

Coltan Scrivner

Ph.D. Candidate
Department of Comparative Human Development
Fellow
Institute for Mind and Biology
The University of Chicago
Office Phone: (773) 834-4657
Email: cscrivner@uchicago.edu
Website: <https://www.coltanscrivner.com>

EDUCATION

- 2022 **PhD Comparative Human Development – Behavioral Biology**
The University of Chicago.
- 2016 **MS Forensic Science – Biology/ Chemistry with Honors**
University of Central Oklahoma.
- 2014 **BA with Honors in Anthropology,**
Minors in Biology and Natural Science
Oklahoma Baptist University.

PROFESSIONAL APPOINTMENTS & POSITIONS

- 2021 **Facebook**
User Experience Research Graduate Intern – *Mental Health Team*.
- 2021 **Institute of Cognitive and Evolutionary Anthropology, Oxford University**
Research Consultant – *Ritual Intuitions project*.
- 2017–22 **Institute for Mind and Biology, The University of Chicago**
Fellow.
- 2017, 2020 **Interacting Minds Centre / Recreational Fear Lab,**
Aarhus University, Denmark
Visiting Researcher.

BOOKS

- 2023 **Scrivner, C.** Morbidly Curious: The Science Behind Our Fascination with the
Mysterious and Macabre. *Penguin Random House*.

PEER-REVIEWED PUBLICATIONS

Journal Articles

- Preprint** **Scriver, C.** & Christensen, K. A. Scaring Away Anxiety: Therapeutic Avenues for Horror Fiction to Enhance Treatment for Anxiety Symptoms.
- Submitted** **Scriver, C.**, Andersen, M., Schjoedt, U., & Clasen, M. The psychological benefits of scary play in three types of horror fans.
- In Press** **Scriver, C.** & Clasen, M. Why Frightening Imaginary Worlds? Morbid Curiosity and the Learning Potential of Horror. *Behavioral and Brain Sciences*.
- 2021** **Scriver, C.** The Psychology of Morbid Curiosity: Development and Initial Validation of the Morbid Curiosity Scale. *Personality and Individual Differences*.
- 2021** Rim, N.W., Choe, K.W., **Scriver, C.**, & Berman, M.G. Introducing Point-of-Interest as an alternative to Area-of-Interest for fixation duration analysis. *PLoS One*.
- 2021** **Scriver, C.**, Johnson, J.A., Kjeldgaard-Christiansen, J., & Clasen, M. Pandemic Practice: Horror Fans and Morbidly Curious Individuals Are More Psychologically Resilient During the COVID-19 Pandemic. *Personality and Individual Differences*.
- 2021** **Scriver, C.** An Infectious Curiosity: Morbid Curiosity and Media Preferences During a Pandemic. *Evolutionary Studies in Imaginative Culture*.
- 2020** Andersen, M., Schjoedt, U., Price, H., Rosas, F., **Scriver, C.**, & Clasen, M. Playing with Fear: A Field Study in Recreational Horror. *Psychological Science*
- 2020** Taji, W., **Scriver, C.**, & Maestripieri, D. Toward a general theory of human individual differences: Can evolutionary psychology meet the challenge? *Evolutionary Behavioral Sciences*.
- 2020** **Scriver, C.**, Holbrook, C., Fessler, D.M.T., & Maestripieri, D. Gruesomeness conveys formidability: Perpetrators of gratuitously grisly acts are conceptualized as larger, stronger, and more likely to win. *Aggressive Behavior*.
- 2019** **Scriver, C.**, Choe, K.W., Henry, J., Lyu, M., Maestripieri, D., & Berman, M.G. Violence reduces attention to faces and draws attention to points of contact. *Scientific Reports*.
- 2018** **Scriver, C.** & Maestripieri, D. Creativity patterns in the production of scientific theories and literary fiction. *KNOW: A Journal on the Formation of Knowledge*.

Book Chapters

- In Press** **Scrivner, C.** Curiosity: A Behavioral Biology Perspective. In L. Al-Shawaf & T. Shackelford (Eds.), *The Oxford Handbook of Evolution and the Emotions*.
- In Press** **Scrivner, C.**, Sznycer, D., Lukaszewski, A., and Al-Shawaf, L. Social emotions are governed by a common grammar of social valuation: Theoretical foundations and applications to human personality and the criminal justice system. In L. Al-Shawaf & T. Shackelford (Eds.), *The Oxford Handbook of Evolution and the Emotions*.
- In Press** Sell, A., **Scrivner, C.**, Landers, M. & Lopez, A. The Neutralization Theory of Hatred. In L. Al-Shawaf & T. Shackelford (Eds.), *The Oxford Handbook of Evolution and the Emotions*.
- 2018** Marvel-Coen, J., **Scrivner, C.** & Maestriperi, D. Morningness-eveningness and sociosexuality from a life history perspective. In V. Zeigler-Hill & T. Shackelford (Eds.), *The SAGE Handbook of Personality and Individual Differences*.

Book Reviews

- 2017** **Scrivner, C.** Human Behavioral Biology: It's Complicated [Review of the book *Behave: The Biology of Humans at Our Best and Worst*]. *Human Ethology*.

GRANTS, FELLOWSHIPS, & AWARDS

Competitive Research Grants (\$72,933 total)

- 2021** Mary Anne and James L. Rynerson Research Grant (\$10,000)
- 2020** Gianinno Graduate Research Grant (\$1500)
- 2019** Gianinno Graduate Research Grant (\$2000)
- 2019** Human Behavior and Evolution Society, student funding grant (\$1600)
- 2019** Pozen Family Center for Human Rights symposium event co-sponsorship (\$400)
- 2019** Mary Anne and James L. Rynerson Research Grant (\$10,000)
- 2018** Neubauer Collegium for Culture and Society Collaborative Research Project (\$35,433)
- 2018** Mary Anne and James L. Rynerson Research Grant (\$10,000)
- 2018** Pozen Family Center for Human Rights Graduate Student Master Class and Workshop Fund (\$1500)
- 2015** University of Central Oklahoma Student Research, Creative, & Scholarly Activities Grant (\$500)

Travel Grants

- 2019** Gianinno Conference Fund (\$1000)

- 2018 Institute for Mind and Biology Travel Fund (\$1000)
- 2018 Gianinno Conference Fund (\$750)
- 2018 Institute for Mind and Biology Travel Fund (\$750)
- 2017 The University of Chicago Graduate Student Council Advanced Travel Fund (\$600)

Fellowships

- 2020-21 Social Science Research Center Graduate Student Fellowship
- 2016-22 The University of Chicago Social Sciences Fellowship

Awards

- 2020 SPSP Graduate Registration Award
- 2015 ARL/DNA Solutions Endowed Scholarship Award (\$1000)
- 2015 Forensic Science Institute Endowed Scholarship Award (\$1000)
- 2015 TA Tuition Waiver Award, UCO Department of Biology (\$1129)

INVITED TALKS

- 2021 Haunted Garage Horror Festival. St. Louis, MI.
- 2021 Getulio Vargas Foundation's São Paulo School of Business Administration. São Paulo, Brazil.
- 2021 Chicago Center for Practical Wisdom. The University of Chicago, Chicago, IL.
- 2021 Science on Screen. Colonial Theatre. Phoenixville, PA.
- 2020 Pomona College. Claremont, CA.
- 2020 Interacting Minds Centre. Aarhus University. Aarhus, Denmark
- 2019 Psychology Club. Carthage College. Kenosha, WI.
- 2019 Justice, Attention, and Motivation Lab. Department of Psychology, Loyola University Chicago. Chicago, IL.
- 2019 Social, Personality, and Organizational Brown Bag. Psychology Department, University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign. Urbana-Champaign, IL.

CONFERENCE ACTIVITY

Organizer

- 2019 **Weekly Workshop:** *Social Cognition, Aggression, and Research in Evolution (SCARE)* at The University of Chicago, Chicago, IL.
- 2019 **Symposium:** *Cognitive Evolutionary Foundations of Conflict* at the Institute for Mind and Biology, The University of Chicago. Chicago, IL.
- 2019 **Symposium:** *Experiencing Violence: From Laboratory to Community* at the Midwestern Psychological Association Conference. Chicago, IL.

2018 **Conference:** *The Allure of Violence: Bridging Perception, Cognition, and Culture* at The Neubauer Collegium for Culture and Society, The University of Chicago. Chicago, IL.

Conference Presentations (first author & presenter only)

- 2021 **Scrivner, C.** *The Psychology of Morbid Curiosity* at the Society for Personality and Social Psychology Annual Convention.
- 2020 **Scrivner, C.** *Morbid Curiosity and Monsters* at the Zombie Apocalypse Medicine Meeting.
- 2020 **Scrivner, C.** *The Psychology of Morbid Curiosity: Development of the Morbid Curiosity Scale and its Relationship to Behavior* at the Evolutionary Psychology Preconference at the Society for Personality and Social Psychology.
- 2020 **Scrivner, C.** *The Psychology of Morbid Curiosity* at the Association for Psychological Science. Chicago, IL. (canceled due to COVID-19).
- 2020 **Scrivner, C.,** Holbrook, C., Fessler, D.M.T., & Maestripieri, D. *Gruesomeness Conveys Formidability* at the Midwestern Psychological Association Conference. Chicago, IL. (canceled due to COVID-19).
- 2020 **Scrivner, C.** *The Psychology of Morbid Curiosity* at the European Human Behaviour and Evolution Association Conference. Krakow, Poland (canceled due to COVID-19).
- 2019 **Scrivner, C.,** Choe, K.W., Henry, J., Lyu, M., Maestripieri, D., & Berman, M.G. *Watching People People Watch: Using Eye Tracking to Study the Perception of Violent Social Interactions* at the International Society for Human Ethology Summer Institute. Zadar, Croatia.
- 2019 **Scrivner, C.,** Choe, K.W., Lyu, M., Maestripieri, D., & Berman, M.G. *Fixating on Violence: Visual assessment of violent social interactions* at the Human Behavior and Evolution Society Conference. Boston, MA.
- 2019 **Scrivner, C.,** Choe, K.W., Lyu, M., Maestripieri, D., & Berman, M.G. *Taking a Look at Violence* at the Midwestern Psychological Association Conference. Chicago, IL.
- 2018 **Scrivner, C.,** Choe, K.W., Maestripieri, D., & Berman, M.G. *Visual Attention Biases in Viewing Scenes of Violence* at the International Society for Human Ethology Congress. Santiago, Chile.
- 2018 **Scrivner, C.,** Ibarra, F., & Maestripieri, D. *An Evolutionary Approach to Attentional and Emotional Biases in Coalitional Violence* at the Human Behavior and Evolution Society Conference. Amsterdam, Netherlands.

- 2018 **Scrivner, C.**, & Maestripieri, D., *An Evolutionary Cost-Benefit Framework of Religious Beliefs and Behaviors* at Future Directions on the Evolution of Rituals, Beliefs, and Religious Minds. Erice, Sicily, Italy.
- 2016 **Scrivner, C.**, Gibson, K., & Creecy, J. *Beyond DNA: An Epigenetic Approach to Identical Twin Identification* at the American Academy of Forensic Sciences Conference. Las Vegas, Nevada.
- 2016 **Scrivner, C.**, Gibson, K., & Creecy, J. *Twin Identification: Moving Beyond DNA* at Oklahoma Research Day. Talequah, Oklahoma

Departmental Talks

- 2020 Proseminar at the Institute for Mind and Biology, The University of Chicago. Chicago, IL.
- 2019 Proseminar at the Institute for Mind and Biology, The University of Chicago. Chicago, IL.

TEACHING EXPERIENCE

The University of Chicago

Lecturer

Mind II: Mechanisms of the Mind (Winter 2020)

Mind I: Historical and Philosophical Foundations of the Study of the Mind (Autumn 2020, 2 Sections)

Teaching Assistant

Habits of a Free Mind (Spring 2020; Dr. Pamela Paresky)

Computing for Social Sciences (Spring 2019; Dr. Ben Soltoff)

Mind III: The Mind in Context (Spring 2019; Dr. Jean Decety)

Mind II: Mechanisms of the Mind (Winter 2019; Dr. Katherine Krpan)

Mind I: Historical and Philosophical Foundations of the Study of the Mind (Autumn 2018; Dr. Dario Maestripieri).

Intro to Comparative Human Development (Autumn 2018; Dr. Eugene Raikhel)

The University of Central Oklahoma

Lecturer

General Biology Laboratory (2014 – 2016; 9 Sections)

Teaching Assistant

Embryology (Autumn 2015; Dr. Nikki Seagraves)

PUBLISHED ESSAYS

- 2021- Morbid Minds. *Psychology Today Blog*
- 2021 Why Horror Films Are More Popular Than Ever. *Nautilus*.
- 2020 Horror Fans Have More Fun During A Pandemic. *Nautilus*.
- 2018 Diversity and Inclusion vs Free Speech on Campus. *Quillette*.
- 2017 Guest Blogger at *Savage Minds/Anthrodendum*.
- 2016 When DNA Isn't Enough: Methylation, Forensics, and Twins – Part 2. *Forensic Outreach*.
- 2016 When DNA Isn't Enough: Methylation, Forensics, and Twins – Part 1. *Forensic Outreach*.
- 2016 Paleo Diet: Brilliantly Simple, or Simply Wrong? *Anthro/Zine*.
- 2015 Neanderthals: Were They “Human?” *Anthro/Zine*.

SELECT MEDIA INTERVIEWS

“You know you want to look: University of Chicago grad student has made a specialty of morbid curiosity.” (Profile; front page of Sunday paper). [The Chicago Tribune](#)

“Why do we keep falling for jump scares?” [Popular Science](#)

“Why the zombie apocalypse prepared us for pandemic Coronavirus.” [Forbes](#)

“Fear is fun (for some of us): Why we’re drawn to horror and scary movies.” [The Chicago Tribune](#)

“I feel fine: fans of world-ending films ‘coping better with the pandemic.’” [The Guardian](#)

PROFESSIONAL SERVICE AND ACTIVITIES

University and Departmental Service

Dean’s Advisory Council, Division of Social Sciences.

University of Chicago. 2019-20.

Fellows Council, Institute for Mind and Biology.

University of Chicago. 2019-21.

Social Chair, Comparative Human Development Student Association.

University of Chicago. 2017-18

Ad-Hoc Reviewer

Personality and Individual Differences, Adaptive Human Behavior & Physiology, Evolutionary Studies in Imaginative Culture, International Journal of the Psychology of Religion, Poetics Today, EvoS Journal

Member

American Psychological Association (APA – Divisions 1, 3, 6, & 8)

Human Behavior and Evolution Society (HBES)
International Society for Human Ethology (ISHE)
Society for Personality and Social Psychology (SPSP)
Association for Psychological Science (APS)