

# Laith Al-Shawaf

The University of Colorado Colorado Springs  
 Department of Psychology  
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## Academic Employment

- 2017-Present      *Assistant Professor, tenure-track*
- Department of Psychology
  - National Institute for Human Resilience
  - 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

- 2019    *Rising Star*, Association for Psychological Science (APS)  
 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  
(youngest Visiting Fellow in the institute's history)
- 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 *Professional Development Award* (The University of Texas at Austin)
- 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."*

## **Publications** (Google Scholar: **Total citations: 777, h-index: 15**)

### **Journal Articles**

**\*\*Indicates student co-author**

Ghossainy, M.E., **Al-Shawaf, L.**, & Woolley, J.D. (in press). Epistemic vigilance in early ontogeny: Children's use of nonverbal behavior to detect deception. *Evolutionary Psychology*.

**\*\*White, K.P., Jonason, P.K., & Al-Shawaf, L.** (2020). Mating decisions in the absence of physical attraction. *Adaptive Human Behavior and Physiology*. doi: <https://doi.org/10.1007/s40750-020-00152-2>

**\*\*Atari, M., \*\*Chaudhary, N., & Al-Shawaf, L.** (2020). Mate preferences in three Muslim-majority countries: Sex differences and personality correlates. *Social Psychological and Personality Science*, *11*(4), 533-545.

Jonason, P. K., **\*\*White, K. P., & Al-Shawaf, L.** (2020). Should I stay or should I go: Individual differences in response to romantic dealmakers and dealbreakers. *Personality and Individual Differences*, *164*. doi: <https://doi.org/10.1016/j.paid.2020.110120>

**Al-Shawaf, L., Lewis, D.M.G., Ghossainy, M.E. and Buss, D.M.** (2019). Experimentally inducing disgust reduces desire for short-term mating. *Evolutionary Psychological Science*, *5*, 267-275.

**\*\*Chaudhary, N., Al-Shawaf, L., & Buss, D.M.** (2018). Mate competition in Pakistan: Mate value, mate retention, and competitor derogation. *Personality and Individual Differences*, *130*, 141-

146.

- Al-Shawaf, L.**, Lewis, D.M.G., & Buss, D. M (2017). Sex differences in disgust: Why are women more easily disgusted than men? *Emotion Review*, *10*(2), 149-160.
- Lewis, D. M. G., Russell, E. M., **Al-Shawaf, L.**, Ta, V., \*\*Senveli, Z., Ickes, W., & Buss, D. M. (2017). Why women wear high heels: Evolution, lumbar curvature, and attractiveness. *Frontiers in Psychology*, *8*, Article 1875.  
<http://doi.org/10.3389/fpsyg.2017.01875>
- Lewis, D.M.G., **Al-Shawaf, L.**, Conroy-Beam, D., Asao, K., & Buss, D. M. (2017). Evolutionary Psychology: A How-To Guide. *American Psychologist*, *72*(4), 353-373.
- 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. (2017). Cross-cultural regularities in the cognitive architecture of pride. *Proceedings of the National Academy of Sciences*, *114*(8), 1874-1879.
- Lewis, D.M.G., **Al-Shawaf, L.**, \*\*Janiak, M., & \*\*Akunebu, S. (2018). Integrating molecular genetics and evolutionary psychology: Sexual jealousy and the androgen receptor (AR) gene. *Personality and Individual Differences*, *120*, 276-282.
- Lewis, D., **Al-Shawaf, L.**, & Anderson, M. (2017). Contemporary evolutionary psychology and the evolution of intelligence. *Behavioral and Brain Sciences*, *40*, E210.  
[doi:10.1017/S0140525X16001692](https://doi.org/10.1017/S0140525X16001692)
- 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*, *2*, 237-240. [doi: https://doi.org/10.1007/s40806-016-0052-x](https://doi.org/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.

Dietrich, A. & **Al-Shawaf, L.** (2018). The transient hypofrontality theory of altered states of consciousness. *Journal of Consciousness Studies*. 25(11-12), 226-247.

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.

## **Book Chapters**

\*\*Indicates student co-author

Lewis, D. M. G., **Al-Shawaf, L.**, & Buss, D. M. (in press). Evolutionary personality psychology. In Corr, P., & Matthews, G. (Eds.), *The Cambridge Handbook of Personality Psychology (2nd ed.)*. Cambridge: Cambridge University Press.

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.

**Al-Shawaf, L.**, Lewis, D. M. G., \*\*Barbaro, N., & \*\*Wehbe, Y. S. (in press). The Products of Evolution: Conceptual distinctions, evidentiary criteria, and empirical examples. In Shackelford, T. K. (Ed.), *The SAGE Handbook of Evolutionary Psychology*. SAGE.

Lewis, D. M. G., **Al-Shawaf, L.**, Thompson, M. B., & Buss, D. M. (in press). Evolved psychological mechanisms. In T. K. Shackelford (Ed.), *The SAGE Handbook of Evolutionary Psychology*. SAGE.

## **Encyclopedia Entries**

\*\*Indicates student co-author

**Al-Shawaf, L.**, Lewis, D.M.G., \*\*Wehbe, Y. S., & Buss, D.M. (2019). Context, environment, and learning in evolutionary psychology. In T.K. Shackelford and V.A. Weekes-Shackelford (Eds.). *Encyclopedia of Evolutionary Psychological Science*. New York: Springer.

**Al-Shawaf, L.**, \*\*Zreik, K. A., & Buss, D.M. (2018). Thirteen misunderstandings about natural selection. In T.K. Shackelford and V.A. Weekes-Shackelford (Eds.). *Encyclopedia of*

*Evolutionary Psychological Science*. New York: Springer.

**Al-Shawaf, L.,** & Lewis, D.M.G. (2018). The handicap principle. In T.K. Shackelford and V.A. Weekes-Shackelford (Eds.). *Encyclopedia of Evolutionary Psychological Science*. New York: Springer

**Al-Shawaf, L.,** & \*\*Zreik, K. A. (2018). Richard Dawkins on constraints on natural selection. In T.K. Shackelford and V.A. Weekes-Shackelford (Eds.). *Encyclopedia of Evolutionary Psychological Science*. New York: Springer.

**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*. New York: Springer.

### **Manuscripts Submitted**

\*\*Indicates student co-author

**Al-Shawaf, L.,** Lewis, D.M.G., Ghossainy, M.E., Kennair, L.E.O., Miklousic, I., Schwarz, S., and \*\*White, K. P. An experimental test of two disgust hypotheses in four countries. *Manuscript submitted*.

Lewis, D.M.G., & **Al-Shawaf, L.** Error Management Theory and a previously undiscovered bias in initial person perception. *Manuscript submitted*.

### **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.,** Lewis, D.M.G., & Buss, D. M. A five-culture study of personality preferences in short-term and long-term mates. *Manuscript in preparation*.

Lewis, D.M.G., & **Al-Shawaf, L.** The Logic of Attractiveness: What People Find Attractive, When, and Why. *Manuscript in preparation*.

Lewis, D.M.G., & **Al-Shawaf, L.** Jealousy. In L. Al-Shawaf and T. Shackelford (Eds.), *The Oxford Handbook of Evolution and the Emotions*. Oxford University Press.

Sznycer, D., Landers, M., & **Al-Shawaf, L.** Shame. In L. Al-Shawaf and T. Shackelford (Eds.), *The Oxford Handbook of Evolution and the Emotions*. Oxford University Press.

Scrivner, C., Sznycer, D., Lukaszewski, A., & **Al-Shawaf, L.** Social emotions are governed by a common grammar of social valuation: Theoretical foundations and applications to human personality and the criminal justice system. In L. Al-Shawaf and T. Shackelford (Eds.), *The Oxford Handbook of Evolution and the Emotions*. Oxford University Press.

### **Grants**

1. "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).  
*Role: Co-investigator. Status: funded. Amount awarded: 29,846 Euros.*
2. Diseases of Affluence: A Multi-Regional Survey – Part 2 (Germany, Saudi Arabia, Iraq, Egypt, Oman, Sudan, Tunisia, and the USA), 2017, German Federal Ministry of Education and Research (BMBF).  
*Role: Co-investigator. Status: funded. Amount awarded: 30,011 Euros.*
3. "Educational Reforms: Inclusiveness, Interdisciplinarity and Progress", 2016, German Federal Ministry of Education and Research (BMBF).  
*Role: Principal Investigator. Status: funded. Amount awarded: 13,370 Euros.*
4. "Math Olympiad Camp", 2016, German Federal Ministry of Education and Research (BMBF).  
*Role: Co-Principal Investigator. Status: funded. Amount awarded: 24,675 Euros.*
5. "AGYA Math Olympiad Camp 2", 2019, German Federal Ministry of Education and Research (BMBF).  
*Role: Principal Investigator. Status: funded. Amount awarded: 12,468 Euros.*
6. "The Effects of Hunger on Cognition and Perception", 2018, University of Colorado – Colorado Springs.  
*Role: Co-Principal Investigator (submitted with UCCS student). Status: funded. Amount awarded: \$4,000 USD.*

### **Research Institutes & Workshops**

*Arizona State University/Mayo Clinic Selective on Evolution and Medicine.* Tempe, Arizona, February 17-21, 2020.

*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.

## **Teaching Experience and Employment During Graduate School**

### 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**

2020-Present *Board of Advisors, Center for Evolutionary Psychological Science (CEPS)*

2020-Present *Co-Director of Undergraduate Education in Psychology, UCCS*

2018-Present *Psychological Science Faculty Search Committee, UCCS*

2018-Present *Board of Advisors, Ideas Beyond Borders (IBB)*

2018-2020 *Rosa Parks & Cesar Chavez Scholarship Committee, UCCS*

2017-Present *Advisory Board, UCCS Museum of Cognitive Archeology & Human Evolution*

2017-Present *Psychological Science Graduate Committee, UCCS*

2017-Present *Psychological Science Undergraduate Studies Committee, UCCS*

2011-2014 *Graduate student adviser, undergraduate honors theses in psychology, UT-Austin*

2011-2012 *Mentor, Intellectual Entrepreneurship (IE) Pre-Grad Internship program, UT-Austin*

### **Affiliations and Ad Hoc Review**

*Reviewer – Appetite*

*Reviewer – National Science Foundation (NSF) Grant Proposal*

*Reviewer – Trends in Cognitive Sciences*

*Reviewer – Cognition & Emotion*

*Reviewer – Evolution & Human Behavior*

*Reviewer – Human Nature*

*Reviewer* – Adaptive Human Behavior and Physiology

*Reviewer* – Evolutionary Behavioral Sciences

*Reviewer* – Evolutionary Psychological Science

*Reviewer* – Psychology of Popular Media and Culture

*Reviewer* – Personality and Individual Differences

*Reviewer* – Journal of Personality

*Member* – American Psychological Society

*Member* – Human Behavior and Evolution Society

*Member* – Psi Chi, Psychology honor society

*Member* – Phi Kappa Phi, pan-academic honor 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

*Member* – The Arab-German Young Academy of Sciences and Humanities (AGYA)

*Academic Advisor* – Ideas Beyond Borders

## **Technical Skills**

R, SAS, SPSS, Microsoft Office

## **Language Skills**

English – native

Arabic – fluent

French – advanced