

ROBERT LYNCH
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RESEARCH INTERESTS

Utilizing the largest and most accurate genealogy on Earth, Íslendingabók, or ‘The Book of Icelanders’, my dissertation research addresses how family size affects resource allocation and investment amongst offspring and impacts both their lifetime reproductive success (LRS) and lifespan. I plan to build on this work and investigate the relationship between fertility, sex ratio, and lifespan of offspring. By uniting genetics (single-nucleotide polymorphisms to provide relatedness data) and genealogical databases with evolutionary psychology and theory, I plan to explore the evolution of life history traits both within and between societies, and across different environments. This work will contribute to our understanding of basic evolutionary forces which may ultimately serve the public through an increased understanding of the effects that socioeconomic, technological and cultural change have on fertility, lifespan and sex ratios.

I also intend to use publicly available genealogies and demographic data provided by the Center for Disease Control (CDC) to further understand the long term and global effects of sex-biased dispersal patterns, sex-specific abortion rates or inheritance patterns (e.g. first son inheritance practices or sex specific infanticide or adoption rates) on the distribution of wealth. Evolving life history traits have important effects on political, economic and social structures. Fertility rates and patterns, for instance, will have significant impacts on the global distribution of population and wealth, while sex ratios and dispersal patterns have important effects on both culture and health. In sum, I plan to use biological and behavioral data to better understand evolutionary theories which will serve to illuminate our understanding of how major demographic changes affect both culture and society. This knowledge may then provide evidence which will help both governments and non-governmental organizations (NGO’s) recommend and formulate public policy.

In addition to my interest in the evolution of life history traits, I am also interested in the ultimate function of humor. Laughter is a cultural universal and its importance in communication is widely acknowledged across an array of disciplines. Its function and evolutionary import, however, are not yet well understood. I am interested in how and why humor has attained such a critical role across human societies and social groups. How does humor help to establish credibility and trust amongst unrelated individuals? And what affect has laughter had in establishing and ensuring honesty in repeated, reciprocal relationships? In addition I plan to explore the relationship between humor, self-deception and truth, while examining the role that humor plays in disseminating uncomfortable truths which are often denied or repressed by both society and individuals.

EDUCATION

2005-present	Rutgers University, New Brunswick, New Jersey Ph.D. student in Evolutionary Anthropology, course work, qualifying exams and Doctoral dissertation proposal defense completed, April, 2009; Dissertation defense scheduled August, 2013.
2005-2007	Rutgers University, New Brunswick, New Jersey Certificate in Cognitive Science
2003-2005	Hunter College, CUNY, Post-Baccalaureate Biology Degree

Robert Lynch
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1987-1991 University of Michigan, Ann Arbor, Michigan
BA in English literature

RESEARCH EXPERIENCE

- September 2010-
July 2011 Reykjavik, Iceland. Worked at the offices of Decode genetics with Íslendingabók, a genealogical database for the population of Iceland and analyzed the genetic data on relatedness at deCode. Supervisor: Dr. Agnar Helgason.
- Spring, 2010 Southfield, Jamaica. Supervised the collection of physical data (100 and 200 meter sprints), and the collection of questionnaires on religious beliefs and self-deception from subjects in the Jamaican Symmetry. Project PI: Dr. Robert Trivers.
- Fall, 2008 Reykjavik, Iceland. Worked at the offices of Decode genetics with Íslendingabók, a genealogical database for the population of Iceland. Supervisor: Dr. Agnar Helgason.
- Spring, 2008 New Brunswick, NJ. Analyzed documents from New Brunswick Family Court related to divorce and custody hearings concerning the nature of parental investment. Used in dissertation.
- Fall, 2006 -
Spring, 2008 Rutgers University. Worked in genetics lab extracting human DNA, trained and used genetics techniques to sequence areas of genome associated with digit ratios and Hox gene clusters. PI: Dr. Chi-hua Chiu.
- Spring, 2007 Southfield, Jamaica. Collected DNA samples and digit ratio data from over 200 subjects in the Jamaican Symmetry Project, PI: Dr. Robert Trivers.
- Spring, 2006 –
Fall 2007 Rutgers University. Created and conducted a study on implicit preferences and humor appreciation using Facial Action Coding System (FACS).
- Spring, 2006 Southfield, Jamaica. Supervised the 3rd measurement of over 200 individuals on multiple physical traits as a part of a longitudinal study of fluctuating asymmetry for the Jamaican Symmetry Project. PI: Dr. Robert Trivers.
- Fall, 2005 Rutgers University. Collected anthropometric data on participants for the second phase of dance ratings being done as part of the Jamaican Symmetry Project. PI: Dr. Robert Trivers.

PUBLICATIONS

Lynch, R. 2010. It's funny because we think it's true: laughter is augmented by implicit preferences. *Evolution and Human Behavior*, 31 (2) 141-48.

Lynch, R. F. and Trivers, R. L. 2012. Self-deception inhibits laughter. *Personality and Individual Differences*, 53(4): 491-495.

Lynch, R.F. and Aronoff, E. September 28, 2012. Human Hubris. *Scientific American*.

Robert Lynch
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Lynch, R.F. Evidence for a quantity quality tradeoff in offspring reproduction and lifespan in Iceland. *In Review.*

Lynch, R. F. Parental Investment Increases both offspring reproduction and lifespan in Iceland. *In Review.*

Lynch, R.F. and Lynch, E.C. Humor: Increasing Complexity Verifies the Fitness of both the Signaler and the Receiver in an Encrypted System. *In Prep.*

PRESENTATIONS

Presentation: *Humor: In the Lab and on the Stage.* Human Behavior and Evolution Society Annual Conference, July 17th, 2013. Miami, FLA.

Poster: *It's funny because it's true. Self-deception inhibits and implicit preferences augment humor appreciation.* Human Behavior and Evolution Society Annual Conference, May, 2007. University of William and Mary, VA.

Presentation: *Evidence for Sexual Antagonistic Effects Found in Icelandic Human Population.* Department of Biomaps, May, 2008. Rutgers University, NJ.

Guest Lectures at Rutgers University:

Fall, 2013: course Evolutionary Logic of Self-Deception, "Humor and self-deception"

Fall, 2012: course Extinction, "The Evolution of Virulence"

Fall, 2009: course Evolution of Social Bonds, "The Evolution of Male Bonds"

Spring, 2009: course Human Genetics, "Sexually Antagonistic Genetic Effects"

Fall, 2008: course Social Evolution, "Genomic Imprinting"

GRANTS AND AWARDS

2010-2011	Fulbright IIE scholar award
2009	Conference Travel Award, Rutgers University
2005-2007	Graduate Fellowship, Rutgers University
2006	Center for Human Evolutionary Studies Research Grant, Rutgers University
2007	Special Opportunity Grant, Rutgers University Graduate School
2007	Bigel Award, Rutgers University Department of Anthropology
2007	Conference Travel Award, Rutgers University Graduate School
2008	Bigel Award, Rutgers University Department of Anthropology
2008	Center for Human Evolutionary Studies Research Grant, Rutgers University

TEACHING EXPERIENCE AND TRAINING

Spring, 2013 Anthropology Department, Rutgers University
Completed course for professor on leave, Human Evolutionary Genetics

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Spring, 2013	Anthropology Department, Rutgers University Completed course for professor on leave, Deceit and Self-deception
Winter, 2013	Anthropology Department, Rutgers University Primary Instructor, Social Evolution
Fall, 2012	English Department, Rutgers University Primary Instructor, Expository Writing
Summer, 2012	Anthropology Department, Rutgers University Primary Instructor, Social Evolution
Spring, 2012	Anthropology Department, Rutgers University Teaching Assistant, Introduction to Cultural Anthropology.
Fall, 2011	Anthropology Department, Rutgers University Head Teaching Assistant, Extinction.
Summer, 2011	Anthropology Department, Rutgers University Primary Instructor, Social Evolution.
Summer, 2009	Anthropology Department, Rutgers University Primary Instructor Social Evolution. Primary Instructor, Religion and Evolution.
Spring, 2009	Anthropology Department, Rutgers University Teaching Assistant, Social Evolution
Winter, 2009	Anthropology Department Primary Instructor, Religion and Evolution
Fall, 2008	Anthropology Department, Rutgers University Teaching Assistant, Introduction to Human Evolution
Spring, 2008	Anthropology Department, Rutgers University Teaching Assistant, Introduction to Human Evolution
Fall, 2007	Anthropology Department, Rutgers University Teaching Assistant, Introduction to Human Evolution
Fall, 2004- Spring, 2005	Educate LLC, Bronx, NY Teacher elementary school
1992-1993	Educate for America, Kosice, Slovakia English as a second language teacher, transportation high school

WORK EXPERIENCE

2005-present	Assisting teaching and independently teaching at Rutgers University
1993-2004	American Stock Exchange, New York, NY Options trader and market maker

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1991-1993 Teaching English as a Foreign Language, Kosice, Slovakia;
worked with high school students and professional adults on learning English

SYNERGYSTIC ACTIVITIES

2013-present Reviewer for *Journal of Social, Evolutionary and Cultural Psychology*.

2010-present Reviewer for *Evolution and Human Behavior* and *Personality and Individual Differences*.

2005-present In conjunction with the Pelham School Board in Westchester, NY, I developed the primary school science curriculum through professional development workshops and contributed to the evolution unit by re-writing lectures and creating games that encourage a deeper understanding of biology and evolution.

2006-2007 President, Rutgers University Anthropology Graduate Student Association

PROFESSIONAL MEMBERSHIPS

Society for Evolutionary Analysis and Law

Human Behavior and Evolution Society

American Anthropological Association

PUBLIC APPEARANCES

Multiple stand-up comedy routines at Gotham comedy Club in Manhattan
<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=AruK6CW6gSs&feature=g-upl>

Multiple stand-up comedy routines at the Metropolitan room
http://www.youtube.com/my_videos_edit?ns=1&video_id=fj1Bg0yvq7c

POPULAR PRESS

Interview on PBSs' series NOVA, "The Secret Lives of Scientists"
<http://www.pbs.org/wgbh/nova/secretlife/scientists/robert-lynch/>

Interview on National Public Radios' "Morning Edition"
<http://www.npr.org/blogs/health/2012/08/06/157592468/an-anthropologist-walks-into-a-bar-and-asks-why-is-this-joke-funny>

Interview on WGN Chicago Radio
<http://www.wgnradio.com/shows/mikemccconnell/wgnam-robert-lynch-20120810,0,4517540.mp3file>

Interview with BYU radio on the evolution of humor
<http://db.tt/XtA8NRL1>

Interview with Deadspin.com
<http://deadspin.com/5935349/this-man-is-a-standup-comedian-and-an-evolutionary-anthropologist-studying-the-science-of-funny-ask-him-about-jokes?tag=yakspin>

The Wall Street Journal

Robert Lynch
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http://online.wsj.com/article/SB10001424052702303360504577410613087073528.html?mod=googlenews_wsj

Scientific American

<http://www.scientificamerican.com/podcast/episode.cfm?id=its-funny-because-its-true-09-10-13>

Psychology Today

<http://www.psychologytoday.com/articles/201002/bias-funny-because-its-true>

Rutgers Today

<http://news.rutgers.edu/medrel/special-content/2012/getting-laugh-and-s-20120808>

Rutgers Today: Focus

<http://news.rutgers.edu/medrel/research/serious-question-why-20091014/>

SKILLS

Certified in the Facial Action Coding System, May, 2006

Proficient in Visual Basic, Microsoft Access, SPSS, SAS, R, and Excel

Robert Lynch
Curriculum Vitae
Robertlynch66@yahoo.com