

Aiyana Koka Willard, Ph.D.

Curriculum Vitae

Centre for Culture and Evolution
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Education:

- Ph.D., Social Psychology 2015
Minor in Quantitative Methods (Statistics)
Thesis: *The Basis of Belief: the cognitive and cultural foundations of supernatural belief*
Advisors: Dr Ara Norenzayan and Dr Joseph Henrich
University of British Columbia
- M.A., Social Psychology 2011
Thesis: *Memory and Belief in Religious Content*
Advisors: Dr Ara Norenzayan and Dr Joseph Henrich
University of British Columbia
- B.A., Psychology, Class 1 2008
University of British Columbia

Professional Positions:

- Lecturer in Psychology June 2018 - Present
Brunel University London
Department of Life Sciences
- Postdoctoral Researcher June 2017 – June 2018
University of Oxford
School of Anthropology and Museum Ethnography
- Postdoctoral Researcher Sept. 2015 – June 2017
University of Texas at Austin
Cognition, Culture, and Development Laboratory

Sessional Lecturer
University of British Columbia
Department of Psychology

Jan. 2015 – May 2015

Research Funding

- Psychology of Religion Early-Career Seed Grant (awarded by Adam B. Cohen, Kevin Ladd, and Azim Shariff) \$22,500 (total awarded)—2017
 - \$11,250 *Magic, Religion, and Trust Across Cultures* (co-PI, collaborating with Dimitris Xygalatas (PI) and Kirsten Lesage)
 - \$11,250 *It's only weird if it doesn't work: The role of intentions and emotions in magical thinking* (co-PI, collaborator with Kathleen Corriveau (PI), Kurt Gray, and Cindel White)
- Cultural Evolution of Religion Research Consortium *Evolution of Religion and Morality Project* \$10,000 CAN—2013

Awards

- Daniel M. Wegner Theoretical Innovation Prize, *Society for Personality and Social Psychology* 2017
- Early Career Showcase Award, *Cultural Evolution Society* 2017
- CERC Fellowship: \$20,000 2013-2015
- SSRCH Graduate Fellowship: \$40,000 2013-2015
- CERC Fellowship: \$11,000 2012-2013
- Four Year Fellowship: \$64,000 (\$32,000 accepted) 2011-2015
- Graduate Tuition Waiver 2011-2015
- Faculty of Arts Graduate Award; \$16,000 2010-2011
- Joseph-Armand Bombardier Scholarship: \$17,500 2009-2010
- Graduate Entrance Scholarship UBC: \$5,000 2009-2010
- Trek Excellence Scholarship UBC: \$1,500 2007-2008

Publications

Purzycki, B. G., Pisor, A. C., Apicella, C., Atkinson, Q., Cohen, E., Henrich, J., McElreath, R., McNamara, R. A., Norenzayan, A., Willard, A. K., and Xygalatas, D (in press). The Cognitive and Cultural Foundations of Moral Behavior. *Evolution and Human Behavior*.

- Purzycki, B. G., Ross, C. T., Apicella, C., Atkinson, Q. D., Cohen, E., McNamara, R. A., Willard, A. K., Xygalatas, D., Norenzayan, A. & Henrich, J. (2018). Material security, life history, and moralistic religions: A cross-cultural examination. *PLoS one*, 13(3), e0193856.
- Busch J.T.A., Willard A.K., Legare C.H. (2018) Explanation Scaffolds Causal Learning and Problem Solving in Childhood. In: Saylor M., Ganea P. (eds) Active Learning from Infancy to Childhood. Springer, Cham. https://doi.org/10.1007/978-3-319-77182-3_7
- Purzycki, B. G., Norenzayan, A., Apicella, C., Atkinson, Q., Cohen, E., McNamara, R. A., Willard, A. K., and Henrich, J. (2018). The Evolution of Religion and Morality: A Synthesis of Ethnographic and Experimental Evidence from Eight Societies. *Religion Brain and Behavior*, 8:2, 101-132, DOI: 10.1080/2153599X.2016.1267027
- Willard, A. K. (2018). Religion and Prosocial Behaviour among the Indo-Fijians. *Religion Brain and Behavior*, 8:2, 227-242, DOI: 10.1080/2153599X.2016.1267032
- Willard, A. K. & Norenzayan, A. (2017). "Spiritual But Not Religious": cognition, schizotypy, and conversion in understanding alternative beliefs. *Cognition*, 165, 137–146.
- Willard, A. K. & Cingl, L. (2017). Testing Theories of Religion and Secularization in the Czech Republic and Slovakia. *Evolution and Human Behavior*, 38(5), 604-615.
- Purzycki, B.G., Apicella, C., Atkinson, Q., Cohen, E. , McNamara, R. A. , Willard, A. K. , Xygalatas, D., Norenzayan, A. , Henrich, J. (2016). Cross-cultural dataset for the Evolution of Religion and Morality Project. *Nature Scientific Data*.
- Shariff, A. F., Willard, A. K., Muthukrishna, M., Kramer, S., & Henrich, J. (2016). What is the Association Between Religious Affiliation and Children's Altruism? *Current Biology*, 26, R699-R700.
- Willard, A. K., Shariff, A. F. & Norenzayan, A. (2016). Religious Priming as a research tool for studying religion: Evidentiary Value, Current Issues, and Future Directions. *Current Opinions in Psychology*, 12, 71-75.
- Willard, A. K., Henrich, J. & Norenzayan, A. (2016). Memory and Belief in the Transmission of Counterintuitive Content. *Human Nature*, 27, 221–243.
- Norenzayan, A., Shariff, A. F., Gervais, W., Willard, A. K., McNamara, R., Slingerland, E. & Henrich, J. (2016). The Cultural Evolution of Prosocial Religions. *Behavior and Brain Sciences*.

Norenzayan, A., Shariff, A. F., Gervais, W., Willard, A. K., McNamara, R., Slingerland, E. & Henrich, J. (2016). Parochial prosocial religions: Historical and contemporary evidence for a cultural evolutionary process. [Reply to Commentaries]. *Behavior and Brain Sciences*, 39, e29.

Purzycki, B. G., Apicella, C., Atkinson, Q., Cohen, E., McNamara, R. A., Willard, A. K., Xygalatas, D. Norenzayan, A., Henrich, J. (2016). Moralizing Gods, Supernatural Punishment, and the Expansion of Human Sociality. *Nature*, 530, 327–330.

Shariff, A. F., Willard, A. K., Andersen, T. & Norenzayan, A. (2016). Religious Priming: A meta-analysis with a focus on religious prosociality. *Personality and Social Psychology Review*, 20, 27-48.

Purzycki, B. G., and Willard, A. K. (2016). Accounting for Variation and Stability in Religious Cognition [Reply to Commentaries]. *Religion, Brain and Behavior*, 6, 266-274.

Purzycki, B. G. & Willard, A. K. (2016). MCI Theory: A Critical Discussion. *Religion Brain and Behavior*, 6, 207-248.

Willard, A. K. & Norenzayan A. (2013). Cognitive Biases Explain Religious Belief, Paranormal Belief, and Belief in Life's Purpose. *Cognition*, 129, 379-391.

Gervais, W., Willard, A. K., 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.

Commentaries, etc.

Willard, A. K., Nakawake, Y. & Jong, J. (in press). The Evolution of the Shaman's Cultural Toolkit. [Commentary]. *Behavior and Brain Sciences*.

Willard, A. K. & Baimel, A. (in press). The Evolution of Religion: An interdisciplinary approach. [Commentary]. *Journal for the Cognitive Science of Religion*.

Willard, A. K. (2018). Agency Detection is Unnecessary in the Explanation of Religious Belief. *Religion Brain and Behavior*.

Willard, A. K. (2018). The Evolution of Culture as a New Pattern for Comparative Religion. *Methods and Theory in the Study of Religion*.

Willard, A. K. (2017). Defining Religion. *Religion Brain and Behavior*.

Willard, A. K. & Legare, C. H. (2016) Ritual wellbeing: A simplified model. *Religion Brain and Behavior*, 39, e1.

Conference Presentations

Willard, A. K. (November 2017). Understanding God's Mind: Anthropomorphism as Motivated Belief. *Paper presented at the 2017 Annual Meeting of the American Academy of Religion.*

Willard, A. K. (September 2017). Testing theories of religion and secularization in the Czech Republic and Slovakia. *Paper presented at the 2017 Cultural Evolution Society Conference.*

Willard, A. K. (August 2017). The Impact of Belief and Culture on Religious Priming and Prosocial Behaviour. *Paper presented at the 2017 Annual Meeting of the International Association of Psychology of Religion.*

Willard, A. K., & Cingl, L. (November 2016). Secularization and the Spiritual Marketplace in the Czech Republic and Slovakia. *Paper presented at the 2016 Annual Meeting of the American Academy of Religion.*

Willard, A. K., Shariff, A. F, Kramer, S. & Norenzayan A. (January 2016). Religious Priming: A Meta-Analysis. *Paper presented at the 17th Annual Meeting of the Society for Personality and Social Psychology.*

Willard, A. K., & Norenzayan A. (January 2016). The Cognitive Foundations of Supernatural Belief. *Paper presented at Religion and Spirituality Pre-conference SPSP.*

Willard, A. K. (Aug 2015). Religion's effect on in-group and out-group preferences in Fiji. *Paper presented at International Association of Religious History World Congress.*

Willard, A. K. (May 2015). Do as I do not as I say: lab and field evidence for Credibility Enhancing Displays. *Paper presented at the CERC Conference.*

Willard, A. K., & Cingl, L. (February 2015). Secularization and the Spiritual Marketplace in the Czech Republic and Slovakia. *Paper presented at Religion and Spirituality Pre-conference SPSP.*

Willard, A. K. (April 2014). Cheating Behaviour among the Indo-Fijians. *Paper presented at the Cultural Evolution of Religious Consortium Conference Ethnographic Research Group annual meeting.*

Willard, A. K. & McNamara, R. A. (December 2012). Measuring the Mind of God in Fiji. *Paper presented at the Cultural Evolution of Religious Consortium Conference Ethnographic Research Group annual meeting.*

Willard, A. K. & Gervais, W. (October, 2009). What's behind the HADD. *Paper presented at the Society for the Scientific Study of Religion 2009 Meeting.*

Conference Poster Presentations

Willard, A. K., Busch, J. T. A., Sobel D. M., Callanan, M. A, & Legare, C. H. (June 2016). The Impact of Parent and Children's Explanation and Exploration on Children's Causal Learning. *The 42nd Annual Meeting of the Society for Research in Child Development.*

Willard, A. K. & Cingl L. (July 2016). Secularization and the Spiritual Marketplace in the Czech Republic and Slovakia. *Poster presented at the 28th Annual Meeting of the Human Behaviour and Evolution Society.*

Willard, A. K., Busch, J. T. A., Sobel D. M., Callanan, M. A, & Legare, C. H. (June 2016). The Impact of Parent and Children's Explanation and Exploration on Children's Causal Learning. *The 42nd Annual Meeting of the Society for Philosophy and Psychology.*

Willard, A. K., Norenzayan, A. & Henrich, J. (February 2014). Do as I Do, Not as I say: Credibility Enhancing Displays of Belief. *Poster presented at the 15th Annual Meeting of the Society for Personality and Social Psychology*

Willard, A. K. & Norenzayan, A. (May 2013). Spiritual but not religious. *Poster presented at Cultural Evolution of Religious Consortium Conference.*

Willard, A. K., Norenzayan, A. & Henrich, J. (January 2013). Signalling Belief: Credibility Enhancing Displays. *Poster presented at the 14th Annual Meeting of the Society for Personality and Social Psychology.*

Willard, A. K. & Norenzayan, A. (January 2012). The Cognitive Basis of Religiosity. *Poster presented at the 13th Annual Meeting of the Society for Personality and Social Psychology.*

Willard, A. K., Norenzayan, A. & Henrich, J. (January 2011). Memory and Belief in Religious Concepts. *Poster presented at the 12th Annual Meeting of the Society for Personality and Social Psychology.*

Willard, A. K., Norenzayan, A. & Henrich, J. (June 2010). Does Memory Increase Belief? *Poster presented at the 22nd Annual Meeting of the Human Behaviour and Evolution Society.*

Willard, A. K., Norenzayan, A. & Gervais, W. (January 2010). Strangers in the Night: The Effects of Ambient Darkness on the Detection of Human Agency. *Poster presented at the 11th Annual Meeting of the Society for Personality and Social Psychology*

Invited Talks:

Willard A.K. (May 2018). Do as I do, not as I say: content and context biases in the transmission of religious belief. *Future directions on the evolution of rituals, beliefs and religious minds, Erice, Sicily.*

Willard, A.K. (February 2018). The Basis of Belief: the cognitive and cultural foundations of religious belief. *Department of Psychology, Coventry University.*

Willard, A. K. (October 2017). Supernatural Causal Reasoning in Witchcraft and Karma Beliefs. *Paper presented at the Supernatural Attributions Meeting.*

Willard, A.K. (March 2017). The Basis of Belief: the cognitive and cultural foundations of religious belief. *Colloquium lecture series, Institute of Human Origins, Arizona State University.*

Willard, A.K. (December 2016). The Basis of Belief: the cognitive and cultural foundations of supernatural belief. *Department of Psychology, Princeton University.*

Willard, A. K. (May 2016). Anti-Science Attitudes, Religiosity, and Dualism Across Three Countries. *Paper presented at Public Perceptions of Science & Religion Meeting.*

Invited Workshops:

Early Career Workshop in the Psychology of Religion (October 2016). Hosted by University of California-Irvine, San Diego, CA. Invited by Adam B. Cohen, Kevin Ladd, and Azim Shariff.

Quantitative Methods Summer School (May 2016) Hosted by Max Planck Institute for the Science of Human History, Jena, Germany. Invited by Russell Gray and Fiona Jordan.

Departmental Talks:

Willard, A. K., Shariff, A. F., Kramer, S. & Norenzayan A. (January 2016). Religious Priming: A Meta-Analysis. *Cognitive Science Area Meeting, Department of Psychology University of Texas at Austin.*

Willard, A. K. (November 2015). The Basis of Belief: the cognitive and cultural foundations of supernatural belief. *Social Area Meeting, Department of Psychology University of Texas at Austin.*

Willard, A. K. (October 2015). The Basis of Belief: the cognitive and cultural foundations of supernatural belief. *Cognitive Science Area Meeting, Department of Psychology University of Texas at Austin.*

Teaching Experience:

- Instructor: PSYC 307: Cultural Psychology, January 2015.
- Teaching Assistant: ISIC 302: Integrated Sciences Research Retreat Course (Prof: Michael Doebeli & Rik Blok, Summer 2014)
- Teaching Fellow: PSYC 217: Psychology Research Methods (Prof: Will Gervais, Winter 2011; Amori Mikami, Winter 2011)
- Teaching Assistant: PSYC 407: Culture and Cognition (Prof: Ara Norenzayan, Winter 2009; Joe Henrich Winter 2010)
- Teaching Assistant: ASTU 201: Canada, Japan and the Pacific: Cultural Studies (Prof: Darrin Lehman, Winter 2009-2011)

Undergraduate Students Supervised:

- 2016-17: Emily Cruz, Directed Research project
Tiffany Huynh, volunteer
Shu Jie, Directed Research project
Shih-Yin Chung, volunteer
Andi Lang, volunteer
Andrew Arriaga, volunteer
- 2015-16: Andrew Arriaga, Directed Research project
Shu Jie, Directed Research project
Emily Cruz, volunteer
Tiffany Huynh, volunteer
- 2014-15: Nancy Tania, Directed Research project
Jenny Zhao, Directed Research project
Samuel Kim, Cognitive Systems project

- Vincci Lee, volunteer
- Mengyang Zhang, volunteer
- 2013-14: Jason Chang, Directed Research project
- Paul Grewl, Honours project
- Melody Lam, Directed Research project
- Samantha Greenwood, Directed Research project
- Mengyang Zhang, volunteer
- 2012-13: Gibak Lee, Honours project
- Elissa-Marie Wayne, volunteer
- Samantha Greenwood, volunteer
- Dakota Shlag, volunteer
- 2011-12: Sean Lee, Directed Research project
- Gabriel Brooks, Directed Research project
- Dakota Shlag, volunteer
- Wendy Xue, volunteer
- 2010-11: Chadis Pharnichyakul, Directed Research project
- Gabriel Brooks, Directed Research project
- Dan Asad, volunteer
- 2009-10: Chadis Pharnichyakul, volunteer
- Gabriel Brooks, Directed Research project

Professional Activities:

Academic Societies:

American Academy of Religion (Cognitive Science of Religion Steering Committee)
Cultural Evolution Society
Society for Personality and Social Psychology
Human Behaviour and Evolution Society

Reviewer for:

British Journal of Social Psychology
Cognition
Cognitive Science
Current Anthropology
Evolution and Human Behaviour
Journal for the Cognitive Science of Religion
Journal of Experimental Psychology: General
Journal of Personality and Social Psychology
Journal of the Scientific Study of Religion
Personality and Individual Differences
Proceedings of the National Academy of Science
Religion Brain and Behaviour
The Journal of Psychology: Interdisciplinary and Applied