

Evolutionary Psychology Area (2005-2006)

Todd K. Shackelford, Area Chair

Overview of Evolutionary Psychology Area

The Evolutionary Psychology program conducts research and provides graduate training in a range of areas within evolutionary psychology. The specific research topics under investigation are diverse and include the development of deferred imitation in juvenile chimpanzees (*Pan troglodytes*) and orangutans (*Pongo pygmaeus*), conflict within married couples, the dynamic processes underlying feelings about genetic children and stepchildren, the relationship between tool use and style of play in preschool children, psychological adaptations to sperm competition in humans, and behavioral and mental synchronization in social interaction. Research opportunities and instruction are offered on a wide range of topics, including evolutionary social psychology, evolutionary developmental psychology, comparative psychology, human sexual psychology and behavior, and dynamical systems. As indicated in the Evolutionary Psychology pages, our faculty represent an impressive range of theoretical perspectives and research methodologies.

Evolutionary Psychology Faculty

Natalie Ciarocco Belenky

Assistant Professor

Research Interests

Self-regulation (self-control), rejection, rumination

General Research Interests

Natalie Ciarocco Belenky's research interests are in the field of social psychology. She currently has three main areas of research. The first is in the area of self-control. Based on the idea that self-control is a limited resource, the implications of self-control in interpersonal relationships are being explored. Research projects conducted in the past included the examination of the role of self-regulation in ostracism, self-presentation, and rejection. Her second area of research is rumination. Research projects include a series of studies that explore the beneficial effects of rumination on task performance. Last, Dr. Belenky is studying the repercussions of being rejected. Currently she is exploring how rejection impacts various self-enhancing biases.

Representative Publications

Baumeister, R. F., Dwall, N., Ciarocco, N., & Twenge, J. M., (2005). Social exclusion impairs self-regulation. *Journal of Personality and Social Psychology* 88, 589-684.

Vohs, K. D., Baumeister, R. F., & Ciarocco, N. (2005). Self-regulation and self-presentation: Regulatory resource depletion impairs impression management and effortful self-presentation depletes regulatory resources. *Journal of Personality and Social Psychology*, 88, 632-657.

Ciarocco, N. J., Sommer, K. L., & Baumeister, R. F. (2001). Ostracism and ego depletion: The strains of silence. *Personality and Social Psychology Bulletin*, 27, 1156-1163.

Iris Berent
Associate Professor

Research Interests

Language, phonology, morphology, reading

General Research Interests

Humans are uniquely talented at acquiring language. To account for the human capacity for language, linguistic theory suggests that people are equipped with inherent biases regarding the organization of all human languages. Such biases greatly limit the possible variability of human languages and guide the language learner in the task of language acquisition. My work examines this hypothesis using psychological experiments with adult speakers. If people are equipped with inherent preferences regarding language structure, then certain linguistic structures should be preferred (e.g., more common) to others across languages. Moreover, the same preferences should be available to individual speakers even for linguistic structures that are not directly attested in their own language. In collaboration with my graduate students and various other collaborators, we examine this hypothesis using several case studies, ranging from the sound-structure of language to semantics.

Representative Publications

Berent, I., & Perfetti, C. A. (1995). A rose is a REEZ: The two cycles model of phonology assembly in reading English. *Psychological Review*, 102, 146-184.

Berent, I., Pinker, S., & Shimron, J. (1999). Default nominal inflection in Hebrew: Evidence for mental variables. *Cognition*, 72, 1-44.

Berent, I., Marcus, G. F., Shimron, J., & Gafos, A. I. (2002). The scope of linguistic generalizations: evidence from Hebrew word formation. *Cognition*, 83, 113-39.

David F. Bjorklund
Professor

Research Interests

Cognitive development, evolutionary developmental psychology

General Research Interests

David Bjorklund's research interests are in the areas of cognitive development and evolutionary developmental psychology. Research projects conducted in his lab include the role of immaturity in development; children's developing afterlife beliefs; sex differences in the relationship between tool use and style of play in preschool children; factors associated with children's utilization deficiencies (using strategies but not benefiting from them) on arithmetic and memory tasks; the development of deferred imitation in juvenile chimpanzees (*Pan troglodytes*) and orangutans (*Pongo pygmaeus*); and the role of enculturation (human-rearing) on the cognitive development of great apes. Related scholarly interests include issues of the possible role of

development in human cognitive evolution and the establishment of evolutionary developmental psychology as a subdiscipline within psychology.

Representative Publications

Ellis, B. J., & Bjorklund, D. F. (Eds.) (2005). *Origins of the social mind: Evolutionary psychology and child development*. New York: Guilford.

Bjorklund, D. F., & Hernández Blasi, C. (2005). Evolutionary developmental psychology. In D. M. Buss (Ed.), *Evolutionary psychology handbook* (pp. 828-850). New York: Wiley.

Bering, J. M., & Bjorklund, D. F. (2004). The natural emergence of afterlife reasoning as a developmental regularity. *Developmental Psychology*, 40, 217-233.

Michael D. Sagristano
Assistant Professor

Research Interests

Social cognition, attitudes, decision-making

General Research Interests

Michael Sagristano conducts research on social cognition, attitudes, and decision-making. Much of his work concerns how information relevant to an attitude or decision is categorized, classified, and weighted. He and his colleagues have shown that this mental construal process is influenced by the temporal distance to an event. People's mental representation of a distant future event tends to highlight the abstract, general, and essential features of the event, but their representation of a near future event typically consists of concrete, specific, or peripheral features. This basic difference in level of representation has been shown to have a number of noteworthy implications. For example, the typical approach to measuring attitudes emphasizes relatively abstract and general features of attitude-relevant behavior, and thus is more compatible with representations of distant as opposed to near future events. As a result, the ability of attitudes to predict behavior is, paradoxically, often greater for distant events than for more immediate events. Dr. Sagristano has confirmed this hypothesis with respect to real-life decisions concerning blood donation, exercise, gambling, and voting in the 2000 presidential election. Future research will extend this model to other domains, with an eye toward reframing traditional models of judgment and decision-making within a dynamic framework that emphasizes the fluid nature of mental representations. Additional focus will be given to the functionality of mental representation, including why variation in construal would have evolved and been selected for.

Representative Publications

Liberman, N., Sagristano, M. D., & Trope, Y. (2002). The effect of temporal distance on level of mental construal. *Journal of Experimental Social Psychology*, 38, 523-534.

Sagristano, M. D., Trope, Y., & Liberman, N. (2002). Time-dependent gambling: Odds now,

money later. *Journal of Experimental Psychology: General*, 131, 364-376.

Todd K. Shackelford
Associate Professor

Research Interests

Evolutionary psychology; sexuality and conflict in close relationships; human sperm competition; violence and homicide

General Research Interests

Todd Shackelford directs the *Evolutionary Psychology Lab*, which uses a modern evolutionary psychological perspective to investigate social and interpersonal phenomena. Evolutionary psychology attempts to make sense of current human thoughts, feelings, and behaviors by careful consideration of human evolutionary history. Over our evolutionary history, humans have faced many problems that needed to be solved to survive and reproduce. Our ancestors are those humans whose psychology motivated them to solve the problems of survival and reproduction better than others. Modern human psychology includes the psychological mechanisms (or information processing devices) that made our ancestors better at survival and reproduction. The focus of the Evolutionary Psychology Lab at FAU is on the psychology of close relationships, particularly romantic relationships. We study phenomena such as jealousy, infidelity, relationship satisfaction, physical abuse, and sexuality. Current research projects include a diary study of conflict within married couples, funded by the National Institute of Mental Health and a study of couples involved in violent relationships, funded by the State of Florida. Another line of work addresses murder and violence, particularly in romantic relationships, using national crime data, and funded by The Woodhill Foundation.

Representative Publications

Shackelford, T. K., **Goetz, A. T.**, Buss, D. M., Euler, H. A., & Hoier, S. (in press, 2005). When we hurt the ones we love: Predicting violence against women from men's mate retention tactics. *Personal Relationships*.

Shackelford, T. K., Pound, N., & **Goetz, A. T.** (in press, 2005). Psychological and physiological adaptations to sperm competition in humans. *Review of General Psychology*.

Shackelford, T. K., **Weekes-Shackelford, V. A.**, & **Beasley, S. L.** (2005). An exploratory analysis of the contexts and circumstances of filicide-suicide in Chicago, 1965-1994. *Aggressive Behavior*, 31, 399-406.

Robin R. Vallacher
Professor

Research Interests

Social judgment, self-concept, conflict, dynamical models of social processes

General Research Interests

Robin Vallacher is a member of the Social Psychology and Evolutionary Psychology programs and an affiliated member of the Applied Psychology program. He directs the *Dynamical Social Psychology Lab*, which investigates the dynamic properties of complex human experience at different levels of social reality, from individual functioning (e.g., self-concept, self-regulation, social judgment) to dyadic and group-level processes (e.g., close relations, societal change). Current research topics include evaluative coherence in social judgment, the dynamics of self-evaluative thought, the role of emotion in self-regulation, the emergence and maintenance of self-concept, behavioral and mental synchronization in social interaction, and the dynamics promoting intractability in interpersonal and inter-group conflict. These topics are investigated with laboratory experiments utilizing time-series data and by means of computer simulations (cellular automata, attractor neural networks, coupled dynamical systems). Dr. Vallacher is also exploring the relevance of dynamic principles and methods for issues in evolutionary psychology and is adapting dynamical tools to identify the attractors (equilibrium tendencies) underlying the cognitive and affective dynamics of people diagnosed with various forms of mental illness.

Representative Publications

Vallacher, R. R. & Nowak, A. (Eds.) (1994). *Dynamical systems in social psychology*. San Diego: Academic Press.

Vallacher, R. R. & Nowak, A. (in press). Dynamical social psychology: Finding order in the flow of human experience. In A. W. Kruglanski & E. T. Higgins (Eds.), *Social psychology: Handbook of basic principles* (2nd ed). New York: Guilford Publications.

Vallacher, R. R., Read, S. J., & Nowak, A. (2002). The dynamical perspective in personality and social psychology. *Personality and Social Psychology Review*, 6, 264-273.

Publications (2004, 2005, in press; Students boldened)

In press

Ciarocco, N. (in press) Modeling of Behavior. In R.F. Baumeister & K.D. Vohs (Eds.) *Encyclopedia of Social Psychology*. Thousand Oaks, CA: SAGE Publications.

Bering, J. M., & Bjorklund, D. F. (in press). The serpent's gift: Evolutionary psychology and consciousness. In P. D. Zelazo, M. Moscovitch, & E. Thompson, E. (Eds.). *Cambridge Handbook of Consciousness*. New York: Cambridge University Press.

Bering, J. M., Hernández Blasi, C., & Bjorklund, D. F. (in press). The development of "afterlife" beliefs in religiously and secularly schooled children. *British Journal of Developmental Psychology*.

Bering, J. M., **McLeod, K.**, & Shackelford, T. K. (in press). Reasoning about dead agents reveals possible adaptive trends. *Human Nature*.

Bering, J., & Shackelford, T. K. (in press). Consciousness and human psychological adaptations.

Theoria et Historia Scientiarum.

- Bering, J., & Shackelford, T. K. (in press). Supernatural agents may have provided adaptive social information. *Behavioral and Brain Sciences*.
- Bjorklund, D. F. (in press). Mother knows best: Epigenetic inheritance, maternal effects, and the evolution of human intelligence. *Developmental Review*.
- Coleman, P. T., **Bui-Wrzosinska, L.**, Vallacher, R. R., & Nowak, A. (in press). Approaching protracted conflicts as dynamical systems: Guidelines and methods for intervention. In A. Schneider & C. Honeyman (Eds.), *The Negotiator's Fieldbook*. Chicago: American Bar Association Books.
- Coleman, P. T., Vallacher, R. R., Nowak, A., & **Bui-Wrzosinska, L.** (in press). Intractable conflict as an attractor: Presenting a model of conflict, escalation, and intractability. *American Behavioral Scientist*.
- Goetz, A. T.**, & Shackelford, T. K. (in press). Introduction to evolutionary science. In S. M. Platek, J. P. Keenan, & T. K. Shackelford (Eds.). *Evolutionary cognitive neuroscience*. MIT Press.
- Goetz, A. T.**, & Shackelford, T. K. (in press). Sexual coercion and forced in-pair copulation as anti-cuckoldry tactics in humans. In S. M. Platek and T. K. Shackelford (Eds.), *Female infidelity and paternal uncertainty*. New York: Cambridge University Press.
- Goetz, A. T.**, & Shackelford, T. K. (in press). Mate retention, semen displacement, and sperm competition in humans. In S. M. Platek and T. K. Shackelford (Eds.), *Female infidelity and paternal uncertainty*. New York: Cambridge University Press.
- Goetz, A. T.**, & Shackelford, T. K. (in press). Sperm competition and its evolutionary consequences in humans. In S. M. Platek and T. K. Shackelford (Eds.), *Female infidelity and paternal uncertainty*. New York: Cambridge University Press.
- Goetz, A. T.**, & Shackelford, T. K. (in press). Sperm competition theory offers additional insight into cultural variation in sexual behavior. *Behavioral and Brain Sciences*.
- Goetz, A. T.**, & Shackelford, T. K. (in press). Modern application of evolutionary theory to psychology: Key concepts and clarifications. *American Journal of Psychology*.
- Keenan, J. P., Shackelford, T. K., & Platek, S. M. (in press). Future directions and challenges for evolutionary cognitive neuroscience. In S. M. Platek, J. P. Keenan, & T. K. Shackelford (Eds.). *Evolutionary cognitive neuroscience*. MIT Press.
- Michalski, R. L.**, & Shackelford, T. K. (in press). Grandparental investment as a function of relational uncertainty and emotional closeness with parents. *Human Nature*.

Michalski, R. L., & Shackelford, T. K. (in press). Battered woman syndrome. In N. J. Salkind (Ed.), *The encyclopedia of human development*. Thousand Oaks, CA: Sage Publications.

Michalski, R. L., & Shackelford, T. K. (in press). Evolutionary perspectives on personality. In G. Boyle, G. Matthews, & D. Saklofske (Ed.), *Handbook of personality and testing*. Thousand Oaks, CA: Sage Publications.

Nowak, A., Johnson, S., & Vallacher, R. R. (in press). Self-regulation failure in low self-esteem and depression. *Psychology Colloquia*.

Nowak, A. & Vallacher, R. R. (in press). The emergence of personality: Dynamic foundations of individual variation. *Developmental Review*.

Nowak, A., Vallacher, R. R., Bui-Wrzosinska, L., & Coleman, P. T. (in press). Attracted to conflict: A dynamical perspective on malignant social relations. In A. Golec & K. Skarzynska (Eds.), *Understanding social change: Political psychology in Poland*. Hauppauge, NY: Nova Science Publishers Ltd.

Platek, S. M., & Shackelford, T. K. (Eds.). (in press). *Female infidelity and paternal uncertainty*. New York: Cambridge University Press.

Platek, S. M., & Shackelford, T. K. (in press). Introduction to theory and research on human anti-cuckoldry tactics. In S. M. Platek and T. K. Shackelford (Eds.), *Female infidelity and paternal uncertainty*. New York: Cambridge University Press.

Platek, S. M., Keenan, J. P., & Shackelford, T. K., & (Eds.). (in press). *Evolutionary cognitive neuroscience*. Cambridge, MA: MIT Press.

Platek, S. M., Keenan, J. P., & Shackelford, T. K. (in press). Introduction to evolutionary cognitive neuroscience methods. In S. M. Platek, J. P. Keenan, & T. K. Shackelford (Eds.). *Evolutionary cognitive neuroscience*. MIT Press.

Pound, N., Shackelford, T. K., & **Goetz, A. T.** (in press). Sperm competition in humans. In T. K. Shackelford and N. Pound (Eds.), *Sperm competition in humans*. New York: Springer.

Russell, D. P., Michalski, R. L., Shackelford, T. K., & **Weekes-Shackelford, V. A.** (in press). A preliminary investigation of siblicide as a function of genetic relatedness. *Violence and Victims*.

Shackelford, T. K., & **Goetz, A. T.** (in press). Predicting violence against women from men's mate retention tactics. In S. M. Platek and T. K. Shackelford (Eds.), *Female infidelity and paternal uncertainty*. New York: Cambridge University Press.

Shackelford, T. K., **Goetz, A. T.,** Buss, D. M., Euler, H. A., & Hoier, S. (in press). When we hurt the ones we love: Predicting violence against women from men's mate retention tactics. *Personal Relationships*.

- Shackelford, T. K., **LeBlanc, G. J., Weekes-Shackelford, V. A.**, Bleske-Rechek, A. L., Euler, H. A., & **Hoier, S.** (in press). Psychological adaptation to human sperm competition. In T. K. Shackelford and N. Pound (Eds.), *Sperm competition in humans*. New York: Springer [Reprinted from: *Evolution and Human Behavior*, 23, 123-138].
- Shackelford, T. K., & **Mouzos, J.** (in press). Partner-killing by men in cohabiting and marital relationships: A comparative, cross-national analysis of data from Australia and the United States. *Journal of Interpersonal Violence*.
- Shackelford, T. K., & Pound, N. (Eds.). (in press). *Sperm competition in humans*. New York: Springer.
- Shackelford, T. K., Pound, N., & **Goetz, A. T.** (in press). Psychological and physiological adaptations to sperm competition in humans. *Review of General Psychology*.
- Shackelford, T. K., Schmitt, D. P., & Buss, D. M. (in press). Mate preferences of married persons in the newlywed year and four years later. *Cognition and Emotion*.
- Shackelford, T. K., **Weekes-Shackelford, V. A.**, & Schmitt, D. P. (in press). An evolutionary perspective on why men refuse or reduce their child support payments. *Basic and Applied Social Psychology*.
- Stone, E. A., Goetz, A. T.**, & Shackelford, T. K. (in press). Sex differences and similarities in preferred mating arrangements. *Sexualities, Evolution, and Gender*.
- Vallacher, R. R. (in press). Action identification theory. In R. F. Baumeister & Kathleen D. Vohs (Eds.), *Encyclopedia of social psychology*. Thousand Oaks, CA: Sage Publications.
- Vallacher, R. R. (in press). Self-concept. In N. J. Salkind & K. DeRuyck (Eds.), *The encyclopedia of human development*. New York: Sage Publications.
- Vallacher, R. R. & Nowak, A. (in press). Coherence in human experience and psychological science. In P. Van Lange (Ed.), *Bridging social psychology: The benefits of transdisciplinary approaches*. Hillsdale, NJ: Lawrence Erlbaum.
- Vallacher, R. R. & Nowak, A. (in press). Dynamical social psychology: Finding order in the flow of human experience. In A. W. Kruglanski & E. T. Higgins (Eds.), *Social psychology: Handbook of basic principles* (2nd ed). New York: Guilford Publications.
- Weekes-Shackelford, V. A.**, & Shackelford, T. K. (in press). Battered child syndrome. In N. J. Salkind (Ed.), *The encyclopedia of human development*. Thousand Oaks, CA: Sage Publications.
- Weekes-Shackelford, V. A.**, & Shackelford, T. K. (in press). Sudden infant death syndrome. In

N. J. Salkind (Ed.), *The encyclopedia of human development*. Thousand Oaks, CA: Sage Publications.

2005

Baumeister, R. F., Dewall, N., Ciarocco, N., & Twenge, J. M., (2005). Social exclusion impairs self-regulation. *Journal of Personality and Social Psychology* 88, 589-684.

Berent, I., & **Marom, M.** (2005). The skeletal structure of printed words: Evidence from the Stroop task. *Journal of Experimental Psychology: Human Perception & Performance*, 31, 328-338.

Berent, I., Pinker, S., Tzelgov, J., Bibi, U., & Goldfarb, L. (2005). Computation of Semantic Number from Lexical, Morphological, and Conceptual Information. *Journal of Memory and Language*.

Bjorklund, D. F., **Cormier, C., & Rosenberg, J. S.** (2005). The evolution of theory of mind: Big brains, social complexity, and inhibition. In W. Schneider, R. Schumann-Hengsteler, & B. Sodian (Eds.), *Young children's cognitive development: Interrelationships among executive functioning, working memory, verbal ability and theory of mind* (pp. 147-174). Mahwah, NJ: Erlbaum.

Bjorklund, D. F., & Ellis, B. J. (2005). Evolutionary psychology and child development: An emerging synthesis. In B. J. Ellis, & D. F. Bjorklund (Eds.). *Origins of the social mind: Evolutionary psychology and child development* (pp. 3-18). New York: Guilford.

Bjorklund, D. F., & Hernández Blasi, C. (2005). Evolutionary developmental psychology. In D. Buss (Ed.), *Evolutionary psychology handbook* (pp. 828-850). New York: Wiley.

Bjorklund, D. F. & **Rosenberg, J. S.** (2005). The role of developmental plasticity in the evolution of human cognition. In B. J. Ellis, & D. F. Bjorklund (Eds.). *Origins of the social mind: Evolutionary psychology and child development* (pp. 45-75). New York: Guilford.

Ellis, B. J., & Bjorklund, D. F. (Eds.) (2005). *Origins of the social mind: Evolutionary psychology and child development*. New York: Guilford.

Goetz, A. T., Shackelford, T. K., Weekes-Shackelford, V. A., Euler, H. A., Hoier, S., Schmitt, D. P., & LaMunyon, C. W. (2005). Mate retention, semen displacement, and human sperm competition: A preliminary investigation of tactics to prevent and correct female infidelity. *Personality and Individual Differences*, 38, 749-763.

Gredlein, J. M., & Bjorklund, D. F. (2005). Sex differences in young children's use of tools in a problem-solving task: The role of object-oriented play. *Human Nature*, 16, 97-118.

Johnson, A.K., Barnacz, A., Yokkaichi, T., Rubio, J., Racioppi, C., Shackelford, T. K.,

- Fisher, M. L., & Keenan, J. P. (2005). Me, myself, and lie: The role of self-awareness in deception. *Personality and Individual Differences*, 38, 1847-1853.
- Nowak, A. & Vallacher, R. R. (2005). Information and influence in the construction of shared reality. *IEEE: Intelligent Systems*, 20, 90-93.
- Nowak, A., Vallacher, R. R., Kus, M., & Urbaniak, J. (2005). The dynamics of societal transition: Modeling non-linear change in the Polish economic system. *International Journal of Sociology*, 35, 66-88.
- Shackelford, T. K., **Goetz, A. T.**, & Buss, D. M. (2005). Mate retention in marriage: Further evidence of the reliability of the Mate Retention Inventory. *Personality and Individual Differences*, 39, 415-425.
- Shackelford, T. K., Pound, N., **Goetz, A. T.**, & LaMunyon, C. W. (2005). Female infidelity and sperm competition. In D. M. Buss (Ed.), *The handbook of evolutionary psychology* (pp. 372-393). New York: Wiley.
- Shackelford, T. K., Schmitt, D. P., & Buss, D.M. (2005). Universal dimensions of human mate preference. *Personality and Individual Differences*, 39, 447-458.
- Shackelford, T. K., **Weekes-Shackelford, V. A.**, & **Beasley, S. L.** (2005). An exploratory analysis of the contexts and circumstances of filicide-suicide in Chicago, 1965-1994. *Aggressive Behavior*, 31, 399-406.
- Vallacher, R. R. & Nowak, A. (2005). The dynamical perspective: Toward coherence in human action and psychological science. *Journal of Sport and Exercise Psychology*, 27, 26-27.
- Vallacher, R. R., Nowak, A., & Zochowski, M. (2005). Dynamics of social coordination: The synchronization of internal states in close relationships. *Interaction Studies*, 6, 35-52.
- Vohs, K. D., Baumeister, R. F., & Ciarocco, N. (2005). Self-regulation and self-presentation: Regulatory resource depletion impairs impression management and effortful self-presentation depletes regulatory resources. *Journal of Personality and Social Psychology*, 88, 632-657.
- Weekes-Shackelford, V. A.**, & Bjorklund, D. F. (2005). Evolutionary developmental psychology. In C. Fisher & R. M. Lerner (Eds.) *Encyclopedia of applied developmental science* (pp. 428-431). Medford, MA: Tufts University Press.

2004

- Berent, I., Vaknin, V., & Shimron, J. (2004). Does a theory of language need a grammar? Evidence from Hebrew root structure. *Brain and Language*, 90, 170-182.

- Bering, J. M., & Bjorklund, D. F. (2004). The natural emergence of afterlife reasoning as a developmental regularity. *Developmental Psychology, 40*, 217-233.
- Bering, J. M., & Shackelford, T. K. (2004). The causal role of consciousness: A conceptual addendum to human evolutionary psychology. *Review of General Psychology, 8*, 227-248.
- Breitman, N.**, Shackelford, T. K., & Block, C. R. (2004). Couple age discrepancy and risk of intimate partner homicide. *Violence and Victims, 19*, 321-342.
- Goetz, A. T.**, & Shackelford, T. K. (2004). How to further the divide between evolutionary and non-evolutionary thinkers [Review of C. B. Travis (Ed.). (2003). *Evolution, gender, and rape*. Cambridge, MA: MIT Press.] *Contemporary Psychology/PSYCCRITIQUES, 49* (Supplement 14).
- Johnson, A. K., Michalewsky, A., Constantino, P., Triano, J.**, Shackelford, T. K., & Keenan, J. P. (2004). Female deception detection as a function of commitment and self-awareness. *Personality and Individual Differences, 37*, 1417-1424.
- Pellegrini, A. D., & Bjorklund, D. F. (2004). The ontogeny and phylogeny of children's object and fantasy play. *Human Nature, 15*, 23-43.
- Mouzos, J., & Shackelford, T. K. (2004). A comparative, cross-national analysis of partner-killing by women in cohabiting relationships and marital relationships in Australia and the United States. *Aggressive Behavior, 30*, 206-216.
- Schmitt, D. P.,....Shackelford, T. K., et al. (2004). Patterns and universals of adult romantic attachment across 62 cultural regions: Are models of self and other pancultural constructs? *Journal of Cross-Cultural Psychology, 35*, 367-402.
- Schmitt, D. P.,....Shackelford, T. K., et al. (2004). Patterns and universals of human mate poaching across 53 nations: The effects of sex, culture, and personality on romantically attracting another person's partner. *Journal of Personality and Social Psychology, 86*, 560-584.
- Shackelford, T. K., & **Goetz, A. T.** (2004). Men's sexual coercion in intimate relationships: Development and initial validation of the Sexual Coercion in Intimate Relationships Scale. *Violence and Victims, 19*, 541-556.
- Shackelford, T. K., **Goetz, A. T.**, LaMunyon, C. W., **Quintus, B. J.**, & **Weekes-Shackelford, V. A.** (2004). Sex differences in sexual psychology produce sex similar preferences for a short-term mate. *Archives of Sexual Behavior, 33*, 405-412.
- Shackelford, T. K., **Michalski, R. L.**, & Schmitt, D. P. (2004). Upset in response to a child's partner's infidelities. *European Journal of Social Psychology, 34*, 489-497.

Shackelford, T. K., & Vallacher, R. R. (2004). From disorder to coherence in social psychology. *Behavioral and Brain Sciences*, 27, 356.

Shackelford, T. K., Voracek, M., Schmitt, D. P., Buss, D. M., **Weekes-Shackelford, V. A.**, & **Michalski, R. L.** (2004). Romantic jealousy in early adulthood and in later life. *Human Nature*, 15, 283-300.

Shackelford, T. K., & **Weekes-Shackelford, V. A.** (2004). Why don't men pay child support? Insights from Evolutionary Psychology. In C. B. Crawford & C. Salmon (Eds.), *Evolutionary psychology, public policy, and private decisions* (pp. 231-247). Mahwah, NJ: Lawrence Erlbaum Associates.

Weekes-Shackelford, V. A., & Shackelford, T. K. (2004). Methods of filicide: Stepparents and genetic parents kill differently. *Violence and Victims*, 19, 75-81.

Yunger, J. L., & Bjorklund, D. F. (2004). An assessment of generalization of imitation in two enculturated orangutans (*Pongo pygmaeus*). *Journal of Comparative Psychology*, 118, 242-246.

Presentations and Symposia (2004-2005, students boldened)

2005

Beasley, S. L., **Weekes-Shackelford, V. A.**, & Shackelford, T. K. (2005). Contexts and circumstances of filicide-suicide in Chicago, 1870-1930. *17th Annual Meeting of the Human Behavior and Evolution Society*. University of Texas at Austin.

Berent, I. (2005). What's wrong with rats-eaters? Invited talk, *Concordia University*.

Berent, I. (2005). Does a theory of language need a grammar? Invited talk, *McGill University*.

Berent, I., Marucs, & Vaknin (2005). Lexical representations in Hebrew: Roots or stems? *Conference of the Linguistic Society of America*, Oakland: California.

Berent, I. (2005). Co-occurrence restrictions on non-adjacent Hebrew consonants: Are they long distance? Invited talk, *Johns Hopkins University*.

Bering, J. M., **McLeod, K.**, & Shackelford, T. K. (2005). On the possibility of adapted responses to dead agents' "minds." *17th Annual Meeting of the Human Behavior and Evolution Society*. University of Texas at Austin.

Ciarocco, N., & Catanese, K. R. (2005). The Reflecting on Unfulfilled Goals: The positive impact of rumination on task performance. Poster session. *Annual meeting of the American Psychological Society*. New Orleans, LA.

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- Thompson, J. W.,** Shackelford, T. K., & Platek, S. M. (2005). Sexual jealousy and its impact on cognitive tasks. *17th Annual Meeting of the Human Behavior and Evolution Society*. University of Texas at Austin.
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2004

Berent, I., Marucs, & Vaknin (2004). Lexical representations in Hebrew: Roots or stems? *4th international conference on the Mental Lexicon*. Windsor, Canada.

Berent, I (2004). Co-occurrence restrictions on identical Hebrew consonants: Is identity restricted? Invited talk. Department of Linguistics, *New-York University*.

Berent, I (2004). Does a theory of language need a grammar? Invited talk. Department of Psychology, *New York University*.

Berent, I. (2004). Does a theory of language need a grammar? Evidence from the constraint on identical root consonants in Hebrew. Invited talk, *International School for Advanced Studies, Cognitive Neuroscience; Trieste, Italy*

Berent, I. (2004). Does a theory of language need a grammar? Evidence from the constraint on identical root consonants in Hebrew. Invited talk, Department of Linguistics and Philosophy, *Massachusetts Institute of Technology*.

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Cormier, C., Shin, H-E., Caen, L., Rosenberg, J. S., Bering, J. M., Hernández Blasi, C., & Bjorklund, D. F. (2004). Developmental regularities in reasoning about the psychology of sleep. Paper presented at the *Conference on Human Development*, Washington, D.C.

Johnson, A., Barnacz, A., Shackelford, T. K., **Fisher, M.,** & Keenan, J. P. (2004). The role of self-awareness in deception. *16th Annual Meeting of the Human Behavior and Evolution Society*. Free University of Berlin, Germany.

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Sagrignano, M. D. (2004). Timing and framing: Construal effects in financial decision-making. As time goes by: Examining the role of time in judgment and decision making. *Society for Southeastern Social Psychologists Conference*, Clemson, SC.

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Research Projects (2004-2005, students boldened)

“Knowledge of Phonological Markedness: Typological vs. Individual Preferences for Unattested Onsets”

Iris Berent, **Tracy Lennertz**, **Samanth Murphy**, and **Donca Steriade**

Are speakers equipped with inherent preferences concerning language structure? We examine this question by investigating the sensitivity of English speakers to the sonority of onset clusters. Linguistic typologies indicate that onsets with a large sonority rise (e.g., *blif*) are more common compared to those with a smaller rise (e.g. *bnif*), both within and across languages. In turn, the small-rise onsets like *bn* are more common compared to onsets with sonority plateaus (e.g. *bd*, in *bdif*). Finally, onsets with sonority plateaus are more common than onsets of falling sonority (e.g. *lbif*). We investigate whether the entire hierarchy of onset types exemplified by *bl > bn > bd > lb* is available to speakers of English--a language that manifests *bl*-type onsets, but offers little evidence to differentiate the other, unattested, onset types. To this end, we compare speakers' sensitivity to the sonority profile of unattested onset clusters, presented aurally as foils in a lexical decision task. Experiment 1 showed that unattested clusters of rising sonority (*bnif*) were preferred (i.e., harder to reject) compared to unattested clusters with sonority plateaus (*bdif*). Experiment 2 demonstrated that English speakers distinguished among onsets with sonority plateaus (e.g., *bdif*) and falls (e.g., *lbif*). However, when compared to the sonority plateaus (e.g., *bdif*), falling sonority onsets (*lbif*) were harder to reject as foils and rated as more acceptable in an off-line rating experiment. The unexpected preference of the very infrequent *lb*-type onsets opens up the possibility that such clusters are repaired (e.g., *lbif* is perceptually modified as *lebif*). In accord with this hypothesis, Experiment 3 showed that onsets with sonority falls do not benefit from identity priming (e.g., responses to *lbif-lbif* do not differ from *lebif-lbif*), whereas

onsets with sonority plateaus show full identity priming. A final experiment demonstrates that onsets with sonority falls can fully benefit from identity priming when phonetic discrimination is encouraged by task demands. This finding suggests that the perceived identity of falling sonority onsets with their disyllabic counterparts (e.g., *lebif-lbif* vs. *lbif-lbif*) in Experiment 3 reflects an active phonological repair, rather than lack of discriminability (e.g., between *lbif* and *lebif*). Taken together, these results suggest that speakers manifest broad preferences for the sonority profile of syllables, preferences that are inexplicable by the properties of the English lexicon alone. The parallels between the preference of individual speakers and the typological data implicate the existence of inherent constraints on language learning.

“Computation of Semantic Number from Morphological Information”

Iris Berent, Steven Pinker, Joseph Tzelgov, Uri Bibi, and Liat Goldfarb

The distinction between singular and plural enters into linguistic phenomena such as morphology, lexical semantics, and agreement and also must interface with perceptual and conceptual systems that assess numerosity in the world. Three experiments examine the computation of semantic number for singulars and plurals from the morphological properties of visually presented words. In a Stroop-like task, Hebrew speakers were asked to determine the number of words presented on a computer screen (one or two) while ignoring their contents. People took longer to respond if the number of words was incongruent with their morphological number (e.g., they were slower to determine that one word was on the screen if it was plural, and in some conditions, that two words were on the screen if they were singular, compared to neutral letter strings), suggesting that the extraction of number from words is automatic and yields a representation comparable to the one computed by the perceptual system. In many conditions, the effect of number congruency occurred only with plural nouns, not singulars, consistent with the suggestion from linguistics that words lacking a plural affix are not actually singular in their semantics but unmarked for number.

“The Skeletal Structure of Printed Words: Evidence from the Stroop Task”

Iris Berent and Michal Marom

Do readers encode the sequencing of consonant and vowel phonemes (skeletal-structure) in printed words? We examine readers’ sensitivity to skeletal structure using the Stroop task. In Experiment 1, the color *red* (a CVC word) was named faster in the presence of CVC nonwords (e.g., FOP) compared to CCVVC (e.g., FLOOP) nonwords. Importantly, no facilitation was obtained when these CVC nonwords were presented in colors whose names have incongruent frames (e.g., *green*), suggesting that the effect strictly depends on the congruency between the skeletal structure of the nonword and the color name. Experiments 2 showed that the color *black* (a CCVC frame) was named faster with a CCVC frame (e.g., GROF) compared to either a CCVCC (e.g., GROFT) or CVC (e.g., GOF) incongruent controls. Likewise, in Experiment 3, the color *pink* (a CVCC frame) was named faster with a CVCC frame (e.g., GOFT) compared to either CCVCC or CVC incongruent controls. In most cases, congruent frames shared no segments with the color name. These findings demonstrate that readers automatically assemble the skeletal structure of printed words.

“Does a Theory of Language Need a Grammar? Evidence from Hebrew Root Structure”

Iris Berent, Vered Vaknin, and Joseph Shimron

Hebrew constrains the occurrence of identical consonants in its roots: Identical consonants are acceptable root finally (e.g., *skk*), but not root initially (e.g., *kks*). Speakers' ability to freely generalize this constraint to novel phonemes (Berent, Marcus, Shimron & Gafos, 2002) suggests that they represent segment identity--a relation among mental variables. An alternative account attributes the restriction on identical phonemes to their feature similarity, captured by either the number of shared features or their statistical frequency. The similarity account predicts that roots with partially similar consonants (e.g., *sgk*) should be at least as acceptable as roots with fully identical consonants (e.g., *skk*), and each of these roots should be less acceptable than dissimilar controls (e.g., *gdn*). Contrary to these predictions, three lexical decision experiments demonstrate that full identity is more acceptable than partial similarity and (in some cases) controls. Speakers' sensitivity to consonant identity suggests that linguistic competence, in general, and phonology, in particular, encompass a computational mechanism that operates over variables. This conclusion is consistent with linguistic accounts that postulate a symbolic grammatical component that is irreducible to the statistical properties of the lexicon.

“Simulation Constraints on the Development of Death Representation: Are There Natural Foundations of Afterlife Beliefs?”

Jesse M. Bering and David F. Bjorklund

We investigated the divergence of children's reasoning about biological and psychological death, postulating that simulation constraints (i.e., inability to imagine what it is “like” to be dead) play a central role in the formation of afterlife beliefs. In Experiment 1, 4-6-year-olds (younger group) and 6-8-year-olds (older group) were asked a series of biological questions about death (e.g., “Now that x is not alive, does his brain still work?”). Even the youngest children were likely to reason that such biological processes cease at death. In Experiment 2, different, similarly-aged children and also a group of 10-12-year-olds were asked a series of psychological questions about death (e.g., “Now that x is not alive, does he *know* that he's not alive?”). The youngest group of children from the second experiment were equally likely to reason that both epistemic-type faculties (e.g., knowing) and psychobiological states (e.g., hunger) continue to function after death. The oldest children distinguished between these two psychological categories, and were more likely to reason that epistemic-type faculties continue to function despite death. The results suggest that inherent, developmentally based, cognitive biases are exploited by secular accounts of the afterlife and religious indoctrination and lead to species-typical accounts of deceased agents' minds.

“The Role of Metarepresentational-Simulationist Models in the Development of Death Reasoning”

Jesse M. Bering, Carlos Hernández Blasi, and David F. Bjorklund

Participants in Study 1 were 66 5- to 12-year-old US children and 20 US adults; participants in Study 2 were 168 5- to 12-year-old Spanish children (half of the Spanish children attending Catholic schools and half public schools). All participants viewed a puppet show in which a mouse was eaten by an alligator and were then asked about the discontinuity (vs. continuity) of 6 different biological/psychological states (biological, psychobiological, perceptual, emotional, desire, & epistemic) following death (e.g., “Now that the mouse is not alive, does he still need to eat?”). The results indicated: 1) an increasing belief in discontinuity of psychological states with age in both the US and Spanish samples, although levels varied with the type of function queried; 2) a similar pattern of discontinuity responses among the different types of function within each sample; 3) a still impressive belief (in both samples) in continuity of function following death of some psychological states, even for the older groups of children and adults (e.g., about 50% of responses of the 11- & 12-year olds indicated a belief in the continuity of emotional states after death); and 4) Spanish children attending catholic schools demonstrated a greater belief in continuity following death than public-school Spanish children, although the two groups of children should the same pattern of responses to the questions. These results reflect a robust effect of children’s development of death reasoning across culture and education, while simultaneously showing the effects of culture and religious education on such belief.

“Reasoning about Dead Agents Reveals Possible Adaptive Trends”

Jesse M. Bering, **Katrina McLeod**, and Todd K. Shackelford

We investigated whether (a) people positively reevaluate the characters of recently dead others and (b) supernatural primes concerning an ambient dead agent serve to curb selfish intentions. In Study 1, participants made trait attributions to three strangers depicted in photographs; one week later, they returned to do the same, but were informed that one of the strangers had died over the weekend. Participants rated the decedent target more favorably after learning of his death whereas ratings for the control targets remained unchanged between sessions. This effect was especially pronounced for traits dealing with the decedent’s prosocial tendencies (e.g., ethical, kind). In Study 2, a content analysis of obituaries revealed a similar emphasis on decedents’ prosocial attributes over other personality dimensions (e.g., achievement-relatedness, social skills). Finally, in Study 3, participants who were told of an alleged ghost in the laboratory were less likely to cheat on a competitive task than those who did not receive this supernatural prime. The findings are interpreted as evidence suggestive of adaptive design.

“The Causal Role of Consciousness: A Conceptual Addendum to Human Evolutionary Psychology”

Jesse M. Bering and Todd K. Shackelford

By concentrating on the unconscious processes driving evolutionary mechanisms, evolutionary psychology has neglected the role of consciousness in generating human adaptations. The authors argue that there exist several “Darwinian algorithms” that are grounded in a novel representational system. Among such adaptations are information-retention homicide, the killing of others who are believed to possess information about the self that has the potential to

jeopardize inclusive fitness, and those generating suicide, which may necessitate the capacity for self-referential emotions such as shame. The authors offer these examples to support their argument that human psychology is characterized by a representational system in which conscious motives have inserted themselves at the level of the gene and have fundamentally changed the nature of hominid evolution.

“Consciousness and Human Psychological Adaptations”

Jesse M. Bering and Todd K. Shackelford

In this article, we argue that (1) there are several “Darwinian algorithms” that are specific to humans because they are grounded in a novel representational system allowing for abstract causal reasoning and that (2) were it not for consciousness, the adaptations spawned by these algorithms would not have evolved. Among these adaptations are those generating *information-retention homicide*, the killing of others who are believed to possess information about the self which, if publicly disclosed, has the potential to reduce reproductive potential or inclusive fitness, and also *confession* and *suicide*, which may necessitate the capacity for self-referential emotions, such as shame. Although natural selection operates ultimately at the level of the gene, human psychology, unlike the psychological systems of other closely related species (such as chimpanzees), is characterized by a representational system in which conscious motives have inserted themselves at the level of the gene and have fundamentally changed the nature of hominid evolution.

“Couple Age Discrepancy and Risk of Intimate Partner Homicide”

Noelia Breitman, Todd K. Shackelford, and Carolyn Rebecca Block

Although national-level studies in the United States and Canada find that extreme partner age discrepancy is a risk factor for intimate partner homicide in opposite-sex couples, these studies carry two caveats: they are limited to cohabiting marital or commonlaw couples and they are not detailed enough to explore alternative explanations for the age discrepancy-homicide risk association. Using the Chicago Homicide Dataset, which includes all homicides that occurred in Chicago from 1965 to 1996, we analyze the 2,577 homicides in which the victim was killed by a current or former legal spouse, commonlaw spouse, or heterosexual boyfriend or girlfriend, and in which the woman was at least 18 years of age. Within each of 14 categories of couple age discrepancy, we estimate the population of intimate heterosexual couples and calculate the population-based risk of homicide. The results replicate national-level findings showing that the risk of intimate partner homicide is considerably elevated for couples with a large discrepancy between their ages—where the man is at least 16 years older than the woman or the woman is at least 10 years older than the man. This risk pattern occurs regardless of whether the man or the woman was the homicide offender. We then investigate whether the link between partner age discrepancy and homicide risk is explained by the offender’s arrest record. Results show that the higher risk of intimate partner homicide for age discrepant couples is robust, and does not depend on the previous arrest record of the offender. Discussion addresses other possible

explanations for the increased risk of partner homicide for age discrepant couples, and the practical implications of these findings.

“The Impact of Rejection in Self-enhancing Biases”

Natalie Ciarocco, **Susan Weise**, and Kathleen Catanese (St. Leo University)

We are investigating whether self-enhancing biases will be influenced by rejection from a group. Specifically, we are exploring unrealistic optimism, the self-serving bias, and the in-group bias. This project will explore the mindset of people who have just been rejected and see if they still display healthy levels of self-enhancement.

“The Regulatory Components of Persuasion”

Natalie Ciarocco, **Anthony Kennedy**, and **Amanda Paleaz**

This project examines whether weakening one’s self-control will strengthen basic persuasion techniques. Individual studies examine if depleting self-control resources will make participants more vulnerable to persuasive magazine ad campaigns and taped recorded arguments about raising tuition. This project will give insight into when people may be more vulnerable persuasion.

“Developmental Trends in the Attribution of Life Functions to Sleeping Agents”

Chris A. Cormier, Carlos Hernandez Blasi, **Jesse M. Bering**, **Justin Rosenberg**, **Llewellyn Cael**, **HyeEun Shin**, **Katherine Cooke**, and David F. Bjorklund

Children’s understanding of the nature of thought and other psychological process was investigated by examining their belief in the continuation of thought while in a deep, dreamless sleep. Preschool, school-age, and college-age participants watched a brief video in which a mouse has some adventures and then falls into a deep, dreamless sleep. Participants are then asked a series of questions about the psychological processes that might be occurring during a dreamless sleep (“Now that X is sleeping and not dreaming, can he still see the flowers?”) This is part of a larger research project investigating children’s conceptions of psychological processes under different states of consciousness.

“Modern Application of Evolutionary Theory to Psychology: Key Concepts and Clarifications”

Aaron T. Goetz, and Todd K. Shackelford

Darwinian selection has become the centerpiece of biology, and in the last few decades, many psychologists and anthropologists have recognized the value of employing an evolutionary perspective to guide their work. With a focus on evolved psychological mechanisms and associated information processing features, evolutionary psychology has risen as a compelling and fruitful approach to the study of human psychology and behavior. In this article, we review

the instrument of evolution: natural selection, the products of evolution, and the impact of evolutionary thinking on modern psychological science. We conclude that as prejudicial barriers are overcome, as more evolutionary psychological work is conducted, and as hypothesized psychological mechanisms are substantiated in other disciplines, evolutionary psychology will emerge as the metatheory for psychology.

“Mate Retention, Semen Displacement, and Human Sperm Competition: A Preliminary Investigation of Tactics to Prevent and Correct Female Infidelity”

Aaron T. Goetz, Todd K. Shackelford, **Viviana A. Weekes-Shackelford**, Harald A. Euler, Sabine Hoier, David P. Schmitt, and Craig W. LaMunyon

Sperm competition is the competition between the sperm of two or more males to fertilize a female's egg(s). We examined how men under a high recurrent risk of sperm competition might attempt to prevent and correct their partners' sexual infidelity. Three hundred five males drawn from universities and surrounding communities rated their partner's physical attractiveness and personality characteristics (to assess their recurrent risk of sperm competition), and reported their use of tactics designed to prevent partner infidelity (mate retention tactics) and their use of specific copulatory behaviors arguably designed to displace the semen of rival men (semen-displacing behaviors). As hypothesized, men at a high recurrent risk of sperm competition were more likely to use mate retention tactics and to perform semen-displacing behaviors.

“Gender Differences in Young Children's Use of Tools in a Problem-Solving Task: The Role of Object-Oriented Play”

Jeffrey M. Gredlein and David F. Bjorklund

Three-year old children were observed in two free-play sessions and participated in a toy-retrieval task, in which only one of six tools could be used to retrieve an out-of-reach toy. As predicted, boys engaged in more object-oriented play than girls and were more likely to use tools to retrieve the toy during the baseline tool-use task. All children who did not retrieve the toy during the baseline trials did so after being given a hint, and performance on a transfer of training tool-use task approached ceiling levels of performance. This suggests that the gender difference in tool use observed during the baseline phase does not reflect a difference in competency, but rather a gender difference in motivation to interact with objects. Amount of time children spent in object-oriented play during the free-play sessions predicted performance on the tool-use task, suggesting that much of the variance in the gender difference in tool use can be attributed to experience in object-oriented play. The findings were interpreted in terms of evolutionary theory, consistent with the idea that boys' and girls' play styles evolved to prepare them for adult life in traditional environments.

“Quantitative Abilities in an Enculturated Chimpanzee”

Andrew Halloran, Douglas Broadfield, and David F. Bjorklund

One female enculturated (human-reared) adult chimpanzee performed nearly perfectly on a series of quantitative problems (select the larger of two quantities of treats). She was then given a series of conservation of number problems in which she was to select the row that had the most treats, independent of perceptual appearance. She performed nearly perfectly on these trials as well, suggesting that enculturated chimpanzees possess at least some cognitive abilities reflecting Piaget's stage of concrete operations.

“Me, Myself, and Lie: The Role of Self-Awareness in Deception”

A. K. Johnson, A. Barnacz, T. Yokkaichi, J. Rubio, J., C. Racioppi, Todd K. Shackelford, Maryanne L. Fisher, and Julian P. Keenan

Deception has been studied extensively but still little is known about individual differences in deception ability. We investigated the relationship between self-awareness and deception ability. We enlisted novice actors to portray varying levels of deception. Forty-two undergraduates viewed the videotaped portrayals and rated the actors' believability. Actors with high private self-awareness were more effective deceivers, suggesting that high self-monitors are more effective at deceiving. Self-awareness may lead to knowledge of another's mental state (i.e., Theory of Mind), which may improve an individual's deception ability.

“Female Deception Detection as a Function of Commitment and Self-Awareness”

A. K. Johnson, A. Michalewsky, P. Constantino, J. Triano, Todd K. Shackelford, and Julian P. Keenan

It was been hypothesized that evolutionary factors including self-awareness and commitment are related to deception detection. In this study, 34 female undergraduates were tested for their ability to detect deception via a video paradigm. Females that were not in a committed relationship were significantly better at detecting males “faking good” as compared to committed females. Further, self-awareness was correlated with the ability to detect deception. These data are consistent with the hypothesis that deception may be related to self-awareness and that such a relationship is related to reproductive advantages secured by the ability to deceive.

“Grandparental Investment as a Function of Relational Uncertainty and Emotional Closeness with Parents”

Richard L. Michalski and Todd K. Shackelford

Several theoretical perspectives have generated research on grandparental investment, notably socialization and evolutionary psychological perspectives. Using data collected from over 200 older adults (mean age 67 years), we test three hypotheses derived from socialization and evolutionary perspectives about grandparents' relationships with and investment in grandchildren. Results indicate that (1) emotional closeness with both children and children-in-law is related positively to reports of emotional closeness with grandchildren; (2) maternal grandmothers invest more in grandchildren than do other grandparents; and (3) grandparents invest more in daughter's children than in son's children. Discussion addresses limitations of

self-report methodology in this context and situates the current findings within the body of research indicating the existence of psychological mechanisms designed to guide differential nepotism.

“A Comparative, Cross-national Analysis of Partner-Killing by Women in Cohabiting Relationships and Marital Relationships in Australia and the United States”

Jenny Mouzos and Todd K. Shackelford

Using a national-level United States database, T. K. Shackelford (2001) calculated rates of partner-killing by women by relationship type (cohabiting or marital), by partner ages, and by the age difference between partners. Men in cohabiting relationships were 10 times more likely to be killed by their partners than were married men. Within marriages, the risk of being killed by a partner decreased with a man’s age. Within cohabiting relationships, in contrast, middle-aged men were at greatest risk of being killed by their partners. The risk that a man will be killed by his partner generally increased with greater age difference between partners. We sought to replicate the findings of Shackelford (2001) using national-level data held as part of the National Homicide Monitoring Program (NHMP) at the Australian Institute of Criminology in Australia. The NHMP holds data on over 3,500 homicides that occurred in Australia between 1989 and 2000. Despite the higher rate of partner-killing in the United States, and despite other cultural differences between the two countries (for example, the prominent gun culture in the United States), we replicated the key patterns with the Australian data.

“The ‘Inactive’ Self: An Implicit Demonstration”

Ryan Moyer and Michael D. Sagristano

Traditional research using the Implicit Association Test (IAT) has looked at implicit preferences towards various social categories and constructs. The current study is designed to measure implicit preferences for level of representation of different social roles, as a function of whether the role is considered active or inactive. It is predicted that in comparison to active roles, inactive roles will display less of a preference for low level terms and more of preference for the high level terms.

**“Affective Adult Responses Elicited by Children’s Preoperational Thinking:
A Test of the Cognitive Immaturity Hypothesis”**

Justin Rosenberg, Carlos Hernandez Blasi, **Hye-Eun Shin**, Natasha Martens, Linda Akerman.,
and David F. Bjorklund

Adults were presented with scenarios of 3- or 9-year-old children displaying cognitively mature or immature behavior. Participants were to select which child/scenario (the mature or immature one) that best reflected each of 11 different psychological characteristics, which were organized into three constructs: *cute*, *sneaky*, and *intelligent*. We hypothesized that children/scenarios displaying immature cognition would be judged as more cute, less sneaky, and less intelligent

than those displaying mature cognition, reflecting an adaptive advantage of immature cognition for young children. This effect was found, but varied with scenario type, being observed for scenarios reflecting *intuitive cognition* (animism, finalism, artificialism) but not for scenarios reflecting *non-intuitive cognition* (lack of reversibility, poor inhibition, overestimation of abilities). Results were interpreted as reflecting adults' favorable judgment of children when they make cognitive errors in a type of thinking that persists in adulthood.

“A Preliminary Investigation of Siblicide as a Function of Genetic Relatedness”

**Daniel P. Russell, Richard L. Michalski, Todd K. Shackelford, and
Viviana A. Weekes-Shackelford**

Working from an evolutionary perspective, we test two predictions about siblicide—the killing of one sibling by another—as a function of genetic relatedness, using a small sample of siblicides committed in Chicago from 1965 through 1994. The first prediction is that a greater proportion of siblicides of full siblings will be single-victim siblicides, relative to the proportion of siblicides of half-siblings and stepsiblings. The second prediction is that a greater proportion of siblicides of half-siblings and stepsiblings will be perpetrated by beatings, relative to the proportion of siblicides of full siblings. The results were in the prediction directions, but did not reach statistical significance due to small sample sizes and, therefore, low statistical power. Discussion addresses the need for a national-level database that codes for the genetic relationship between the siblicide victim and offender.

“Construal Effects in Economic Decision Making”

Michael D. Sagristano

The emerging field of Behavioral Economics has attempted to account for psychological processes, such as mental heuristics and cognitive biases, in the financial decisions of both individuals and groups. However, little attention has been given to the role of subjective mental construal of financial information in decision-making. This project intends to explore the effects of construal in economic phenomena, including market bubbles and busts, as well as the “Santa Claus rally” and “January effect.”

“Social Roles, Psychological Distance, and Cognitive Operations”

Michael D. Sagristano and **D. Goldstajn**

Research in psychological distance and temporal construal has demonstrated that events and actions in the distant future tend to be represented more abstractly, using broader units and fewer dimensions, than near future actions and events (Liberman, Sagristano, & Trope, 2002). The present research investigates the effect on cognitive operations of a different type of psychological distance, that of social role distance. It is predicted that information relating to an active (and thus, psychologically near) social role will be represented with more complex and fine structure than that of an inactive (psychologically distant) role.

“Temporal Effects on the Generation of Alternative Courses of Action”

Michael D. Sagristano and Yaacov Trope

Construal Level Theory (Trope & Liberman, 2003) demonstrates that differences in mental representation of events across time can influence judgment, decision-making, and behavioral intentions. The present series of experiments demonstrates that temporal differences in construal can influence an individual’s counterfactual intentions such that near-future alternatives are similar to original plans with regard to specific, concrete features, while distant-future alternatives are similar with regard to goals, attitudes, and other more abstract features.

“Patterns and Universals of Adult Romantic Attachment across 62 Cultural Regions: Are Models of Self and Other Pancultural Constructs?”

David P. Schmitt,...Todd K. Shackelford, et al.

As part of the International Sexuality Description Project, a total of 17,804 participants from 62 cultural regions completed the Relationship Questionnaire (RQ), a self-report measure of adult romantic attachment. Correlational analyses within each culture suggested that the Model of Self and the Model of Other scales of the RQ were psychometrically valid within most cultures. Contrary to expectations, the Model of Self and Model of Other dimensions of the RQ did not underlie the four-category model of attachment in the same way across all cultures. Analyses of specific attachment styles revealed that secure romantic attachment was normative in 79% of cultures and that preoccupied romantic attachment was particularly prevalent in East Asian cultures. Finally, the romantic attachment profiles of individual nations were correlated with sociocultural indicators in ways that supported evolutionary theories of romantic attachment and basic human mating strategies.

“Patterns and Universals of Human Mate Poaching across 53 Nations: The Effects of Sex, Culture, and Personality on Romantically Attracting Another Person’s Partner”

David P. Schmitt,...Todd K. Shackelford, et al.

As part of the International Sexuality Description Project, 16,954 participants from 53 nations were administered an anonymous survey about experiences with romantic attraction. Mate poaching—romantically attracting someone who is already in a relationship—was most common in Southern Europe, South America, Western Europe, and Eastern Europe and was relatively infrequent in Africa, South/Southeast Asia, and East Asia. Evolutionary and social-role hypotheses received empirical support. Men were more likely than women to report having made and succumbed to short-term poaching across all regions, but differences between men and women were often smaller in more gender-egalitarian regions. People who try to steal another’s mate possess similar personality traits across all regions, as do those who frequently receive and succumb to the poaching attempts by others. The authors conclude that human mate-poaching

experiences are universally linked to sex, culture, and the robust influence of personal dispositions.

“Men’s Sexual Coercion in Intimate Relationships: Development and Initial Validation of the Sexual Coercion in Intimate Relationships Scale”

Todd K. Shackelford and **Aaron T. Goetz**

We report the development and initial validation of the Sexual Coercion in Intimate Relationships Scale (SCIRS), a measure designed to assess the prevalence and severity of sexual coercion in committed intimate relationships. We review existing measures of sexual coercion and discuss their limitations, describe the identification of the SCIRS items, perform a principal components analysis and describe the resulting three components, and present evidence for the convergent and discriminative validity of the SCIRS. Because sexual coercion in intimate relationships often takes the form of subtle tactics, the SCIRS items assess communicative tactics such as hinting and subtle manipulations in addition to tactics such as the use of physical force. The SCIRS provides researchers and clinicians with a valid, reliable, and comprehensive measure with which to study the dynamics of sexual coercion in intimate relationships.

“Mate Retention in Marriage: Further Evidence of the Reliability of the Mate Retention Inventory”

Todd K. Shackelford, **Aaron T. Goetz**, and David M. Buss

The Mate Retention Inventory (MRI) assesses the performance of behaviors that function to maintain and retain a romantic partner’s exclusive involvement with the individual. We first review existing evidence for the psychometric utility of the MRI. We then examine in the current study agreement between self-reports and partner-reports of mate retention behaviors using data from married couples. Both members of 107 couples completed the MRI for their own and their spouse’s use of mate retention behaviors. Men’s and women’s self-reports of their mate retention behaviors are substantially congruent with their spouse’s reports of their mate retention behaviors, indicating that men and women can provide reliable accounts of spousal mate retention using the MRI.

“When We Hurt the Ones We Love: Predicting Violence against Women from Men’s Mate Retention Tactics”

Todd K. Shackelford, **Aaron T. Goetz**, David M. Buss, Harald A. Euler, and Sabine Hoier

Mate retention behaviors are designed to solve several adaptive problems, such as deterring a partner’s infidelity and preventing defection from the mating relationship. Although many mate retention behaviors appear to be innocuous romantic gestures (e.g., displaying resources, giving flowers), some may be harbingers of violence. We investigated the relationships between male mate retention and violence against women in romantic relationships. In Study 1, 461 men reported their use of mate retention behaviors and separately completed instruments designed to assess violence in their relationships. Study 2 assessed 560 women’s reports of their partners’

mate retention behaviors and the degree to which their partners used violence against them. As predicted, and across both studies, men's use of particular mate retention behaviors was related positively to female-directed violence. Study 3 secured two separate data sources—husbands' reports of their mate retention and wives' reports of their husbands' violence in a sample of 214 individuals forming 107 couples. The results corroborated those of Studies 1 and 2, with particular male mate retention behaviors predicting violence against romantic partners. Discussion outlines future directions for research that are likely to result in a more comprehensive understanding of partner violence against women.

“Sex Differences in Sexual Psychology Produce Sex Similar Preferences for a Short-Term Mate”

Todd K. Shackelford, **Aaron T. Goetz**, Craig W. LaMunyon, **Brian J. Quintus**, and **Viviana A. Weekes-Shackelford**

We explored aspects of men's and women's short-term sexual psychology as a function of a potential short-term partner's relationship status. A total of 209 men and 288 women reported how likely they would be to pursue a casual sexual relationship with an attractive member of the opposite sex who was (1) married, (2) not married but has casual sexual partners, or (3) not married and has no casual sexual partners. Guided by sperm competition theory, we predicted and found that men prefer short-term sex partners who are not already involved in relationships and hence present a relatively low risk of sperm competition. Because women sometimes use short-term sexual relationships to acquire long-term partners, we predicted and found that women prefer short-term sexual partners who are not already involved in relationships and hence present relatively greater promise as a potential long-term partner. Finally, across each of the three levels of the imagined partner's relationship status, men reported a greater likelihood than did women of pursuing a casual sexual relationship. Discussion addressed methodological limitations and directions for future work.

“Upset in Response to a Child's Partner's Infidelities”

Todd K. Shackelford, **Richard L. Michalski, R. L.**, and David P. Schmitt

The weight of existing evidence suggests that men display greater upset in response to a long-term partner's sexual infidelity, whereas women display greater upset in response to a partner's emotional infidelity. This sex difference was first hypothesized by evolutionary psychologists, who argued that the difference may reflect sex-differentiated evolved psychological design. Some socialization theorists, in contrast, have argued that the difference may be attributable to sex-differentiated socialization practices. A. Fenigstein and R. Peltz (2002) collected data from parents of undergraduates about being upset in response to a child's partner's infidelities and found that both sexes report greater upset in response to a son's partner's sexual infidelity and in response to a daughter's partner's emotional infidelity. The key variable therefore is the sex of the child, as predicted from a heuristic application of an evolutionary perspective, and not the sex of the parent, as predicted from a heuristic application of one socialization perspective. We report a replication of these findings using data collected from retirees with an average age of

about 70 years who have at least one son and one daughter and most of whom have grandchildren.

“Partner-Killing by Men in Cohabiting and Marital Relationships: A Comparative, Cross-National Analysis of Data from Australia and the United States”

Todd K. Shackelford and **Jenny Mouzos**

Using a national-level United States database, T. K. Shackelford (2001) calculated rates of uxoricide (the murder of a woman by her romantic partner) by relationship type (cohabiting or marital), by the ages of the partners, and by the age difference between partners. Women in cohabiting relationships were about nine times more likely to be killed by their partner than were married women. Within marriages, the risk of uxoricide decreases with a woman’s age. Within cohabiting relationships, in contrast, middle-aged women were at greatest risk of uxoricide. The risk of uxoricide generally increased with greater age difference between partners. We sought to replicate the findings of Shackelford (2001) using national-level data held as part of the National Homicide Monitoring Program (NHMP) at the Australian Institute of Criminology in Australia. The NHMP holds data on over 4,400 homicides that occurred in Australia between 1989 and 2002. Despite the higher rate of partner-killing in the United States, and despite other cultural differences between the two countries, we replicated the key patterns with the Australian data.

“Psychological and Physiological Adaptations to Sperm Competition in Humans”

Todd K. Shackelford, Nicholas Pound, and **Aaron T. Goetz**

Postcopulatory competition between males, in the form of sperm competition, is a widespread phenomenon in many animal species. The extent to which sperm competition has been an important selective pressure during human evolution remains controversial, however. We review critically the evidence that human males and females have psychological, behavioral, and physiological adaptations that evolved in response to selection pressures associated with sperm competition. We consider, using evidence from contemporary societies, whether sperm competition is likely to have been a significant adaptive problem for ancestral humans and examine the evidence suggesting that human males have physiological and psychological mechanisms that allow for “prudent” sperm allocation in response to variations in the risk of sperm competition.

“Mate Preferences of Married Persons in the Newlywed Year and Four Years Later”

Todd K. Shackelford, David P. Schmitt, and David M. Buss

Mate preferences are cognitions about the characteristics desired in a romantic partner, and many of these cognitions have links with emotion, such as the preferences for “mutual attraction—love” and “emotional stability & maturity.” A large literature has emerged over the past several decades on the characteristics that men and women desire in a long-term mate. This research has addressed sex differences and similarities in mate preferences across different time periods, using different methodologies, and across many different cultures. The current research

addresses an important but not yet investigated topic—the temporal stability of mate preferences within particular individuals. The mate preferences of a small sample of married couples were assessed during the first year of marriage and then again during the fourth year of marriage. Most mate preferences were stable over the assessment period, but there was some indication of change as well. Both husbands and wives, for example, provided higher importance ratings for “pleasing disposition” at the three-year follow-up than at the newlywed assessment. Discussion addresses limitations of this research and situates the results within the literature on mate preferences.

“Universal Dimensions of Human Mate Preference”

Todd K. Shackelford, David P. Schmitt, and David M. Buss

To identify the universal dimensions of long-term mate preferences, we used an archival database of preference ratings provided by several thousand participants from three dozen cultures [Buss, D. M. (1989). Sex differences in human mate preferences: Evolutionary hypotheses tested in 37 cultures. *Behavioral and Brain Sciences*, 12, 1-49]. Participants from each culture responded to the same 18-item measure. Statistical procedures ensured that ratings provided by men and women were weighted equally, and that ratings provided by participants from each culture were weighted equally. We identified four universal dimensions: Love vs. Status/Resources; Dependable/Stable vs. Good Looks/Health; Education/Intelligence vs. Desire for Home/Children; and Sociability vs. Similar Religion. Several standard sex differences replicated across cultures, including women’s greater valuation of social status and men’s greater valuation of physical attractiveness. We present culture-specific ratings on the universal dimensions across-sex and between-sex to facilitate future cross-cultural work on human mating psychology.

“Romantic Jealousy in Early Adulthood and in Later Life”

Todd K. Shackelford, Martin Voracek, David P. Schmitt, David M. Buss,
Viviana A. Weekes-Shackelford, and Richard L. Michalski

Young men are more distressed by a partner’s sexual infidelity, whereas young women are more distressed by a partner’s emotional infidelity. The present research investigated (a) whether the sex difference in jealousy replicates in an older sample, and (b) whether younger people differ from older people in their selection of the more distressing infidelity scenario. We presented forced-choice dilemmas to 202 older people (mean age = 67 years) and to 234 younger people (mean age = 20 years). The sex difference replicated in the older sample. In addition, older women were less likely than younger women to select a partner’s emotional infidelity as more distressing than a partner’s sexual infidelity. Discussion offers directions for future work on sex differences and age differences in jealousy.

“An Exploratory Analysis of the Contexts and Circumstances of Filicide-Suicide in Chicago, 1965-1994”

Todd K. Shackelford, **Viviana A. Weekes-Shackelford, V. A., and Shanna L. Beasley**

Filicide is the killing of a ward by a parent. Relative to many other types of homicide, filicide is an infrequent event. Filicide followed by the offender's suicide is less frequent still. The contexts and circumstances surrounding filicide-suicide may nevertheless provide insight into parental psychology. Some research suggests, for example, that filicidal genetic parents are more likely to commit suicide than are filicidal stepparents. Using a database that includes incident-level information on over 22,000 homicides committed in Chicago during the years 1965-1994, we test five hypotheses about filicide-suicide. We do not find support for the hypothesis of differential risk of suicide following filicide by genetic parents and stepparents. We do replicate previous work indicating that: (1) filicides that include multiple victims are more likely to end in the offender's suicide than are filicides that include a single victim, (2) parents are more likely to commit suicide following a filicide of an older child than a filicide of a younger child, (3) older parents, relative to younger parents, are more likely to commit suicide following filicide, and that (4) fathers, relative to mothers, are more likely to commit suicide following filicide. Discussion suggests future directions for research that can inform our understanding of filicide and of filicide-suicide.

“An Evolutionary Perspective on Why Men Refuse or Reduce Their Child Support Payments”

Todd K. Shackelford, **Viviana A. Weekes-Shackelford**, and David P. Schmitt

This review article begins by highlighting the sociological, macro-level focus of previous work on the determinants of child support payments. We then highlight the potential value of addressing these issues from a psychological perspective. We argue that research and policy may benefit by embracing an explicitly evolutionary psychological perspective. We present several evolutionary hypotheses regarding the determinants of child support payments and discuss how previous research informs these hypotheses. Finally, we review proposed solutions for increasing men's compliance with child support orders. We conclude that an evolutionary perspective not only can inform research on the determinants of child support payments, but also the social policies that might increase the reliability with which these payments are made.

“The Adaptive Value of Children's Overestimation “

H.-E. Shin, D. F. Bjorklund, and **E. Beck**

This study investigated the possible functional values of children's tendencies to overestimate their abilities by examining whether children's overconfidence leads to enhance cognitive performance on a series of sort-recall trials. 32 kindergarten, 36 1st -, 26 3rd grade children were asked both to *predict* how many words they would recall and following recall how many words they actually remembered on each of five trials. The relationship between overestimation on the initial trials and changes in recall and strategy behavior on later trials (performance on trials 4, 5 less performance on trials 1, 2) was analyzed. Result showed that children's overestimation tended to be decrease with grade and trials. However the young children who overestimated their performance more on initial trials displayed a greater positive difference in performance on later trials. This reflects a potential advantage for overestimation of children.

“Sex Differences and Similarities in Preferred Mating Arrangements”

Emily A. Stone, Aaron T. Goetz, A. T., and Todd K. Shackelford

Over 90% of men and women marry, but as many as 50% of married men and women have affairs. Thus, in a self-report study of ideal mating arrangements, in which costs associated with infidelity are eliminated, it was hypothesized that men and women would prefer a mating arrangement of monogamy with the option of casual, extra-pair sex. Unexpectedly, men and women ($N = 463$) overwhelmingly preferred strictly monogamous mating arrangements when forced to select one such ideal arrangement. A hypothesized sex difference did emerge, however, with men more than women rating as more interesting those arrangements that included casual sex or partner variety. Discussion addresses several evolutionarily plausible accounts for the current results and integrates the current results with existing theories about sex differences and similarities in mating psychology and behavior.

“Methods of Filicide: Stepparents and Genetic Parents Kill Differently”

Viviana A. Weekes-Shackelford and Todd K. Shackelford

Stepparents commit filicide at higher rates than do genetic parents. According to M. Daly and M. I. Wilson (1994), motivational differences generate differences in the methods by which stepparents and genetic parents kill a child. Using Canadian and British national-level databases, Daly and Wilson (1994) found that stepfathers were more likely than genetic fathers to commit filicide by beating and bludgeoning, arguably revealing stepparental feelings of bitterness and resentment not present to the same degree in genetic fathers. Genetic fathers, in contrast, were more likely than stepfathers to commit filicide by shooting or asphyxiation, methods which often produce a relatively quick and painless death. We sought to replicate and extend these findings using a United States national-level database of over 400,000 homicides. Results replicate those of Daly and Wilson (1994) for genetic fathers and stepfathers. In addition, we identified similar differences in the methods by which stepmothers and genetic mothers committed filicide. Discussion addresses stepparental psychology in light of the current research, limitations of the current study, and future directions for research on this topic.

“The Generalization of Deferred Imitation in Enculturated Orangutans (*Pongo pygmaeus*)”

Jennifer L. Yunger and David F. Bjorklund

Deferred imitation of object-related actions and generalization of imitation to similar but not identical tasks were assessed in two human-reared (enculturated) orangutans (*Pongo pygmaeus*). Each ape displayed low levels of deferred imitation, but did not provide evidence of generalization of imitation. Results suggest that enculturated orangutans may not possess social-cognitive abilities similar to that which enculturated chimpanzees are assumed to possess.

Recent Graduates Students

Doctoral Students

Richard L. Michalski (2005, Ph.D.), “An evolutionary psychological approach to the study of sibling influences.” Richard is currently Assistant Professor of Psychology at Hollins University, Roanoke, VA.

Mandy E. Miller (2004, Ph.D.), “The Cinderella effect: The psychological bases and mental dynamics of step-parental ambivalence.” Mandy is currently Visiting Assistant Professor of Psychology, Wilkes Honors College, Florida Atlantic University, Jupiter, FL.

Masters Students

Alastair P. C. Davies (2005), “Human mate poaching: How frequent is it and what motivates it?” Alastair is currently a Ph.D. student in Evolutionary Psychology, Florida Atlantic University.

Aaron T. Goetz (2005), “When we hurt the ones we love: Predicting violence against women from men’s mate retention tactics.” Aaron is currently a Ph.D. student in Evolutionary Psychology, Florida Atlantic University.

Krystal D. Mize (2005), “Intimate partner homicide methods in heterosexual and homosexual relationships.” Krystal is currently a Ph.D. student in Developmental Psychology, Florida Atlantic University.

Samantha Murphy (2005), “Relationship experience as a predictor of jealousy.”

Brian J. Quintus (2005), “Sex differences in sexual psychology produce sex-similar preferences for a short-term mate.”

Emily A. Stone (2005), “Sex differences and similarities in preferred mating arrangements.”

Amanda Hitchell (2004), “Sex ratio and crime: A cross-cultural investigation.” Amanda is currently a Research Associate at Northwestern University, Evanston, IL.

Current Graduate Students

Doctoral Students

Alastair P. C. Davies. Alastair is beginning his third year as a Ph.D. student in Evolutionary Psychology. His interests are in human sexual psychology and behavior, in general, and in human mate poaching and infidelity, in particular.

Aaron T. Goetz. Aaron is beginning his fourth year as a Ph.D. student in Evolutionary Psychology. His interests are in conflict between the sexes, especially sexual conflict, violence, and the application of sperm competition theory to humans sexual psychology and behavior.

William F. McKibbin. Bill is beginning his first year as a Ph.D. student in Evolutionary Psychology. His interests are in the application of sperm competition theory to humans sexual psychology and behavior.

Masters Students

Shanna L. Beasley. Shanna is beginning her second year as a MA student in Evolutionary Psychology. Her interests are in filicide and filicide-suicide.

Judith A. Easton. Luke is beginning her second year as a MA student in Evolutionary Psychology. Her interests are in conflict between the sexes, especially the consequences of morbid or pathological jealousy in men.

Faith E. Guta. Faith is beginning her third year as a MA student in Evolutionary Psychology. Her interests are in human sexual psychology and behavior, in general, and in mate retention and copulatory behavior, in particular.

Mary Ann O'Grady. Luke is beginning her first year as a MA student in Evolutionary Psychology. Her interests are in filicide.

Lucas D. Schipper. Luke is beginning his second year as a MA student in Evolutionary Psychology. His interests are in conflict between the sexes, especially violence and abuse of intimate partners by men.