
DOMINIC D. P. JOHNSON

CURRICULUM VITAE

Nationality: British
Current Address: Politics & International Relations
15A George Square
Edinburgh, EH8 9LD
Scotland, UK
Tel: +44 (0)131 650 3937
Fax: +44 (0)131 650 3945
E-mail: dominic.johnson@ed.ac.uk
Website: <http://dominidpjohnson.com/>

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
2012–2013	Senior Fellow	Princeton	<i>Center of Theological Inquiry</i>
2012–now	Professor	Edinburgh	<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>	Awarded
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 (£2,500) 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.

GRANTS

- Co-Leader of year 1 on John Templeton Foundation grant at Princeton (US \$3.5m, 2012-2015).
- PI: US Air Force, European Office of Aerospace Research and Development (£9,500, 2011-2012).
- PI: U.S. Office of Naval Research grant (£9,500, 2011-2012).
- PI: U.S. Office of Naval Research “Operational Adaptation” conference (£35,000, June 2010).
- PI: John Templeton Foundation grant (£450,000, 2008-2011).
- PI: Branco Weiss Society in Science Fellowship (£320,000, 2004-2009).

SOME RECENT MEDIA

- [Johnson](#), DDP & Tierney, D “Why Does bin Laden's Death Feel Like a Triumph?” **The Atlantic**, 5 May 2011.
- [Johnson](#), DDP & Fowler, JH “On Overconfidence”, **Seed Magazine**, January 2010.
- [Johnson](#), DDP & Tierney, D “The Wars of Perception”, **New York Times** (op-ed), 28 November 2006, A23. (Reprinted in the International Herald Tribune as “A Mirage of Defeat in the Desert?”).
- **BBC Radio Scotland** *MacAulay and Co* (27 Sep 2011)
- **BBC Radio Scotland** *Newsdrive* (13 Sep 2011)
- **Nature Podcast** (15 Sep 2011)
- **NPR** *All Things Considered* “Is Believing In God Evolutionarily Advantageous?” (30 Aug 2010)
- **WBUR** (local NPR Radio in New York) *On Point with Tom Ashbrook* “Interpreting the Messages from Iraq” (27 Sep 2006).

Reviews of my work have appeared in: *Boing Boing*, *Boston Globe*, *CNN Money*, *Daily Express*, *Daily Mail*, *Daily Record*, *Daily Star*, *Discovery Channel*, *Edinburgh Evening News*, *Forbes*, *Foreign Affairs*, *International Business Times*, *Irish Times*, *Journal of Politics*, *Men's Health Magazine*, *Metro*, *National Geographic*, *New Scientist*, *New York Times Magazine*, *Philadelphia Inquirer*, *The Statesman (India)*, *Times Higher Education Supplement*, *Times of India*.

COURSES TAUGHT

(UG = Undergraduate course; PG = Graduate course)

Edinburgh University

- 2007, 2010, 2011: UG—*International Security* (co-taught; c. 75 students; 2 faculty, 3 tutors).
- 2007, 2010, 2011: PG—*International Security* (co-taught; c.70 students; 3 faculty, 1 tutor).
- 2007: UG—*International Cooperation in Europe & Beyond* (co-taught).

Harvard University (visiting lecturer)

- 2008: PG—*Psychological Approaches to International Relations* (co-taught).

Princeton University

- 2007: UG—*Religion, Cooperation, and Conflict Resolution*.
- 2006: PG—*Why Does Religion Promote Cooperation, Altruism, Conflict and War?*
- 2005: UG—*The Puzzle of Human Cooperation: Implications for Conflict Resolution*.
- 2005: PG—*Psychological Roots of Conflict*.

PUBLICATIONS

Overview: 2 books (plus 2 under contract); 38 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 In Press

- Johnson, DDP (In Press) What are atheists for? Hypotheses on the functions of non-belief in the evolution of religion. **Religion, Brain and Behavior**.
- Johnson, DDP, McDermott, R, Cowden, J, and Tingley, D. (In Press) Dead certain: confidence and conservatism predict aggression in a simulated international crisis. **Human Nature**.

Journal Articles Published

- 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 the 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 & Reeve, Z (Forthcoming) The virtues of intolerance: Is religion an adaptation for war? In S Clarke, R Powell & J Savulescu, *Religion, Intolerance and Conflict: A Scientific and Conceptual Investigation*, Oxford: **Oxford University Press**.
- Johnson, DDP (In Press) The uniqueness of human cooperation: cognition, cooperation and religion. In: *Evolution, Games and God: The Principle of Cooperation* (eds. MA Nowak & S Coakley), Cambridge MA: **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 (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 & 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.