

**Department of Psychology
University of Kentucky
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September 2013

Employment

Assistant Professor, Psychology
University of Kentucky, 2012-present

Education

- *PhD, University of British Columbia, Vancouver, Canada. 2012*
- *Master of Arts, University of British Columbia, Vancouver, Canada. 2008*
- *Bachelor of Science, Magna Cum Laude, University of Denver, Denver, CO. Major: Psychology. Minors: Anthropology and Biology. 2005*

Publications

- > 260 citations
 - current h-index: 9
18. Norenzayan, A., & **Gervais, W. M.** (in press). Secular rule of law erodes believers' political intolerance of atheists. *Religion, Brain, and Behavior*
 17. **Gervais, W. M.** (2013). Perceiving minds and gods: How mind perception enables, constrains, and is triggered by belief in gods. *Perspectives on Psychological Science, 8*, 380-394.
 16. **Gervais, W. M.** (2013). In godlessness we distrust: Using social psychology to solve the puzzle of anti-atheist prejudice. *Social Psychology and Personality Compass, 7*, 366-377.
 15. Norenzayan, A. & **Gervais, W. M.** (2013). The origins of religious disbelief. *Trends in Cognitive Sciences, 17*, 20-25.
 14. **Gervais, W. M.** (2013). Religious cognitions. Chapter in V. Saroglou (Ed.), *Religion, personality, and social behavior*. (pp. 71-96). New York: Psychology Press.
 13. **Gervais, W. M.** & Norenzayan, A. (2013). Religion and the origins of anti-atheist prejudice. In S. Clarke, R. Powell, & J. Savulescu (Eds.), *Intolerance and Conflict: A Scientific and Conceptual Investigation*. (pp. 126-146). Oxford, UK: Oxford University Press.

12. **Gervais, W. M.** & Norenzayan, A. (2012). Analytic thinking promotes religious disbelief. *Science*, 336, 493-496.
11. Norenzayan, A., **Gervais, W.**, & Trzesniewski, K. (2012). Mentalizing deficits constrain belief in a personal God. *PLoS ONE*, 7, e36880.
10. **Gervais, W. M.** & Norenzayan, A. (2012). Reminders of secular authority reduce believers' distrust of atheists. *Psychological Science*, 23, 483-491.
9. **Gervais, W. M.** & Norenzayan, A. (2012). Like a camera in the sky? Thinking about God increases public self-awareness and socially desirable responding. *Journal of Experimental Social Psychology*, 48, 298-302.
8. Norenzayan, A., & **Gervais, W. M.** (2012). The cultural evolution of religion. In E. Slingerland & M. Collard (Eds.) *Creating Consilience: Integrating science and the humanities*. (pp. 243-265). Oxford: Oxford University Press.
7. **Gervais, W. M.**, Shariff, A. F., & Norenzayan, A. (2011). Do you believe in atheists? Distrust is central to anti-atheist prejudice. *Journal of Personality and Social Psychology*, 101, 1189-1206.
6. **Gervais, W. M.**, Willard, A., Norenzayan, A., & Henrich, J. (2011). The cultural transmission of faith: Why natural intuitions and memory biases are necessary, but insufficient, to explain religious belief. *Religion*, 41, 389-410.
5. **Gervais, W. M.** (2011). Finding the faithless: Perceived atheist prevalence reduces anti-atheist prejudice. *Personality and Social Psychology Bulletin*, 37, 543-556.
4. **Gervais, W. M.** & Henrich, J. (2010). The Zeus problem: Why representational content biases cannot explain faith in gods. *Journal of Cognition and Culture*, 10, 383-389.
2. Schaller, M., Miller, G. E., **Gervais, W. M.**, Yager, S., & Chen, E. (2010). Mere visual perception of other peoples' disease symptoms facilitates a more aggressive immune response. *Psychological Science*, 21, 649-652.
2. **Gervais, W. M.**, Reed, C. L., Beall, P. M., and Roberts, R. J. (2010). Implied body action directs spatial attention. *Attention, Perception, and Psychophysics*, 72, 1437-1443.
1. Norenzayan, A., Shariff, A. F., & **Gervais, W. M.** (2010). The Evolution of Religious Misbelief. *Behavioral and Brain Sciences*, 32, 531-532.

Under Review/Revision

Gervais, W. M. (under revision). The Euthyphro perception: Religious motivation reduces perceived responsibility for, and morality of, good deeds. Revision invited, *Journal of Experimental Psychology: General*.

Gervais, W. M. (under review). Everything is permitted? People intuitively judge immorality as representative of atheists. *PLoS ONE*.

Norenzayan, A., Shariff, A. F., **Gervais, W. M.**, Willard, A. K., McNamara, R., Slingerland, E. & Henrich, J. (under review). The cultural evolution of prosocial religions. *Behavioral and Brain Sciences*.

Fellowships, Honors, and Awards

- Canadian Psychological Association's Certificate of Academic Excellence for Ph. D. Thesis: Watchful gods, watchful governments, and the peculiar psychological properties of anti-atheist prejudice (2012).
- American Psychological Association Division 36 (Psychology of Religion) Research Seed Grant, 2009 (\$300).
- Canadian Psychological Association's Certificate of Academic Excellence for MA Thesis: Do you believe in atheists? Trust and anti-atheist prejudice (2009).
- *Four Year Doctoral Fellowship*, Department of Psychology, University of British Columbia, 2009-present (\$20000).
- *University Graduate Fellowship*, Department of Psychology, University of British Columbia, 2008 (\$16000).
- *University Graduate Fellowship*, Department of Psychology, University of British Columbia, 2007 (\$13000).
- *MacDonald Fellowship*, Department of Psychology, University of British Columbia, 2007 (\$3000).
- *Elizabeth Young Lacey Scholarship in Psychology*, Department of Psychology, University of British Columbia, 2006 (\$14000).
- *Graduate entrance scholarship*, Department of Psychology, University of British Columbia, 2006 (\$3500).
- *International Partial Tuition Scholarship*, Department of Psychology, University of British Columbia, 2006-present (\$3338).
- *Phi Beta Kappa*, University of Denver, 2005.
- *Shaklee-Trowill Research Award, Best Senior Thesis in Psychology*, University of Denver, 2005.
- *Partners in Scholarship research grant*, University of Denver, 2004 (\$2500).
- *Bernard Spilka Undergraduate Scholarship in Psychology*, University of Denver, 2004 (\$2500).

Refereed Conference Presentations*Talks & Symposia*

Gervais, W. M. (2013, May). Symposium Chair: *Not Over Dinner: Dual-Process Approaches to Politics, Cooperation, Morality, & Religion*. Symposium presented at the 25th meeting of the Association for Psychological Science, Washington, D.C.

- Individual talk: Analytic thinking promotes religious disbelief

Gervais, W. M. (2013, January). The varieties of nonreligious experience: A four factor model of religious (dis)belief. Invited talk at the Folk Theories and Everyday Beliefs preconference session at the 14th meeting of the Society for Personality and Social Psychology, New Orleans, LA.

Gervais, W. M. (2012, January). The peculiar psychological properties of prejudice against atheists. Invited talk at the Religion and Spirituality preconference session at the 13th meeting of the Society for Personality and Social Psychology, San Diego, CA.

Gervais, W. M. (2011, August). God, government, and the peculiar properties of anti-atheist prejudice. Talk presented at the 1st annual Pacific Conference on Prejudice and Culture, August 25, Bellingham, WA.

Gervais, W. M., Schaller, M., Chen, E., Miller, G., Yager, S. (2010). Mere visual perception of others' disease symptoms facilitates a more aggressive immune response. Talk presented at the 22nd annual meeting of the Human Behavior and Evolution Society, June 16-20, Eugene, OR.

Gervais, W. M. (chair), Beit-Hallahmi, B., Caldwell-Harris, C. L., Edgell, P. (discussant), & Shariff, A. F. (discussant) (2009, October). Atheism, secularism, and the scientific study of religion. Symposium presented at the 2009 meeting of the Society for the Scientific Study of Religion, Denver, CO.

Gervais, W. M. (2009, October). The cause of—and solution to—anti-atheist prejudice. Individual talk for “Atheism, secularism, and the scientific study of religion” symposium at the 2009 meeting of the Society for the Scientific Study of Religion, Denver, CO.

Gervais, W. M. (chair), Hansen, I. G., & Smajic, A. (2009, October). Religion proper and its wicked partners: What is the relationship between religion and intolerance? Symposium presented at the 2009 meeting of the Society for the Scientific Study of Religion, Denver, CO.

Gervais, W. M. (2009, October). Devotional religiosity, coalitional religiosity, and anti-atheist prejudice. Individual talk for “Religion proper and its wicked partners: What is the relationship between religion and intolerance?” symposium at the Society for the Scientific Study of Religion, Denver, CO.

Willard, A. K. & Gervais, W. M. (2009, October). What's behind the HADD? Talk presented at the 2009 meeting of the Society for the Scientific Study of Religion, Denver, CO.

Posters

Gervais, W. M. (2011, January). Analytic reasoning reduces religious belief. Poster presented at the Religion and Spirituality preconference session at the 12th meeting of the Society for Personality and Social Psychology, San Antonio, TX.

Gervais, W. M. (2010, January). Finding the faithless: Perceived atheist prevalence reduces anti-atheist prejudice. Poster presented at the 11th meeting of the Society for Personality and Social Psychology, Las Vegas, NV.

Willard, A. K., Norenzayan, A., & Gervais, W. M. (2010, January). Strangers in the night: The effects of ambient darkness on the detection of human agency. Poster presented at the 11th meeting of the Society for Personality and Social Psychology, Las Vegas, NV.

Gervais, W. M. (2010, January). Reading God's mind: Mentalizing mediates gender differences in religious belief. Poster presented at the Religion and Spirituality preconference session at the 11th meeting of the Society for Personality and Social Psychology, Las Vegas, NV.

Gervais, W. M. & Norenzayan, A. (2009, February). Contact, retrospective contact, and prejudice against atheists. Poster presented at the Religion and Spirituality preconference session at the 10th meeting of the Society for Personality and Social Psychology, Tampa Bay, FL.

Gervais, W. M., Shariff, A. & Norenzayan, A. (2009, February). Freethinker as freerider: The context specificity of anti-atheist prejudice. Poster presented at the 10th meeting of the Society for Personality and Social Psychology, Tampa Bay, FL.

Gervais, W. M., Shariff, A. & Norenzayan, A. (2008, February). Do you believe in atheists? Trust and anti-atheist prejudice. Poster presented at the 9th meeting of the Society for Personality and Social Psychology, Albuquerque, NM.

Gervais, W. M. & Schaller, M. (2008, February). Reasoning about disease. Poster presented at the Evolutionary Psychology preconference session at the 9th meeting of the Society for Personality and Social Psychology, Albuquerque, NM.

Gervais, W. M., Reed, C.L., Beall, P.M., Roberts, R.J., Ho, M. & McCarley, K. (2005, November). Human action directs attention. Grasping attention. Paper presented at the 45th Meeting of the Psychonomic Society, Toronto, ONT.

Teaching Experience

- *Assistant Professor*, Department of Psychology, University of Kentucky. (Fall 2012- present).
 - PSY 440. Advanced Research Methods in Social Psychology
 - A&S 300. The Meaning of Life: Psychology, Evolution, Religion, and Morality
 - PSY 795. Graduate Seminar: Culture, Religion, Evolution, and Morality.
- *Sessional Instructor*, Department of Psychology, University of British Columbia. (Summer 2011-2012). PSYC 217: Psychology Research Methods.
- *Teaching Assistant*, Department of Psychology, University of British Columbia. (Spring, 2011). Psychology of Religion.
 - Guest Lecture, *Atheism and Secularism*
- *Teaching Assistant*, Department of Psychology, University of British Columbia. (Fall, 2010) Cultural Psychology.
- *Teaching Fellow*, Department of Psychology, University of British Columbia. (Fall, 2007- 2011) Thinking Clearly About Psychology (Research Methods).
 - Guest Lecture, *Sampling and Generalizability*
 - Taught lab section
 - I served as a TF for this course a total of 5 times
- *Teaching Fellow*, Department of Psychology, University of British Columbia. (Spring, 2007-2009) Social Psychology.
- *Teaching Assistant*, Department of Psychology, University of British Columbia. (Spring, 2007) Introductory Psychology.
- Completed Psychology Department Teaching Assistant Development Day, September, 2008.
- Graduate Teaching Assistant Mentor, 2009-2010

Graduate Research Employment

- *Research Assistant*, Department of Psychology, University of British Columbia. (2006-2012). Working with Ara Norenzayan on the causes and consequences of religious (dis)belief.
- *Research Assistant*, Department of Psychology, University of British Columbia. (2006-2012). Working with Mark Schaller on the behavioral immune system.

Mentorship of Undergraduate Research

- Completed Psychology Department Mentorship Certificate program, May, 2009.
- *Volunteer Research Assistants*, 2006-present
- *Honors Student Supervisor*, 2007-2008, 2010
- *Directed Studies Mentor*, 2007-2008, 2010-2011

Departmental Service Activities

- UK Psychology Curriculum Committee
- Graduate representative to the Colloquium Committee, 2010-2011
- Co-President, U.B.C. Psychology Graduate Student Council, 2009-present
- Treasurer, U.B.C. Psychology Graduate Student Council, 2008-present
- PsychFest Coordinator, U.B.C. Psychology Graduate Student Council, 2008-2009.
- Social/Personality Area Representative, U.B.C. Psychology Graduate Student Council, 2007-present
- Co-chair, Social/Personality Workshop Committee, 2007-2008.

Professional Memberships

- Society for Personality and Social Psychology (SPSP)
- Association for Psychological Science
- American Psychological Association Division 36: Psychology of Religion

Reviewer/Editorial Experience

Select Ad Hoc Reviewer History

- *Behavioral and Brain Science*
- *Psychology Bulletin*
- *Journal of Personality and Social Psychology*
- *Psychological Science*
- *Journal of Experimental Social Psychology*
- *Perspectives on Psychological Science*

- *Personality and Social Psychology Bulletin*
- *Social Psychology and Personality Science*
- *Religion, Brain, and Behavior*
- *International Journal for the Psychology of Religion*

Editorial Board Member

- *Secularism and Nonreligion*

Research References

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Teaching Reference

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