

# Laith Al-Shawaf

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Department of Psychology  
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## Academic Employment

- 2017-Present *Assistant Professor*
- Department of Psychology
  - University of Colorado – Colorado Springs
- 2015-2017 *Assistant Professor*
- Department of Psychology
  - Neuroscience Program
  - Bilkent University, Turkey
- 2015-2016 *Visiting Fellow*
- College of Life Sciences
  - Institute for Advanced Study, Berlin, Germany

## Education

- 2009-Dec. 2014 *Ph.D., Psychology*
- The University of Texas at Austin
  - Adviser: David M. Buss, Ph.D.
  - Additional concentration: Applied Statistical Modeling
  - G.P.A.: 4.0
- 2006-2009 *B.A., Psychology (Penrose Award, high distinction)*
- The American University of Beirut, Lebanon
  - Minor: Cognitive Science
  - Minor: Philosophy
  - G.P.A.: 4.0
- 2006 *High School Graduation (Walter Prosser Award, valedictorian)*
- American Community School at Beirut
  - International Baccalaureate Diploma & US High School Diploma

## Honors, Awards, and Fellowships

- 2016 – *Elected member of AGYA*, the Arab-German Young Academy of Sciences & Humanities  
2015-2016 *Visiting Fellow*, College of Life Sciences, Institute for Advanced Study (Berlin)

- 2015 ResearchGate's *Most Viewed Researcher in Psychology* (two consecutive weeks)
- 2014 *Research Fellowship* (The University of Texas at Austin)
- 2013 *Research Fellowship* (The University of Texas at Austin)
- 2013 *Psychology Research Award* (The University of Texas at Austin)
- 2013 *Award for Creative Novel Hypothesis* (Evolutionary Psychology seminar)
- 2013 *Professional Development Award* (The University of Texas at Austin)
- 2012 *Award for Creative Novel Hypothesis* (Evolutionary Psychology seminar)
- 2012 *Professional Development Award* (The University of Texas at Austin)
- 2010 *Love of Learning award* (Phi Kappa Phi)
- 2010 *Liberal Arts Dean's Fellowship* (The University of Texas at Austin)
- 2006-9 *Dean's Honor List* (AUB; every semester from matriculation to graduation)
- 2006-9 *Full Merit Scholarship* (AUB; awarded to top 10 students in the university)
- 2008 *Fawzi Azar Award* (awarded to an undergraduate, first time since award's inception)
- 2009 *Penrose Award*, the American University of Beirut's most prestigious award

*"This award is given to an outstanding student of the senior class in the Faculty of Arts and Sciences who completely embodies the following characteristics and requirements: Scholarship, Character, Leadership, and Contribution to University Life."*

### **Grants (co-awarded with collaborators)**

“Health Awareness and Diseases of Affluence: A Multi-Regional Survey (Germany, Jordan, Iraq, Oman, Sudan, Tunisia, Turkey, and the United Arab Emirates)”, 2016, German Federal Ministry of Education and Research (BMBF). 25,000 Euros.

"Educational Reforms: Inclusiveness, Interdisciplinarity and Progress", 2016, German Federal Ministry of Education and Research (BMBF). 25,000 Euros.

"International Math Olympiad Camp: Using Psychology to Improve Teaching and Learning", 2016, German Federal Ministry of Education and Research (BMBF). 20,150 Euros.

### **Publications**

**Al-Shawaf, L.,** & Lewis, D.M.G. (in press). The Handicap Principle. In T.K. Shackelford and V.A. Weekes-Shackelford (Eds.). *Encyclopedia of Evolutionary Psychological Science*.

**Al-Shawaf, L.,** & Zreik, K. A. (in press). Richard Dawkins on Optimality. In T.K. Shackelford and V.A. Weekes-Shackelford (Eds.). *Encyclopedia of Evolutionary Psychological Science*.

**Al-Shawaf, L.,** Lewis, D.M.G., & Buss, D. M (in press). Sex differences in disgust: Why are women more easily disgusted than men? *Emotion Review*.

**Al-Shawaf, L.,** & Lewis, D.M.G. (2017). Evolutionary psychology and the emotions. In V. Zeigler-Hill and T.K. Shackelford (Eds.). *Encyclopedia of Personality and Individual Differences*.

Springer.

- Lewis, D. M. G., Russell, E. M., **Al-Shawaf, L.**, Senveli, Z., Ickes, W., & Buss, D. M. (in press.) Why women wear high heels: evolution, lumbar curvature, and attractiveness. *Frontiers in Psychology*.
- Lewis, D.M.G., **Al-Shawaf, L.**, Conroy-Beam, D., Asao, K., & Buss, D. M. (in press). Evolutionary Psychology: A How-To Guide. *American Psychologist*.
- Lewis, D.M.G., **Al-Shawaf, L.**, Janiak, M., & Akunebu, S. (in press). Integrating molecular genetics and evolutionary psychology: Sexual jealousy and the androgen receptor (AR) gene. *Personality and Individual Differences*.
- Sell, A., Sznycer, D., **Al-Shawaf, L.**, Lim, J., Krauss, A., Feldman, A., Rascanu, R., Sugiyama, L., Cosmides, L., & Tooby, J. (2017). The grammar of anger: Mapping the computational architecture of a recalibrational emotion. *Cognition*, *168*, 110-128.
- Sznycer, D., **Al-Shawaf, L.**, Bereby-Meyer, Y., Curry, O. S., De Smet, D., Ermer, E., Kim, S., Kim, S., Li, N. P., Lopez Seal, M. F., McClung, J., O, J., Ohtsubo, Y., Quillien, T., Schaub, M., Sell, A., van Leeuwen, F., Cosmides, L., Tooby, J. (in press). Cross-cultural regularities in the cognitive architecture of pride. *Proceedings of the National Academy of Sciences*.
- Lewis, D.M.G., Anderson, M., & **Al-Shawaf, L.** (in press). Contemporary evolutionary psychology and the evolution of intelligence. Commentary on Burkhardt et al. (2016). *Behavioral and Brain Sciences*.
- Al-Shawaf, L.** (2016). The evolutionary psychology of hunger. *Appetite*, *105*, 591-595.
- Al-Shawaf, L.** (2016). Could there be a male commitment skepticism bias and a female sexual overperception bias? Novel hypotheses based on Error Management Theory. *Evolutionary Psychological Science*, doi 10.1007/s40806-016-0052-x
- Al-Shawaf, L.**, Conroy-Beam, D., Asao, K., & Buss, D.M. (2015). Human emotions: An evolutionary psychological perspective. *Emotion Review*, 1-14.
- Al-Shawaf, L.**, Lewis, D.M.G., & Buss, D.M. (2015). Disgust and mating strategy. *Evolution & Human Behavior*, *36*, 199-205.
- Al-Shawaf, L.**, Lewis, D.M.G., Alley, T. R., & Buss, D.M. (2015). Mating strategy, disgust, and food neophobia. *Appetite*, *85*, 30-35.
- Al-Shawaf, L.**, & Lewis, D.M.G. (2013). Exposed intestines and contaminated cooks: Sex, stress, & satiation predict disgust sensitivity. *Personality and Individual Differences*, *54*, 698-702.
- Al-Shawaf, L.**, & Buss, D. M. (2011). Evolutionary psychology and Bayesian modeling. *Behavioral and Brain Sciences*, *34*, 188-189.
- Lewis, D.M.G., \*Russell, E., \***Al-Shawaf, L.**, and Buss, D.M. (2015). Lumbar curvature: A previously undiscovered standard of attractiveness. *Evolution & Human Behavior*, *36*(5), 345-350.

*\*The second and third author made equal contributions to the manuscript.*

Lewis, D.M.G., **Al-Shawaf, L.**, & Yilmaz, C (2015). The Openness-calibration hypothesis. *Personality and Individual Differences, 81*, 53-60.

Lewis, D.M.G., **Al-Shawaf, L.**, Russell, E.M., & Buss, D.M. (2015). Friends and happiness: An evolutionary perspective on friendship. In M. Demir (Ed.), *Friendship and Happiness*, pp.37-57. Springer.

Lewis, D.M.G., **Al-Shawaf, L.**, Conroy-Beam, D., Asao, K., & Buss, D.M. (2012). Friends with benefits II: Mating activation in opposite-sex friendship as a function of sociosexual orientation and relationship status. *Personality and Individual Differences, 53*, 622-628.

Lewis, D. M., Conroy-Beam, D., **Al-Shawaf, L.**, Raja, A., DeKay, W. T., Buss, D. M., & Stone, V. (2011). Friends with benefits: The evolved psychology of same- and opposite-sex friendship. *Evolutionary Psychology, 9*(4): 543-563.

## **Manuscripts under Review**

**Al-Shawaf, L.**, Lewis, D.M.G., and Buss, D.M. Experimentally inducing disgust reduces desire for short-term mating. *Manuscript under review.*

Zreik, K. A. & **Al-Shawaf, L.** Misunderstandings about Natural Selection. In T.K. Shackelford and V.A. Weekes-Shackelford (Eds.). *Encyclopedia of Evolutionary Psychological Science*. *Manuscript under review.*

Ghossainy, M. E., **Al-Shawaf, L.** & Woolley, J. D. Detecting deception: The role of nonverbal behavior in children's decisions of trust. *Manuscript under review.*

Alley, T. R., & **Al-Shawaf, L.** Hunger and family size do not predict disgust or food neophobia. *Manuscript under review.*

Lewis, D. M. G., **Al-Shawaf, L.**, Russell, E. M., & Buss, D. M.. Lumbar curvature as a novel standard of attractiveness? A replication attempt and additional tests of the hypothesis. *Manuscript under review.*

## **Manuscripts in Preparation**

**Al-Shawaf, L.**, Lewis, D.M.G., & Buss, D. M. Error management theory and the discovery of novel human biases. *Manuscript in preparation.*

**Al-Shawaf, L.**, Buss, D.M., Chang, L., DeBruine, L., Kennair, L.E.O., Lewis, D.M.G., & Negrodo, A.M. Women's defenses against sexual coercion: Evidence from Norway, Spain, and China. *Manuscript in preparation.*

**Al-Shawaf, L.**, & Carter, G. How do the Dark Triad traits relate to fear, anger, disgust, and happiness? *Manuscript in preparation.*

Lewis, D.M.G., & **Al-Shawaf, L.** Not erotic, so neurotic? Mate value, infidelity, and neuroticism as an evolved response to social exclusion. *Manuscript in preparation.*

Lewis, D.M.G., & **Al-Shawaf, L.** The evolutionary psychology of sexual exploitation: Implications for preventing rape. *Manuscript in preparation.*

Mann, F.D., Carlson, M. M., **Al-Shawaf, L.**, Tucker-Drob, E., & Harden, P. Human life history: A longitudinal and behavioral genetic analysis. *Manuscript in preparation.*

## **Undergraduate Publications (Philosophy)**

Al-Shawaf, L. (2009). Enumerative induction as a subset of inference to the best explanation. *Lyceum*, 10, 2.

Al-Shawaf, L. (2009). Anti-Realism: Fundamentally flawed and inescapably incoherent. *Think*, 1, 9-16.

## **Summer Research Institutes**

*International Society for Human Ethology (ISHE) Summer Institute.* Athens, Greece, May 13-17, 2015.

*University of Texas Summer Statistics Institute.* “Introduction to Data Analysis and Graphics Using R.” Department of Statistics & Data Sciences, May 19-22, 2014.

*International Society for Human Ethology (ISHE) Summer Institute.* University of Michigan-Ann Arbor, August 6-9, 2013.

*University of Texas Summer Statistics Institute.* “Structural Equation Modeling.” Division of Statistics & Scientific Computation, May 20-23, 2013.

*Max Planck Summer Institute on Bounded Rationality.* Center for Adaptive Behavior & Cognition, Max Planck Institute for Human Development. Berlin, 2012.

## **Conference Presentations**

**Al-Shawaf, L.** (2016). Using evolutionary biology to inform philosophy. *Seminar presented at the Institute for Advanced Study, Berlin, Germany.*

**Al-Shawaf, L.,** Lewis, D. M. G., & Buss, D. M. (2015). Disgust and short-term mating. *Talk presented at the International Society for Human Ethology, Athens, Greece.*

**Al-Shawaf, L.,** Lewis, D. M. G., & Buss, D. M. (2014). Mating strategy predicts sexual disgust. *Data blitz talk presented at the evolutionary psychology preconference at SPSP, Austin, TX.*

**Al-Shawaf, L.,** Buss, D. M., Chang, L., Kennair, L. E. O., Lewis, D. M. G., Negrodo, A. M., & DeBruine, L. (2013). Women’s anti-coercion psychology: Evidence from Norway, Spain, and China. *Poster accepted for presentation at the 25<sup>th</sup> annual HBES conference, Miami, FL.*

**Al-Shawaf, L.,** Lewis, D. M. G., & Buss, D. M. (2012). Down-regulated sexual disgust facilitates the pursuit of an uncommitted mating strategy. *Talk presented at the ISHE summer research institute, Ann Arbor, MI.*

**Al-Shawaf, L.,** & Lewis, D. M. G. (2012). Contaminated cooks and exposed intestines: Sex, stress, and satiation interact to predict disgust sensitivity. *Talk presented at the 6<sup>th</sup> annual NEEPS conference, Plymouth, NH.*

**Al-Shawaf, L.,** & Lewis, D. M. G. (2012). Exposed intestines and contaminated cooks: Sex, stress, and satiation interact to predict disgust sensitivity. *Talk presented at the 24<sup>th</sup> annual HBES conference, Albuquerque, NM.*

**Al-Shawaf, L.,** & Lewis, D. M. G. (2012). Exposed intestines and contaminated cooks: Sex, stress, and satiation interact to predict disgust sensitivity. *Poster presented at the 11<sup>th</sup> annual Max Planck Summer Institute on Bounded Rationality, Berlin, Germany.*

Lewis, D. M., Conroy-Beam, D., Raja, A., & **Al-Shawaf, L.** (2011). Coalitions, mates, and friends: The evolutionary psychology of relationship preferences. *Poster presented at the 9th annual SPSP Evolutionary Psychology Pre-Conference, San Antonio, TX.*

Conroy-Beam, D., Asao, K., **Al-Shawaf, L.,** Lewis, D.M.G., Buss, D.M., (2012). One man's displeasure is another man's treasure: A model emotion by participant sex interaction in mate copying. *Poster presented at the 24<sup>th</sup> annual Human Behavior and Evolution Society Conference, Albuquerque, NM.*

## Teaching Experience and Employment

### Consulting

2012-2013 *Independent scientific consultant, Intellidate, Inc.*

### Instructorship Positions

2015 *Instructor, Evolutionary Psychology, the American University of Beirut (AUB)*  
 2015 *Instructor, Cognitive Science, the American University of Beirut (AUB)*  
 2015 *Instructor, Cognitive Psychology, Johns Hopkins Center for Talented Youth (CTY)*  
 2014 *Instructor, Cognitive Psychology, Johns Hopkins Center for Talented Youth (CTY)*  
 2013 *Instructor, Cognitive Psychology, Johns Hopkins Center for Talented Youth (CTY)*  
 2013 *Seminar Director, Evolutionary Biology & The Human Mind, SAGE Division of Continuing & Innovative Education, University of Texas at Austin*

### University of Texas Teaching Assistantships and Lab Instructorships

2009-2014 *Cognition, Emotion, Introduction to Psychology, Statistics and Research Methods, Psychology of Sex, Evolutionary Psychology*

### Tutoring Experience

2008-9	Private Tutor	Psychology, Logic
2007	Private Tutor	Psychology, Philosophy

## **Service**

2011-Present     *Graduate student adviser*, undergraduate honors theses in psychology  
2011-2012       *Mentor*, UT Intellectual Entrepreneurship (IE) Pre-Grad Internship program

## **Affiliations and Review**

*Reviewer* – NSF Grant Proposal 1551938  
*Reviewer* – Evolution & Human Behavior  
*Reviewer* – Cognition & Emotion  
*Reviewer* – Personality and Individual Differences  
*Reviewer* – Human Nature  
*Reviewer* – Adaptive Human Behavior and Physiology  
*Reviewer* – Evolutionary Behavioral Sciences  
*Reviewer* – Evolutionary Psychological Science  
*Member* – Psi Chi, Psychology honor society  
*Member* – Phi Kappa Phi, pan-academic honor society  
*Member* – American Psychological Society  
*Member* – Human Behavior and Evolution Society  
*Co-founder & former Recruitment Manager* – Initiative for Cooperative Action & Dialogue  
(Lebanese NGO, organized 1st Lebanese International Model UN conference)  
*Former Vice President* – AUB International Model United Nations Society  
*Co-founder & former Vice President* – AUB Freethought Society  
*Member* – The Heterodox Academy  
*Elected Member* – The Arab-German Young Academy of Sciences and Humanities (AGYA)  
*Member in Charge* – AGYA Education Working Group

## **Technical Skills**

R, SAS, SPSS, Microsoft Office

## **Language Skills**

English – native  
Arabic – fluent  
French – advanced

## **References**

David M. Buss, Ph.D.  
Professor  
Head, Individual Differences and Evolutionary Psychology Area  
Department of Psychology  
The University of Texas at Austin  
Austin, Texas 78712

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