

Michael Barlev

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ACADEMIC POSITIONS

2018 – Present Postdoctoral Fellow, *Department of Psychology, Arizona State University*
PI: Steven Neuberg

EDUCATION

Ph.D. (2018) Psychology, *University of California, Santa Barbara*
Emphasis: Evolutionary Psychology
Secondary emphasis: Quantitative Methods
Dissertation: *How the mind builds evolutionarily new concepts*
Advisor: Leda Cosmides (Secondary Advisor: John Tooby)

M.A. (2018) Religious Studies, *University of California, Santa Barbara*
Advisor: Ann Taves

M.A. (2015) Psychology, *University of California, Santa Barbara*
Emphasis: Evolutionary Psychology
Thesis: *Core intuitions about persons coexist and interfere with acquired Christian beliefs about God*
Advisor: Tamsin German

B.S. (2010) Psychology (Highest Honors), *University of California, Davis*
Emphasis: Biological Psychology
Thesis: *Attitudes toward gay men as a function of their same-sex sexual behavior and gender role presentation*
Advisor: Gregory Herek

B.A. (2010) History (Honors), *University of California, Davis*

EXTERNAL FUNDING

Current:

The Evolution of Science and Religion as Meaning-Making Systems (subgrant funded by John Templeton Foundation grant #35279) Aug. 20 – Aug. 22

Nonordinary Experiences and Belief in Inherently “Unbelievable” Meaning-Making Frameworks

The aim of this project is to investigate the roles of personal experience and testimony in belief in inherently “unbelievable” religious and scientific frameworks. We are collecting data with adults in the U.S. and Ecuadorian Amazon (the Achuar hunter-horticulturalists), and with U.S. children.

Role: Project Leader (equivalent to PI)

Award: \$149,921

John Templeton Foundation (#61187)

Jan. 19 – Dec. 21

What is Religious Experience? Validation and Testing of the Inventory of Non-Ordinary Experiences

The primary aim of this project is to construct and validate a new measurement instrument – the Inventory of Non-ordinary Experiences (INOE) – that teases apart generically worded experiences from their culturally-specific appraisals, thereby allowing us to describe such “non-ordinary” experiences across cultures. The secondary aim of this project is to map the non-ordinary experiences of Christian, Hindu, and Muslim populations in the U.S. and India.

Role: Project Leader (equivalent to PI; with Ann Taves, Michael Kinsella)

Award: \$234,521

Completed:

The Science, Philosophy, and Theology of Immortality Project (subgrant funded by John Templeton Foundation grant #35279) Jun. 13 – Jun. 15

The Role of Near-Death Experiences in the Emergence of a Movement

The aim of this project is to investigate the role of non-ordinary experiences such as near-death experiences and “meaningful coincidences” (synchronicities) in the emergence of a New Age spiritual movement centered on death and the afterlife.

Role: Project Co-Leader (equivalent to Co-PI; Project Leaders: Ann Taves, Tamsin German)

Award: \$249,999

INTERNAL FUNDING, AWARDS, AND HONORS (SELECTED)

- 2018 **New Investigator Award**, *Human Behavior and Evolution Society*. [Awarded for best paper and a talk based on that paper by a graduate student (“How the Mind Builds Evolutionarily New Concepts”); disciplines include Psychology, Anthropology, and Biology.]
- 2016 **Contribution to Excellence in Teaching Award**, *Department of Psychological & Brain Science, University of California, Santa Barbara* (\$4,000). [Awarded to 1-5% of nominated instructors.]

- 2014-15 **Crossroads Fellowship for Interdisciplinary Research and Teaching**, *University of California, Santa Barbara* (one academic year of full financial support). [Awarded for interdisciplinary collaboration with faculty and graduate students in the Religious Studies Department.]
- 2010 **Highest Honors in Psychology**, *University of California, Davis*
- 2010 **Departmental citation for outstanding academic achievement**, *Department of Psychology, University of California, Davis*
- 2010 **Honors in History**, *University of California, Davis*
- 2010 **Departmental citation for outstanding academic achievement**, *Department of History, University of California, Davis*

PUBLICATIONS

*Indicates author is a mentee.

Peer-reviewed publications:

*Mermelstein, S., **Barlev, M.**, & German, T. C. (in press). She told me about a singing cactus: Counterintuitive concepts are more accurately attributed to their speakers than ordinary concepts. *Journal of Experimental Psychology: General*. <https://psyarxiv.com/6cp8e>

Taves, A., Gordon Wolf, M., Ihm, E. **Barlev, M.**, Kinsella, M., & Maharshi, V. (in press). What Counts as Religious Experience? The Inventory of Nonordinary Experiences as a Tool for Analysis across Cultures. *Archive for the Psychology of Religion*.

Ko, A., Pick, C. M., Kwon, J. Y., **Barlev, M.**, Krems, J. A., Varnum, M. E. W., ... Kenrick, D. T. (2020). Family Matters: Rethinking the Psychology of Human Social Motivation. *Perspectives on Psychological Science*, 15(1), 173–201. <https://doi.org/10.1177/1745691619872986>

Barlev, M., *Mermelstein, S., Cohen, A. S., & German, C. T. (2019). The Embodied God: Core intuitions about person physicality coexist and interfere with acquired Christian beliefs about God, the Holy Spirit, and Jesus. *Cognitive Science*. <https://doi.org/10.1111/cogs.12784>

Barlev, M., *Mermelstein, S., & German, C. T. (2018). Representational co-existence in the God concept: Core knowledge intuitions of God as a person are not revised by Christian theology despite lifelong experience. *Psychonomic Bulletin & Review*, 25(6), 2330-2338. <https://doi.org/10.3758/s13423-017-1421-6>

† **I received the New Investigator Award from the Human Behavior and Evolution Society for this paper and a talk based on it.**

Barlev, M., *Mermelstein, S., & German, C. T. (2017). Core intuitions about persons coexist and interfere with acquired Christian beliefs about God. *Cognitive Science*, 41(S3), 425-454. <https://doi.org/10.1111/cogs.12435>

Taves, A., & **Barlev, M.** (2015). [Review of the book *Past Minds: Studies in Cognitive*

Historiography, by L. H. Martin & J. Sørensen (Eds.)]. *Numen*, 62(4), 474–480.
<https://doi.org/10.1163/15685276-12341384>

Manuscripts in revision or under review:

Barlev, M., Ko, A., Krems, J. A., Neuberg, S. L. (under review). Fat location, beyond fat amount, predicts mental health and well-being in women.

Barlev, M. & Shtulman, A. (submitted revision). Minds, bodies, spirits, and gods: Does widespread belief in disembodied beings imply that we are inherent dualists? *Psychological Review*.
<https://psyarxiv.com/e9cw4/>

*Mermelstein, S., **Barlev, M.**, & German, T. C. (under review). Speaker tags use a meta-representational formatting.

Barlev, M., Grillot, R., & Rivera, J. A. (under review). Toward more “mindful” cultural phylogenetics: An experimental study of transmitted culture.

Manuscripts in preparation:

Barlev, M., Arai, S., Cosmides, L., & Tooby, J. (in prep). Willingness to physically protect, not ability regulates valuation of potential romantic partners and friends.

Arai, S., **Barlev, M.**, Cosmides, L., & Tooby, J. (in prep). Why generosity is attractive in mate and friend choice.

Arai, S., **Barlev, M.**, Cosmides, L., & Tooby, J. (in prep). Willingness to physically protect is a special domain of investment for women, but not men: A meta-analysis of sexually dimorphic effects of resource domains in mate and friend choice.

Barlev, M., Strellich, J., German, T. C., & Taves, A. (in prep). Individual differences in pattern perception predict history of nonordinary experiences

Barlev, M., Kinsella, M., & Taves, A. (in prep). The landscape of nonordinary experiences in the US and India.

Barlev, M. (in prep). How the mind builds evolutionarily new concepts.

*Mermelstein, S., **Barlev, M.**, & German, T. C. (in prep). Tell me more about that crying mailbox: Counterintuitive concepts preferentially trigger information search.

LaTourelle, J. & **Barlev, M.** (in prep). Murdering and Murderable Minds: experiments in the psychology of moral status.

Kwon, J. Y., **Barlev, M.**, & Varnum, M. E. W. (in prep). What are social rules for?

PRESENTATIONS (SELECTED)

Invited talks:

Barlev, M. (February, 2020). *The landscape of nonordinary experiences in the US and India: Data from the Inventory of Nonordinary Experiences*. Invited talk presented at the Psychology of Religion and Spirituality Preconference at the Society for Personality and Social Psychology, New Orleans, Louisiana.

Barlev, M. (November, 2019). *Preliminary findings from the Inventory of Nonordinary Experiences (INOE) in the US and India*. Invited talk presented at the American Academy of Religion, San Diego, CA.

Barlev, M. (October, 2018). *How (beliefs about) zombies spread by manipulating your brain*. Invited talk presented at the Zombie Apocalypse Medicine Meeting, Arizona State University, Phoenix, AZ.

Barlev, M. (August, 2018). *The facultative calibration of human “prey” and “predator” strategies*. Invited talk presented at the Evolutionary Psychology Laboratory, Harvard, Cambridge, MA.

Barlev, M. (August, 2018). *Fat storage as an ecologically adaptive strategy among racial and ethnic minorities and victims of bullying*. Invited talk presented at the Evolutionary Social Psychology Laboratory, University of Michigan, Ann Arbor, MI.

Barlev, M. (March, 2015). *Core intuitions about persons coexist and interfere with acquired Christian beliefs about God*. Invited talk presented at the Laboratory for the Experimental Research of Religion, Masaryk University, Brno, Czech Republic.

Barlev, M. (February, 2015). *Anomalous experiences and paranormal attributions in a new spiritual movement*. Invited talk presented at the Psychology of Religion and Spirituality Preconference at the Society for Personality and Social Psychology, Long Beach, CA.

Conference presentations:

Barlev, M., Krems, J. A., Neuberg, S. (February, 2020). *Fat Location, Beyond Fat Amount, Predicts Mental Health and Well-being in Women*. Talk presented at the Society for Personality and Social Psychology conference, New Orleans, Louisiana.

Ko, A., Pick, C. M., Kwon, J., **Barlev, M.,** Krems, J. A., Varnum, M. E. W., & Kenrick, D. T. (February, 2020). *Family matters: Rethinking the psychology of human social motivation*. Talk presented at the Society for Personality and Social Psychology conference, New Orleans, Louisiana.

Kwon, J. Y., **Barlev, M.,** Kenrick, D. T., & Varnum, M. E. W. (February, 2020). *What Are Rules for? Fundamental Motives of Social Norms*. Poster presented at the Society for Personality and Social Psychology conference, New Orleans, Louisiana.

Barlev, M. & Neuberg, S. (May-June, 2019). *Fat storage in a social ecological framework*. Talk presented at the Human Behavior and Evolution Society, Boston, MA.

Wiesel, A., **Barlev, M.**, & Kenrick, D. T. (May-June, 2019). *Prestige, dominance, and masculinity: Prototypical leaders are not preferred leaders*. Poster presented at the Human Behavior and Evolution Society, Boston, MA.

Kwon, J. Y., **Barlev, M.**, & Varnum, M. E. W. (May-June, 2019). *What are rules for? Fundamental motives of social rules*. Talk presented at the Human Behavior and Evolution Society, Boston, MA.

LaTourelle, J. & **Barlev, M.** (May-June, 2019). *Murdering and Murderable Minds: experiments in the psychology of moral status*. Talk presented at the Human Behavior and Evolution Society, Boston, MA.

Strelich, J. & **Barlev, M.** (May-June, 2019). *Inferring patterns in ambiguous events predicts reported history of anomalous experiences*. Talk presented at the Human Behavior and Evolution Society, Boston, MA.

Mermelstein, S., **Barlev, M.**, & German, T. C. (May-June, 2019). *An epistemic vigilance framework for the representation and transmission of counterintuitive concepts*. Talk presented at the Human Behavior and Evolution Society, Boston, MA.

Barlev, M. (August, 2018). *The Primacy of the Embodied Person Concept in Forming Representations of Extraordinary Beings: The Cases of God, the Holy Spirit, and Jesus*. Talk presented at the International Association for the Cognitive Science of Religion, Boston, MA.

Barlev, M. (July, 2018). *How the Mind Builds Evolutionarily New Concepts*. Talk presented at the New Investigator Human Behavior and Evolution Society, Amsterdam, Netherlands.

*** This talk and the paper on which it is based received the New Investigator Award from the Human Behavior and Evolution Society**

Mermelstein, S., **Barlev, M.**, & German, T. (July, 2018). *Metarepresentation as an adaptation for epistemic vigilance: Enhanced source memory for minimally counterintuitive concepts*. Talk presented at the Human Behavior and Evolution Society, Amsterdam, Netherlands.

Arai, S., **Barlev, M.**, Cosmides, L., & Tooby, J. (July, 2018). *Willingness to Protect is a Special Domain of Investment for Women, but not Men: A Meta-Analysis of Sexually Dimorphic Effects of Resource Domains in Mate and Friend Choice*. Talk presented at the Human Behavior and Evolution Society, Amsterdam, Netherlands.

Barlev, M. (June-July, 2018). *How the mind builds evolutionarily new concepts*. Talk presented at the 2nd Javea Workshop on Social and Evolutionary Psychology, Javea, Spain.

Taves, A., **Barlev, M.**, & Kinsella, M. (August, 2017). *What Counts as Religious Experience? The Inventory of Non-Ordinary Experiences as a Tool for Analysis across Cultures and Traditions*. Talk presented at the International Association for the Psychology of Religion, Hamar, Norway.

Taves, A., **Barlev, M.**, & Kinsella, M. (July-August, 2017). *Exploring Experience: The Inventory of Non-Ordinary Experiences*. Talk presented at the European Summer Research Institute, Fraueninsel, Prien am Chiemsee, Germany.

Barlev, M., Arai, S., Cosmides, L., & Tooby, J. (May-June, 2017). *Willingness to physically protect in romantic and cooperative partner choice*. Talk presented at the Human Behavior and Evolution Society, Boise, Idaho.

Arai, S., **Barlev, M.,** Cosmides, L., & Tooby, J. (May-June, 2017). *Willingness to Share with YOU Matters: Why Generosity is Attractive in Romantic and Cooperative Partner Choice*. Talk presented at the Human Behavior and Evolution Society, Boise, Idaho.

Barlev, M. & Grillo, R. (June-July, 2016). *One concern regarding the use of phylogenetic methods to study transmitted culture*. Talk presented at the Human Behavior and Evolution Society, Vancouver, Canada.

Barlev, M. & Kinsella, M. (June, 2015). *The role of near-death experiences and related phenomena in the emergence of a movement: A quasi-experimental field study of IANDS*. Talk presented at The Science of Immortality Project Capstone Conference, University of California, Riverside.

Kinsella, M. & **Barlev, M.** (October-November, 2014). *Meaning making in the afterlife movement*. Talk presented at the Society for the Scientific Study of Religion, Indianapolis, IN.

Barlev, M. & Kinsella, M. (June, 2014). *The role of near-death experiences in the emergence of a movement: A quasi-experimental field study of IANDS*. Talk presented at The Science of Immortality Project Midpoint Conference, University of California, Riverside.

TEACHING & MENTORING

Undergraduate courses taught:

Cognitive Developmental Psychology (Summer 2016); Developmental Psychology (Summer 2015; Summer 2016)

Undergraduate lab sections taught:

Introduction to Psychological Science (Spring 2016); Introductory Statistics (Fall 2011); Advanced Research Methods (Fall 2013; Fall, 2015); Research Methods in Developmental and Evolutionary Psychology (Spring 2017; Summer, 2017)

Teaching assistantships:

Adolescent Psychology (Spring 2014); Cognitive Psychology (Spring 2012); Cognitive Science of Supernatural Concepts (Summer 2012; Spring 2013; Summer 2013; Spring 2015); Developmental Psychology (Winter 2012; Summer 2012; Winter 2013; Summer 2013; Summer 2014; Winter 2015, Fall 2017); Evolution and Cognition (Winter 2017); Human Memory (Winter 2014); Human Relationships (Summer 2014); Human Thinking and Problem Solving (Fall 2012); Social Psychology (Summer 2016)

Undergraduate Senior Theses:

Arizona State University

2019 Christopher Martos (Supervisor, with Douglas Kenrick)
2019 Lauren Baldwin (Supervisor, with Douglas Kenrick)
2018 Krystina Boyd-Frenkel (Supervisor, with Steven Neuberg)

University of California, Santa Barbara

2014 Spencer Mermelstein (Supervisor, with Tamsin German)

PAST EMPLOYMENT

2017 Graduate Student Researcher, *Ecology, Evolution, and Marine Biology, University of California, Santa Barbara.*

2015-16 Graduate Teaching Associate, *Psychological & Brain Sciences, University of California, Santa Barbara.*

2014-15 Crossroads Fellow, *University of California, Santa Barbara.*

2011-17 Graduate Teaching Assistant, *Psychological & Brain Sciences, University of California, Santa Barbara.*

2010-11 Research Assistant, *History, University of California, Davis.*

PROFESSIONAL ACTIVITIES

Professional Service:

2019-present Co-organizer, Evolutionary Psychology Preconference at the Society for Personality and Social Psychology (SPSP)

2016-17 President, Religion, Experience, and Mind (REM) Group at UCSB

2015-present Campus Representative, California Workshop on Evolutionary Social Science (CWESS)

Service to Academic Journals:

2012 – Present Ad hoc reviewing: *Journal of Personality and Social Psychology; Journal of Experimental Psychology: General; Evolution and Human Behavior; Evolution, Medicine, and Public Health; Cognitive Science; Cognition; British Journal of Developmental Psychology; International Journal for the Psychology of Religion.*

Professional Memberships & Affiliations:

Society for Personality and Social Psychology (SPSP); Human Behavior and Evolution Society (HBES); American Academy of Religion (AAR); International Association for the Cognitive Science of Religion (IACSR); California Workshop on Evolutionary Social Science (CWESS)

TECHNICAL SKILLS

Advanced Research Methods & Statistical Techniques:

GLM approaches and related techniques; factor and path analysis; phylogenetic analysis, Bayesian statistical inference; behavioral game theory; agent-based modeling; response time methods, eye tracking methods, child development methods

Languages:

English, Hebrew, Russian