

Radim Chvaja, Ph.D. - Academic Curriculum Vitae

ORCID: 0000-0002-1560-1197

Current and previous working experience

2022–: Post-doctoral fellow at University of Otago, Dunedin, New Zealand

2021–: Research Fellow at European Research University, Ostrava, Czech Republic

Previous qualification

2023: Ph.D. in Study of Religions, Faculty of Arts, Masaryk University, Brno, Czech Republic. Thesis: 'Costly Signaling Theory of Pilgrimage: The Case Study of Pilgrimage to Santiago de Compostela'

2018: MA in Philosophy, Faculty of Arts, Masaryk University, Brno, Czech Republic

2016: BA in Philosophy, Faculty of Arts, Masaryk University, Brno, Czech Republic

2016: BA in History, Faculty of Arts, Masaryk University, Brno, Czech Republic

Teaching and mentoring activities

2023–: Co-supervisor of MA thesis, University of Otago

2016–2021: lecturer in courses at Masaryk University: Current Theories in the Study of Religions II, Religion in Cognitive/Psychological Perspectives, Religion as a System of Social Regulation: An Evolutionary Perspective

Reviewer for Personality and Social Psychology Bulletin, Slovak Ethnology, Evolutionary Human Sciences, Scientific Reports, Journal of Biosocial Science, Evolutionary Psychological Science

Grants and awards

2025-2027: War-induced insecurity, religiosity, and social support among Ukrainian refugee mothers in the Czech Republic. Czech Science Foundation. \$183,500 USD

2023: Vice-rector's award for excellent results in doctoral studies, Masaryk University. \$1,100 USD

2020: Internal grant of Masaryk University for innovations in education – Preparation of the course Religion and morality (PI). \$2,700 USD

2019: Testing the costly signaling theory of pilgrimage. EHBEA Student Research Grant. \$560 USD

2017: Interpersonal Synchronization as the Basis of Religious and Secular Rituals. Masaryk University: Rector's program for excellent master thesis. \$1,700 USD

Internship and fieldwork

2019/09–2019/10: National University of Distance Education, Madrid. Research among Santiago pilgrims. Mentor: Prof. Angel Gomez.

2019/06–2019/07: Experimental Anthropology Lab, University of Connecticut. Research on Mauritius. Mentor: Dr. Dimitris Xygalatas.

2019/03–2019/05: Comenius University in Bratislava, Bratislava, CEEPUS program. The internship for the purpose of study.

Publications

Under review:

Chvaja, R., Watts, J., Lang, M., Samore, T., Spake, L., Hassan, A., Sear, R., Shenk, M. K., Sosis, R., & Shaver, J. H. Unpredictability management, but not fear of death, explains the effects of COVID-19 on increases in religiosity across five diverse societies. *Psychological Science*.

Chvaja, R., & Lang, M. Impact of the Russian Invasion of Ukraine on Religiosity Among Czech Residents. *European Sociological Review*.

Samore, T., Sosis, R., Shaver, J., **Chvaja, R.**, Conrad, M., Hassan, A., Lynch, R., Schaffnit, S., Sear, R., Spake, L., Watts, J., & Shenk, M. Religious parents receive more alloparental cooperation in rural Bangladesh. *Evolutionary Human Sciences*.

Chvaja, R., Shaver, J. H., & Bulbulia, J. The Causal Effects of Religious Service Attendance on Fertility Among U.S. Adolescents. *Journal for the Scientific Study of Religion*

Lang, M. Palíšek, P. & **Chvaja, R.** The longitudinal effects of exogenous pressures on belief in God in young Americans. *Evolutionary Human Sciences*.

2025:

Chvaja, R., Spake, L., Hassan, A., Sear, R., Shenk, M. K., Sosis, R., & Shaver, J. Maternal religiosity and social support to mothers: Helpers' religious identity matters. *Religion, Brain & Behavior*.

2024:

Lang, M. & **Chvaja, R.** (2024). Mechanisms of secularization: Testing between the rationalization and existential insecurity theories [Registered Report]. *Collabra: Psychology*, 1(10).

Chvaja, R. (2024). Costly signaling as an integral part of the systemic approach to religion: Critical assessment from within the field [book commentary]. *Journal for the Cognitive Science of Religion*.

Shaver, J. H., **Chvaja, R.**, Spake, L., Hassan, A., Badje, J., Cerami, C., Prentice, A., Sear, R., Shenk, M. K., & Sosis Richard. (2024). Mothers' religious involvement is associated with higher fertility, lower parental investments, but more alloparental investments. *American Journal of Human Biology*.

Chvaja, R. (2024). The impact of ritual participation on perceived moral objectivity: A longitudinal investigation of the U.S. adolescents. *Journal for the Scientific Study of Religions*.

Lang, M., **Chvaja, R.**, & Purzycki, B. G. (2024). The role of costly commitment signals in assorting cooperators during intergroup conflict. *Evolution and Human Behavior*, 45(2), 131–143.

Chvaja, R., Murin, M., & Vorobyev, D. (2024). The effect of Covid-19 emergence on religiosity: Evidence from Singapore. *Social Science Research*, 108(102979), 1-18.

2023:

Chvaja, R., Chinchilla, J., Gómez, Á., & Lang, M. (2023). Religious costly signal induces more trustworthiness than secular costly signal: A study of pilgrimage to Santiago de Compostela. *European Journal of Social Psychology*, 53(6), 1294 – 1308.

2022:

Chvaja, R. (2022). 'Matt J. Rossano, Ritual in Human Evolution and Religion: Psychological and Ritual Resources' [book review]. *Religio*, 30(1), 83-85.

Lang, M., **Chvaja, R.**, Purzycki, B. G., Václavík, D., & Staněk, R. (2022). Advertising cooperative phenotype through costly signals facilitates collective action [Registered Report]. *Royal Society Open Science*, 9(202202), 1–19.

Lang, M., & **Chvaja, R.** (2022). Examining the adaptive value of ritualized behavior in anxiogenic contexts. In J. E. Lane and Y. Lior (Eds.), *Handbook of evolutionary approaches to the study of religion*. Routledge.

Chvaja, R., Horský, J., Lang, M., & Kundt, R. (2022). Positive association between ritual performance and perceived objectivity of moral norms. *International Journal for the Psychology of Religion*, 33(2), 115-135.

2020:

Chvaja, R., Kundt, R., & Lang, M. (2020). The effects of synchrony on group moral hypocrisy. *Frontiers in Psychology*, 11(544589).

Chvaja, R. (2020). Why did memetics fail? Comparative case study. *Perspectives on Science*, 28(4).

2019:

Chvaja, R. & Řezníček, D. (2019). An Integrative Framework of Commitment Displays in Religious Systems. *Human Ethology*, 34, 41-52.

Selected invited talks

2023: Religion and allomaternal support in a cross-cultural perspective. In *Research Seminar at The Institute of Ethnology and Social Anthropology*, Slovak Academy of Sciences, Slovakia (December 12).

- 2023: Systematic Scrutiny of the Costly Signaling Theory of Religion: New experiments and cross-cultural data. In *Otago's Religion Programme Seminar Series*, University of Otago, New Zealand (August 18).
- 2023: The Effects of Religiosity on Fertility. In *Lecture series of the Centre for Applied Cross-cultural Research*, Victoria University of Wellington, New Zealand (August 9).
- 2023: Costly Signaling Theory of Religion: New Experiments and Cross-Cultural Data. In *The Human Ethology Seminar Series*, Charles University (May 9).
- 2023: Costly Signaling Theory of Pilgrimage: The case study of pilgrimage to Santiago de Compostela. In *Seminar series of Society & Cognition Unit at University of Bialystok*, Poland (June 21).
- 2023: Religious signaling and co-operation among mothers in The Gambia and the US. In *The Evolutionary Dynamics of Religion, Family Size, and Child Success Seminar Series* (online, March 23).
- 2022: Religious costly signal induces more trustworthiness than secular costly signal: A study of pilgrimage to Santiago de Compostela. In *Presentation for Prof. Ginges' group at New School for Social Research*, New York (online).
- 2019: Pilgrimages as costly signals of commitment to cooperate. In *Presentation for Identity Fusion group*, Universidad Nacional de Educación a Distancia, Madrid.

Selected conference talks

- 2024: COVID-19 and religiosity: Exploring the causal and cross-cultural relationship between crisis and coping strategy. In *IACESR 2024*, Oxford.
- 2024: Maternal religiosity and maternal support is positively associated among religious allomothers and negatively associated among non-religious allomothers. In *EHBEA 2024*, Montpellier.
- 2023: Religious signaling and co-operation among mothers in The Gambia and the US. In *EHBEA 2023*, London.
- 2022: The effects of synchrony on group moral hypocrisy. In *8th biennial meeting of the International Association for the Cognitive Science of Religion*, Aarhus.
- 2022: Religious costly signal induces more trustworthiness than secular costly signal: A study of pilgrimage to Santiago de Compostela. In *Religion and the mind*, Krakow.
- 2022: Perceived moral essentialism as a component of culturally evolved norm psychology: Complex test with real-world data. In *Cultural Evolution Society Conference*, Aarhus.
- 2021: Rituals as basic social acts: Testing the relationship between collective rituals and norm objectivity. In *ISORECEA conference*, Olomouc.
- 2019: Synchrony and Moral Hypocrisy. In *IAPR conference*, Gdansk.
- 2019: An Evolutionary Approach to the Study of Pilgrimages. In *PILNET workshop*, Zadar.
- 2018: Synchrony and Moral Hypocrisy (poster). In *Future Directions on the Evolution of Rituals, Beliefs and Religious Minds*, Sicily.