

CV of Mgr. Martin Lang, Ph.D.  
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## **Affiliations**

LEVYNA

Laboratory for the Experimental Research of  
Religion  
Masaryk University  
Arne Nováka 1  
602 00 Brno  
Czech Republic

## **Employment**

01.01.2018 – Current      Postdoctoral researcher at LEVYNA, Masaryk Uni  
01.07.2018 – 30.06.2019      Associate at Human Evolutionary Biology, Harvard Uni  
01.11.2016 – 30.06.2018      Postdoctoral researcher at Human Evolutionary Biology, Harvard Uni  
30.08.2014 – 31.08.2016      Graduate researcher at Experimental Anthropology Lab, University of  
Connecticut  
1.11.2011 – 31.08.2014      Doctoral researcher at LEVYNA, Masaryk University

## **Education and academic qualifications**

25.01.2011 – 06.12.2016      Ph.D. in Religious Studies, Masaryk University, Brno, Czech Republic. *“The Cognitive Science of Religion: Connecting the Humanities with the Sciences in the Study of Ritual Practice, Prosociality, and Anxiety”*  
01.09.2008 – 25.01.2011      MA in Religious Studies, Masaryk University, Brno, Czech Republic. *“Neurophysiological basis of religiosity”* (Dean’s Award for an outstanding MA thesis)  
16.09.2005 – 01.09.2008      BA in Religious Studies; & Media Studies and Journalism, Masaryk University, Brno, Czech Republic. *“Life in the Sahaja Yoga movement: A case of spiritual change or conversion?”*

## **Other training**

07.09.2014      Collaborative Institutional Training Initiative  
29.07.2012 – 23.08.2012      Experimental Methods in the Study of Cognition and Culture summer school, Aarhus University, Denmark

- 19.10.2011 – 12.11.2011 Exchange student, Religious Studies Department, University of Szeged, Hungary
- 01.08.2009 – 31.01.2010 Exchange student, Religious Studies Department, University of Szeged, Hungary

### Grants & Fellowships

- 01.01.2018 PI: *The Evolution of Ritual Behavior as a Communication Technology*. Czech Science Foundation. \$62,600
- 01.01.2018 PI: *Ritual behavior as a means to anxiety alleviation*. Neuron Fund. \$10,750
- 01.01.2015 PI (with D. Xygalatas): *Effects of Ritualized Behavior on Anxiety*. Interacting Minds Center, Aarhus University. Seed Funding. \$7,000
- 01.09.2014 Investigator (PI: D. Xygalatas). *Exploring the effects of rituals on identity fusion: A cross-cultural study*, Oxford University sub-grant on Ritual's Impact on the Contemporary World. \$70,000
- 01.06.2012 PI: *Religion and cooperation: The intersection of neuroscientific and evolutionary perspectives*. Masaryk University Graduate Fund. \$1,000

### Awards

- 16.05.2019 Masaryk University Rector's Award for Outstanding Research Results Achieved by Young Scientists under 35
- 22.08.2016 Best student abstract award at the International Association for the Cognitive Science of Religion Conference held in Vancouver, Canada.
- 01.02.2011 Dean's award for an outstanding MA thesis at Masaryk University, Brno, Czech Republic
- 28.05.2009 Best presentation at the Student Scientific Conference on Religion held in Pardubice, Czech Republic.

### Keynote & Invited Talks

- 06.10.2018 "Ritualized Behavior across Disciplines: From Ethology to Religious Studies", *3<sup>rd</sup> Annual Religious Studies Conference, Olomouc, Czech Republic*.
- 28.05.2018 "Evolutionary and Cognitive Science of Religion", *Conference on Cognition and Artificial Life, Brno, Czech Republic*.
- 14.12.2017 The Power of Sacred Rhythms: Effects on Collective Effervescence, Cooperation, and Morality", *IAST-Foundation Royaumont Conference: The Origins of Music in Human Society, Abbaye de Royaumont, France*.

26.04.2017 “Ritual Behavior and Anxiety”, *Religion and Science Colloquium, IBCSR, Boston University, Boston, USA.*

### Selected Conference Talks

14.05.2018 “Punitive Gods, Morality, and Extended Prosociality”, *Future Directions on the Evolution of Rituals, Beliefs and Religious Minds, Erice, Italy*

21.08.2017 “Measuring Ritual in the Field: The Short-/Long-term of Effects Ritual Behavior on Stress in Mauritius”, *IAPR-Conference, Hamar, Norway*

24.05.2017 “Psychophysiological Effects of Ritualization: Evidence from the Lab and the Field”, *29th APS Annual Convention, Boston, USA*

### Public Outreach

22.05.2018 “Anxiety, Rituals, and Religion” *Czech Science Café, Czech Centrum in Berlin, Germany*

07.12.2017 “Religion as a Complex Adaptive System: The Evolution of Coordination, Cooperation, and Morality”, *Biological Thursdays, Charles University, Czech Republic*

12.04.2012 “How can science help us understand religion?” *Science Café, Brno, Czech Republic*

#### *Links to media:*

Coverage by [TIME](#)

Coverage by [VICE](#)

Coverage by [Discover Magazine](#)

Popular summary for [anxiety.org](#)

Interview on [Verge of Discovery](#)

Interview in [Lidové Noviny](#)

Coverage by [Czech Denik N](#)

Coverage by [Slovak Dennik N](#)

Coverage by [Lidové Noviny](#)

### Teaching

July 2016 *Interdisciplinary Ethnography Field School in Mauritius* organized by Aarhus University, Denmark

Fall 2012 *Cognitive Science of Religion*, Department for the Study of Religions, Masaryk University

Fall 2012 *Religion and the Social Brain*, Department for the Study of Religions, Masaryk University

### Other activities

0.1.09.2011 –31.08.2014 Editor in the journal *Sacra* at Masaryk University

### References

Dimitris Xygalatas Department of Anthropology University of Connecticut 354 Mansfield Road, Storrs, CT, 06226, USA <a href="mailto:dimitris.xygalatas@uconn.edu">dimitris.xygalatas@uconn.edu</a>	Joseph Henrich, Department of Human Evolutionary Biology Harvard University 11 Divinity Avenue, Cambridge, MA, 02138, USA <a href="mailto:henrich@fas.harvard.edu">henrich@fas.harvard.edu</a>
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### Journal Articles and Book Chapters:

Xygalatas, D., Khan, S., Lang, M., Krátký, J., Kundt, R., Kundtová Klocová, E., & Shaver, J. H. (In Press). Effects of extreme ritual practices on psychophysiological well-being. *Current Anthropology*.

Lang, M., Purzycki, B.G., Apicella, C. L., Atkinson, Q. D., Bolyanatz, A., Cohen, E., Handley, C., Kundtová Klocová, E., Lesorogol, C., Mathew, S., McNamara, R. A., Moya, C., Placek, C. D., Soler, M., Vardy, T., Weigel, J. L., Willard, A. K., Xygalatas, D., Norenzayan, A., & Henrich, J. (2019). Moralizing Gods, Impartiality, and Religious Parochialism across 15 Societies. *Proceedings of the Royal Society B: Biological Sciences* 286 (1898), 1-10. doi: [10.1098/rspb.2019.0202](https://doi.org/10.1098/rspb.2019.0202)

Purzycki, B. G., & Lang, M. 2019. Identity Fusion, Outgroup Relations, and Sacrifice: A Cross-Cultural Test. *Cognition* 186, 1-6. Doi: [10.1016/j.cognition.2019.01.015](https://doi.org/10.1016/j.cognition.2019.01.015)

Lang, M., Krátký, J., Shaver, J. H., Jerotijević, D., and Xygalatas, D. (2019). Is Ritual Behavior a Response to Anxiety? In Slone, J., & McCorkle, W. (Eds.). *Empirical Studies in the Cognitive Science of Religion*. London: Bloomsbury Academic, pp. 181-191.

Shaver, J. H., Lang, M., Krátký, J., Klocová Kundtová, E., Kundt, R., & Xygalatas, D. (2018). The boundaries of trust: Cross-religious and cross-ethnic field experiments in Mauritius. *Evolutionary Psychology*, 16(4), 1–15. Doi: [10.1177/1474704918817644](https://doi.org/10.1177/1474704918817644)

Shaver, J. H., DiVietro, S., Lang, M., & Sosis, R. (2018). Costs Do Not Explain Variance in Trust Among Secular Groups. *Journal of Cognition and Culture*, 18 (1-2), 180-204. doi: [10.1163/15685373-12340025](https://doi.org/10.1163/15685373-12340025)

Xygalatas, D., Kotherová, S., Maňo, P., Kundt, R., Cigán, J., Kundtová Klocová, E., & Lang, M. (2018). Big Gods in Small Places: The Random Allocation Game in Mauritius. *Religion, Brain and Behavior*, 8 (2), 243-261. doi: [10.1080/2153599X.2016.1267033](https://doi.org/10.1080/2153599X.2016.1267033)

Xygalatas, D., & Lang, M. (2017). Religion and prosociality. In N. Clements (Ed.), *Macmillan Interdisciplinary Handbooks. Religion: Mental Religion*. (pp. 119–133). Farmington Hills, MI: Macmillan Reference USA.

Lang, M., Bahna, V., Shaver, J.H., Reddish, P., & Xygalatas, D. (2017). Sync to Link: Endorphin-mediated Effects of Synchrony on Cooperation. *Biological Psychology*, 127, 191-197. doi: [10.1016/j.biopsycho.2017.06.001](https://doi.org/10.1016/j.biopsycho.2017.06.001)

Pazhoohi, F., Lang, M., Xygalatas, D., & Grammer, K. (2016). Religious Veiling as a Mate-Guarding Strategy: Effects of Environmental Pressures on Cultural Practices. *Evolutionary Psychological Science*, 3 (2), 118-124. doi: [10.1007/s40806-016-0079-z](https://doi.org/10.1007/s40806-016-0079-z)

Krátký, J., Lang, M., Shaver, J. H., Jerotijević, D., and Xygalatas, D. (2016). Anxiety and Ritualization: Can Attention Discriminate Compulsion from Routine? *Communicative & Integrative Biology*, 9 (3), e1174799. doi: [10.1080/19420889.2016.1174799](https://doi.org/10.1080/19420889.2016.1174799).

Lang, M., Mitkidis, P., Kundt, R., Nichols, A., Krajčíková, L., & Xygalatas, D. (2016). Music as a Sacred Cue: Effects of Religious Music on Moral Behavior, *Frontiers in Psychology* 7 (814), 1-13. doi: [10.3389/fpsyg.2016.00814](https://doi.org/10.3389/fpsyg.2016.00814).

Lang, M., Shaw, D. J., Reddish, P., Wallot, S., Mitkidis, P., and Xygalatas, D. (2016). Lost in the Rhythm: Effects of Rhythm on Subsequent Interpersonal Coordination. *Cognitive Science*, 40 (7), 1797-1815. doi:[10.1111/cogs.12302](https://doi.org/10.1111/cogs.12302).

Lang, M., Krátký, J., Shaver, J. H., Jerotijević, D., and Xygalatas, D. (2015). Effects of Anxiety on Spontaneous Ritualized Behavior. *Current Biology* 25 (14), 1892–1897. doi:[10.1016/j.cub.2015.05.049](https://doi.org/10.1016/j.cub.2015.05.049).

#### Commentaries:

Lang, M. (In press). Multifunctional Religious Systems and Perturbed Dynamics of Psychological Wellbeing. *Religion, Brain, & Behavior*. doi: [10.1080/2153599X.2018.1532454](https://doi.org/10.1080/2153599X.2018.1532454)

Lang, M., & Sosis, R. (2016). Uncertain Malinowski: The Importance of Preritual Stress Data. *Current Anthropology*, 52 (2). doi: [10.1086/691212](https://doi.org/10.1086/691212)

Lang, M., & Kundt, R. (2016). Can Predictive Coding Explain Past Experiences? *Religion, Brain, & Behavior*, 7 (1), pp. 71-73. doi: [10.1080/2153599X.2016.1150332](https://doi.org/10.1080/2153599X.2016.1150332).