

Eric Michael Johnson

Department of History
University of British Columbia
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RESEARCH INTERESTS

Evolutionary history in a global context. Biology, primatology, anthropology and the evolution of cooperation. Science, social construction and transnational political movements. Victorian England, Europe and Late Imperial Russia.

EDUCATION

Sept. 2009 – Present: PhD – History, University of British Columbia
PhD Dissertation: “The Struggle for Coexistence: Peter Kropotkin and the Social Ecology of Science in England, Europe and Russia, 1859-1920.”

Sept. 2007 – May 2008: PhD – Evolutionary Anthropology, Duke University
Graduate Certificate Program – History and Philosophy of Science, Technology and Medicine, Duke University

Sept. 2005 - May 2007: Master of Arts – Anthropology, Washington State University
Masters Thesis: “Maternal Style, Status-Seeking and Infant Behavior in Bonobos (*Pan paniscus*).”

Feb. 2001 - May 2003: Bachelor of Arts – Anthropology, Biology minor, California State University, Chico
Senior Thesis: “Vestiges of Colonialism: Anthropology, Development, and Multilateral Investment.”

Language Training: Russian (Intermediate Reading)
French (Intermediate Reading)
Spanish (Beginner Reading)
Mandarin Chinese (Beginner Reading)

ACADEMIC FELLOWSHIPS, GRANTS, AND AWARDS

Fellowships:

- 2010-14 Four Year Doctoral Fellowship, University of British Columbia
- 2009-15 Faculty of Arts Scholarship, University of British Columbia
- 2009-15 International Student Tuition Scholarship, University of British Columbia
- 2008 Vienna International Summer University Fellowship
- 2007-08 Graduate Research Fellowship, Duke University
- 2006-07 Graduate Research Fellowship, Washington State University

Grants and Awards:

- 2013 Faraday Institute for Science and Religion, “Changing Biosocial Boundaries in History of Science: Cross-Cultural Encounters and Their Impact,”
PI: Dr. Alexei Kojevnikov, \$105,450 [24 months]
- 2011 American Association for the Advancement of Science Philip Morrison Fellowship: \$2,000
- 2011 Winning Poster: AAAS Social Sciences - “Demographics, Inequality and Entitlements in the Russian Famine of 1891”
- 2007 Duke Biology Graduate Student Symposium Research Award, \$100
- 2005-06 National Science Foundation Graduate Research Fellowship, Honorable Mention
- 2006-07 Washington State University Campus Involvement Grant – Northwest Progressive Conference, \$2,500
- 2006-07 Washington State University Campus Involvement Grant – Northwest Primate Conservation Society, \$2,500
- 2002-03 Dean’s Honors List – California State University, Chico Behavioral and Social Sciences

PUBLICATIONS

Research Articles and Technical Comments

Johnson, E.M., 2015, “Demographics, Inequality and Entitlements in the Russian Famine of 1891,” *The Slavonic and East European Review* 93(1): 96-119.

Johnson, E.M., 2014, “A Historical Epistemology of Empathy,” *Notes and Records of the Royal Society*. (submitted)

Johnson, E.M. and Hawks, J., 2011, “Comment: Human-Specific Loss of Regulatory DNA and the Evolution of Human-Specific Traits,” *Nature* 471: 216-219.

MacLean, E., Barrickman, N.L., Johnson, E.M., Wall, C.E., 2008, “Sociality, Ecology and Relative Brain Size in Lemurs,” *Journal of Human Evolution* 56(5): 471-478.

Johnson, E.M., 2008, "Career or Family?: Maternal Style and Status-Seeking Behavior in Captive Bonobos (*Pan paniscus*)," *American Journal of Physical Anthropology* 135(S46): 126.

Johnson, E.M., 2007, "Lack of Inbreeding Avoidance and Reduction of Alliance Formation in Matrilineally-Housed Bonobos (*Pan paniscus*)," *American Journal of Physical Anthropology* 132(S44): 137.

Other Publications

Johnson, E.M., 2014, "We Are Hardwired to Cooperate and Share," in Van Gelder, S. (ed.) *Sustainable Happiness*, Berrett-Koehler Publishers: San Francisco, pp. 45-47.

Johnson, E.M., 2012, "Freedom to Riot: On the Evolution of Collective Violence," in Zivkovic, B. & Ouellette, J. (eds.) *The Best Science Writing Online 2012*, Farrar, Straus and Giroux: New York, pp. 157-167.

Johnson, E.M., 2012, Cover Article, "Women and Children First," *Times Higher Education*, 2,041: 38-43.

Johnson, E.M., 2011, Cover Article, "Ariel Casts Out Caliban," *Times Higher Education*, 1,995: 34-39.

Johnson, E.M., 2013, "New Theory of Evolution: Survival of the Nicest," *Yes! Magazine*, 65: 48-49.

Johnson, E.M., 2011, "Sacrifice on the Serengeti: Life History, Genetic Relatedness, and the Evolution of Menopause," in Zivkovic, B. & Goldman, J. (eds.) *The Open Laboratory 2010*, Lulu Press: Durham, pp. 97-101.

Johnson, E.M., 2011, "I've Got Your Back: New Evidence Shows That Chimpanzees Aren't As Selfish As Many Scientists Thought," *Scientific American*, 305(4): 22.

Johnson, E.M., 2010, "Male Chauvinist Chimps or the Meat Market of Public Opinion?" in Zivkovic, B. & Scieurious (eds.) *The Open Laboratory 2009*, Lulu Press: Durham, pp. 59-63.

Johnson, E.M., 2008, "The Sacrifice of Admetus: How the Evolution of Altruism Reveals Our Noblest Qualities," In Zivkovic, B. & Cartwright, R. (eds.) *The Open Laboratory 2007*, Lulu Press: Durham, pp. 98-102.

Johnson, E.M., 2005, "Behind Enemy Lines," *Wildlife Conservation*, 108(6): 26-31.

Johnson, E.M., 2003, "The Biology of Humor: In Search of the Cerebral Funny Bone," *Discover*, 23(5): 24-25.

Book Reviews:

Johnson, E.M., 2014, "The Gap: The Science of What Separates Us From Other Animals," *Times Higher Education*, 2132: 42-43.

Johnson, E.M., 2013, "The Bonobo and the Atheist: In Search of Humanism Among the Primates," *Times Higher Education*, 2,098: 48-49.

Johnson, E.M., 2011, "Recovering the Role of Labor in Environmental History: Review of *A People's History of Environmentalism in the United States*," *Studies in the History of Biology* 4(1): 112-13.

Johnson, E.M., 2011, "The Evolution of Group Selection: Review of *Evolutionary Restraints*," *Studies in the History of Biology* 3(4): 139-41.

Johnson, E.M., 2010, "Sexy Beasts: Review of *Sex at Dawn*," *SEED*, June 29, 2010.

Johnson, E.M., 2009, "Survival of the Kindest: Review of *The Age of Empathy*," *SEED*, Sept. 24, 2009.

Online Publications:

Johnson, E.M. "Misogyny Is Not Human Nature," *Slate*, September 24, 2014.

URL: http://www.slate.com/articles/health_and_science/science/2014/09/online_misogyny_of_the_fapping_stealing_celebrity_photos_is_not_just_human.html

Johnson, E.M. "Fire Over Ahwahnee: John Muir and the Decline of Yosemite," *Scientific American*, August 13, 2014.

URL: <http://blogs.scientificamerican.com/primate-diaries/2014/08/13/fire-over-ahwahnee-john-muir-and-the-decline-of-yosemit/>

Johnson, E.M. "What Are Relatives Good For?" *Slate*, April 3, 2014.

URL: http://www.slate.com/articles/health_and_science/science/2014/04/fight_over_kin_selection_on_its_50th_anniversary_w_d_hamilton_s_aunt_prudence.html

Johnson, E.M. "Promiscuity is Pragmatic," *Slate*, Dec. 4, 2013.

URL: http://www.slate.com/articles/health_and_science/science/2013/12/female_promiscuity_in_primates_when_do_women_have_multiple_partners.single.html

Johnson, E.M. "A Historical Epistemology of Empathy," International Congress of History of Science, Technology and Medicine Blog, July 20, 2013.

URL: <http://www.ichstm2013.com/blog/2013/07/20/a-historical-epistemology-of-empathy/>

Johnson, E.M. "Debunking the Myths About Why We Give," *Voices on Society*, September 10, 2013.

URL: <http://voices.mckinseysociety.com/debunking-the-myths-of-why-we-give/>

Johnson, E.M. "Ayn Rand vs. the Pygmies: Groups and Gossip Drove the Evolution of Human Nature," *Slate*, Oct. 3, 2012.

URL: http://www.slate.com/articles/health_and_science/human_evolution/2012/10/groups_and_gossip_drove_the_evolution_of_human_nature.single.html

Johnson, E.M. "A Primatologist Discovers the Social Factors Responsible for Maternal Infanticide," *Scientific American*, Nov. 22, 2011.

URL: <http://blogs.scientificamerican.com/guest-blog/2010/11/22/a-primatologist-discovers-the-social-factors-responsible-for-maternal-infanticide>

Johnson, E.M. "The Allure of Gay Cavemen," *Wired*, March 15, 2011.

URL: <http://www.wired.com/wiredscience/2011/04/the-allure-of-gay-cavemen/>

Johnson, E.M. "Sex, Evolution, and the Case of the Missing Polygamists," *Psychology Today*, Oct. 1, 2010.

URL: <http://www.psychologytoday.com/blog/sex-dawn/201010/sex-evolution-and-the-case-the-missing-polygamists>

Johnson, E.M. "Reflections on the WEIRD Evolution of Human Psychology," *Public Library of Science*, Sept. 23, 2010.

URL: <http://blogs.plos.org/blog/2010/09/23/reflections-on-the-weird-evolution-of-humanpsychology/>

CONFERENCES AND ACADEMIC WORKSHOPS

Annual Meetings or Congresses:

"Was the Russian Famine of 1891 a Malthusian Crisis?" Biennial Conference of the European Society for Environmental History: Munich, Germany, August 20-24, 2013.

"A Historical Epistemology of Empathy from Darwin to De Waal," Quadrennial International Congress of History of Science, Technology, and Medicine: Manchester, England, July 21-28, 2013.

"An Ethnography of Mutual Aid," Annual Meeting of the Canadian Society for the History and Philosophy of Science: Victoria, Canada, June 2-4, 2013.

"Mutual Aid, Nomogenesis and Convergent Evolution in Soviet Biology, 1912-1922," Annual Meeting of the Association for Slavic, East European, and Eurasian Studies: New Orleans, Louisiana, Nov. 15-18, 2012.

"The Paris Commune and the Struggle for Darwinism," Biannual Congress of the European Society for the History of Science: Athens, Greece, Nov. 1-3, 2012.

"Baltic Germans and the Construction of Evolutionary Theory in Russia," Biannual Meeting of the Baltic Association of the History and Philosophy of Science: Vilnius, Lithuania, Oct. 4-6, 2012.

“‘National Style’, Transnational Networks and Mutual Aid in Russian Evolutionary Thought, 1859-1919,” British Association for Slavonic and East European Studies: Cambridge, England, March 31-April 2, 2012.

“Demographics, Inequality and Entitlements in the Russian Famine of 1891,” Annual Meeting of the American Association for the Advancement of Science: Vancouver, Canada, Feb. 16-20, 2011.

“Career or Family?: Maternal Style and Status-Seeking Behavior in Captive Bonobos (*Pan paniscus*),” Annual Meeting of the American Association of Physical Anthropologists: Columbus, Ohio, April 9-12, 2008.

“Female Sexual Agency and Evolution,” Annual Meeting of the Northwest Anthropological Conference: Seattle, Washington, March 29-April 1, 2006.

Academic Workshops and Colloquia:

“Sympathy, Empathy and the Evolution of Darwin’s Moral Sense,” Human Evolutionary Studies Program Colloquium, Simon Fraser University, October 23, 2014.

“The Value of Evidence: Social Constructivism and the Biological Consequences of Nuclear War,” The Meaning(s) of Science: University of British Columbia, March 24, 2014.

“A Historical Epistemology of Empathy,” Science and Technology Studies Colloquium Series, University of British Columbia, January 16, 2014.

“Geographic Factors Behind the Russian Famine of 1891,” Conceptualising the Natural Environment: Critical Reflections from Russia, 18th-20th Centuries: European University, St. Petersburg, Russia, March 2013.

“Social Movements and Darwinism in England and Russia,” Darwin in Cities, 1859-1930: Ruhr-Universität Bochum, Bochum, Germany, March 2012.

“Networks, Not Nations, in European Biological Thought,” Russian-French-German Links in Embryology, Physiology and Medicine: Russian Academy of Sciences Institute for the History of Science and Technology, St. Petersburg, Russia, June 2012.

“Heart of the Commonwealth: The Impact of William Harvey’s Medical Science on the Philosophy of Thomas Hobbes,” History and Philosophy of the Biomedical Sciences: Vienna International Summer University, Vienna, Austria, July 2008.

Graduate Student Conferences and Symposiums:

“Demographics, Inequality and Entitlements in the Russian Famine of 1891,” Qualicum History Conference: Parksville, Canada, January 2011.

“Nature of Leviathan: Biology and Physics in Hobbes' Political Science,” Qualicum History Conference: Parksville, Canada, January 2010.

“Career or Family?: Maternal Style and Status-Seeking Behavior in Captive Bonobos (*Pan paniscus*),” Duke Biology Graduate Student Symposium: Durham, North Carolina, February 2008.

“Bonobo Mothering Personality,” Washington State University Anthropology Graduate Colloquium: Pullman, Washington, February 2006.

“Forskolin Mediated Hippocampal Synaptogenesis,” Washington State University Anthropology Graduate Colloquium: Pullman, Washington, November 2005.

“Bonobos on the Brink,” Washington State University Anthropology Graduate Colloquium: Pullman, Washington, September 2005.

“Bonobos on the Brink,” California State University, Chico Anthropology Colloquium: Chico, California, March 2004.

Other Conferences and Presentations:

“The Uses of the Past: History of Science for Science Journalists and Writers,” Science Online: Raleigh, North Carolina, January 2012.

“Making the History of Science Work for You,” Science Online: Durham, North Carolina, January 2011.

“An Open History of Science,” Science Online: Durham, North Carolina, January 2010.

“A Natural History of Anarchy,” SURGE (Students United for a Responsible Global Environment) Conference: Durham, North Carolina, April 2008.

“A Natural History of Anarchy,” Northwest Progressive Conference: Pullman, Washington, March 2008.

“A Natural History of Anarchy,” CSU, Chico Peace and Justice Symposium: Chico, California, June 2007.

“Corporate Globalization and Democracy,” Northwest Progressive Conference: Pullman, Washington, March 2007.

“Mission Accomplished: A History of the Iraq War,” Northwest Progressive Conference: Pullman, Washington, March 2007.

“Globalization in Latin America,” CASHE (Children of Aztlan Sharing Higher Education) Conference: Pullman, Washington, November 2006.

TEACHING EXPERIENCE

Instructor or Guest Lecturer:

Instructor: HIST 367, Section 201: Europe in the Age of Enlightenment, University of British Columbia, January 5 – April 30, 2015.

Instructor: HIST 368, Section 921: Europe in the Nineteenth Century, University of British Columbia, May 13 – June 20, 2013.

Guest Lecturer: “Generation of Monsters: Apes and Empire in the Age of Enlightenment,” HIST 102: World History: 1500-The Present, University of British Columbia, Dec. 1, 2011.

Guest Lecturer: “Conservation and Indigenous Peoples in the United States and Canada.” HIST 303: The Canadian West, University of British Columbia, March 8, 2011.

Guest Lecturer: “United States Cold War Nuclear Policy.” HIST 402: Problems in International Relations, University of British Columbia, Oct. 26-28, 2010.

Guest Lecturer: “United States Indian Policy.” HIST 303: The Canadian West, University of British Columbia, Oct. 26-28, 2010.

Guest Lecturer: “Philosophy and Human Evolution.” ANTH 468: Sex, Evolution & Human Nature, Washington State University, Feb. 13, 2007.

Guest Lecturer: “The Anthropology of *Star Wars*,” ENGL 401: Themes in American Film, California State University, Chico, April 5, 2001.

Guest Lecturer: “Labor and Masculinity in *On the Waterfront*,” ENGL 401: Themes in American Film, California State University, Chico, March 16, 2001.

Guest Lecturer: “Manufacturing Consent and the Trials of *Citizen Kane*,” ENGL 401: Themes in American Film, California State University, Chico, Feb. 20, 2001.

Guest Lecturer: “The Romance of Wartime in *Casablanca*,” ENGL 401: Themes in American Film, California State University, Chico, Feb. 12, 2001.

Teaching Assistant:

HIST/PHIL 260: Science and Society in the Contemporary World, University of British Columbia, Aug. – Dec. 2013.

HIST 102: World History: 1500-The Present, University of British Columbia, Aug. 2011-Dec. 2011.

HIST 303: The Canadian West, University of British Columbia, Aug. 2010 – May 2011.

HIST 102: World History: 1500-The Present, University of British Columbia, Aug. 2009 – May 2010.

BAA 144L: Primate Field Biology, Duke University, Feb. – May 2008.

BAA 171: Primate Sexuality, Duke University, Aug. – Dec. 2007.

ANTH 468: Sex, Evolution, and Human Nature, Washington State University, Feb. – May 2007.

ANTH 468: Sex, Evolution, and Human Nature, Washington State University, Aug. – Dec. 2006.

BIOL 001 LS: Biology for Liberal Studies, California State University, Chico, Feb. – May 2003.

BIOL 001 LS: Biology for Liberal Studies, California State University, Chico, Aug. – Dec. 2002.

ENGL 401: Themes in American Film, California State University, Chico, Feb. – May 2001.

Other Teaching:

Workshop Leader: Corporate Globalization and Democracy, California State University, Chico, Feb. – May 2004.

Workshop Leader: Corporations, Globalization, and Democracy, California State University, Chico, Feb. – May 2003.

Science Teacher: Math, Engineering & Science Achievement, Four Winds Native American Charter School, Chico, California, Aug. 2001 – Dec. 2002.

RESEARCH ASSISTANTSHIPS AND FIELD STUDIES

Research Assistant: Dr. David Eltis, African Origins Project, Emory University, Jan. 2011 – May 2011.

Research Assistant: Dr. Dianne Newell, Peter Wall Institute for Advanced Studies, University of British Columbia, Sept. 2009 – Jan. 2010.

Research Assistant: Dr. Jessica Alfaro, Center for Reproductive Biology, Washington State University, Feb. – May 2006.

Research Assistant: Dr. Jonathan Day, Biology Department, California State University, Chico, Aug. 2001 – May 2002.

Bonobo Behavioral Study: SD Zoo/Wild Animal Park, San Diego, California, Sept. 2005 - Oct. 2006.

Gibbon Behavioral Study: Gibbon Conservation Center, Santa Clarita, California, April – May 2000.

CAMPUS INVOLVEMENT AND OUTREACH

Conference and Panel Organizer:

Panel Organizer: “Negotiating Science in the Periphery: National Objectives and Local Knowledge in the Nineteenth Century,” Annual Meeting of the Canadian Society for the History and Philosophy of Science: Victoria, Canada, June 2013.

Chair: Northwest Progressive Conference: Pullman, Washington, March 2007.

Panel Organizer: “The Uses of the Past: History of Science for Science Journalists/Writers,” Science Online, Raleigh, North Carolina, January 2012.

Panel Organizer: “Making the History of Science Work for You,” Science Online, Durham, North Carolina, January 2011.

Panel Organizer: “An Open History of Science,” Science Online, Durham, North Carolina, January 2010.

Campus Involvement:

President: History of Science, Technology, and Medicine Graduate Student Association, University of British Columbia, September 2013 – January 2015.

Union Representative: History Graduate Student Association, University of British Columbia, 2010-11.

President: Progressive Student Union, Washington State University, 2006-07.

President: Northwest Primate Conservation Society, Washington State University, 2006-07.