



University of Auckland
Standard
ACADEMIC CV

NAME: Quentin Atkinson

CURRENT POSITION: Professor & Deputy Head of School

DEPARTMENT/SCHOOL: Psychology

FACULTY: Science

TELEPHONE: +64 9 923 4316

EMAIL: q.atkinson@auckland.ac.nz

WEBSITE: <https://www.quentinatkinson.com/>

EDUCATIONAL QUALIFICATIONS:

2003-2006 University of Auckland, PhD in Psychology (Best Doctoral Thesis Award)
1998-2002 BA (1st Class Honours), University of Auckland (Senior Scholar in Psychology)

PREVIOUS/CONCURRENT POSITIONS:

2021-present co-Director, Behavioural Insights Exchange (UOABIX), University of Auckland
2010-present Research Affiliate, Department of Anthropology, University of Oxford, UK
2022-2023 Associate Director, Natural, Artificial and Organisational Intelligence (NAOI) Institute, University of Auckland
2014- 2021 Research Associate, Department of Linguistic and Cultural Evolution, Max Planck Institute for the Science of Human History
2009-2010 Methodology Lecturer, Anthropology Department, University of Oxford, UK
2007-2010 Post Doctoral Research Fellow, Anthropology Department, University of Oxford, UK
2006-2007 Post Doctoral Research Fellow, Zoology Department, University of Reading, UK

SIGNIFICANT DISTINCTIONS / AWARDS:

2017 Vice Chancellor's Excellence Award in Environmental Sustainability, University of Auckland
2016 Vice Chancellor's Research Excellence Medal, University of Auckland
2012-2018 Rutherford Discovery Fellow, Royal Society, New Zealand
2007-2010 Research Fellow, Wolfson College, University of Oxford
2007 Royal Society Travel Award, UK
2006 Best Doctoral Thesis Award, University of Auckland, New Zealand
2003-2006 Bright Futures Top Achiever Doctoral Scholarship, New Zealand,
2004/2005 New Zealand Young Scientist of the Year (People and Society division)
2004 Royal Society of New Zealand Travel Award
2002-2003 Science Faculty Summer Scholarship, University of Auckland
2002 Science Faculty Senior Scholarship, University of Auckland
2002 Senior Scholar in Psychology, University of Auckland
2002 Senior Prize in Philosophy, University of Auckland

PROFESSIONAL SOCIETIES / OTHER ACTIVITIES:

Associate Editor for *Evolution and Human Behavior* 2012-2019
Guest Editor for *Proceedings of the National Academy of Sciences, USA*.
Editorial Board for *Diachronica*
Editorial Board for *Religion, Brain & Behavior*
Invited Expert Advisor for the *Nature Index* (<http://www.natureindex.com/>)
Research Fellow on the European Commission Explaining Religion (EXREL) project
Research Fellow on the British Academy Lucy to Language project
Research Fellow of Wolfson College, University of Oxford, UK
Member of the Cultural Evolution of Religion Consortium
Behavioural and Brain Sciences Associate Membership
Reviewer for *Nature*, *Science*, *Proceedings of the National Academy of Sciences, USA*, *Proceedings of the Royal Society of London, Series B - Biological Sciences*, *Philosophical Transactions of the Royal Society of London, Series B - Biological Sciences*, *Current Anthropology*, *Trends in Cognitive Sciences*, *Trends in Ecology and Evolution*, *Behavioral and Brain Sciences*, *Nature Communications*, *Nature Human Behaviour*, *OIKOS - Journal of Ecology*, *Evolution and Human Behavior*, *PlosONE*, *Evolution*, *American Journal of Human Genetics*,

Europhysics Letters (EPL), Molecular Ecology Resources, Human Biology, Journal of Archaeological Science, Evolutionary Bioinformatics, Journal of Historical Linguistics, Journal of Language Evolution, BMC Evolutionary Biology, Heredity, Political Studies, Diachronica, Religion, Brain and Behavior, Method and Theory in the Study of Religion, New Media and Society, National Science Foundation, USA.

SERVICE

2021-2024	Faculty of Science Research Committee
2016	Faculty of Science Marsden Workshop Guest Speaker
2015	Faculty of Science Templeton Workshop Guest Speaker
2015-2018	Research Committee, School of Psychology, University of Auckland
2015-current	Mentor for Faculty of Science 'Science Scholars' Undergraduate Teaching Programme
2011-current	ITFF committee member and Psychology Department representative
2010-2016	Chair and coordinator for the University of Auckland, School of Psychology Colloquium Series
2014-current	University of Auckland, Faculty of Science, Mock Marsden Panel member
2014-2015	Royal Society of New Zealand Marsden Panel member (Economics and Human Behaviour)
2011-2015	Liggins Education Network Meet a Scientist - http://www.lenscience.auckland.ac.nz/uoa/
2014	Steering Committee for establishment of the Faculty of Science 'Science Scholars' Undergraduate Teaching Programme
2012-2014	School of Psychology, University of Auckland, Poster Competition Judge
2011-2014	Member of the Faculty of Science Web Advisory Group
2011	Doctoral Skills Programme - Writing Panelist
2004-2005	New Zealand Project Director, for the <i>World Youth Forum on Sustainable Development</i>
2004	Student-Staff Consultative Committee, Department of Psychology, University of Auckland.
2002-2003	Trained Youthline Counselor.

TEACHING:

Courses:

2008-2010	Evolutionary Psychology, MSc in Cognitive and Evolutionary Anthropology, Univ of Oxford.
2010-	Evolution, Behaviour and Cognition, BSc, School of Psychology, Univ of Auckland
2010-	Evolution and Human Behaviour, MSc, School of Psychology, Univ of Auckland
2022-	Behavioural Insights, School of Psychology, Univ of Auckland
2011-2016	Sustainability and Psychology, MSc, Department of Psychology, Univ of Auckland
2017-2020	Introduction to Science and Innovation, Advanced BSc, Univ of Auckland

Graduate Students:

2008-2009	MSc	Pierrick Bourratt, Univ. of Oxford, "Belief in God as a cultural replicator"
2012-2013	MSc	Matt Troutwine, Univ. of Auckland, "Evolution of cooperation" (primary supervisor)
2013-2014	MSc	Sam Passmore, Univ. of Auckland, "The relative wealth of nations" (primary supervisor)
2014-2015	MSc	Georgia Birnie, Univ. of Auckland, "The role of threat and conformity in Moral Judgments" (primary supervisor)
2022-2023	MSc	Phillipa Johnson, Univ of Auckland (primary supervisor)
2023-2024	MSc	Hayden Austin, Univ of Auckland (primary supervisor)
2008-2010	PhD	Robert Ross, Univ. of Oxford, "Cultural evolution" (co-supervisor)
2011-2015	PhD	Jenny Long, Univ. of Auckland, "Evolution of prosocial behaviour in adolescent social networks" (primary supervisor)
2012 to 2015	PhD	Dan Mullins, Univ. of Oxford, 'Writing, ritual and cooperation', (co-supervisor).
2012 to 2018	PhD	Ben Johannes, Univ. of Oxford, 'Ritual, Community and Conflict', (co-supervisor).
2013 to 2017	PhD	Joseph Watts, Univ. of Auckland, 'Co-evolution of religion and the environment', (joint primary supervisor).
2014 to 2019	PhD	Thomas Vardy, Univ of Auckland, 'Evolution of cooperation in the Pacific' (primary supervisor).
2015 to 2019	PhD	Oliver Sheehan, Univ of Auckland, 'Religious variation in the Pacific.' (primary supervisor)
2016 to 2019	PhD	Patrick Neilands, Univ of Auckland (co-supervisor)
2017 to 2020	PhD	Severi Luoto, Univ of Auckland (joint primary supervisor)
2017 to 2021	PhD	Nichole Breeland, Univ of Auckland (co-supervisor)
2017 to 2022	PhD	Rebecca Hassall, Univ of Auckland (co-supervisor)
2017 to 2022	PhD	Amalia Bastos, Univ of Auckland (co-supervisor)

2017 to 2022	PhD	Romana Gruber, Univ of Auckland (co-supervisor)
2018 to 2022	PhD	Scott Claessens, Univ of Auckland (primary supervisor)
2018 to 2023	PhD	Thanos Kyritsis, Univ of Auckland (primary supervisor)
2018 to 2023	PhD	Kyle Fischer, Univ of Auckland (primary supervisor)
2019 to 2023	PhD	Guy Lavender-Forsyth, Univ. of Auckland (primary supervisor)
2023 to current	PhD	Ana Shapiro, Univ of Auckland (primary supervisor)
2023 to current	PhD	Alexander Ruf, Univ of Auckland (primary supervisor)
2023 to current	PhD	Raphaël Powis, Univ of Auckland (co-supervisor)

RESEARCH:

Publications (*indicates my postgraduate students and post docs)

Preprints

Bertolo, M., Snarskis, M.*, Kyritsis, T.*, Yurdum, L., Bainbridge, C., Atwood, S., ... & Mehr, S. (2025). The Expanded Natural History of Song Discography, a global corpus of vocal music.

https://osf.io/preprints/psyarxiv/d2ftg_v1

Claessens, S.*, Atkinson, Q., & Raihani, N. (2024). Why do people punish? Evidence for a range of strategic concerns. <https://osf.io/ys6rm/download>

Syropoulos, S., Crimston, C.R., Markowitz, E., Milfont, T.L., Law, K.F., Claessens, S.*, Kyritsis, T.*, Atkinson, Q., Bastian, B. and Rottman, J., 2024. Cross-Cultural Insights into Moral Expansiveness: Selective Valuation of Nature Versus Humans. <https://europepmc.org/article/ppr/ppr857995>

Journal articles

Bastos, A. P.*, Claessens, S.*, Nelson, X. J., Welch, D., Atkinson, Q. D., & Taylor, A. H. (2025). Crowdsourcing and phylogenetic modelling reveal parrot tool use is not rare. *iScience*, 28(4).

[https://www.cell.com/iscience/fulltext/S2589-0042\(25\)00417-1](https://www.cell.com/iscience/fulltext/S2589-0042(25)00417-1)

Jones, K. T., Claessens, S.*, Chaudhuri, A., Atkinson, Q. D., Osborne, D., & Sibley, C. G. (2025). Validation of the Mini-IPIP6 Short-Form Personality Inventory: Honesty-Humility Predicts Cooperation in Economic Games. *Journal of Community & Applied Social Psychology*, 35(2), e70076. <https://doi.org/10.1002/casp.70076>

Claessens, S., Sibley, C. G., Chaudhuri, A., & Atkinson, Q. D. (2024). Prosocial Phenotype Predicts Political Views on Hierarchy and Redistribution 18 Months Later. *Social Psychological and Personality Science*, 0(0).

<https://doi.org/10.1177/19485506241306869>

Lavender Forsyth, G. A.*, Chaudhuri, A., & Atkinson, Q. D. (2024). The dual foundations of political ideology are ubiquitous across human social life. *Current Anthropology*. 4:3, 253-278.

<https://doi.org/10.1080/00664677.2024.2346190>

Lavender Forsyth, G. A.* & Atkinson, Q. D. (2024). A brief history of political instability in Vanuatu. *Anthropological Forum*. (Vol. 34, No. 3, pp. 253-278). <https://doi.org/10.1080/00664677.2024.2346190>

Aung, T., Hill, A. K., Hlay, J. K., Hess, C., Hess, M., Johnson, J., ... Atkinson, Q. D.... & Puts, D. (2024). Effects of voice pitch on social perceptions vary with relational mobility and homicide rate. *Psychological science*, 35(3), 250-262.

Passmore, S.*, Wood, A. L., Barbieri, C., Shilton, D., Daikoku, H., Atkinson, Q. D., & Savage, P. E. (2024). Global musical diversity is largely independent of linguistic and genetic histories. *Nature Communications*, 15(1), 3964.

Bendixen, T., Apicella, C., Atkinson, Q., Cohen, E., Henrich, J., McNamara, R. A., ... & Purzycki, B. G. (2024). Appealing to the minds of gods: Religious beliefs and appeals correspond to features of local social ecologies. *Religion, Brain & Behavior*, 14(2), 183-205.

Raihani, N. & Atkinson, Q. D. (2023). It's more complicated than that – alliances are one of many factors shaping political belief systems. *Psychological Inquiry*. 32(3), 212-216.

- Claessens, S.*, Kyritsis, T.* and **Atkinson, Q. D.** (2023). Cross-national analyses require additional controls to account for the nonindependence of nations. *Nature Communications*, 14, 5776. [link](#)
- Sheehan, O.*, Watts, J.*, Gray, R. D., Bulbulia, J., Claessens, S.*, Ringen, E. J., & **Atkinson, Q. D.** (2023). Coevolution of religious and political authority in Austronesian societies. *Nature Human Behaviour*, 7(1), 38-45. <https://doi.org/10.1038/s41562-022-01471-y>
- Heggarty, P., Anderson, C., Scarborough, M., King, B., Bouckaert, R., Jocz, L., Kümmel, M. J., Jügel, T., Irlsinger, B., Pooth, R., Liljegren, H., Strand, R. F., Haig, G., Macák, M., Kim, R. I., Anonby, E., Pronk, T., Belyaev, O., Dewey-Findell, T. K., Boutilier, M., Freiberg, C., Tegethoff, R., Serangeli, M., Liosis, N., Stroński, K., Schulte, K., Gupta, G. K., Haak, W., Krause, J., **Atkinson, Q. D.**, Greenhill, S. J., Kühnert, D. & Gray, R. D. (2023). Language trees with sampled ancestors support a hybrid model for the origin of Indo-European languages. *Science*, 381(6656), eabg0818. [free download](#)
- Skirgård, H., Haynie, H. J., Blasi, D. E., Hammarström, H., Collins, J., Latache, J. J., ... **Atkinson, Q. D.** & Gray, R. D. (2023). Grambank reveals the importance of genealogical constraints on linguistic diversity and highlights the impact of language loss. *Science Advances*, 9(16), eadg6175. <https://doi.org/10.1126/sciadv.adg6175>
- Haynie, H. J., Blasi, D., Skirgård, H., Greenhill, S. J., **Atkinson, Q. D.**, & Gray, R. D. (2023). Grambank's typological advances support computational research on diverse languages. In *Proceedings of the 5th Workshop on Research in Computational Linguistic Typology and Multilingual NLP* (pp. 147-149).
- Jackson, J. C., Lindquist, K., Drabble, R., **Atkinson, Q. D.**, & Watts, J.* (2023). Valence-dependent mutation in lexical evolution. *Nature Human Behaviour*, 7(2), 190-199. <https://doi.org/10.1038/s41562-022-01483-8>
- Claessens, S.*, Sibley, C. G., Chaudhuri, A., & **Atkinson, Q. D.** (2023). Cooperative and conformist behavioural preferences predict the dual dimensions of political ideology. *Scientific Reports*, 13(1), 4886. <https://doi.org/10.1038/s41598-023-31721-6>
- Lavender Forsyth, G.*, Chaudhuri, A., **Atkinson, Q. D.** (2023). Validating the dual evolutionary foundations of political ideology. *Frontiers in Psychology*, 14. <https://doi.org/10.3389/fpsyg.2023.1189771>
- Fischer, K.*, Chaudhuri, A., **Atkinson, Q. D.** (2023). Dual evolutionary foundations of political ideology predict divergent responses to COVID-19. *British Journal of Political Science*, 53(3), 861-877. [Link](#)
- Yurdum, L., Singh, M., Glowacki, L., Vardy, T.*, **Atkinson, Q. D.**, Hilton, C. B., Sauter, D., Krasnow, M. M. & Mehr, S. A. (2023). Universal interpretations of vocal music. *Proceedings of the National Academy of Sciences*, 120(37), e2218593120. <https://doi.org/10.1073/pnas.2218593120>
- Bendixen, T., Apicella, C., **Atkinson, Q. D.**, Cohen, E., Henrich, J., McNamara, R. A., Norenzayan, A., Willard, A. K., Xygalatas D. & Purzycki, B. G. (2023) Appealing to the minds of gods: religious beliefs and appeals correspond to features of local social ecologies, *Religion, Brain & Behavior*, DOI: [10.1080/2153599X.2023.2178487](https://doi.org/10.1080/2153599X.2023.2178487)
- Ross, C. T., Hooper, P. L., Smith, J. E., Jaeggi, A. V., Smith, E. A., Gavrillets, S., ... **Atkinson, Q. D.**, Apicella, C., Alam, N. & Mulder, M. B. (2023). Reproductive inequality in humans and other mammals. *Proceedings of the National Academy of Sciences*, 120(22), e2220124120. <https://doi.org/10.1073/pnas.2220124120>
- Bendixen, T., Lightner, A. D., Apicella, C., **Atkinson, Q. D.**, Bolyanatz, A., Cohen, E., Handley, C., Henrich, J., Klocová, E. K., Lesorogol, C., Mathew, S., McNamara, R. A., Moya, C., Norenzayan, A., Placek, C., Soler, M., Vardy, T.*, Weigel, J., Willard, A. K., Xygalatas, D., Lang, M. & Purzycki, B. G. (2023). Gods are watching and so what? Moralistic supernatural punishment across 15 cultures. *Evolutionary Human Sciences*, 5, e18. [link](#)
- Atkinson, Q. D.**, Claessens, S.*, Fischer, K.*, Forsyth, G. L.*, Kyritsis, T.*, Wiebels, K., & Moreau, D. (2022). Being specific about generalisability. *Religion, Brain & Behavior*, 13 (3), 284-286. DOI: 10.1080/2153599X.2022.2070251 [link](#)
- Hoogeveen, S., Sarafoglou, A., Aczel, B., Aditya, Y., Alayan, A. J., Allen, P. J., Altay, S., Alzahawi, S., Amir, Y., Anthony, F.-V., Kwame Appiah, O., **Atkinson, Q. D.**, Baimel, A., Balkaya-Ince, M., Balsamo, M., Banker, S., Bartoš, F., Becerra, M., Beffara, B., ... Wagenmakers, E.-J. (2022). A many-analysts approach to the relation between religiosity and well-being. *Religion, Brain & Behavior*, 13 (3), 237-283. DOI: 10.1080/2153599X.2022.2070255 [link](#)
- Kyritsis, T.*, Matthews, L. J., Welch, D., and **Atkinson, Q. D.** (2022). Shared cultural ancestry predicts the global diffusion of democracy. *Evolutionary Human Sciences*, 4, E42. doi:10.1017/ehs.2022.40

Claessens, S.*, Kelly, D.*, Sibley, C. G., Chaudhuri, A., & **Atkinson, Q. D.** (2022). Cooperative phenotype predicts climate change belief and pro-environmental behaviour. *Scientific reports*, 12, 12730. <https://doi.org/10.1038/s41598-022-16937-2>

Hilton, C. B., Moser, C., Bertolo, M., Lee-Rubin, H., Amir, D., Bainbridge, C. M., Simson, J., Knox, D., Glowacki, L., Alemu, E., Galbarczyk, A., Jasienska, G., Ross, C. T., Neff, M. B., Martin, A., Cirelli, L. K., Trehub, S. E., Song, J., Kim, M., Schachner, A., Vardy, T. A.*, **Atkinson, Q. D.**, Salenius, A., Andelin, J., Antfolk, J., Madhivanan, P., Siddaiah, A., Placek, C. D., Salali, G. D., Keestra, S., Singh, M., Collins, S. A., Patton, J. Q., Scaff, C., Stieglitz, J., Ccari Cutipa, S., Moya, C., Sagar, R. R., Anyawire, M., Mabulla, A., Wood, B. M., Krasnow, M. M., & Mehr, S. A. (2022). Acoustic regularities in infant-directed speech and song across cultures. *Nature Human Behaviour*. 6 (11), 1545-1556. doi: <https://doi.org/10.1038/s41562-022-01410-x>

Savage, P., Passmore, S.*, Chiba, G., Currie, T. E., Suzuki, H. & **Atkinson, Q. D.** (2022). Sequence alignment of folk song melodies reveals cross-cultural regularities of musical evolution. *Current Biology*. 32(6): 1395-1402.e8. [link](#)

Vardy, T.* Moya, C., Placek, C. D., Apicella, C. L., Bolyanatz, A., Cohen, E., Handley, C., Klocová, E. K., Lesorogol, C., Mathew, S., McNamara, R. A., Purzycki, B. G., Soler, M., Weigel, J. L., Willard, A. K., Xygalatas, D., Norenzayan, A., Henrich, J., Lang, M. & **Atkinson, Q. D.** (2022) The religiosity gender gap in 14 diverse societies, *Religion, Brain & Behavior*, 12:1-2, 18-37, DOI: 10.1080/2153599X.2021.2006292 [link](#)

Vardy, T.* & **Atkinson, Q. D.** (2022) Moralistic and local god beliefs and the extent of prosocial preferences on Tanna Island, Vanuatu, *Religion, Brain & Behavior*, 12:1-2, 79-96, DOI: 10.1080/2153599X.2021.2006290 [link](#)

Baimel, A., Apicella, C.L., **Atkinson, Q. D.**, Bolyanatz, A., Cohen, E., Handley, C., Henrich, J., Kundtová Klocová, E., Lang, M., Lesorogol, C. & Mathew, S., (2022). Material insecurity predicts greater commitment to moralistic and less commitment to local deities: A cross-cultural investigation. *Religion, Brain and Behavior*. 12:1-2, 4-17, DOI: [10.1080/2153599X.2021.2006287](https://doi.org/10.1080/2153599X.2021.2006287)

Purzycki, B. G., Willard, A. K., Klocová, E. K., Apicella, C. L., Atkinson, Q. D., Bolyanatz, A., Cohen, E., Handley, C., Henrich, J., Lang, M., Lesorogol, C., Mathew, S., McNamara, R. A., Moya, C., Norenzayan, A., Placek, C., Soler, M., Vardy, T.*, Weigel, J., Xygalatas, D., & Ross, C. T. (2022) The moralization bias of gods' minds: a cross-cultural test, *Religion, Brain & Behavior*, 12:1-2, 38-60, DOI: 10.1080/2153599X.2021.2006291 [link](#)

Wilkins, C., Tremewan, J., Rychert, M., **Atkinson, Q. D.**, Fischer, K.*, & Forsyth, G. L.* (2022). Predictors of voter support for the legalization of recreational cannabis use and supply via a national referendum. *International Journal of Drug Policy*, 99, 103442.

Atkinson, Q.D. & Jacquet, J. (2022) Challenging the idea that humans are not designed to solve climate change. *Perspectives on Psychological Science*, 17(3):619-630. [preprint link](#)

Beheim, B., **Atkinson, Q. D.**, Bulbulia, J., Gervais, W., Gray, R. D., Henrich, J., Lang, M., Monroe, M. W., Muthukrishna, M., Norenzayan, A., Purzycki, B. G., Shariff, A., Slingerland, E., Spicer, R. & Willard, A. K. (2021). Treatment of missing data determined conclusions regarding moralizing gods. *Nature*, 595(7866), E29-E34. [link](#)

Claessens, S.*, Kyritsis, T.*, & **Atkinson, Q. D.** (2020). Revised analysis shows relational mobility predicts sacrificial behavior in Footbridge but not Switch or Loop trolley problems. *Proceedings of the National Academy of Sciences*, 117(24), 13203-13204.

Slingerland, E., **Atkinson, Q. D.**, Ember, C. R., Sheehan, O.*, Muthukrishna, M., Bulbulia, J., & Gray, R. D. (2020). Coding culture: challenges and recommendations for comparative cultural databases. *Evolutionary Human Sciences*, 1-20.

Claessens, S.*, Fischer, K.*, Chaudhuri, A., Sibley, C. G., & **Atkinson, Q. D.** (2020). The dual evolutionary foundations of political ideology. *Nature Human Behaviour*, 4:336–345. [Link preprint](#)

Ruck, D. J., Matthews, L. J., Kyritsis, T., **Atkinson, Q. D.**, & Bentley, R. A. (2020). The cultural foundations of modern democracies. *Nature Human Behaviour*, 4(3), 265-269. doi:10.1038/s41562-019-0769-1 [link](#)

Lang, M., Purzycki, B. G., Apicella, C. L., **Atkinson, Q. D.**, Bolyanatz, A., Cohen, E., Handley, C., Klocová, E. K., Lesorogol, C., Mathew, S., McNamara, R. A., Moya, C., Placek, C. D., Soler, M., Vardy, T.*, Weigel, J. L., Willard, A. K., Xygalatas, D., Norenzayan, A. & Henrich, J. (2019) Moralizing gods, impartiality and religious

parochialism across 15 societies. *Proceedings of the Royal Society B: Biological Sciences*, 286(1898), 20190202.
<http://doi.org/10.1098/rspb.2019.0202>

Vardy, T.* & **Atkinson, Q. D.** (2019). Property damage and exposure to other people in distress differentially predict prosocial behavior after a natural disaster. *Psychological Science*, 30(4), 563-575.

Moravec, J. C., **Atkinson, Q. D.**, Bowern, C., Greenhill, S. J., Jordan, F. M., Ross, R.*, Gray, R. D., Marsland, S. and Cox, M. P. (2018). Post-Marital Residence Patterns Show Lineage-Specific Evolution. *Evolution and Human Behavior*. 39(6): 594–601.

Savage, P. E., Cronin, C., Müllensiefen, D., & **Atkinson, Q. D.** (2018). Quantitative evaluation of music copyright infringement. In *Proceedings of the 8th International Workshop on Folk Music Analysis (FMA2018)* (pp. 61–66).

Tambets, K., Yunusbayev, B., Hudjashov, G., Ilumäe, A., Rootsi, S., Honkola, T., Vesakoski, O., **Atkinson, Q. D.**, Skoglund, P., Kushniarevich, A., Litvinov, S., Reidla, M., Metspalu, E., Saag, L., Rantanen, T., Karmin, M., Parik, J., Zhadanov, S. I., Gubina, M., Damba, L. D., Bermisheva, M., Reisberg, T., Dibirova, K., Evseeva, I., Nelis, M., Klovins, J., Metspalu, A., Esko, T., Balanovsky, O., Balanovska, E., Khusnutdinova, E. K., Osipova, L. P., Voevoda, M., Vilems, R., Kivisild, T., Metspalu, M. (2018). Genes reveal traces of common recent demographic history for most of the Uralic speaking populations. *Genome Biology*, 19:139. [link](#)

Watts, J.* , Sheehan, O.* , Bulbulia, J., Gray, R. D., & **Atkinson, Q. D.** (2018). Christianity spread faster in small politically structured societies. *Nature Human Behaviour*, 2(8):559-564. [link](#)

Szyncer, D., Xygalatas, D., Agey E., Alami, S., An X., Anayeva K. I., **Atkinson, Q. D.**, Broitman, B. R., Conte, T. J., Flores, C., Fukushima, S., Hitokoto, H., Kharitonov, A. N., Onyishi, C. N., Onyishi, I. E., Romero, P. R., Schrock, J. M., Snodgrass, J. J., Sugiyama, L. S., Takemura, K., Townsend, C., Zhuang, J., Aktipis, C. A., Cronk, L., Cosmides, L., Tooby, J. (2018). Cross-cultural invariances in the architecture of shame. *Proceedings of the National Academy of Sciences of the United States of America*. 115(39), 9702-9707.
doi.org/10.1073/pnas.1805016115

Sheehan, O.* , Watts, J.* , Gray, R. D., & **Atkinson, Q. D.** (2018). Coevolution of landesque capital intensive agriculture and sociopolitical hierarchy. *Proceedings of the National Academy of Sciences of the United States of America*. <https://doi.org/10.1073/pnas.1714558115>

Bouckaert, R., Bowern, C. & **Atkinson, Q. D.** (2018). The origin and expansion of Pama–Nyungan languages across Australia. *Nature Ecology & Evolution*, 2:741-749. <https://doi.org/10.1038/s41559-018-0489-3>

Sookias, R. B.* , Passmore, S.* & **Atkinson, Q. D.** (2018). Deep cultural ancestry and human development indicators across nation states. *Royal Society Open Science*, 5 171411. <https://doi.org/10.1098/rsos.171411>

Purzycki BG, Ross CT, Apicella C, **Atkinson Q. D.**, Cohen E, et al. (2018) Material security, life history, and moralistic religions: A cross-cultural examination. *PLOS ONE* 13(3): e0193856.
<https://doi.org/10.1371/journal.pone.0193856>

Atkinson, Q. D. (2018). Religion and expanding the cooperative sphere in Kastom and Christian Villages on Tanna, Vanuatu. *Religion, Brain and Behavior*, 8(2):149-167. doi: 10.1080/2153599X.2016.1267028

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Books

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 Science News (2016) - [Human Sacrifice May Have Helped Societies Become More Complex](#), 4 April
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Recent Research Grants / Funding:

- 2021 Royal Society Catalyst Leaders Grant, Royal Society of New Zealand, “The psychological foundations of social conservatism”, NZ\$150,000 (principle investigator)
- 2020 Marsden Grant, Royal Society of New Zealand, “Deep cultural ancestry and the fortunes of nation states”, NZ\$869,000 (principle investigator)
- 2019 Marsden Grant, Royal Society of New Zealand, “Next generation models for inferring evolutionary history: Gene trees, species trees, word trees and language trees”, NZ\$930,000 (associate investigator).
- 2019 Strategic Research Initiatives Fund, “Digital|Biology Interface Institute (DBI2) CoRE development bid”, NZ\$300,000 (associate investigator).
- 2018 Marsden Grant, Royal Society of New Zealand, “Political gaming: using economic games to explore the foundations of political ideology”, NZ\$835,000 (principal investigator).
- 2018 Stewart Family Trust, “EDGE Languages”, NZ\$80,000 (principal investigator)
- 2015 University of Auckland, Vice Chancellor’s Strategic Development Fund, “Establishment of the Centre for Computational Evolution (CCE) in the Faculty of Science”, NZ\$150,000.
- 2013 Marsden Grant, Royal Society of New Zealand, “Tongues, trees and Bayesian inference”, NZ\$850,000 (principal investigator).
- 2013 University of Auckland, Faculty Research Development Fund, NZ\$95,000 (principal investigator).
- 2012 Templeton Foundation, “Testing the functional roles of religion in human society”, US\$300,000 (co-investigator)
- 2012 Social Sciences and Humanities Research Council of Canada, “Cultural Evolution of Religion Research Consortium”, CAN\$3million (named investigator).
- 2012 European Commission IRSES (FP7) Exchange Grant, NZ\$230,000
- 2011 Rutherford Discovery Fellowship, Royal Society of New Zealand, NZ\$1 million (principal investigator).
- 2010 Economic and Social Research Council, UK - “Bringing ritual to mind” £3.1million (co-investigator)
- 2008 Cognition, Religion and Theology Grant, Templeton Foundation - “Cross-cultural religious diversity”, £25,000 (principal investigator)
 Cognition, Religion and Theology Grant, Templeton Foundation - “Supernatural agents, surveillance and cheating”, £13,000 (principal investigator)
 Genographic Project (National Geographic and IBM) Research Fellowship – “Untangling human population history”, US\$50,000 - not taken up.
- 2007 Royal Society Travel Award, £4000

Recent Invited Lectures:

Atkinson, Q. D. (2023). What a global tree of the world’s languages can tell us about the past, present and future of human cultural diversity. Mind, Technology and Society Invited Speaker Series, University of California at Merced, USA, 13th November, 2023.

Atkinson, Q. D. (2023). What a global tree of the world’s languages can tell us about the past, present and future of human cultural diversity. University of Pennsylvania, USA, 13th October, 2023.

Atkinson, Q. D. (2023). Are we evolved to tackle climate change? Ora Taiao Climate Action Korero, New Zealand, 15th June, 2023.

Atkinson, Q. D. (2022). Are we evolved to tackle climate change? Selwyn Community Education Centre, Selwyn College, Auckland, New Zealand, 22nd November, 2022.

Atkinson, Q. D. (2022). How Culture Unites and Divides Us. Max Planck Institute for Evolutionary Anthropology, 29th September, 2022.

Atkinson, Q. D. (2020). Political Gaming: what behavioural economics can teach us about the foundations of political ideology. Guest lecture. MLD-302: Behavioral Decision Making. Harvard Kennedy School, Harvard University, 7th April, 2020.

Atkinson, Q. D. (2019). The Cultural Evolution of Big Societies. Max Planck Humboldt Fellowship Symposium, Bonn, Germany, 25th-26th February, 2019.

Atkinson, Q. D. (2017). Computational Phylogenetics (Working with Trees): Bayesian Inference of Language Phylogenies, part of the New Methods in Digital Historical Linguistics at the International Conference on Historical Linguistics, San Antonio, TX, 30th July, 2017

Atkinson, Q. D. (2016). Cultural Diversity in the Light of Evolution, Human Evolutionary Biology Department, Harvard University, 28th March, 2016.

Atkinson, Q. D. (2015). Religion as a cultural adaptation in the Pacific. Department of Psychology, University of Otago, New Zealand, 14th December, 2015.

Harre, N. & **Atkinson, Q. D.** (2015). Psychology for a Sustainable Future. Psychology Day, Auckland University of Technology, 14th November 2015.

Atkinson, Q. D. (2015). Religiosity and expanding the cooperative sphere in Kastom and Christian villages on Tanna, Vanuatu. Religion in the Text and on the Ground, Cultural Evolution of Religion Consortium (CERC) Plenary, Montreal, Canada, 8th-10th May, 2015.

Atkinson, Q. D., Passmore, S. & Rookias, R. (2014). Quantifying the legacy of cultural ancestry in the 21st century. Evolutionary analysis beyond the gene, Theo Murphy Meeting, Kavli Royal Society International Centre, UK, 17th-18th November, 2014.

Atkinson, Q. D. (2014). Genes, languages and the human colonization of the globe. Ettore Majorana Foundation and Centre for Scientific Culture, 33rd workshop of the International School of Ethology "What made us human? Biological and cultural Evolution of Homo sapiens", Erice, Sicily, ITALY, 14th-19th October, 2014. <http://www.eric2014humanevo.it/>

Atkinson, Q. D. (2014). Phylogeographic inference in Australia. Simon Fraser University, Vancouver, Canada, Paris, 21st October 2014.

Atkinson, Q. D. (2014). Phylogeographic inference in Australia. Muséum national d'histoire naturelle, Paris, 7th October 2014.

Atkinson, Q. D. (2014). Is God an Adaptation? Reason and Science Society, University of Auckland, 19th August, 2014.

Atkinson, Q. D. (2013). The evolution of language and culture through time and space. Muséum national d'histoire naturelle, Paris, 27th June 2013.

Atkinson, Q. D. (2013). The evolution of language and culture through time and space. Estonian BioCentre, University of Tartu, Estonia, 5th June 2013.

Atkinson, Q. D. (2013) Tracing human cultural ancestry. International Conference on Evolutionary Patterns, Calouste Gulbenkian Foundation, Lisbon, Portugal, 27th-29th May, 2013.

Atkinson, Q. D. (2013) The evolution of religion. Talking Science, University of Auckland, 30th April 2013.

Atkinson, Q. D. (2012). *The ghost of cultures past*. Using Bayesian comparative techniques to model social and behavioural evolution, Royal Society Fellows International Scientific Seminar, Kavli Royal Society International Centre, UK, 10th-11th December, 2012.

Atkinson, Q. D. (2012). Quantifying language change. Linguistic Students Society, University of Auckland, New Zealand, 4th October, 2012.

Atkinson, Q. D. (2012) Language change in time and space. Auckland Bioengineering Institute, Auckland, New Zealand, 31st July, 2012.

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Atkinson, Q. D., Ostler, N., Erard, M. (2012) Saving Babel - Panel discussion (Isabel Hilton chair), HowTheLightGetsIn2012, Institute of Art and Ideas, Hay-on-Wye, UK, 2012.

- Atkinson, Q. D.** (2012) Language change in time and space. Language Evolution and Computation Research Unit, University of Edinburgh, Scotland, 4th June, 2012.
- Atkinson, Q. D.** (2012). Curious parallels: language, biology and art. Old Genes: Artists reading Len Lye. Govett-Brewster Art Gallery, New Plymouth, New Zealand, 18th February, 2012.
- Atkinson, Q. D.** (2011) Modelling the expansion of languages. CNRS Department of Humanities and Social Sciences, Lyon, France, 15th December, 2011.
- Atkinson, Q. D.** (2011) Modelling the origin of Indo-European languages in time and space. Applied Language Studies and Linguistics Seminar, University of Auckland, New Zealand, 26th October, 2011.
- Atkinson, Q. D.** (2011) Language change in time and space. [Human evolution – plagues, pathogens and selection](#), Kavli Royal Society International Centre, UK, 8th-9th June, 2011.
- Atkinson, Q. D.** (2010) Charting cultural genealogies using language phylogenies: a Bayesian approach. Anthrotree workshop, University of Massachusetts, Amherst, 3rd -6th June, 2010.
- Atkinson, Q. D.** (2010) The cultural evolution of human languages. Centre for Behavior, Evolution and Culture, University of California, Los Angeles, 1st June, 2010.
- Atkinson, Q. D.** (2009) An evolutionary approach to studying cultural diversity. Anthropology Department, University of Oxford, UK, 10th December, 2009.
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