

Mason Youngblood

Institute for Advanced Computational Science
Stony Brook University

Email: masonyoungblood@gmail.com

Phone: +1 (843) 307-7074

www.masonyoungblood.com

EMPLOYMENT

- **Stony Brook University** Stony Brook, NY
Postdoctoral Fellow, Institute for Advanced Computational Science *August 2023 - Present*
- **Max Planck Institute for Geoanthropology** Jena, DE
Postdoctoral Researcher, Minds & Traditions Research Group *May 2021 - May 2023*

EDUCATION

- **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

- **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

• Journal Articles

- [1] **Youngblood, M.** (2024). Language-like efficiency and structure in house finch song. *Proceedings of the Royal Society B*. DOI: 10.1098/rspb.2024.0250
- [2] **Youngblood, M.**, Stubbersfield, J. M., Morin, O., Glassman, R., & Acerbi, A. (2023). Negativity bias in the spread of voter fraud conspiracy theory tweets during the 2020 US election. *Humanities & Social Sciences Communications*, 10(573). DOI: 10.1057/s41599-023-02106-x

- [3] **Youngblood, M.**, Miton, H., & Morin, O. (2023). Statistical signals of copying are robust to time- and space-averaging. *Evolutionary Human Sciences*. DOI: 10.1017/ehs.2023.5
- [4] Falandays, J. B., Kaaronen, R. O., Moser, C., Rorot, W., Tan, J., Varma, V., Williams, T., & **Youngblood, M.** (2023). All intelligence is collective intelligence. *Journal of Multiscale Neuroscience*, 2(1). DOI: 10.56280/1564736810
- [5] **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
- [6] **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
- [7] 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 (*Haemorrhous mexicanus*). *The Wilson Journal of Ornithology*, 132(4). DOI: 10.1676/19-00126
- [8] **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
- [9] **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
- [10] **Youngblood, M.** (2019). Conformity bias in the cultural transmission of music sampling traditions. *Royal Society Open Science*, 6(9). DOI: 10.1098/rsos.191149
- [11] **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
- [12] **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**

- [13] **Youngblood, M.**, Ozaki, Y., & Savage, P. E. (2023). Cultural evolution and music. *Oxford Handbook of Cultural Evolution*. DOI: 10.1093/oxfordhb/9780198869252.013.42

- **Preprints**

- [14] Sobchuk, O., **Youngblood, M.**, & Morin, O. (2022). First-mover advantage in the evolution of music genres. *SocArXiv*. DOI: 10.31235/osf.io/mnzv6
- [15] 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**

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

PRESENTATIONS

- **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

- Institut Jean Nicod, Évolution & Cognition Sociale (Paris, FR, March 2024): Cultural conservatism: a theory and model
- Stony Brook University, Ecology and Evolution Colloquium (Stony Brook, NY, March 2024): Complexity and efficiency in birdsong
- Mercy University, Animal Behavior Seminar (Bronx, NY, February 2024): The evolution of complexity in birdsong
- Max Planck Institute for Evolutionary Anthropology, Cultural Evolution of the Arts Workshop (Leipzig, DE, November 2023): Towards a cultural phylogeny of English-language fiction
- University of Bristol, Technology, Cognition, and Democracy Group (Bristol, UK, October 2023): Negativity bias in the spread of voter fraud conspiracy theory tweets during the 2020 US election
- Stony Brook University, Institute for Advanced Computational Science (Stony Brook, NY, September 2023): Language-like efficiency and structure in house finch song
- Max Planck Institute for Geoanthropology, Cognitive Technologies Workshop (Leipzig, DE, April 2023): Collective decision-making, discovery dynamics, and the emergence of open-ended technological growth (presentation of working paper by James Winters and Mathieu Charbonneau)
- Max Planck Institute for Geoanthropology, Communicative Efficiency Workshop (Leipzig, DE, April 2023): Efficiency and complexity in house finch song
- Max Planck Institute for Evolutionary Anthropology, Department of Human Behavior, Ecology, and Culture (Leipzig, DE, April 2023): Status quo conservatism in coordination games: the role of negotiation costs and bargaining power
- 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 Workshop (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 Science (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**
 - Stony Brook University, Philosophy of Technology (Stony Brook, NY, December 2023): Negativity bias in the spread of voter fraud conspiracy theory tweets during the 2020 US election
 - Keio University, Evolution and Music (Tokyo, JP, December 2023): Cultural evolutionary approaches to the study of contemporary music
 - 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

EXTERNAL COURSEWORK & SUMMER SCHOOLS

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

AWARDS, GRANTS, & FELLOWSHIPS

(*personnel not PI)

- **Awards**
 - Finalist, Richerson Award for Best PhD in Cultural Evolution (2022)
- **Fellowships**
 - Postdoctoral Fellowship, Institute for Advanced Computational Science (2023, \$220,000)
 - Science Undergraduate Research Fellowship (2012-2014): The epigenetic expression of dopamine receptor D4 in the deer mouse (*Peromyscus*)
- **External Grants**
 - Advancing Cultural Evolution, Outreach Grant (2023, \$1,625): Non-human cultural extinction
 - Cultural Evolution Society Transformation Fund (2023, £17,774): 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

ADVISING

- **Masters Students**
 - Agnes Dietrich (2021-2022): M.A. in African Verbal and Visual Arts, University of Bayreuth
 - 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 (2019-2021): M.A. in Biology, Queens College - Cultural variation in the birdsong of Hawaiian house finches (*Haemorrhous mexicanus*)
- **Undergraduate & Postbaccalaureate Students**
 - Lilia Kurnosova (2021-2022): Friedrich Schiller University Jena
 - Elia Weber (2021-2022): Friedrich Schiller University Jena
 - 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

- **Journal Editing**

- Special Collection on Cultural Evolution of the Arts in *Evolutionary Human Sciences* (Co-edited with Oleg Sobchuk): October 2023 - Present

- **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

- **Event Organizing**

- ESLR Seminar Series [Weekly] (Virtual): May-June 2023
- Max Planck Institute for Geoanthropology, The Evolution of Cognitive Technologies [3-Day Workshop] (Leipzig, DE): April 2023
- Max Planck Institute for the Study of Human History, From Cultural Evolution to Computational Humanities: Building a Bridge [3-Day Workshop] (Jena, DE): June 2022

- **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*, *Journal of Language Evolution*, *PLOS ONE*, *Ornithology*, *npj Complexity*, *Animal Cognition*, *Journal of Complex Networks*, *Biology and Philosophy*, *Humanities and Social Sciences Communications*, *Palgrave Communications*, *International Journal of Infectious Diseases*
- Themed Issue Proposals: *Philosophical Transactions of the Royal Society B*
- Grants: Cultural Evolution Society Transformation Fund (John Templeton Foundation)
- Conferences: Computational Humanities Research Conference (2023)

CONSULTING & FREELANCE

- **Critica, Inc.**

- *Research Scientist, Algorithmic Bias and Automated Sentiment Detection*
Non-profit fighting health-related misinformation: <https://criticascience.org>

Bronx, NY

July 2023 - Present

- **We Are Listen, LLC**

- *Research Scientist, Psychology of Sound Design*
Design firm specializing in sonic branding: <https://wearelisten.com>

Brooklyn, NY

October 2021 - November 2021

PROGRAMMING SKILLS

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

Technologies: Stan, Torch, AWS, CUDA, TensorFlow