masters Students**
  - Macarena G. GomezdelaTorre Clavel (2019-2020): M.A. in Biology, Queens College - Relationship between personality and cognitive traits in domestic rabbits (*Oryctolagus cuniculus*)
  - Wendy Castillo (2019-Present): M.A. in Biology, Queens College - Cultural variation in the birdsong of Hawaiian house finches (*Haemorrhous mexicanus*)
- **Undergraduate & Postbaccalaureate Students**
  - Joderick Castillo (2019-Present): B.A. in Biology, Queens College
  - Ratna Kanhai (2019-Present): B.A. in Biology, Queens College
  - Rahhid Khan (2019): B.A. in Biology, Queens College
  - Sheila Gogineni (2019): B.A. in Psychology, Queens College
  - Christina Takos (2019): B.A. in Biology, Queens College
  - Sachin Surendra (2018-2019): B.A. in Biology, Queens College
  - Andrea Lopez (2018-2020): B.A. in Biology, Queens College
  - Shari Zimmerman (2017-2020): B.A. in Biology, Queens College
- **Committee Membership**
  - Macarena G. GomezdelaTorre Clavel (2019-2020): M.A. in Biology, Queens College - Relationship between personality and cognitive traits in domestic rabbits (*Oryctolagus cuniculus*)

## PROFESSIONAL SERVICE

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- The Association of Early-Career Social Learning Researchers (ESLR): Web Secretary and Committee Member: November 2021 - Present
- Animal Behavior Society: Twitter Management: March 2019 - August 2020
- Peer Reviewing: Nature Communications, Proceedings of the Royal Society B, Philosophical Transactions of the Royal Society B, Frontiers in Psychology, Cognitive Science, Animal Behaviour, Methods in Ecology and Evolution, PLOS ONE, Ornithology, Journal of Complex Networks, Humanities & Social Sciences Communications, Palgrave Communications, International Journal of Infectious Diseases

## CONSULTING WORK

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|---|------------------------------|
| <b>Listen</b>   | Brooklyn, NY                 |
| ● <i>Research consultant for product sound design</i>         | <i>October-November 2021</i> |
| <a href="https://wearelisten.com">https://wearelisten.com</a> |                              |

## PROGRAMMING SKILLS

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| ● <b>Languages:</b> R, Python, C++, Bash | <b>Technologies:</b> AWS, CUDA, TensorFlow |
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