

# Mason Youngblood

Max Planck Institute for Geoanthropology  
Minds & Traditions Research Group

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## PROFESSIONAL & EDUCATION EXPERIENCE

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- **Max Planck Institute for Geoanthropology (*f.k.a.* Science of Human History)** Jena, DE  
*Postdoctoral Researcher, Minds & Traditions Research Group* May 2021 - Present
- **Graduate Center, CUNY** New York, NY  
*PhD in Animal Behavior and Comparative Psychology* April 2021  
Dissertation: “From psychology to phylogeny: bridging levels of analysis in cultural evolution”  
Finalist, Richerson Award for Best PhD in Cultural Evolution (2022)
- **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

## 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), March 2022 (4 hours), January 2023 (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

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### • Journal Articles

- [1] **Youngblood, M.**, & Lahti, D. (2022). Content bias in the cultural evolution of house finch song. *Animal Behaviour*, 185. DOI: 10.1016/j.anbehav.2021.12.012
- [2] **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
- [3] Kornreich, A., **Youngblood, M.**, Mundinger, P. C., & Lahti, D. C. (2020). 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

- [4] **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
- [5] **Youngblood, M.** (2020). A Raspberry Pi-based, RFID-equipped birdfeeder for the remote monitoring of wild bird populations. *Ringing & Migration*. DOI: 10.1080/03078698.2019.1759908
- [6] **Youngblood, M.** (2019). Conformity bias in the cultural transmission of music sampling traditions. *Royal Society Open Science*, 6(9). DOI: 10.1098/rsos.191149
- [7] **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
- [8] **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

- **Book Chapters**

- [9] **Youngblood, M.**, Ozaki, Y., & Savage, P. E. (*in press*). Cultural evolution and music. *Oxford Handbook of Cultural Evolution*. DOI: 10.31234/osf.io/xsb7v

- **Preprints**

- [10] Falandays, J. B., Kaaronen, R. O., Moser, C., Rorot, W., Tan, J., Varma, V., Williams, T., & **Youngblood, M.** (2022). All intelligence is collective intelligence. *PsyArXiv*. DOI: 10.31234/osf.io/jhrp6
- [11] Sobchuk, O., **Youngblood, M.**, & Morin, O. (2022). First-mover advantage in the evolution of music genres. *SocArXiv*. DOI: 10.31235/osf.io/mnqv6
- [12] **Youngblood, M.**, Miton, H., & Morin, O. (2022). Signals of random copying in the cultural evolution of cattle brands are robust to time- and space-averaging. *PsyArXiv*. DOI: 10.31234/osf.io/h5t7b
- [13] **Youngblood, M.**, Stubbersfield, J. M., Morin, O., Glassman, R., & Acerbi, A. (2021). Negativity bias in the spread of voter fraud conspiracy theory tweets during the 2020 US election. *PsyArXiv*. DOI: 10.31234/osf.io/2jksg
- [14] GomezdeTorre 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

- **Popular Press**

- [15] Friedman, A. & **Youngblood, M.** (2022, April). Nobody defunded the police: a study. *The Real News Network*. URL: <https://bit.ly/3xCdDNw>
- [16] **Youngblood, M.** (2021, Spring). Birdsong diversity in the urban environment. *Plot, Vol. 10: X*. URL: <https://www.plotjournal.com/>
- [17] 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>
- [18] **Youngblood, M.** (2019, June). A study of collaborative sampling across international networks. *Red Bull Music Academy Daily*. URL: <https://win.gs/2xc9v6s>

## PRESENTATIONS

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- **Interactive Coding Workshops**

- University of Amsterdam, Social Learning Across the Lifespan and Generations (5th ESLR Workshop) (Amsterdam, NL, July 2022): Biased transmission and transformation in the cultural evolution of birdsong
- École Normale Supérieure, École des Hautes Études en Sciences Sociales (Paris, FR, April 2022): Biased transmission and transformation in the cultural evolution of birdsong

- **Invited Talks**

- Max Planck Institute for Empirical Aesthetics, Computational Auditory Perception Research Group (Frankfurt, DE, November 2022): Cultural evolutionary approaches to the study of contemporary music
- Institut Jean Nicod, Évolution & Cognition Sociale (Paris, FR, October 2022): Signals of random copying in the cultural evolution of cattle brands are boosted by time- and space-averaging

- Max Planck Institute for the Study of Human History, From Cultural Evolution to Computational Humanities: Building a Bridge (Jena, DE, June 2022): Cultural evolutionary approaches to the study of contemporary music
- Vrije Universiteit Amsterdam, Social Psychology Section (Amsterdam, NL, June 2022): Negativity bias in the spread of voter fraud conspiracy theory tweets during the 2020 US election
- University of Tennessee, Center for the Dynamics of Social Complexity (Knoxville, TN, April 2022): From psychology to phylogeny: bridging levels of analysis in cultural evolution
- Max Planck Institute for Evolutionary Anthropology, Department of Human Behavior, Ecology, and Culture (Leipzig, DE, April 2022): Distinctiveness, copying, and complexity in the cultural evolution of cattle brands
- Institut Jean Nicod, Évolution & Cognition Sociale (Paris, FR, February 2022): From psychology to phylogeny: bridging levels of analysis in cultural evolution
- 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
- International Council on Systems Engineering, Social Systems Working Group (Virtual Meeting, May 2021): Agent-based modeling and generative inference in cultural evolution
- Thinking About the Cultural Evolution of Thinking Workshop (Düsseldorf, DE, January 2021): Inferring cognitive phenomena from cultural evolutionary patterns
- Stony Brook University, Institute for Advanced Computational Sciences (Stony Brook, NY, January 2021): Bridging pattern and process in cultural evolution and social behavior
- The Graduate Center, CUNY, Cognition and Comparative Psychology Colloquium (New York, NY, September 2018): Pattern and process in cultural evolution
- Queens College, CUNY, Biology Symposium (Flushing, NY, January 2018): A bibliometric analysis of interdisciplinary collaboration in the field of cultural evolution
- **Invited Guest Teaching**
  - Queens College, CUNY, Animal Behavior (Flushing, NY, May 2021): Cultural evolution
  - Queens College, CUNY, Principles of Evolutionary Biology (Flushing, NY, November 2020): Cultural evolution
  - Queens College, CUNY, Principles of Evolutionary Biology (Flushing, NY, September 2018): Genes, development, and environment
  - Queens College, CUNY, Principles of Evolutionary Biology (Flushing, NY, November 2017): Cultural evolution
- **Conference Talks**
  - Cultural Evolution Society Conference (Aarhus, DK, September 2022): Signals of random copying in the cultural evolution of cattle brands are robust to time- and space-averaging
  - 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
  - Cultural Evolution Society Conference (Virtual Meeting, June 2021): Content bias in the cultural evolution of house finch song
  - 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)
  - 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

- 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
- 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
- **Conference Posters**
  - European Human Behaviour and Evolution Association (Virtual Conference, April 2022): Cultural transmission bias in the spread of voter fraud conspiracy theories on Twitter during the 2020 US election
  - 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

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## EXTERNAL COURSEWORK & SUMMER SCHOOLS

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| ● <b>Diverse Intelligences Summer Institute</b><br><i>Hosted by the University of St. Andrews and organized by the University of California in Los Angeles</i> | St. Andrews, UK<br><i>July-August 2022</i> |
| ● <b>Statistical Rethinking: A Bayesian Course with Examples in R and Stan</b><br><i>Hosted by the Max Planck Institute for Evolutionary Anthropology</i>      | Leipzig, DE<br><i>Spring 2022</i>          |
| ● <b>Acoustic Communication: Methods and Techniques for Studying Animal Sound</b><br><i>Hosted by the University of Southern Denmark</i>                       | Odense, DK<br><i>August 2017</i>           |

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## AWARDS, GRANTS, & FELLOWSHIPS

(\*personnel not PI)

- **Awards**
  - Finalist, Richerson Award for Best PhD in Cultural Evolution (2022)
- **External Grants**
  - Cultural Evolution Society Transformation Fund (2023, £18,000): Phylogenies of literature
  - Diverse Intelligences Summer Institute Fellowship, Templeton World Charity Foundation (2022, \$2,700)
  - 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 Grants**
  - 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 (2019-2021): B.A. in Biology, Queens College
- Ratna Kanhai (2019-2021): 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
- Ar Kornreich (2017-2019): 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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### • Event Organizing

- Max Planck Institute for the Study of Human History, From Cultural Evolution to Computational Humanities: Building a Bridge (Jena, DE): June 2022

### • Society Leadership

- 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

- Journals: Nature Communications, Proceedings of the Royal Society B, Philosophical Transactions of the Royal Society B, Royal Society Interface, PLOS Computational Biology, Frontiers in Psychology, Cognitive Science, Royal Society Open Science, Animal Behaviour, Methods in Ecology and Evolution, Journal of Animal Ecology, PLOS ONE, Ornithology, Animal Cognition, Journal of Complex Networks, Humanities & Social Sciences Communications, Palgrave Communications, International Journal of Infectious Diseases
- Grants: Cultural Evolution Society Transformation Fund (John Templeton Foundation)

## CONSULTING WORK

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### Listen

- *Research consultant for product sound design*  
<https://wearelisten.com>

Brooklyn, NY  
October-November 2021

## PROGRAMMING SKILLS

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- **Languages:** R, Python, C++, Bash

**Technologies:** AWS, CUDA, TensorFlow