

Nicolas CLAUDIERE PhD

Born: 18 November 1979

Birthplace: Grenoble (France)

Nationality: French

Personal details

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Current Affiliation

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Interests

My main interests concern interactions between cognition and culture. More precisely, I am interested in comparative studies of socio-cognitive capacities that can cast some light on the emergence, persistence and evolution of culture.

Principal interests: comparative cognition, social learning, cultural evolution, evolutionary psychology.

Secondary interests: history of science (social psychology, evolutionary theory), colour categorisation, evolutionary theory.

Academic achievements

2005/2009 PhD in Cognitive Sciences (Highest distinction)

Darwinian theories of cultural evolution: models and mechanisms. Supervised by Dan Sperber. Jury members: Minus Van Baalen (referee), Dominique Guillo (referee), Jean Baptiste André, Michel Morange and Jean Gayon. Ecole Normale Supérieure & Université Pierre et Marie Curie, Paris, France.

2004/2005 Master 2: Interdisciplinary Approaches in Life Sciences (Distinction: Excellent)

Ecole Normale Supérieure & Université Pierre et Marie Curie, Paris, France.

2003/2004 Agrégation: French teaching national diploma in life and earth sciences

Ecole Normale Supérieure, Paris, France & Université Paris Sud, Orsay, France.

2002/2003 Master 1: Population biology, ecology and evolution (Distinction: Very good)

Ecole Normale Supérieure & Université Pierre et Marie Curie, Paris, France.

2001/2002 Year off in India

2000/2001 Undergraduate studies in Biology

Licence in biology. Ecole Normale Supérieure & Université Pierre et Marie Curie, Paris, France.

Professional experience

2010/Present Research Fellow: children, capuchin and chimpanzee cognition

Evolution and Development of Prosocial Cultures. (supervisor: Andrew Whiten) University of St Andrews, St Andrews, UK.

2009/2010 Postdoc: adult humans, capuchin and squirrel monkeys social learning

Explaining the persistence of culture. (supervisor: Andrew Whiten) University of St Andrews, St Andrews, UK.

2005/2009 PhD: Evolutionary modelling, adult cognition studies

Darwinian theories of cultural evolution: models and mechanisms. PhD (supervisor: Dan Sperber). Ecole Normale Supérieure & Université Pierre et Marie Curie, Paris, France.

2004/2005 Master 2: Anthropology, evolutionary modelling

Models of cultural evolution. (supervisor: Dan Sperber) Institut Jean Nicod, Paris, France. Three months.

Modelling cultural diffusion. (supervisor: Paul Bourguin) CREA, Ecole Polytechnique, Paris, France. Three months.

Naven: a ritual with multiple aspects. (supervisor: Philippe Descola) Laboratoire d'Anthropologie Sociale, Paris, France. Three months.

2003/2004 Master 1: Evolutionary modelling

Evolution of sociality in a queenless ant (*Dinoponera quadricaps*). (supervisor: Minus van Baalen) Laboratoire de Fonctionnement et évolution des systèmes écologiques, Paris, France. Two months.

2001/2002 Undergraduate: animal and plant experiment

Shaking signal in an asian bee (*Apis florea*). (supervisor: Raghavendra Gahdagkar) Indian Institute of Science, Bangalore, India. Three months.

Autofertilisation in an endangered species (*Eryngium alpinum*). (supervisor: Irène Till-Bottraud) Laboratoire de biologie des populations d'altitude, Grenoble, France. Two months.

Additional formation

2006/2007 Cognition and Culture

Summer school. 2007 Budapest, Hungary.

2005/2006 Mind, Science and Metaphysics

Summer school. Institut Jean Nicod, Paris, France.

2004/2005 Interdisciplinary approaches in biology

Summer school. CNRS, Berder, France.

2002/2003 Mathematical modelling in Biology

Winter school. Ecole Normale Supérieure, Paris, France.

2001/2002 Methods in behavioural ecology

Winter school. Centre for ecological sciences, Indian institute of science, Bangalore, India.

Teaching experience

2009-Present Occasional teacher

Master of cognitive science. Ecole Normale Supérieure, Paris, France.

Senior honour class. St Andrews University, St Andrews, UK.

2005-2008 Teaching Assistant Biology (64h/y)

Methodology in science. Undergraduate courses. Université Jussieu, Paris, France.

2004-2008 Teacher in Biochemistry (32h/y)

Biochemistry for medical doctors. Undergraduate level. MEDISUP, Paris, France.

2003-2004 Agrégation

Life and earth science national teaching diploma.

Other academic experience

2010/Present Centre for Social Learning and Cognitive Evolution

Member of the centre (<http://culture.st-and.ac.uk/solace/intro.html>)

2010/Present Scottish Primate Research Group

Member of the group (www.st-andrews.ac.uk/psychology/research/sprg/index.htm)

2008/Present International Cognition and Culture Institute

Associate founder and administrator of the International Cognition and Culture Institute (www.cognitionandculture.net)

Peer reviewed articles

Accepted

Claidière N. and Whiten A. (In Press) Integrating the Study of Conformity and Culture in Humans and Non-human Animals. *Psychological Bulletin*

Claidière, N., & Sperber, D. (2010). The natural selection of fidelity in social learning. *Communicative and integrative biology*, 3(4), 1-2.

Claidière, N., & Sperber, D. (2010). Imitation explains the propagation, not the stability of animal culture. *Proceedings of the Royal Society B: Biological Sciences*, 277(1681), 651-659. doi: 10.1098/rspb.2009.1615

Claidière, N., Jraissati, Y., & Chevallier, C. (2008). A Colour Sorting Task Reveals the Limits of the Universalist/Relativist Dichotomy: Colour Categories Can Be Both Language Specific and Perceptual. *Journal of Cognition and Culture*, 3(4), 211-233.

Sperber, D., & Claidière, N. (2008). Defining and explaining culture (comments on Richerson and Boyd, Not by genes alone). *Biology and Philosophy*, 23(2), 283-292.

Claidière, N., & Sperber, D. (2007). The role of attraction in cultural evolution. *Journal of Cognition and Culture*, 7(1), 89-111.

Viciana, H., & Claidière, N. (2007). The animal variations: When mechanisms matter in accounting for function. *Behavioral and Brain Sciences*, 30(04), 424-425.

Sperber, D., & Claidière, N. (2006). Why modeling cultural evolution is still such a challenge. *Biological theory*, 1(1), 20-22.

Under review

Claidière N., Bowler M. and Whiten A. Evidence for conformity but not hyper-conformity in humans. PLOS One

Claidière N. and André J.B. A critical appraisal of the notion of 'mode of transmission' in culture. Evolutionary Biology (accepted with revisions)

Invited chapters

De la psychologie évolutionniste à l'évolution culturelle. [From evolutionary psychology to cultural evolution] Claidière N. In Van der Henst, J-B. & Mercier, H. (Eds.) Evolution et cognition. Grenoble: PUG. 2009

Les darwinismes contemporains en sciences humaines [Contemporary Darwinisms in human sciences] Heintz C. and Claidière N. In Guillaume Lecointre, Philippe Huneman, Edouard Machery, Marc Silberstein, François Athane (Eds.) Les mondes darwiniens. Editions Syllepse. 2009

Invited speaker

The transmission of genes and culture: a questionable analogy. Claidière N., 2011. Workshop on Socialization and technology as co-evolutionary processes, Tarragona, Spain.

The transmission of genes and culture: a questionable analogy. Claidière N., 2011. Institute of Cognition and Culture, Queen's University, Belfast, UK.

The study of conformity in capuchin monkeys and humans. Claidière N., Psychology department, 2010, Stirling, UK.

Differences between biological evolution and cultural evolution. Claidière N., Language Evolution and Computation Research Unit, 2010, Edinburgh, UK.

Does imitation explain cultural stability? Claidière N., Comparative Cognition conference, Max Planck Institute, 2009 Leipzig, Germany.

Culture et évolution : approches darwiniennes. Claidière N., Centre hospitalier George Mazurelle, 2009 La Roche sur Yon, France.

Imitation explains the propagation, not the stability of animal culture. Claidière N. Cognition, 2009 Montréal, Canada.

Imitation explains the propagation, not the stability of animal culture. Claidière N. et Sperber D. Evolution of social cognition workshop, 2009 Prague, République Tchèque.

Comment modéliser l'épidémiologie des représentations. [Modelling the epidemiology of representation] Claidière N. *TRACE seminar*, 2008 Paris, France.

Comment modéliser l'évolution culturelle ? Les approches Darwiniennes modernes de la culture. [How can we model cultural evolution? Modern Darwinian approaches to culture.] Claidière N. *LAMIC seminar*, 2008 Nice, France.

From cognition to culture: the contribution of preservative and constructive mechanisms to cultural stability. Claidière N. *Cognition and Culture*. 2007 Budapest, Hongarie.

Des modèles d'apprentissage aux modèles d'évolution culturelle. [From models of learning to models of cultural evolution.] Claidière N. *TRACE seminar*, 2007 Paris, France.

Mechanisms and dynamics of cultural evolution. Claidière N. And Sperber D. *Evolutionary approaches to culture, cognition and communication*. 2006 Edinburgh, UK.

Evolutionary causal matrix. Sperber D. And Claidière N. *Cultural transmission workshop*. 2006 Saint Louis, USA.

Posters

Integrating the Study of Conformity and Culture in Humans and Nonhuman Animals. Claidière N. Workshop on Naturalistic Approaches to Culture? 2011, Balatonvilágos, Hungary.

Imitation does not readily lead to stable culture. Claidière N. Evolution, Development and Intention Control of Imitation. 2008 Vienna, Austria.

Grants and scholarships

2011 Travel grant

Naturalistic Approaches to Culture workshop, Balatonvilágos, Hungary.

2009/2010 Fyssen Foundation Fellowship

Post-doctoral study grant. 25 000 euros.

2009 Travel grant

Comparative Cognition conference, Leipzig, Germany.

2005/2008 PhD scholarship

Ministry for Research and Higher Education, France.

2005/2008 Teaching assistant grant

Université Pierre et Marie Curie, Paris, France.

2000/2005 Student scholarship

Ecole Normale Supérieure, Paris, France.

Ad hoc reviewing

Proceedings of the Royal Society B: Biological Sciences

Evolution and Human Behavior

Biological Theory

The British Journal for the Philosophy of Science