
DOMINIC D. P. JOHNSON

CURRICULUM VITAE

Nationality: United Kingdom
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OVERVIEW

My work draws on insights from the life sciences to improve our understanding of the behaviour of human beings, groups, organizations, and states. New findings in evolution, biology, genetics, psychology and neuroscience challenge many traditional assumptions about human nature and, thereby, force us to rethink a wide variety of theories in social science. Testing the novel hypotheses that are emerging from this work requires interdisciplinary approaches, including translating scientific theories to applications in social science, laboratory experiments, quantitative analysis, simulations, modelling, and case studies. My current work focuses on the role of cognitive psychology, evolutionary dynamics, and religion in human cooperation and conflict behaviour.

CAREER

Dates	Position	University	Affiliation
2012–	Professor	Oxford	<i>Department of Politics & International Relations</i>
2009–2012	Reader	Edinburgh	<i>Department of Politics & International Relations</i>
2007–2009	Lecturer	Edinburgh	<i>Department of Politics & International Relations</i>
2008 (spring)	Visiting Lecturer	Harvard	<i>Department of Government</i>
2004–2007	Fellow	Princeton	<i>Society of Fellows</i>
2004–2007	Lecturer	Princeton	<i>Woodrow Wilson School of Public & International Affairs</i>
2004–2006	Visiting Fellow	UCLA	<i>Global Fellows Program, International Institute</i>
2003–2004	Science Fellow	Stanford	<i>Center for International Security & Cooperation</i>
2002–2003	Fellow	Harvard	<i>Olin Institute for Strategic Studies</i>

ACADEMIC QUALIFICATIONS

Dates	Degree	University	Subject	Results
2002–2004	Ph.D.	Geneva	<i>Political Science</i>	Highest grade
2001–2002	D.E.A.*	Geneva	<i>Political Science</i>	98%
1998–2001	B.A.	Open	<i>Statistics & German</i>	Statistics 88%; German 81%
1997–2001	D.Phil.	Oxford	<i>Biology</i>	Pass
1996–1997	M.Sc.	Oxford	<i>Biosciences</i>	Distinction
1993–1996	B.Sc. (Hons)	Derby	<i>Biological Imaging</i>	First Class

* The D.E.A. is a one-year Swiss Master’s degree (“Diplôme d’études approfondies”)

COMPETITIVE FELLOWSHIPS

- 2004–2009: **Branco Weiss Fellow**, *Society in Science*, ETH Zurich.
- 2004–2007: **Cotsen-Wilson Fellow**, *Society of Fellows*, Princeton University.
- 2004–2006: **Global Fellow** (visiting), *International Institute*, UCLA.
- 2003–2004: **Science Fellow**, *Center for International Security & Cooperation*, Stanford University
- 2002–2003: **National Security Fellow**, *Olin Institute for Strategic Studies*, Harvard University.

COMPETITIVE SCHOLARSHIPS

- 2001–2002: **Swiss Federal Scholarship** to Geneva University.
- 2000–2001: **John F. Kennedy Scholarship** to Harvard University.
- 1998–2000: **Lord Miles Senior Science Studentship** at Pembroke College, Oxford University.

AWARDS & PRIZES

- 2011: Chancellor’s “Rising Star” Award, **University of Edinburgh**.
- 2008: *Failing to Win* named Best Book in International Studies, **International Studies Association**.
- 2005: *Overconfidence and War* named an Honor Book, **New Jersey Council for the Humanities**.
- 2004: Best Ph.D. from Geneva University during 2002–04, **Swiss Political Science Association**.
- 2001: 2nd prize in business plan competition, **National Environment Research Council**.

LANGUAGES

- **French:** *Diplôme de Langue Française* (from the Alliance Française), plus a 3 month intensive course in Fribourg, Switzerland (2001) and 1 year studying in Geneva, Switzerland (2001–2002).
- **German:** *Diploma in German* (from the Open University), plus a 1 month intensive course in Berlin (1998) and 5 months in Germany, Austria and German-speaking Switzerland.

PUBLICATIONS

Overview: 2 books (plus 2 under contract); 43 peer reviewed journal articles; 12 edited book chapters; plus a variety of journal commentaries, reviews, blogs and media articles.

Books

- Johnson, DDP (Forthcoming) *Adaptive Politics: The Strategic Advantages of Psychological Biases*. **Princeton University Press**, Princeton, NJ.
- Johnson, DDP (Forthcoming) *Payback: God's Punishment and the Evolution of Cooperation*. **Oxford University Press**, New York, NY.
- Johnson, DDP & Tierney DR (2006) *Failing to Win: Perceptions of Victory and Defeat in International Politics*. **Harvard University Press**, Cambridge, MA.
*(Awarded 2006 “Best Book in International Studies”, *International Studies Association*).
- Johnson, DDP (2004) *Overconfidence and War: The Havoc and Glory of Positive Illusions*. **Harvard University Press**, Cambridge, MA.
*(Awarded 2005 “Honor Book”, *New Jersey Council for the Humanities*).

Journal Articles

- Macdonald, D. W. & Johnson, D. D. P. (2015). Patchwork planet: resource dispersion and the ecology of life (the Thomas Henry Huxley Review). **Journal of Zoology**, 295: 75-107.
- Johnson, DDP (2015). Survival of the disciplines: is international relations fit for the new millennium? **Millennium: Journal of International Studies**. 43 (2): 749-763.
- Johnson, DDP & MacKay, NJ (2015). Fight the power: Lanchester's laws of combat in human evolution. **Evolution & Human Behavior** 36: 152-163.
- Johnson, DDP, Lenfesty, H. & Schloss, JP (2014). The elephant in the room: religious truth claims, evolution and human nature. **Philosophy, Theology and the Sciences** 1 (2): 200-231.
- Johnson, DDP & Toft, MD (2014) Grounds for war: the evolution of territorial conflict. **International Security** 38 (3): 7-38.
- Johnson, DDP, Blumstein, DT, Fowler, JH & Haselton, MG (2013) The evolution of errors: Error management, cognitive constraints, and adaptive decision-making biases. **Trends in Ecology & Evolution** 28 (8): 474-481.
- Johnson, DDP, Price, ME & Van Vugt, M (2013). Darwin's invisible hand: Market competition, evolution and the firm. **Journal of Economic Behavior and Organization** 90: S128-S140.
- Stopka, P & Johnson, DDP (2012) Host-parasite dynamics lead to mixed cooperative games. **Folia Zoologica** 61 (3/4): 233-238.
- Blumstein, DT, Atran, S, Field, S, Hochberg, ME, Johnson, DDP, Sagarin, R, Sosis, R & Thayer, BA (2012). The peacock's tale: lessons from evolution for effective signaling in international politics. **Clodynamics: The Journal of Theoretical and Mathematical History** 3 (1): 191-214.
- Johnson, DDP (2012) What are atheists for? Hypotheses on the functions of non-belief in the evolution of religion. **Religion, Brain & Behavior** 2 (1): 48-70.
- Johnson, DDP McDermott, R, Cowden, J, & Tingley, D (2012) Dead certain: confidence and conservatism predict aggression in simulated international crisis decision-making. **Human Nature** 23 (1): 98-126.
- Johnson, DDP & Fowler, JH (2011) The evolution of overconfidence. **Nature** 477: 317-320.
- Johnson, DDP & Tierney, D (2011) The Rubicon theory of war: how the path to conflict reaches the point of no return. **International Security** 36 (1): 7-40.

- Johnson, DDP, Weidmann, NB & Cederman, L-E (2011) Fortune favours the bold: an agent-based model reveals adaptive advantages of overconfidence in war. **PLoS ONE** 6 (6): e20851.
- Sagarin, RD, Alcorta, CS, Atran, S, Blumstein, DT, Dietl, GP, Hochberg, ME, Johnson, DDP, Levin, S, Madin, EMP, Madin, JS, Prescott, EM, Sosis, R, Taylor, T, Tooby, J & Vermeij, GJ (2010) Decentralize, adapt and cooperate. **Nature (Opinion)** 465: 292-293.
- King, AJ, Johnson, DDP & Van Vugt, M (2009) The origins and evolution of leadership. **Current Biology** 19 (19): 1591-1682.
- Johnson, DDP (2009) Darwinian selection in asymmetric warfare: the natural advantage of insurgents and terrorists. **Journal of the Washington Academy of Sciences** 95 (3): 89-112.
- Johnson, DDP, & Levin, SA (2009) The tragedy of cognition: psychological biases and environmental inaction. **Current Science** 97 (11): 1593-1603.
- McDermott, R, Tingley, D, Cowden, J, Frazzetto, G & Johnson, DDP (2009) Monoamine oxidase A gene (MAOA) predicts behavioral aggression following provocation. **Proceedings of the National Academy of Sciences (PNAS)** 106 (7): 2118-2123. (Note: corresponding author).
- McDermott, R, Johnson, DDP, Cowden, J & Rosen, SP (2007) Testosterone and aggression in a simulated crisis game. **Annals of the American Academy of Political and Social Sciences** 614 (1):15-33.
- McIntyre, MH, Barrett, ES, McDermott, R, Johnson, DDP, Cowden, J & Rosen, SP (2007) Finger length ratio (2D:4D) and sex differences in aggression during a simulated wargame. **Personality and Individual Differences** 42: 755-764.
- Johnson, DDP, McDermott, R, Barrett, ES, Cowden, J, Wrangham, R, McIntyre, MH & Rosen, SP (2006) Overconfidence in wargames: experimental evidence on expectations, aggression, gender and testosterone. **Proceedings of the Royal Society (B)** 273 (1600): 2513-2520.
- Johnson, DDP & Bering, JM (2006) Hand of God, mind of man: punishment and cognition in the evolution of cooperation. **Evolutionary Psychology** 4: 219-233.
- Johnson, DDP (2005) God's punishment and public goods: A test of the supernatural punishment hypothesis in 186 world cultures. **Human Nature** 16 (4): 410-446.
- Bering, JM & Johnson, DDP (2005) Recursiveness in the cognitive evolution of supernatural agency. **Journal of Cognition and Culture** 5 (1/2): 118-142.
- Burnham, T & Johnson, DDP (2005) The evolutionary and biological logic of human cooperation. **Analyse & Kritik** (Special issue on Ernst Fehr) 27 (1): 113-135.
- Johnson, DDP & Tierney, DR (2004) Essence of victory: winning and losing international crises. **Security Studies** 13 (2): 350-381.
- Johnson, DDP & Krueger, O (2004) Supernatural punishment and the evolution of cooperation. **Political Theology** 5 (2): 159-176.
- Thom, M, Johnson, DDP & Macdonald, DW (2004) The evolution and maintenance of delayed implantation in the Mustelidae. **Evolution** 58 (1): 175-183.
- Johnson, DDP, Stopka, P. & Macdonald DW (2004) Ideal flea constraints on group living: unwanted public goods and the emergence of cooperation. **Behavioural Ecology** 15 (1): 181-186.
- Johnson, DDP, Stopka, P & Knights, S (2003) The puzzle of human cooperation. **Nature (brief communication)** 421: 911-912.
- Johnson, DDP, R. Kays, Blackwell, P & Macdonald, DW (2003) Response to Revilla, and Buckley and Ruxton: the resource dispersion hypothesis. **Trends in Ecology and Evolution** 18 (8): 381.
- Johnson, DDP & Macdonald, DW (2003) Sentenced without trial: reviling and revamping the resource dispersion hypothesis. **Oikos** 101 (2): 433-440.
- Johnson, DDP, Kays, R, Blackwell, P. & Macdonald, DW (2002) Does the resource dispersion hypothesis explain group living? **Trends in Ecology and Evolution** 17 (12): 563-570.
- Johnson, DDP, Stopka, P, Bell, J (2002) Individual variation evades the Prisoner's Dilemma. **BMC Evolutionary Biology** 2:15.

- Johnson, DDP, Wrangham, RW & Rosen, SP (2002) Is military incompetence adaptive? An empirical test with risk-taking behaviour in modern warfare. **Evolution and Human Behaviour** 23: 245-264.
- Johnson, DDP, Jetz, W & Macdonald, DW (2002) Environmental correlates of badger social spacing and densities across Europe. **Journal of Biogeography** 29 (3): 411-425.
- Johnson, DDP, Baker, S., Morecroft, M. & Macdonald, DW (2001) Long-term resource variation and group size: a large-sample field test of Resource Dispersion Hypothesis. **BMC Ecology** 2: 1.
- Johnson, DDP, Macdonald, DW, Newman, C & Morecroft, MD (2001) Group size versus territory size in group-living badgers: a large-sample field test of the Resource Dispersion Hypothesis. **Oikos** 95 (2): 265-274.
- Johnson, DDP & Macdonald, DW (2001) Why are group-living badgers sexually dimorphic? **Journal of Zoology** 255: 199-204.
- Stopka, P, Johnson, DDP, Barret, L (2001) Friendship for fitness or friendship for friendship's sake? **Animal Behaviour** 61: F19-F21.
- Stopka, P & Johnson, DDP (2000) Badgers (*Meles meles*) as a model species for the development of ecological and behavioural research. **Lynx** 31: 125-131.
- Johnson, DDP, Macdonald, DW & Dickman, AJ (2000) A review of models of the sociobiology of the Mustelidae. **Mammal Review** 30 (3): 171-196.
- Johnson, DDP & Briskie, JV (1999) Sperm competition and sperm length in shorebirds. **Condor** 101 (4): 848-854.
- Johnson, DDP & Mighell JS (1999) Dry-season bird diversity in tropical rainforest and surrounding habitats in Northeast Australia. **Emu** 99 (2): 108-120.
- Johnson, DDP, Hay, SI & Rogers, DJ (1998) Contemporary environmental correlates of endemic bird areas derived from meteorological satellite sensors. **Proceedings of the Royal Society (B)** 265: 951-959.
- Krueger, O & Johnson, DDP (1996) Bird Communities in Kyambura Game Reserve, south-west Uganda. **Ibis** 138 (3): 564-567.

Book Chapters

- Johnson, DDP (In Press). Leadership in War: Evolution, Cognition, and the Military Intelligence Hypothesis. In D. M. Buss (Eds.), *Handbook of Evolutionary Psychology*, Wiley.
- Johnson, DDP & Reeve, Z (2013) The Virtues of Intolerance: Is Religion an Adaptation for War? In: *Religion, Intolerance and Conflict: A Scientific and Conceptual Investigation* (eds. S Clarke, R Powell & J Savulescu), pp. 67-87, Oxford: **Oxford University Press**.
- Johnson, DDP (2013) The Uniqueness of Human Cooperation: Cognition, Cooperation and Religion. In: *Evolution, Games and God: The Principle of Cooperation*, (eds. MA Nowak & S Coakley), pp. 168-185, Cambridge: **Harvard University Press**.
- Price, ME & Johnson, DDP (2011) The adaptationist theory of cooperation in groups: evolutionary predictions for organizational cooperation. In: *Evolutionary Psychology in the Business Sciences* (ed. G Saad), pp. 95-133, **Springer**.
- Hardie, I, Johnson, DDP & Tierney, DR (2011) Psychological aspects of war. In: *The Handbook on the Political Economy of War* (eds. CJ Coyne & RL Mathers), pp. 72-92, Cheltenham: **Edward Elgar**.
- Johnson, DDP (2009) The error of God: Error management theory, religion, and the evolution of cooperation. In: *Games, Groups, and the Global Good* (ed. SA Levin), pp. 169-180, Berlin: **Springer**.
- Van Vugt, M, Johnson, DDP, Kaiser, RB & O’Gorman, R (2008) Evolution and the social psychology of leadership: the mismatch hypothesis. In: *Leadership at the Crossroads: Leadership and Psychology*, vol. 1, (eds. CL Hoyt, GR Goethals & DR Forsyth), pp. 267-282, New York:

Praeger.

- Johnson, DDP (2008) Gods of war: The adaptive logic of religious conflict. In: *The Evolution of Religion: Studies, Theories, and Critiques* (eds. J Bulbulia, R Sosis, C Genet, R Genet, E Harris & K Wyman), Santa Margarita, CA: **Collins Foundation Press**.
- Johnson, DDP, Price, M & Takezawa, M (2008) Renaissance of the individual: reciprocity, positive assortment, and the puzzle of human cooperation. In: *Foundations of Evolutionary Psychology: Ideas, Issues and Applications* (eds. C Crawford and D Krebs), New York: **Erlbaum**.
- Johnson, DDP & Madin, JS (2008) Population models and counterinsurgency strategies. In: *Natural Security: A Darwinian Approach to a Dangerous World* (eds. RD Sagarin & T Taylor), Berkeley and Los Angeles, CA: **University of California Press**.
- Johnson, DDP & Madin, EMP (2008) Paradigm shifts in security strategy: why does it take disasters to trigger change? In: *Natural Security: A Darwinian Approach to a Dangerous World* (eds. RD Sagarin & T Taylor), Berkeley and Los Angeles, CA: **University of California Press**.
- Johnson, DDP & Tierney, D (2007) In the eye of the beholder: victory and defeat in U.S. military operations. In: *Understanding Victory and Defeat in Contemporary War* (eds. J Angstrom and I Duyvesteyn), pp. 46-76, London: **Routledge**.
- Macdonald, DW & Johnson, DDP (2001) Dispersal in theory and practice: consequences for conservation biology, In: *Dispersal* (ed. J Clobert et al.), Oxford: **Oxford University Press**.

Commentaries & Reviews

- Johnson, DDP (2015) Big Gods, small wonder: supernatural punishment strikes back. **Religion, Brain & Behavior** In Press.
- Johnson, DDP & Toft, MD (2015). Bringing “geo” back into politics: evolution, territoriality and the contest over Ukraine (with commentaries). **Cliodynamics: The Journal of Quantitative History and Cultural Evolution** 5: 87-122.
- Reeve, Z & Johnson, DDP (2013). Identity (con)fusion: social groups and the stickiness of social glue (a commentary on Harvey Whitehouse). **Cliodynamics: The Journal of Theoretical and Mathematical History** 4 (2): 314-319.
- Johnson, DDP & Fowler, JH (2013) Complexity and Simplicity in the Evolution of Decision-Making Biases. **Trends in Ecology & Evolution** 28 (8): 446-447.
- Johnson, DDP (2012) Natural Security: 3.5 Billion Years of Adapting to Novel Threats. **Political Insight** 3 (2):12-15.
- Johnson, DDP (2011) Why God is the best punisher. **Religion, Brain & Behavior** 1 (1): 77-84.
- Johnson, DDP (2009) God would be a costly accident: supernatural beliefs as adaptive. **Behavioral and Brain Sciences** 32 (6): 523-524.
- Johnson, DDP & Van Vugt, M (2009) A history of war: the role of inter-group conflict in sex differences in aggression. **Behavioral and Brain Sciences** 32(3/4): 280-281.
- Johnson, DDP (2009) Beyond Belief: A review of “The Supernatural and Natural Selection: Religion and Evolutionary Success” by Lyle B. Steadman and Craig T. Palmer. **Evolution & Human Behavior** 30: 225-228.

Policy Briefs

- Johnson, DDP & Toft, MD (2014) Grounds for Hope: The Evolutionary Science behind Territorial Conflict. Policy Brief, **Belfer Center for Science and International Affairs** Policy Brief Document, Kennedy School of Government, Harvard University.
- Johnson, DDP & Tierney, D (2011) Crossing the Rubicon: the perils of committing to a decision. **Belfer Center for Science and International Affairs** Policy Brief Document, Kennedy School of Government, Harvard University.