

Azim F. Shariff

DEPARTMENT OF PSYCHOLOGY
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Biographical Information

Date of birth: April 29th, 1981
Home address: 2602 Point Grey Road
Vancouver, BC
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Education

Ph.D. Psychology. University of British Columbia.
Thesis: The Limits and Dangers of Religious Prosociality
Expected completion - Spring, 2010.

M.A. Psychology. University of British Columbia. 2006.
Thesis: The Moral Consequence of Religions
Supervisors: Ara Norenzayan, Mark Schaller

B.Sc. Psychology. University of Toronto. 2004.
Graduated Honours with Distinction
Undergraduate Supervisor: Jordan B. Peterson

Honors and Awards

2009	APA Division 36 Research Seed Grant
2009-2010	Pacific Century Scholarship
2009-2010	UBC Premier Graduate Fellowship
2008	Oxford Cog Sci of Religion & Theology Junior Scholar Grant
2008	Tara Nash Award for Outstanding Service to UBC Psychology
2008	SPSP Student Travel Award
2007	<i>Science</i> Editors' Choice
2006-2009	SSHRC Doctoral Canadian Graduate Scholarship
2005-2006	SSHRC Master's Research Scholarship
2004-2005	Elizabeth Young Lacey Graduate Entrance Fellowship
2003-2004	Trinity College Chancellor's Scholarship

Publications

- Shariff, A.F.,** & Tracy, J.L. (in press) Knowing Who's Boss: Implicit Perceptions of Status from the Nonverbal Expression of Pride. *Emotion*.
- Tracy, J.L, **Shariff, A.F** & Cheng, J.T. (in press) A Naturalist's View of Pride. *Emotion Review* (invited target article).
- Shariff, A.F.,** Norenzayan, A. & Henrich, J. (in press). The Birth of High Gods: How the cultural evolution of supernatural policing agents influenced the emergence of complex, cooperative human societies, paving the way for civilization. In (eds. M. Schaller, A. Norenzayan, S. Heine, T. Yamagishi, & T. Kameda) Evolution, culture and the human mind, Lawrence Erlbaum Associates
- Cohen, A. B, **Shariff, A.F.,** & Hill, P.C. (2008) The Accessibility of Religious Beliefs. *Journal of Research in Personality*. 42(6), 1408-1417.
- Norenzayan, A. & **Shariff, A.F.** (2008) The Origin and Evolution of Religious Prosociality. *Science*, 322 (5898), 58-62.
- Shariff, A.F.,** Cohen, A.B., & Norenzayan, A. (2008) The Devil's Advocate: Secular Arguments Diminish both Implicit and Explicit Religious Belief. *Journal of Cognition and Culture*, 8, 417-423.
- Shariff, A.F.,** Schooler, J.W. & Vohs, K.D. (2008). The Hazards of Claiming to Have Solved the Hard Problem of Free Will. In (eds.) J. Baer, J. Kaufman and R.F. Baumeister) Psychology and Free Will. (pp. 181-204). Oxford University Press.
- Shariff, A.F.** (2008). One Species under God? Sorting through the pieces of religion and cooperation. In (Bulbulia, J., R. Sosis, C. Genet, R. Genet, E. Harris, K. Wyman, eds.) The Evolution of Religion: Studies, Theories, and Critiques. (pp.119-125) Collins Foundation Press.
- Cohen, A.B., Hill, P.C., **Shariff, A.F.,** & Rozin, P. (2008). Furthering the Evolution of Discussion on Religion: Multi-Method Study, Universality, and Cultural Variation. In (Bulbulia, J., R. Sosis, C. Genet, R. Genet, E. Harris, K. Wyman, eds.) The Evolution of Religion: Studies, Theories, and Critiques. Collins Foundation Press.
- Shariff, A.F.,** & Norenzayan, A. (2007). God is watching you: Supernatural agent concepts increase prosocial behavior in an anonymous economic game. *Psychological Science*, 18, 803-809.
- *Science Editors' Choice – September 14, 2007**

Shariff, A.F. & Peterson, J.B. (2005). Anticipatory Consciousness, Libet's Veto and a Close Enough Theory of Free Will. *Consciousness and Emotion, Book Series 1*, 197-215.

Manuscripts under review, revision, etc.

Norenzayan, A., Shariff, A.F., & Gervais, W. The Evolution of Religious Misbelief. *Under Review*.

Shariff, A.F., & Norenzayan, A. Mean Gods Make Good People. *Under review*.

Gervais, W., Shariff, A.F. & Norenzayan, A. Do You Believe in Atheists? Trust and anti-atheist prejudice. *Under review*.

Shariff, A.F., Markusoff, J. & Tracy, J.L. (Implicitly) Judging a Book by its Cover: The Unavoidable Inference of Status from Pride and Shame Expressions. *Under review*.

Shariff, A.F., Greene, J.D., & Schooler, J.W. Beyond Retribution?: Effects of Encouraging a Determinist Worldview on Punishment. *Under revision*.

Other

Shariff, A.F. & Norenzayan, A. (2008). Revisiting the latest research on the correlation between religion and niceness: A response to Paul Bloom. *Slate*.

Shariff, A.F. (2008). Book Review: Spiritual Evolution. *Greater Good Magazine*.

Shariff, A.F. (2008). Book Review: Beyond Revenge: The Evolution of the Forgiveness Instinct. *Greater Good Magazine*.

Shariff, A.F. (2006). Book Review: Blink: The Power of Thinking Without Thinking. *Canadian Psychology*, 47(3), 232-3.

Conference Presentations and Invited Talks

Shariff, A.F. (2009). Toward a cognitive science of religion: The evolution of religious prosociality. Oral Presentation at the *American Psychological Society 2009 Annual Meeting*, San Francisco, California.

Shariff, A.F. (2009). Religion and group morality: How gods make us good*. Oral presentation at *The Society for Personality and Social Psychology 2009 Annual Meeting*, Tampa, Florida. (***Co-Chaired Symposium: Group Morality**. Speakers: Jon Haidt, Azim Shariff, Jon Jost. Discussant: Jesse Graham)

Shariff, A.F. (2008). The Evolution of Religion. Invited talk at The University of Toronto.

- Shariff, A.F.** (2008). Ingroups and Outgroups: How religion has cohered and cleaved. Oral presentation at *The Society for Personality and Social Psychology 2008 Annual Meeting*, Albuquerque, New Mexico. (***Chaired Symposium:** The Social Costs and Benefits of Religion. Speakers: Azim Shariff, Dominic Johnson, Jeremy Ginges, Jordan Peterson)
- Gervais, W., **Shariff, A.F.**, & Norenzayan, A. (2008). Do you believe in atheists? Poster presentation at *The Society for Personality and Social Psychology 2008 Annual Meeting*, Albuquerque, New Mexico.
- Shariff, A.F.** (2007). Religion trumps ethnicity in implicit prejudice. Oral presentation at *The Annual Meeting for the Association for the Study of Religion, Economics, and Culture*. Tampa, Florida.
- Shariff, A.F.** (2007). Ingroups and Outgroups: How religion has cohered and cleaved. Oral presentation at *The Annual Meeting for the Association for the Study of Religion, Economics, and Culture*. Tampa, Florida
- Shariff, A.F.** (2007). The carrot, the stick and the cross: religion's effect on cooperative behaviour. Oral presentation as part of the "Social Benefits and Hazards of Religion" symposium at *The Western Psychological Association 2007 Conference*, Vancouver, British Columbia.
- Shariff, A.F.** (2007). One Species under God? Sorting through the pieces of religion and cooperation. Oral presentation at *The Evolution of Religion: Hawaii Conference 2007*. Makaha, Hawaii.
- Cohen, A., **Shariff, A.F.**, and Hill, P.C. (2007) An Implicit Measure of Religious Beliefs. Oral presentation at *The Evolution of Religion: Hawaii Conference 2007*. Makaha, Hawaii.
- Shariff, A.F.**, and Norenzayan, A. (2006). The Moral Consequence of Religions. Oral presentation at *The 2006 Human Behavior and Evolution Society Conference*, Philadelphia, Pennsylvania.
- Shariff, A.F.**, Kozak, R., and Schaller, M. (2006). Why it Hurts, and When and How. Poster presentation at *The 2006 Human Behavior and Evolution Society Conference*, Philadelphia, Pennsylvania.
- Schooler, J.W., Vohs, K.D., and **Shariff, A.F.** (2005). The 'Easy' and 'Hard' Problems of Free Will. Oral presentation at *The 31st Annual Meeting of the Society for Philosophy and Psychology*, Winston-Salem, North Carolina.
- Shariff, A.F.** and Peterson, J.B. (2004). Anticipatory Consciousness and a Close Enough Theory of Free Will. Oral Presentation at *The 6th Toward a Science of Consciousness Conference*, Tucson, Arizona.

Select Media Mentions:

- “Pride power”, CBC Vancouver, Toronto, Quebec City, Regina, Calgary, Yellowknife, Whitehorse, St. John’s, (Radio Interviews)
- “When all you have left is your pride” New York Times, Apr 7, 2009
- “Religion not the only path to Altruism” US News, Fox news, MSNBC, Oct 27, 2008.
- “Are religious people more helpful?” CBC News: Sunday, Oct 12, 2008. (TV interview)
- “Faith makes you better, with a rider” The Telegraph, India, Oct 6, 2008.
- “Religion helps foster trust, say psychologists” The Guardian, Oct 3, 2008.
- “The science of religion: where angels no longer fear to tread” The Economist, Mar 22, 2008.
- “God Effect, The” New York Times Magazine 7th annual year in ideas, Dec 9, 2007.
- “Playing word games with God boosts generosity: study” Reuters, Sep 6, 2007.
- “Are people who think about spiritual things more generous?” The Standard, OMNI Television, Sep 4, 2007. (TV interview)
- “The origins of faith; If humans are hard-wired to be moral, what is the point of religion?” *New Scientist* (cover story). Sep 1, 2007.
- “UBC study finds religion leads to more generosity” *The National Post*, *The Vancouver Sun*, *The Montreal Gazette*, *The Calgary Herald*, and *The Edmonton Journal*. August 30, 2007.
- “God thoughts influence your generosity: UBC Study” The Christy Clark Show, Adler On Line, Corus Radio Network, CBC News. August 29-30, 2007. (Radio Interviews)
- “Religious concepts promote cooperation.” *Nature News*. July 23, 2007.

Service and Teaching Experience:

Graduate Student Council/Departmental service:

Colloquium Committee student rep, 2007-50 th Birthday Committee student rep 2009	GSC Chair, 2007-8
Co-social coordinator, 2008-	Psychfest Co-organizer, 2007
	Soc/Pers Area Student Rep, 2006-7

- TA: **Social Psychology** (PSYC308; Prof: Norenzayan; 2006, Winter term; 2007, Winter)
- TA: **Introductory Psychology** (PSYC100; Profs: Rankin and Norenzayan; 2005-6, Winter/Spring)
- TA: **Introductory Psychology** (PSYC100; Prof: Graf; 2004-5, Winter/Spring)

Guest Lectures

Introduction to Personality (2005)	Sleep and Dreaming (2005)
Unconscious processes (2005)	The Puppet Mind (2006)
The evolution of consciousness (2005)	Evolutionary Psychology (2007)
Philosophical problems of consciousness (2005)	The Evolution of Religion (2008)

Undergraduate Honour’s/Directed Studies Students supervised:

2008-9: Genny Loxley, Adrian Martynkiw	2006-7: Alex Gaudin, Francois Botha
2007-8: Martin Sanderson, Jeff Markusoff, Jessica Kam, Nelson Eddingfield, Francois Botha, Corri Longridge, Christina Young	2005-6: Courtney Edgar