

# Colin Holbrook, PhD

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Assistant Professor  
Cognitive and Information Sciences  
University of California, Merced  
School of Social Sciences, Humanities and Arts  
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## Education

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| 2010 | PhD, Cognitive Science<br>Queen's University, Belfast, Institute of Cognition and Culture |
| 2000 | B.A., Cognitive Science<br>B.A., Religious Studies<br>University of California, Berkeley  |

## Research Interests

Threat-detection, Group Bias, Social Neuroscience, Morality, Theory of Mind, Evolutionary Psychology

## Awards or Grants

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|------|--|
| 2017 | Defense University Research Instrumentation Program. <i>Configurable Anthropomorphic Robot to Assess Threat-modulation of Trust in Machine Agents</i> . \$141,481.   |
| 2015 | AFOSR Young Investigator Program. <i>Group Bias and the Attribution of Mental Properties to Allies, Antagonists, and Automata</i> . 3-year grant, \$360,000.   |
| 2014 | UCLA Chancellor's Award for Postdoctoral Research, \$5,000.  |
| 2012 | UCLA Clinical and Translational Science Institute Transdisciplinary Seed Grant. <i>Reducing Group Prejudice with Neuromodulation</i> . Dan Fessler (P.I.), Marco Iacoboni, Colin Holbrook, and Keise Izuma. 12-month grant period, \$25,000. |
| 2006 | Queen's University, Belfast. Overseas Research Student Award, \$110,000.   |

## Publications

Holbrook, C., López-Rodríguez, L., Gómez, Á. (in press). Wits of battle: Militaristic conservatism and warfare cues enhance the perceived intellect of allies versus adversaries. *Social Psychological and Personality Science*.  
[http://colinholbrook.com/Threat\\_Politics\\_Intellect\\_Attribution.pdf](http://colinholbrook.com/Threat_Politics_Intellect_Attribution.pdf)

- Holbrook, C. (in press). Cues of violent intergroup conflict diminish perceptions of robotic personhood. *Transactions on Interactive Intelligent Systems*.  
[http://colinholbrook.com/Holbrook\\_Warfare\\_Cues\\_and\\_Robotic\\_Personhood\\_TiIS\\_in\\_press.pdf](http://colinholbrook.com/Holbrook_Warfare_Cues_and_Robotic_Personhood_TiIS_in_press.pdf)
- Holbrook, C. (forthcoming). Adaptation, co-optation, variation: Emotions in evolutionary context. In A. Scarantino, (Ed.), *Routledge Handbook of Emotion Theory*. New York: Taylor & Francis.  
[http://colinholbrook.com/Holbrook\\_Emotion\\_in\\_Evolutionary\\_Context\\_Chapter.pdf](http://colinholbrook.com/Holbrook_Emotion_in_Evolutionary_Context_Chapter.pdf)
- Hahn-Holbrook, J., & Holbrook, C. (forthcoming). The social neuroendocrinology of pregnancy and breastfeeding in mothers and others. In P. Mehta and O. Schultheiss, (Eds.), *International Handbook of Social Neuroendocrinology*. New York: Routledge Press.
- Sparks, A., Fessler, D.M.T., Chan, K.Q., Ashokkumar, A., & Holbrook, C. (in press). Disgust as a mechanism for decision making under risk: Illuminating sex differences and individual risk-taking correlates of disgust propensity. *Emotion*.  
[http://colinholbrook.com/Disgust\\_&\\_Decision\\_Making\\_Under\\_Risk.pdf](http://colinholbrook.com/Disgust_&_Decision_Making_Under_Risk.pdf)
- Holbrook, C., López-Rodríguez, L., Fessler, D.M.T., Vázquez, A., Gómez, A. (2017). Gulliver's politics: Conservatives envision potential enemies as readily vanquished and physically small. *Social Psychological and Personality Science*, 8, 670-678.  
[http://colinholbrook.com/Holbrook\\_et\\_al\\_Gullivers\\_Politics\\_SPPS\\_2017.pdf](http://colinholbrook.com/Holbrook_et_al_Gullivers_Politics_SPPS_2017.pdf)
- Fessler, D.M.T., Pisor, A.C., & Holbrook, C. (2017). Political orientation predicts credulity regarding putative hazards. *Psychological Science*, 28, 651-660.  
[http://colinholbrook.com/Political%20Orientation\\_and\\_Credulity\\_preprint.pdf](http://colinholbrook.com/Political%20Orientation_and_Credulity_preprint.pdf)
- Holbrook, C., Izuma, K., Deblieck, C., Fessler, D.M.T., & Iacoboni, M. (2016). Neuromodulation of group prejudice and religious belief. *Social Cognitive and Affective Neuroscience*, 11, 387-394.  
[http://colinholbrook.com/Holbrook\\_Neuromodulating\\_Ideology\\_SCAN\\_2016.pdf](http://colinholbrook.com/Holbrook_Neuromodulating_Ideology_SCAN_2016.pdf)
- Holbrook, C. (2016). Branches of a twisting tree: Domain-specific threat psychologies derive from shared mechanisms. *Current Opinion in Psychology*, 7, 81-86.  
[http://colinholbrook.com/Holbrook\\_Threat\\_Management\\_Current\\_Opinion\\_2016.pdf](http://colinholbrook.com/Holbrook_Threat_Management_Current_Opinion_2016.pdf)
- Fessler, D. M. T. & Holbrook, C. (2016). Synchronized behavior increases assessments of the formidability and cohesion of coalitions. *Evolution and Human Behavior*, 37, 502-509.  
[http://colinholbrook.com/Fessler\\_Holbrook\\_Synchronized\\_Others\\_EHB\\_2016.pdf](http://colinholbrook.com/Fessler_Holbrook_Synchronized_Others_EHB_2016.pdf)
- Holbrook, C., Fessler, D.M.T., & Pollack, J. (2016). With God on your side: Religious primes reduce the envisioned physical formidability of a menacing adversary. *Cognition*, 146, 387-392.  
[http://colinholbrook.com/Holbrook\\_Fessler\\_Pollack\\_God\\_and\\_Threat\\_Cognition.pdf](http://colinholbrook.com/Holbrook_Fessler_Pollack_God_and_Threat_Cognition.pdf)
- Holbrook, C., Fessler, D.M.T., & Navarrete, C. (2016). Looming large in others' eyes: Racial stereotypes illuminate dual adaptations for representing threat versus prestige as physical size. *Evolution & Human Behavior*, 37, 67-78.  
[http://colinholbrook.com/Holbrook\\_Fessler\\_Navarrete\\_Status\\_Threat\\_Size\\_EHB.pdf](http://colinholbrook.com/Holbrook_Fessler_Navarrete_Status_Threat_Size_EHB.pdf)
- Fessler, D.M.T., & Holbrook, C. (2016). Dressed to kill? Visible markers of coalitional affiliation enhance conceptualized formidability. *Aggressive Behavior*. doi: 10.1002/ab.21624

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- Sousa, P., Holbrook, C., & Swiney, L. (2015). Moral asymmetries in judgments of agency withstand ludicrous causal deviance. *Frontiers in Psychology*. doi: 10.3389/fpsyg.2015.01380  
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- Fessler, D.M.T., Holbrook, C., Kanovsky, M., Barrett, H.C., Bolyanatz, A.H., Gervais, M., Gurven, M., Henrich, J., Kushnick, G., Pisor, A.C., Stich, S., von Reuden, C., & Laurence, S. (2016). Moral parochialism misunderstood: A reply to Piazza and Sousa. *Proceedings of the Royal Society B: Biological Sciences*. doi:10.1098/rspb.2015.2628  
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- Fessler, D.M.T., Barrett, H.C., Kanovsky, M., Stich, S., Holbrook, C., Henrich, J., Bolyanatz, A.H., Gervais, M., Gurven, M., Kushnick, G., Pisor, A.C., von Reuden, C., & Laurence, S. (2015). Moral parochialism and contextual contingency across seven disparate societies. *Proceedings of the Royal Society B: Biological Sciences*, 282, 20150907. doi:10.1098/rspb.2015.0907  
[http://colinholbrook.com/Moral\\_Parochialism\\_ProcB\\_2015.pdf](http://colinholbrook.com/Moral_Parochialism_ProcB_2015.pdf)
- Holbrook, C., & Fessler, D.M.T. (2015). The same, only different: Threat management systems as homologues in the tree of life. In P. J. Carroll, R. M. Arkin, & A. L. Wichman, (Eds.), *Handbook of Personal Security*. New York: Psychology Press.  
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- Fessler, D.M.T., Holbrook, C., & Fleischman, D.S. (2015). Assets at risk: Menstrual cycle variation in the envisioned formidability of a potential sexual assailant reveals a component of threat assessment. *Adaptive Human Behavior & Physiology*, 1, 270-290.  
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- Fessler, D.M.T., & Holbrook, C. (2014). Marching into battle: Synchronous walking diminishes the conceptualized formidability of an antagonist in men. *Biology Letters*.  
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- Fessler, D.M.T., Holbrook, C., Tiohkin, L., & Snyder, J.K. (2014). Sizing up Helen: Nonviolent physical risk-taking enhances the envisioned bodily formidability of women. *Journal of Evolutionary Psychology*, 12, 67-80.  
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- Holbrook, C., Galperin, A., Fessler, D.M.T., Johnson, K., Bryant, G., & Haselton, M. (2014). If looks could kill: Anger judgments are intensified by affordances for doing harm. *Emotion*, 14, 455-461.  
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- Fessler, D.M.T., Holbrook, C., & Gervais, M. (2014). Men's physical strength moderates conceptualizations of prospective foes in two disparate human societies. *Human Nature*, 25, 393-409.

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Holbrook, C., Piazza, J., & Fessler, D.M.T. (2014). Further challenges to the “Authentic” / “Hubristic” model of pride: Conceptual clarifications and new evidence. *Emotion*, 14, 38-42.  
[http://colinholbrook.com/Holbrook\\_Piazza\\_Fessler\\_Pride\\_reply.pdf](http://colinholbrook.com/Holbrook_Piazza_Fessler_Pride_reply.pdf)

Holbrook, C., Piazza, J., & Fessler, D.M.T. (2014). Conceptual and empirical challenges to the “Authentic” and “Hubristic” model of pride. *Emotion*, 14, 17-32.  
[http://colinholbrook.com/Challenges\\_to\\_Authentic\\_Hubristic\\_Pride\\_Emotion\\_2013\\_Holbrook\\_Piazza\\_Fessler.pdf](http://colinholbrook.com/Challenges_to_Authentic_Hubristic_Pride_Emotion_2013_Holbrook_Piazza_Fessler.pdf)

Jonas, E., McGregor, I., Klackl, J., Agroskin, D., Fritsche, I., Holbrook, C., Nash, K., Proulx, T., & Quirin, M. (2014). Threat and defense: From anxiety to approach. In J. M. Olson & M. P. Zanna (Eds.), *Advances in Experimental Social Psychology* (pp. 219-286). San Diego, CA: Academic Press.  
[http://colinholbrook.com/Anxiety\\_to\\_approach\\_Jonas\\_et\\_al\\_2014.pdf](http://colinholbrook.com/Anxiety_to_approach_Jonas_et_al_2014.pdf)

Fessler, D.M.T., Holbrook, C., Pollack, J., & Hahn-Holbrook, J. (2014). Stranger danger: Parenthood and child presence increase the envisioned bodily formidability of menacing men. *Evolution and Human Behavior*, 35, 109-117.  
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Fessler, D.M.T., Tiokhin, L., Holbrook, C., Gervais, M., & Snyder, J.K. (2014). Foundations of the Crazy Bastard Hypothesis: Nonviolent physical risk-taking enhances conceptualized formidability in two cultures. *Evolution and Human Behavior*, 35, 26-33.  
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Holbrook, C., & Fessler, D.M.T. (2013). Sizing up the threat: The envisioned physical formidability of terrorists tracks their leaders' failures and successes. *Cognition*, 127, 46-56.  
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Fessler, D.M.T., & Holbrook, C. (2013). Friends shrink foes: The presence of comrades decreases the envisioned physical formidability of an opponent. *Psychological Science*, 24, 797-802.  
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Fessler, D.M.T., & Holbrook, C. (2013). Bound to lose: Physical incapacitation increases the conceptualized size of an antagonist in men. *Public Library of Science ONE*, 8(8): e71306.  
<http://www.plosone.org/article/info%3Adoi%2F10.1371%2Fjournal.pone.0071306>

Piazza, J., Sousa, P., & Holbrook, C. (2013). Authority dependence and judgments of utilitarian harm. *Cognition*, 128, 261-270.  
[http://colinholbrook.com/Morality\\_Utility\\_Authority\\_Cognition\\_2013.pdf](http://colinholbrook.com/Morality_Utility_Authority_Cognition_2013.pdf)

Holbrook, C., & Sousa, P. (2013). Supernatural beliefs, unconscious threat, and judgment bias in Tibetan Buddhists. *Journal of Cognition and Culture*, 13, 33-56.  
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- Fessler, D.M.T., & Holbrook, C. (2013). Baumard et al.'s moral markets lack market dynamics [Commentary]. *Behavioral and Brain Sciences*, 36, 89-90.  
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- Holbrook, C., Fessler, D.M.T., & Gervais, M. (2013). Revenge without redundancy: Functional outcomes do not require discrete adaptations for vengeance or forgiveness [Commentary]. *Behavioral and Brain Sciences*, 36, 22-23.  
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- Fessler, D.M.T., Holbrook, C., & Snyder, J.K. (2012). Weapons make the man (larger): Relative formidability influences perceived size and strength. *Public Library of Science ONE*, 7(4): e32751.  
<http://www.plosone.org/article/info%3Adoi%2F10.1371%2Fjournal.pone.0032751>
- Holbrook, C., Sousa, P., & Hahn-Holbrook, J. (2011). Unconscious vigilance: Worldview defense without adaptations for terror, coalition or uncertainty management. *Journal of Personality and Social Psychology*, 101, 451-466.  
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- Hahn-Holbrook, J., Holt-Lunstad, J., Holbrook, C., Coyne, S., & Lawson, E. T. (2011). Maternal defense: Breastfeeding, diminished stress and heightened aggression. *Psychological Science*, 22, 1288-1295.  
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- Hahn-Holbrook, J.\*, Holbrook, C.\*, & Haselton, M. (2011). Parental precaution: Adaptive ends and neurobiological means. *Neuroscience and Biobehavioral Reviews*, 35, 1052-1066.  
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- Sousa, P., & Holbrook, C. (2010). Folk concepts of intentional action (in the contexts of amoral and immoral luck). *Review of Philosophy and Psychology*, 1, 351-370.  
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- Hahn-Holbrook, J., Holbrook, C., & Bering, J. (2010). Snakes, spiders, strangers: How the evolved fear of strangers may misdirect efforts to protect children from harm. In J. M. Lampinen & K. Sexton-Radek (Eds.) *Protecting children from violence: Evidence-based interventions*. New York: Psychology Press.  
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- Sousa, P., Holbrook, C., & Piazza, J. (2009). The morality of harm. *Cognition*, 113, 80-92.  
<http://colinholbrook.com/TheMoralityofHarm.pdf>

## Submitted Manuscripts

Holbrook, C.,\* Pollack, J.,\* Zerbe, J., & Hahn-Holbrook, J. (under review). Perceived supernatural support enhances battle confidence during realistic combat.  
 (“\*”equal authorship.)

Pollack, J.,\* Holbrook, C.,\* Fessler, D. M. T., Sparks, A. M., & Zerbe, J. (under review). May God guide our guns: Perceived supernatural support heightens team confidence in a paintball battle simulation.  
 (“\*”equal authorship.)

Fessler, D.M.T., & Holbrook, C. (invited revision). A cold wildfire: Declination and the spread of antisocial behavior. *Evolution and Human Behavior*.

## Manuscripts in Preparation

Holbrook, C., & Navarrete, C. (in preparation). Stature or danger? Racial threat stereotypes influence the conceptual link between physical size and status.

Holbrook, C., & Fessler, D.M.T. (in preparation). Harm when sanctioned versus at a distance: Distinct affective pathways to attenuated moral condemnation.

Holbrook, C., Yoon, L., & Kim, H. (in preparation). Moral condemnation and holistic causal attribution in Los Angeles and Seoul.

Holbrook, C., Hahn-Holbrook, J., & Rosch, E. (in preparation). Known unknowns: Inductive reasoning under conscious ignorance.

## Professional Experience

- 2017–present *Assistant Professor of Cognitive and Information Sciences*, University of California, Merced.
- 2015–2017 *Research Scientist*, Department of Anthropology, University of California, Los Angeles.
- 2010–2015 *Postdoctoral Research Fellow*, Center for Behavior, Evolution and Culture, Department of Anthropology, University of California, Los Angeles.  
Mentor: Dr. Daniel M. T. Fessler.
- 2006–2010 *PhD Candidate*, Institute of Cognition & Culture, Queen’s University, Belfast.

## Professional Service

Ad Hoc Reviewer: *Transactions on Intelligent Interactive Systems; Cognition; Psychological Science; Journal of Personality and Social Psychology; Social Cognitive and Affective Neuroscience; Biological Psychology; Biology Letters; Evolution and Human Behavior;*

*Cognition and Emotion; Perspectives on Psychological Science; Neuroscience Letters; Public Library of Science; Social Cognition; European Journal of Social Psychology; Aggressive Behavior; Journal of Cognition and Culture; Personality and Individual Differences; Evolutionary Psychology; Journal of Applied Social Psychology; Social Behavior and Personality*

Doctoral Student Committee Member: Dr. Jeffrey K. Snyder, 2010-2012; Theo Samore, 2017-present

## Teaching Experience

Winter, 2017	Chapman University, Instructor: <i>Motivation and Emotion</i>
Spring, 2016	Chapman University, Instructor: <i>Motivation and Emotion</i>
Spring, 2014	Chapman University, Instructor: <i>Motivation and Emotion</i>
Fall, 2013	Chapman University, Instructor: <i>Motivation and Emotion</i>

## Invited Presentations

Holbrook, C. (2017, February). *Social cognition under threat*. Invited presentation for the Department of Psychology, Western University, London, Ontario, Canada.

Holbrook, C. (2016, November). *Reason under peril*. Invited presentation for the Department of Psychology, CUNY-Hunter College, New York.

Holbrook, C. (2016, March). *God and group prejudice in the threatened brain*. Invited presentation for the Department of Psychology, Chapman University, Orange.

Holbrook, C. (2015, December). *When foes loom large: Representations of relative formidability and social cognition*. Invited presentation for the Research Center for Group Dynamics, University of Michigan, Ann Arbor.

Holbrook, C. (2015, December). *Serial homology and social judgment under threat*. Invited presentation for the Department of Psychology, University of Warwick, Coventry, England.

Holbrook, C. (2015, January). *Reason's shadow: Threat adaptations shape concepts of social prestige and displays of ideological zeal*. Invited presentation for the Department of Psychology, University of California, Santa Barbara.

Holbrook, C. (2014, December). *Conceptual mediators of threat assessment and judgment bias*. Invited presentation for the Department of Psychology, University of Toronto.

Holbrook, C. (2012, June). *Worldview defense and unconscious alarm*. Invited presentation for the European Science Foundation Expert Meeting on the Motivational Foundations of Worldview Defense. University of Salzburg, Austria.

Holbrook, C. (2012, May). *Why thoughts of death or isolation magnify group prejudice*. Invited presentation for the Center for Behavior, Evolution, and Culture. University of California, Los Angeles.

Holbrook, C. (2011, October). *Selection or serendipity? Reframing apparent psychological adaptations for terror, uncertainty or coalition management as evolutionary by-products*. Invited presentation for the Department of Psychology, University of California, Los Angeles.

Holbrook, C., & Hahn-Holbrook, J. (2009, May). *Relationships with God and altruistic violence*. Invited presentation for the Psychology and Religion Research Group, Cambridge University, UK.

## Professional Development

Member: Experimental Biological Anthropology Lab. Drs. Haselton, Barrett, and Fessler, 2010-2017.  
Participant: AHRC Culture and the Mind Project, 2010-2014.

## Professional Affiliations

Society of Experimental Social Psychology; Human Behavior and Evolution Society

## Selected Press Coverage

Khazan, O. (2017, February 2). Why fake news targeted Trump supporters. *The Atlantic*. Retrieved from: <https://www.theatlantic.com/science/archive/2017/02/why-fake-news-targeted-trump-supporters/515433/>

Newsday. (2015, October 15) Can magnets change your beliefs? *BBC World Service*. Retrieved from: <http://www.bbc.co.uk/programmes/p0358ndn>

Howard, J. (2015, October 8). New study confirms depressing truth about names and racial bias. *Huffington Post*. Retrieved from: [http://www.huffingtonpost.com/entry/black-sounding-names-study\\_561697a5e4b0dbb8000d687f](http://www.huffingtonpost.com/entry/black-sounding-names-study_561697a5e4b0dbb8000d687f)

Olney, W. (2015, October 7). Can a person's name influence racial bias? *National Public Radio*. Retrieved from: <http://www.kcrw.com/people/colin-holbrook>

Bohannon, J. (2014, August 26). Synchronized marching boosts confidence. *Science*. Retrieved from: <http://news.sciencemag.org/biology/2014/08/synchronized-marching-boosts-confidence>

Freeman, D. W. (2011, September 8). Breast-feeding moms more aggressive, study says. *CBS News*. Retrieved from: [http://www.cbsnews.com/8301-504763\\_162-20103370-10391704.html](http://www.cbsnews.com/8301-504763_162-20103370-10391704.html)



## References

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