

CAMERON M. CURTIN

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Updated: February 2026

ACADEMIC POSITIONS

Toulouse School of Economics, Toulouse, France Feb. 2026 -
Research Fellow, Institute for Advanced Studies in Toulouse (IAST)

Harvard University, Cambridge, MA Jul. 2024 - Dec. 2025
Lecturer, Department of Human Evolutionary Biology

EDUCATION

Harvard University, Cambridge, MA May 2024
Ph.D., Human Evolutionary Biology
Thesis: "Institutions & cooperation: The cultural evolutionary roots of prosociality in Oaxaca, Mexico"
Committee: Joseph Henrich, Martin Surbeck, & Nathan Nunn
Bok Teaching Certificate, Bok Center for Teaching & Learning
Certificate in Latin American Studies, David Rockefeller Center for Latin American Studies

Middlebury College, Middlebury, VT Feb. 2013
B.A., Neuroscience
summa cum laude, Phi Beta Kappa, College Scholar

GRANTS, FELLOWSHIPS, & HONORS

Richerson Award for Best PhD in the Field of Cultural Evolution, Cultural Evolution Society 2024
Weatherhead Center Mid-Dissertation Grant, Harvard University 2023
Frederick Sheldon Traveling Fellowship, Harvard University 2021
Ford Foundation Predoctoral Fellowship (Honorable Mention) 2021
Early Training & Research Support, Harvard Dept. of Human Evolutionary Biology 2021, 2019
GSAS Summer Predissertation Fellowship, Harvard University 2020
Charles H. Smith Scholarship Fund, Harvard University 2019, 2018
NSF Graduate Research Fellowship Program (Honorable Mention) 2018
Amgen Scholars Fellowship, University of California, Los Angeles 2012

PUBLICATIONS

Henrich, J. Blasi, D.E., **Curtin, C.M.**, Davis, H.E., Hong, Z., Kelly, D., & Kroupin, I. (2022). A Cultural Species and its Cognitive Phenotypes: Implications for Philosophy. *Review of Philosophy and Psychology*, 1-38.

Curtin, C.M., Barrett, H.C., Bolyanatz, A., Crittenden, A.N., Fessler, D.M.T., Fitzpatrick, S., Gurven, M., Kanovsky, M., Kushnick, G., Laurence, S., Pisor, A., Scelza, B., Stich, S., von Rueden, C., & Henrich, J. (2020). Kinship intensity and the use of mental states in moral judgment across societies. *Evolution and Human Behavior* 41(5), 415-429.

Muthukrishna, M., Bell, A. V., Henrich, J., **Curtin, C.M.**, Gedranovich, A., & Thue, B. (2020). Beyond WEIRD Psychology: Measuring and Mapping Scales of Cultural and Psychological Distance. *Psychological Science* 31(6), 678-701.

WORKING PAPERS & UNDER REVIEW

Curtin, C.M., Vasquez Martinez, N., Vásquez Vásquez, Y., & Henrich, J. Zapotec cooperative institutions: Exploring the psychological and social mechanisms. (Revise & Resubmit at *Current Anthropology*)

Curtin, C.M., Vasquez Martinez, N., Vásquez Vásquez, Y., & Henrich, J. Traditional political institutions, cooperation, and public goods in Oaxaca, Mexico. (Working paper)

Curtin, C.M., Vasquez Martinez, N., Vásquez Vásquez, Y., & Henrich, J. Prosociality declines after a collective ritual: Patron saint festivals in Oaxaca, Mexico. (Working paper)

PREVIOUS RESEARCH EXPERIENCE

Harvard University, Department of Human Evolutionary Biology, Cambridge, MA Sep. 2015 - Jul. 2018
Lab Manager of the Culture, Cognition, & Coevolution Lab, with Joseph Henrich

Harvard University, Department of Economics, Cambridge, MA Jun. - Aug. 2015
Field Research Assistant with Nathan Nunn & Sara Lowes

INVITED TALKS

Biological Anthropology Seminar Series, Department of Anthropology, Boston University 2025

Interdisciplinary Center for Economic Science Seminar Series, George Mason University

Tuesday@Noon Seminar Series, Department of Human Evolutionary Biology, Harvard University 2024

Cooperation Lab, Department of Psychology, Boston College 2023

Morality Lab, Department of Psychology, Boston College 2021

CONFERENCE PRESENTATIONS

Curtin, C.M. & Henrich, J. (September 2024). "The psychological and social mechanisms at work in Zapotec cooperative institutions." Presented virtually at: Cultural Evolution Society Meeting, Durham, UK.

Curtin, C.M., Vásquez Vásquez, Y., Vásquez Martinez, N., & Henrich, J. (May 2024). "Collective ritual, cohesion, and cooperation: The case of *fiestas* in Oaxaca, Mexico." Presented at: Human Behavior & Evolution Society Meeting, Aarhus, Denmark.

Curtin, C.M. (February 2024). "Traditional political institutions, cooperation, and the provisioning of public goods in Oaxaca, Mexico." Presented at: Center for International Development PhD Retreat, Harvard Kennedy School.

Curtin, C.M. & Henrich, J. (June 2019). "When Mental States Don't Matter: Kinship Intensity & Intentionality in Moral Judgment." Presented at: Human Behavior & Evolution Society Meeting, Boston, MA.

WORKSHOP PARTICIPATION

"What Can Cultural Evolutionary Theory Teach Us about Obstacles to and Prospects for International Cooperation and Peace?" Organized by: Carnegie Endowment for International Peace & Prosocial World, Washington DC, October 2024.

TEACHING

Harvard University, Cambridge, MA

Instructor of Record

Research in Cultural Evolution (Dept. of Human Evolutionary Biology) Spring 2025

Human Nature, co-taught with Joseph Henrich (Program in General Education) Fall 2024

Genes, Mind, and Culture (Pre-College Program) Summer 2023, '22, '21

Teaching Fellow

Sophomore Tutorial (Dept. of Human Evolutionary Biology) Spring 2025

The Evolution of Friendship, with Jennifer Devereaux (Dept. of Human Evolutionary Biology) Fall 2024

Introduction to Psychological Science, with Steven Pinker (Dept. of Psychology) Spring 2023

Human Nature, with Erin Hecht & Martin Surbeck (Program in General Education) Fall 2021, '20

Hormones & Behavior, with Carole Hooven (Dept. of Human Evolutionary Biology) Spring 2021

Course Development Assistant

Human Nature, with Joseph Henrich (Program in General Education) Fall 2022

Other Experience

Private Tutor for Advanced Placement Biology AY 2015-2016
Teaching Assistant for Physiological Psychology (Dept. of Psychology, Middlebury College) Spring 2011

AFFILIATIONS

Harvard Kennedy School Center for International Development, PhD Student Affiliate 2023 - 2024
Harvard University Weatherhead Center for International Affairs, Graduate Student Affiliate 2023 - 2024
Centro de Investigaciones y Estudios Superiores en Antropología Social (CIESAS) Pacífico Sur, Student Guest Researcher 2019

PROFESSIONAL ACTIVITIES

Refereeing

Psychology & cognitive science

Psychological Science, Journal of Cross-Cultural Psychology, Evolutionary Behavioral Sciences, Open Mind: Discoveries in Cognitive Science

Economics

Innovation & Knowledge, Economic Systems

Committees, Department of Human Evolutionary Biology, Harvard University

Diversity, Inclusion, & Belonging Committee, Science Communication Lead 2020-2021 2020 - 2024

Graduate Student Professional Development Committee, Co-Leader 2019 - 2020

Professional Memberships

Human Behavior & Evolution Society, Cultural Evolution Society

FIELDWORK

Oaxaca, Mexico (7 months) 2022
Oaxaca, Mexico (1 month) 2019
Kananga, Democratic Republic of Congo (3 months) 2015

RESEARCH METHODS & SKILLS

Qualitative & quantitative ethnography, surveys & psychometric scales, behavioral economics games, natural experiments, coding written ethnography, assembling secondary datasets, mixed-effects modeling, econometrics & causal identification, geospatial analyses

LANGUAGES

Natural: English (native), Spanish (advanced), French (advanced), Russian (beginner)

Programming: R (advanced), STATA (beginner), Python (beginner)