

Mgr. Martin Lang, Ph.D.
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Affiliations

Department of Human Evolutionary Biology, Harvard University, 11 Divinity Avenue, Cambridge, MA, 02138, USA

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

Employment

2016 – 2017: Postdoctoral researcher (Human Evolutionary Biology, Harvard University)
Supervision: Joseph Henrich

2014 – 2016: Graduate researcher (Experimental Anthropology Lab, University of Connecticut)
Supervision: Dimitris Xygalatas

2011 – 2014: Doctoral researcher (LEVYNA, Masaryk University)
Supervision: Dimitris Xygalatas

Education and academic qualifications

2016: Ph.D. in Religious Studies, Faculty of Arts, Masaryk University, Brno, Czech Republic.
Dissertation: “*The Cognitive Science of Religion: Connecting the Humanities with the Sciences in the Study of Ritual Practice, Prosociality, and Anxiety.*” Advisor: Aleš Chalupa.

2011: Mgr. in Religious Studies, Faculty of Arts, Masaryk University, Brno, Czech Republic. Thesis: “*Neurophysiological basis of religiosity*” (Dean’s Award for an outstanding MA thesis)

2008: Bc. in Religious Studies; & Media Studies and Journalism, Faculty of Arts and Faculty of Social Sciences Masaryk University, Brno, Czech Republic. Thesis: “*Life in the Sahaja Yoga movement: A case of spiritual change or conversion?*”

Other training

2015/06: Ethnographic Summer School in Mauritius, organized by Aarhus University, Denmark

2012/07–08: Experimental Methods in the Study of Cognition and Culture summer school, Aarhus University, Denmark

2009 – 2010: Exchange student, Religious Studies Department, University of Szeged, Hungary

Grants & Fellowships

2016 PI: *Effects of predictable behavioral patterns on anxiety.* The CT Institute of Cognitive and Brain Sciences, University of Connecticut. Graduate Funding. \$5,000

2016 PI: *Can Rituals Assuage Anxiety? Effects of Ritual Behavior on Anxiety in Mauritius*. Department of Anthropology, University of Connecticut. Graduate Funding. \$4,000

2015 PI (with D. Xygalatas): *Effects of Ritualized Behavior on Anxiety*. Interacting Minds Center, Aarhus University. Seed Funding. \$7,000

2014-15 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

2012 PI: *Religion and cooperation: The intersection of neuroscientific and evolutionary perspectives*. Masaryk University Graduate Fund. \$500

Awards

2016 Best student abstract award at the International Association for the Cognitive Science of Religion Conference held in Vancouver, Canada.

2011 Dean's award for an outstanding MA thesis at Masaryk University, Brno, Czech Republic

Teaching

2016 Teaching Assistant: *Interdisciplinary Ethnography Field School in Mauritius*, organized by Aarhus University

2012 Teaching Assistant: *Cognitive Science of Religion*, Department for the Study of Religions, Masaryk University

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

Selected Conference Presentations

"Anxiety and Ritual Behavior: Testing the Relationship between Anxiety and Predictable Behavioral Patterns," IACSR Conference, Vancouver, Canada, 21-24 August 2016

"Influence of music on motor coordination," Homo Experimentalis: Experimental Approaches in the Study of Religion, Brno, Czech Republic, 25-27 October 2012.

"Naturalizing methods: possibilities of using neuroscience in the scientific study of religion," Naturalizing workshop, Krakow, Poland, 6-8 July 2012.

Competencies and Skills

Matlab; R; SPSS; Microsoft Excel; Recurrence Quantification Analysis; GLMM; HR measures; GSR measures; Sociometric measures;

Publications

Lang, M., Bahna, V., Shaver, J. H., Reddish, P., & Xygalatas, D. (In review). Sync to Link: Endorphin-Mediated Synchrony Effects on Cooperation. *Biological Psychology*.

Shaver, J. H., DiVietro, S., **Lang, M.**, & Sosis, R. (In press). Costs Do Not Explain Variance in Trust Among Secular Groups. *Journal of Cognition and Culture*.

Xygalatas, D., Kotherová, S., Maño, P., Kundt, R., Cigán, J., Kundtová Klocová, E., & **Lang, M.** (2017). Big Gods in Small Places: The Random Allocation Game in Mauritius. *Religion, Brain and Behavior*. E-publication before print.

Lang, M., & Sosis, R. (2017). Uncertain Malinowski: The Importance of Preritual Stress Data. *Current Anthropology*, 52 (2), pp. 276:278. [doi: 10.1086/691212](https://doi.org/10.1086/691212)

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.

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*, Epub before print. [doi: 10.1007/s40806-016-0079-z](https://doi.org/10.1007/s40806-016-0079-z)

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).

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., Krajčiková, 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).