



University of Auckland
Standard
ACADEMIC CV

NAME: Quentin Atkinson

CURRENT POSITION: Professor
DEPARTMENT/SCHOOL: Psychology
FACULTY: Science

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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:

2014- present Research Associate, Department of Linguistic and Cultural Evolution, Max Planck Institute for the Science of Human History
2010-present Research Affiliate, Department of Anthropology, University of Oxford, UK
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 Award, 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/>)
Behavioural and Brain Sciences Associate Membership
Reviewer for *Nature*
Reviewer for *Science*
Reviewer for *Proceedings of the National Academy of Sciences, USA*
Reviewer for *Proceedings of the Royal Society of London, Series B - Biological Sciences*.
Reviewer for *Philosophical Transactions of the Royal Society of London, Series B – Biological Sciences*
Reviewer for *Current Anthropology*
Reviewer for *Trends in Cognitive Sciences*
Reviewer for *Trends in Ecology and Evolution*
Reviewer for *Behavioral and Brain Sciences*
Reviewer for *OIKOS – Journal of Ecology*
Reviewer for *Evolution and Human Behavior*
Reviewer for *PlosONE*

Reviewer for *Evolution*
 Reviewer for *Nature Communications*
 Reviewer for *American Journal of Human Genetics*
 Reviewer for *Europhysics Letters (EPL)*
 Reviewer for *Molecular Ecology Resources*
 Reviewer for *Human Biology*
 Reviewer for *Journal of Archaeological Science*
 Reviewer for *Evolutionary Bioinformatics*
 Reviewer for *Journal of Historical Linguistics*
 Reviewer for *Journal of Language Evolution*
 Reviewer for *BMC Evolutionary Biology*
 Reviewer for *Heredity*
 Reviewer for *Political Studies*
 Reviewer for *Diachronica*
 Reviewer for *Religion, Brain and Behavior*
 Reviewer for *Method and Theory in the Study of Religion*
 Reviewer for *New Media and Society*
 Reviewer for *National Science Foundation, USA*
 Reviewer for *EACL 2012 Joint Workshop of LINGVIS & UNCLH, Visualization of Linguistic Patterns and Uncovering Language History from Multilingual Resources, April 23-24, 2012, Avignon, France*
 (<https://sites.google.com/site/lingvisunclh/>)
 Expert Reviewer for EVOLANG X, International Conference on the Evolution of Language, 14-17 April, 2014.
 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
 Member of the Heterodox Academy
 Member of the International Association for the Cognitive Science of Religion (IACSR)
 Member of the Society of Systematic Biologists
 Member of the New Zealand Psychological Society

SERVICE

2016- current	MBIE Smart Ideas Assessor
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/uoal
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, Department of Psychology, University of Auckland
2010-	Evolution and Human Behaviour, MSc, Department of Psychology, University of Auckland
2011-2016	Sustainability and Psychology, MSc, Department of Psychology, University of Auckland
2017-	Introduction to Science and Innovation, Advanced BSc, University 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" (principal supervisor)
2013-2014	MSc	Sam Passmore, Univ. of Auckland, "The relative wealth of nations" (principal supervisor)
2014-2015	MSc	Georgia Birnie, Univ. of Auckland, "The role of threat and conformity in Moral Judgments" (principal supervisor)
2008-2010	PhD	Robert Ross, Univ. of Oxford, "Cultural evolution" (co-supervisor)
2009-2012	PhD	Christopher Opie, Univ of Oxford, "The evolution of social systems in human and non-human primates." (co-supervisor)
2011-2015	PhD	Jenny Long, Univ. of Auckland, "Evolution of prosocial behaviour in adolescent social networks" (principal supervisor)
2012 to 2015	PhD	Dan Mullins, Univ. of Oxford, 'Writing, ritual and cooperation', (co-supervisor).
2012 to 2018	PhD	Ben Johanes, Univ. of Oxford, 'Ritual, Community and Conflict', (co-supervisor).
2012 to current	PhD	James Richards, Univ. of Auckland, 'What promotes youth commitment to social justice?', (co-supervisor).
2013 to 2017	PhD	Joseph Watts, Univ. of Auckland, 'Co-evolution of religion and the environment', (joint principal supervisor).
2014 to 2019	PhD	Thomas Vardy, Univ of Auckland, 'Evolution of cooperation in the Pacific' (principal supervisor).
2015 to current	PhD	Mark Stone, Univ of Auckland, 'Ecopsychological dimensions of surfing' (co-supervisor).
2015 to 2019	PhD	Oliver Sheehan, Univ of Auckland, 'Religious variation in the Pacific.' (principal 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 current	PhD	Rebecca Hassall, Univ of Auckland (co-supervisor)
2017 to current	PhD	Amalia Bastos, Univ of Auckland (co-supervisor)
2017 to current	PhD	Romana Gruber, Univ of Auckland (co-supervisor)
2018 to current	PhD	Scott Claessens, Univ of Auckland (primary supervisor)
2018 to current	PhD	Thanos Kyritsis, Univ of Auckland (primary supervisor)
2018 to current	PhD	Kyle Fischer, Univ of Auckland (primary supervisor)
2019 to current	PhD	Guy Lavender-Forsyth, Univ. of Auckland (primary supervisor)

RESEARCH:

Publications

Journal articles

Claessens, S., Kyriasis, 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.

Ruck, D. J., Matthews, L. J., Kyriasis, 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*. 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: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
- Purzycki, B. G., Henrich, J., Apicella, C., **Atkinson, Q. D.**, Cohen, E., McNamara, R. A., Willard, A. K., Xygalatas, D. & Norenzayan, A. (2018). The Evolution of Religion and Morality Project: A Synthesis of Ethnographic and Experimental Evidence from Eight Societies. *Religion, Brain and Behavior*, 8(2):101-132. doi: 10.1080/2153599X.2016.1267027
- Maurits, L., Forkel, R., Kaiping, G. A. & **Atkinson, Q. D.** (2017) BEASTling: a software tool for linguistic phylogenetics using BEAST 2. *PLoS ONE*, 12(8), e0180908.
- Botero, C. A., Harmon, L. & **Atkinson, Q. D.** (2017). The promise and limits of eco-evolutionary studies of human culture: a comment on Sloan Wilson et al. *Religion, Brain & Behavior*, 7(2) 153-155. doi: 10.1080/2153599X.2015.1132249
- Purzycki, B. G., Apicella, C., **Atkinson, Q. D.**, Cohen, E., McNamara, R. A., Willard, A. K., Xygalatas, D., Norenzayan, A. & Henrich, J. (2016). Cross-cultural dataset for the Evolution of Religion and Morality Project. *Scientific Data*. 3:160099. doi: 10.1038/sdata.2016.99 [link](https://doi.org/10.1038/sdata.2016.99)
- Saunders, T., Taylor, A. H. & **Atkinson, Q. D.** (2016). No evidence that a range of artificial monitoring cues influence online donations to charity in an MTurk sample. *Royal Society Open Science*, 3:150710. doi: [10.1098/rsos.150710](https://doi.org/10.1098/rsos.150710) [link](https://doi.org/10.1098/rsos.150710)
- Atkinson, Q. D.**, Coomber, T., Passmore, S., Greenhill, S. J. & Kushnick, G. (2016) Cultural and Environmental Predictors of Pre-European Deforestation on Pacific Islands. *PLoS ONE*, 11(5): e0156340. doi: 10.1371/journal.pone.0156340 [link](https://doi.org/10.1371/journal.pone.0156340)
- Matthews, L. J., Passmore, S., Richard, P. M., Gray, R. D., & **Atkinson, Q. D.** (2016). Shared Cultural History as a Predictor of Political and Economic Changes among Nation States. *PLoS ONE*, 11(4): e0152979. doi: 10.1371/journal.pone.0152979 [link](https://doi.org/10.1371/journal.pone.0152979)
- Watts, J., Sheehan, O., **Atkinson, Q. D.**, Bulbulia, J. & Gray, R. D. (2016). Ritual human sacrifice promoted and sustained the evolution of stratified societies. *Nature*, 532:228-231. doi:10.1038/nature17159 [link](https://doi.org/10.1038/nature17159)
- Ross, R. M. & **Atkinson, Q. D.** (2016). Cultural differentiation does not entail group-level structure: The case for geographically explicit analysis. *Behavioral and Brain Sciences*, 39: e30. doi:10.1017/S0140525X1400106X
- Watts, J., Bulbulia, J., Gray, R.D., & **Atkinson, Q.D.** (2016). Clarity and Causality Needed in Claims about Big Gods. *Behavioral and Brain Sciences*, 39:e1. doi:10.1017/S0140525X14001356 [link](https://doi.org/10.1017/S0140525X14001356)
- Purzycki, B. G., Norenzayan, A., Apicella, C., **Atkinson, Q. D.**, Cohen, E., McNamara, R. A., Willard, A. K., Xygalatas, D. & Henrich, J. (2016). Moralizing Gods, Supernatural Punishment, and the Expansion of Human Sociality. *Nature*, 530, 327-330. doi:10.1038/nature16980. [link](https://doi.org/10.1038/nature16980)
- Ross, R. M. & **Atkinson, Q. D.** (2016). Folktale transmission in the Arctic provides evidence for high bandwidth social learning among hunter-gatherer groups. *Evolution and Human Behavior*, 37(1):47-53. doi: [10.1016/j.evolhumbehav.2015.08.001](https://doi.org/10.1016/j.evolhumbehav.2015.08.001)
- Watts, J., Sheehan, O., Greenhill, S. J., Gnomes-Ng, S., **Atkinson, Q. D.**, Bulbulia, J. & Gray, R. D. (2015). Pulotu: Database of Austronesian Supernatural Beliefs and Practices. *PLoS ONE*, 10(9): e0136783. doi: 10.1371/journal.pone.0136783 [link](https://doi.org/10.1371/journal.pone.0136783)
- Savage, P. E., & **Atkinson, Q. D.** (2015). Automatic tune family identification by musical sequence alignment. 16th International Society for Music Information Retrieval Conference, 2015: 162-168.
- Watts, J., Greenhill, S. J., **Atkinson, Q. D.**, Currie, T. E., Bulbulia, J., & Gray, R. D. (2015). Broad supernatural punishment but not moralizing high gods precede the evolution of political complexity in Austronesia. *Proceedings of the Royal Society, B*. 282: 20142556 doi: 10.1098/rspb.2014.2556 [link](https://doi.org/10.1098/rspb.2014.2556)
- Atkinson, Q. D.**, Latham, A. & Watts, J. (2015). Are Big Gods a big deal in the emergence of big groups? *Religion, Brain and Behavior*. 5(4):266-274. doi:10.1080/2153599X.2014.928359

- Long, J., Harré, N. & **Atkinson, Q. D.** (2015). Social clustering in high school transport choices. *Journal of Environmental Psychology*. 41:155-165. doi:10.1016/j.jenvp.2015.01.001
- Opie, C., Shultz, S., **Atkinson, Q. D.**, Currie, T. & Mace, R. (2014). Phylogenetic reconstruction of Bantu kinship challenges main sequence theory of human social evolution. *Proceedings of the National Academy of Sciences, USA*. 111(49): 17414–17419. doi: 10.1073/pnas.1415744111
- Long, J., Harré, N. & **Atkinson, Q. D.** (2014). Understanding change in recycling and littering behavior across a school social network. *American Journal of Community Psychology*. 53(3):462-474. [link](#)
- Kamilar, J. M. & **Atkinson, Q. D.** (2014). Cultural assemblages show nested structure in humans and chimpanzees but not orangutans. *Proceedings of the National Academy of Sciences, USA*, 111(1):111-115. doi: 10.1073/pnas.1313318110
- Opie, C., **Atkinson, Q. D.**, Dunbar, R. I. M., & Shultz, S. (2014). Reply to Lukas and Clutton-Brock: Infanticide still drives primate monogamy. *Proceedings of the National Academy of Sciences of the United States of America*, 111 (17).
- Opie, C., **Atkinson, Q. D.**, Dunbar, R. I. M. & Shultz, S. (2013). Reply to Dixson: Infanticide triggers primate monogamy. *Proceedings of the National Academy of Sciences, USA*. 110(51):E4938.
- Pagel, M., **Atkinson, Q. D.**, Calude, A., & Meade (2013). Reply to Mahowald and Gibson and to Heggarty: No problems with short words, and no evidence provided. *Proceedings of the National Academy of Sciences, USA*. 110(35):E3255.
- Opie, C., **Atkinson, Q. D.**, Dunbar, R. I. M. & Shultz, S. (2013). Male infanticide leads to social monogamy in primates. *Proceedings of the National Academy of Sciences, USA*. 110(33):13328-13332. doi: 10.1073/pnas.1307903110
- Pagel, M., **Atkinson, Q. D.**, Calude, A., & Meade (2013). Ultra-conserved words point to deep language ancestry across Eurasia. *Proceedings of the National Academy of Sciences, USA*, 110(21):8471–8476. doi:10.1073/pnas.1218726110.
- Bulbulia, J. A., Greenhill, S. J., **Atkinson, Q. D.** & Gray, R. D. (2013). First shots fired for the phylogenetic revolution in religious studies: A commentary on David Sloan Wilson. *Cliodynamics*, 4(1):128-133.
- Mullins, D. A., Whitehouse, H. & **Atkinson, Q. D.** (2013). The role of writing and recordkeeping in the cultural evolution of human cooperation. *Journal of Economic Behavior & Organization*. 90:S141-S151. doi:10.1073/pnas.1218726110
- Atkinson, Q.D.** (2013) The descent of words. *Proceedings of the National Academy of Sciences, USA*. 110(11):4159-4160. doi: 10.1073/pnas.1300397110
- Ross, R. M., Greenhill, S. J. & **Atkinson, Q. D.** (2013). Population structure and cultural geography of a folktale in Europe. *Proceedings of the Royal Society, B*. 280(1756) doi: 10.1098/rspb.2012.3065
- Bowern, C. & **Atkinson, Q. D.** (2012). Computational Phylogenetics and the Internal Structure of Pama-Nyungan. *Language*, 88(4):817-845.
- Atkinson, Q. D.** (2012). Accent as social sonar. *Current Anthropology*, 53(5):605-606.
- Opie, C. **Atkinson, Q. D.** & Shultz, S. (2012). The evolutionary history of primate mating systems, *Communicative & Integrative Biology*, 5(5):458-461.
- Bouckaert, R., Lemey, P., Dunn, M., Greenhill, S. J., Alekseyenko, A. V., Drummond, A. J., Gray, R. D., Suchard, M. A., & **Atkinson, Q. D.** (2012). Mapping the origins and expansion of the Indo-European language family. *Science*, 337:957-960. DOI: 10.1126/science.337.6097.989-b
- Hoverd, W., Sibley C. & **Atkinson, Q. D.** (2012). Group size and the trajectory of religious identification. *Journal for the Scientific Study of Religion*. 51(2):286–303.
- Atkinson, Q. D.** (2012). Response to Comments on “Phonemic Diversity Supports Serial Founder Effect Model of Language Expansion from Africa”. *Science*, 335, 1042. DOI: 10.1126/science.1215788

Atkinson, Q. D. (2012). Response to Comments on “Phonemic Diversity Supports Serial Founder Effect Model of Language Expansion from Africa”. *Science*, 335, 657. DOI: 10.1126/science.1210005.

Shultz, S., Opie, C. & **Atkinson, Q. D.** (2011). Stepwise evolution of stable sociality in primates. *Nature*, 479:219-222.

Atkinson, Q. D. (2011). Linking spatial patterns of language variation to ancient demography and population migrations. *Linguistic Typology*, 15, 321-332.

Atkinson, Q. D. (2011). Phonemic Diversity Supports Serial Founder Effect Model of Language Expansion from Africa. *Science*, 332:346-349.

Bourrat, P., **Atkinson, Q. D.**, and Dunbar, R. (2011). Supernatural punishment and individual social compliance across cultures. *Religion, Brain and Behavior*. 1(2), 119-134.

Gray, R.D., **Atkinson, Q. D.** & Greenhill, S. J. (2011). Language evolution and human history: what a difference a date makes. *Philosophical Transactions of the Royal Society, B*. 366:1090-1100.

Atkinson, Q. D. & Whitehouse, H. (2011). The cultural morphospace of ritual form. *Evolution and Human Behavior*, 32:50-62

Atkinson, Q. D. & Bourrat, P. (2011). Beliefs about God, the afterlife and morality support the role of supernatural policing in human cooperation. *Evolution and Human Behavior*, 32:40-49.

Greenhill S. J., **Atkinson Q. D.**, Meade A., & Gray R. D. (2010) The shape and tempo of language evolution. *Proceedings of the Royal Society, B*. 277:2443-2450.

Atkinson, Q. D. (2010). The prospects for tracing deep language ancestry. *Journal of Anthropological Science*. 88: 231-233.

Atkinson, Q. D., Gray, R.D. and Drummond, A. J. (2009). Bayesian coalescent inference of major human mtDNA haplogroup expansions in Africa. *Proc. Roy. Soc. Lon. B*. 276: 367-373.

Atkinson, Q. D. (2009). Language Classification by Numbers (Review). *Diachronica*, 26(1): 125-133.

Pagel, M. and **Atkinson, Q. D.** (2008). The potential for genetic adaptations to language. *Behavioural and Brain Sciences*, 31(5): 529-530.

Atkinson, Q. D., Meade, A. M., Venditti, C., Greenhill, S. J. and Pagel, M. (2008). Response to “Parsing the Evolution of Language”, Joseph, B. D. and Mufwene, S. S. *Science*, 320: 446.

Brock, G. and **Atkinson, Q. D.** (2008). What can examining the psychology of nationalism tell us about our prospects for aiming at the cosmopolitan vision? *Ethical Theory and Moral Practice*, 11(2): 165-179.

Atkinson, Q. D., Meade, A. M., Venditti, C., Greenhill, S. J. and Pagel, M. (2008). Languages evolve in punctuational bursts. *Science*, 319: 588.

Atkinson, Q. D., Gray, R. D. and Drummond, A. J. (2008). mtDNA variation predicts population size in humans and reveals a major southern Asian chapter in human prehistory. *Molecular Biology and Evolution*, 25(2):468-474.

Pagel, M., **Atkinson, Q. D.** and Meade, A. (2007). Frequency of word-use predicts rates of lexical evolution throughout Indo-European history. *Nature*, 449: 717-20. pdf

Atkinson, Q. D. and Gray, R. D. (2005). Curious parallels, curious connections - Phylogenetic Thinking in Biology and Historical Linguistics, *Systematic Biology*, 54(4): 513-526.

Atkinson, Q. D., Nicholls, G., Welch, D. and Gray, R. D. (2005). From Words to Dates: Water into wine, mathemagic or phylogenetic inference? *Transactions of the Philological Society*, 103(2), 193-219.

Gray, R. D. and **Atkinson, Q. D.** (2003). Language-tree divergence times support the Anatolian theory of Indo-European origin. *Nature*, 426: 435-9.

Book chapters

Claessens, S., Chaurdhuri, A., Sibley, C. G. & **Atkinson, Q. D.** (In press). The evolutionary basis of political ideology. In C. G. Sibley & D. Osbourne (Eds.), *Cambridge Handbook of Political Psychology*. Cambridge, UK: Cambridge University Press.

Watts, J., Sheehan, O., **Atkinson, Q.D.**, Bulbulia, J., & Gray, R.D. (2019). Did ritualized human sacrifice help build and sustain social inequality? In J. Slone, & W. McCorkle Jr.(Eds.), *The cognitive science of religion: A methodological introduction to key empirical studies* (pp. 239-248). London: Bloomsbury.

Whitehouse, H., Mazzucato, C., Hodder, I. and **Atkinson, Q. D.** (2014). Modes of religiosity and the evolution of social complexity at Çatalhöyük. Pages 134-158. In *Vital Matters - Religion in the Organization and Transformation of a Neolithic Society*. Ed. Ian Hodder. New York, NY: Cambridge University Press.

Shultz, S., Opie, C., Nelson, E., **Atkinson, Q.D.**, Dunbar, R.I.M. (2014). Evolution of primate social systems: implications for hominin social evolution. Pages 317-332. In *Lucy to Language: Benchmark Papers*, Eds. R.I.M. Dunbar, C. Gamble and J.A.J. Gowlett. Oxford University Press (Oxford).

Bulbulia, J., **Atkinson, Q. D.**, Gray, R. D. & Greenhill, S. J. (2013). Why Do Religious Cultures Evolve Slowly? Pages 197-211. In *Mind, Morality and Magic: Cognitive Science Approaches in Biblical Studies*, Eds. I. Czachesz and R. Uro. Equinox Publishing (Sheffield).

Bulbulia, J., Geertz, A. W., **Atkinson, Q. D.**, Cohen, E., Evans, N., Francois, P., Gintis, H., Gray, R. D., Henrich, J., Jordan, F., Norenzayan, A., Richerson, P. J., Slingerland, E., Turchin, P., Whitehouse, H., Widlok, T., Wilson, D. S. (2013) The Cultural Evolution of Religion. Pages 381-404 in *Cultural Evolution: Society, Technology, Language, and Religion*, Eds. P. Richerson and M. H. Christiansen. Strüngmann Forum Reports, vol. 12, J. Lupp, series editor. Cambridge, MA: MIT Press. ISBN 978-0-262-01975-0.

Gray, R. D., Greenhill, S. J., and **Atkinson, Q. D.** (2013) Phylogenetic models of language change: Three new questions. Pages 285-302 in *Cultural Evolution: Society, Technology, Language, and Religion*, Eds. P. Richerson and M. H. Christiansen. Strüngmann Forum Reports, vol. 12, J. Lupp, series editor. Cambridge, MA: MIT Press.

Atkinson, Q. D. and Gray, R. D. (2006). How old is the Indo-European language family? Illumination or more moths to the flame? Pages 91-109 in *Phylogenetic methods and the prehistory of languages* Eds. J. Clackson, P. Forster and C. Renfrew. MacDonald Institute (Cambridge).

Atkinson, Q. D. and Gray, R. D. (2006). Are Accurate Dates an Intractable Problem for Historical Linguistics? Pages 269-296 in *Mapping our Ancestry: Phylogenetic Methods in Anthropology and Prehistory*. Eds. C. Lipo, M. O'Brien, S. Shennan & M. Collard. Aldine (Chicago).

Books

Harré, N. and **Atkinson, Q. D.** (Eds.) (2007). *Carbon Neutral by 2020: How New Zealanders can tackle climate change*. Craig Potton Publishing (Nelson, New Zealand).

Other

Gardner, Paul; Addis, Donna Rose; Allen, Martin; Anderson, Barbara; Atkinson, Quentin D.; Bertler, Nancy; Bradley, Ashton; Bradley, Brendon; Cox, Murray P.; Drummond, Alexei; Fineran, Peter; Goldstone, David; Greenberg, Noam; Hay, Jennifer; Hodgkiss, Justin; Jacobsen, Jessie; Ru, Eric Le; Mace, Peter; Mayhew, Dillon; McKay, Rob; Montelle, Clemency; Moreham, Nicole; Muthukumaraswamy, Suresh; Nakagawa, Shinichi; Palmer, Suetonia; Patrick, Wayne M.; Poole, Anthony M.; Radford, Craig; Rattenbury, Nicholas J.; Reynolds, John N.J.; Shears, Nicholas; Shepherd, Lara; Sperry, Jonathan; Stanley, Elizabeth; Stouffer, Daniel B.; Tylanakis, Jason M.; Wanhalla, Angela; Willmott, Geoff; Woodfield, Tim (2014): NATIONAL STATEMENT OF SCIENCE INVESTMENT DRAFT: Response from Rutherford Discovery Fellowship recipients (2010-2013). [figshare](http://dx.doi.org/10.6084/m9.figshare.1148891). <http://dx.doi.org/10.6084/m9.figshare.1148891>

Atkinson, Q. D. (2006). From Species to Languages: a phylogenetic approach to human prehistory. PhD thesis, University of Auckland.

Commentaries on my work in *Nature* and *Science*

Nature News (2018) - [How one group of languages conquered Australia](#), 12 March

Science News (2016) - [Human Sacrifice May Have Helped Societies Become More Complex](#), 4 April

Nature (2016) - [How Human Sacrifice Propped Up The Social Order](#), 4 April.

Nature News (2016) - [Hand of the gods in human civilization](#), 10 Feb.

ScienceNews (2016) - [Rise of human civilization tied to belief in punitive gods](#), 10 Feb.

- Science News (2015) [To foster complex societies, tell people a god is watching](#), 4 March.
- Nature News (2015) [Complex societies evolved without belief in all-powerful deity](#), 4 March.
- Balter, M. (2013) [Monogamy May Have Evolved to Prevent Infanticide](#), *Science*, 29 July.
- Science Podcast (2012) - 24/8/2012 <http://www.sciencemag.org/content/337/6097/989.2.summary>
- Pringle, H. (2012) New Method Puts Elusive Indo-European Homeland in Anatolia, *Science*, 24/8/2012 <http://www.sciencemag.org/content/337/6097/902.summary>
- A Turkish origin for Indo-European languages *Nature News*, 23/8/2012
- A family of languages, *Science*, 24/8/2012 <http://www.sciencemag.org/content/337/6097/887.1.full>
- Silk, J. (2011) Evolutionary biology: The path to sociality. *Nature*, Joan Silk, 10/11/11 <http://www.nature.com/nature/journal/v479/n7372/full/479182a.html>
- Bascom, N. (2011) Two steps to primate social living. *Science News*, 09/11/11 http://www.sciencenews.org/view/generic/id/336005/title/Two_steps_to_primate_social_living
- "Language may have helped early humans spread out of Africa", *ScienceNOW* 14-4-2011.
- Marris, E. (2008). Languages divide, then bloom. *Nature*, online doi:10.1038/news.2008.547
- Marris, E. (2008). Language: The language barrier. *Nature*, 453, 446-448.
- Marris, E. (2007). How 'holp' became 'helped'. *Nature*, *Nature*, online doi:10.1038/news.2007.152
- Nature Video podcast (2007) - <http://www.nature.com/nature/videoarchive/language/index.html>
- Balter, M. (2003). Linguistics: Early date for the birth of Indo-European languages, *Science*, 302, 1490-1491.
- Searls, D.B. (2003). Linguistics: Trees of life and of language. *Nature*, 426, 391-392.

Recent Research Grants / Funding:

- 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 (associate 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.** (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.** (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.
- Atkinson, Q. D.** (2012). Using language to trace cultural ancestry. Culture, Cognition and Co-evolution Lab, University of British Columbia, Vancouver, Canada, 9th July, 2012.
- 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.

Atkinson, Q. D. (2009) The evolution of languages. Zoology Department, University of Bern, Switzerland, 12th April, 2009.

Atkinson, Q. D. (2008) *Modeling the cultural evolution of religion*. Department for the Study of Religion, University of Aarhus, Denmark, 18th December, 2008.

Atkinson, Q. D. (2008) *Modeling cultural evolution*. Religion, Cognition and Culture Group, University of Aarhus, Denmark, 27th November, 2008.

Atkinson, Q. D. (2008) *Darwin's Tower of Babel - the evolution of languages*. JRF Seminar, Wolfson College, University of Oxford, 4th June, 2008.

Atkinson, Q. D. (2008) Tempo and Mode in Language Evolution. [Complex Agent-Based Dynamic Networks \(CABDyN\) Seminar series](#), Said Business School, University of Oxford, 3rd June, 2008.

Atkinson, Q. D. (2008) *Tempo and Mode in Language Evolution*. Evolutionary Anthropology Research Group, Department of Anthropology, Durham University, Durham, UK, 19th February, 2008.

Atkinson, Q. D., Gray, R. D. and Drummond, A. J. (2008). *Human population expansions, Bayesian skyline plots, mtDNA...and languages*. Mathematical Genetics and Bioinformatics Group Seminar series, University of Oxford, 12th February, 2008.

Atkinson, Q. D. (2007). *How old is the Indo-European language family?* BA Festival of Science, York, 10th-14th September, 2007.

Atkinson, Q. D. and Gray, R. D. (2006). *Language evolution and Mayan origins – a story of three Victorian best-sellers*. Department of Anthropology, University College, London, UK, September, 2006.

Recent Conference Presentations:

Atkinson, Q. D. Blasi, D., Barth, W., Bouckaert, R., Bowern, C., Chacon, T., Collins, J., Dunn, M., Evans, N., Forkel, R., Greenhill, S., Hammarström, H., Haspelmath, M., Haynie, H., Levinson, S., List, M., Maurits, L., Quinn, K., Skirgård, H., Vesakoski O. & Gray, R. D. (2017). The Glottobank project: a global language database. Cultural Evolution Society Inaugural Meeting, Jena, Germany, 13th-15th September, 2017.

Vardy, T. & **Atkinson, Q. D.** (2017). Altruistic giving before and after a natural disaster. 29th Human Behavior and Evolution Society Conference, Boise, Idaho, May 31st – June 3rd, 2017.

Atkinson, Q. D. (2017) Why would anyone believe in climate change? Kiwi Foo 2017, Snells Beach, New Zealand, 5th-7th March, 2017.

Atkinson, Q. D. (2016). Religion and the cooperative sphere on Tanna Island. 23rd International Congress of the International Association for Cross-Cultural Psychology, Nagoya, Japan, 31st July-3rd August, 2016.

Vardy, T. & **Atkinson, Q. D.** (2016). Prosocial preferences and the social function of religion on Tanna Island, Vanuatu. 28th Human Behavior and Evolution Society Conference, Vancouver, Canada, June 29th – July 2nd, 2016.

Atkinson, Q. D., Watts, J., Sheehan, O., Bulbulia, J., Gray, R.D. (2016). Ritual human sacrifice and the evolution of stratified societies. 28th Human Behavior and Evolution Society Conference, Vancouver, Canada, June 29th – July 2nd, 2016.

- Atkinson, Q. D.** (2015). Modeling the Evolution of Languages. Linguistics Society of New Zealand, Dunedin, 14th-15th December, 2015.
- Atkinson, Q. D.** (2015) Modeling the spread of Abrahamic religions. XXI World Congress of the International Association for the History of Religions, Erfurt, Germany, 23rd-29th August, 2015.
- Atkinson, Q. D.** (2015) Religiosity and expanding the cooperative sphere in Kastom and Christian villages on Tanna, Vanuatu. XXI World Congress of the International Association for the History of Religions, Erfurt, Germany, 23rd-29th August, 2015.
- Atkinson, Q. D.,** Sookias, R., & Passmore, S. (2014). The legacy of cultural ancestry among modern nation states. 113th Annual Meeting of the American Anthropological Association, Washington D.C., 3rd-7th December, 2014.
- Atkinson, Q. D.,** Bouckaert, R. & Bowern, C. (2014). Phylogeographic inference from linguistic data: Pama-Nyungan. 47th Annual Meeting of Societas Linguistica Europaea, Poznan, Poland, 11th-14th September, 2014.
- Atkinson, Q. D.** & Coomber, T. (2014) Cultural and environmental predictors of pre-European deforestation on Pacific Islands. 26th Human Behavior and Evolution Society Conference, Natal, Brazil, July 30th – August 2nd, 2014.
- Kamilar J.M. & **Atkinson, Q. D.** (2014) Patterns of cultural nestedness in humans, chimpanzees, and orangutans. 83rd Annual Meeting of the American-Association-of-Physical-Anthropologists, Calgary, CANADA, 08 Apr 2014 - 12 Apr 2014. AMERICAN JOURNAL OF PHYSICAL ANTHROPOLOGY. WILEY-BLACKWELL. 153: 154-155. 01 Mar 2014 [URL](#)
- Atkinson, Q. D.** (2014) Can we see the ghost of cultures past? - Testing for statistical non-independence between human cultures, 18th Annual New Zealand Phylogenetics Meeting, Onetangi Beach, Waiheke Island, 2nd-7th February, 2014.
- Atkinson, Q. D.** (2013) The evolution of culture through time and space. 25th Conference for the Human Behavior and Evolution Society, Miami Beach, Florida, 17th-20th July, 2013.
- Atkinson, Q. D.,** Bouckaert, R., Greenhill, S. J., Alekseyenko, A. V., Gray, R. D., Drummond, A. J., Suchard, M., and Lemey, P. (2012). Phylogeographic Approaches to Tracing Human Cultural Ancestry. 111th American Anthropological Association Meeting. San Francisco, USA, 14-18th November, 2012.
- Atkinson, Q. D.,** Ross, R. & Greenhill, S. J. (2012). Population Structure and Cultural Geography of a Folktale in Europe. Biological and Cultural Evolution and Their Interactions, Aarhus, Denmark, 26-30th June, 2012.
- Atkinson, Q. D.** & Latham, A. (2012). Tracing the origins of moralizing high gods. International Association for the Cognitive Science of Religion Conference, Aarhus, Denmark, 26-30th June, 2012.
- Atkinson, Q. D.,** Bouckaert, R., Greenhill, S. J., Alekseyenko, A. V., Gray, R. D., Drummond, A. J., Suchard, M., and Lemey, P. (2011). Modelling spatial expansion on language trees. [20th International Conference on Historical Linguistics](#). Osaka, Japan, 25-30th July, 2011.
- Atkinson, Q. D.** (2011). Tracing language origins in Space and Time. NZ Phylogenetics Meeting, Leigh, New Zealand, 6-11 February, 2011.
- Atkinson, Q. D.** (2010). Explaining Religion Project - How do religions evolve? Religion: A human phenomenon. IAHR XXth world congress. University of Toronto, Canada, 15-21 August, 2010. (<http://www.religion.utoronto.ca/resources/iahr.htm>)
- Poster: Bouratt, P. and **Atkinson, Q. D.** (2010). Supernatural policing and human cooperation. IAHR XXth world congress. University of Toronto, Canada, 15-21 August, 2010. (<http://www.religion.utoronto.ca/resources/iahr.htm>)
- Atkinson, Q. D.,** Bourrat, P., and Whitehouse, H. (2010) Cross-cultural variation in religious belief and practice. Cognition, Religion and Theology project conference, Merton College, Oxford, 27th June – 1st July, 2010.
- Atkinson, Q. D.** (2009). The prospects of tracing deep language ancestry. International Conference on Molecular Anthropology in the Genomic Era, Rome, 3rd-5th December, 2009.
- Atkinson, Q. D.** (2009). Religion as a cultural replicator. Explaining Religion, 2nd project conference, Oxofrd, UK, 17th-19th August, 2009.

Atkinson, Q. D. (2009) Modelling spatial variation in language data – a biological approach. [19th International Conference on Historical Linguistics](#), Nijmegen, Netherlands, 10th-14th August, 2009.

Atkinson, Q.D. (2008). Classification and the Tempo of Language Change. *New Directions in Historical Linguistics*, Lyon, 12th-14th May, 2008.

Atkinson, Q. D., Meade, A., and Pagel, M. (2007). *Frequencies of word use predict rates of lexical evolution throughout Indo-European history*. *Modern Approaches to Investigating Cultural Evolution*, Department of Anthropology, University College, London, UK, 9th November, 2007.

Atkinson, Q. D., Meade, A., and Pagel, M. (2007). Frequencies of word use predict rates of lexical evolution throughout Indo-European history. [18th International Conference on Historical Linguistics](#), Montreal, 6th-11th August, 2007.

Atkinson, Q. D., Gray, R. D., and Drummond, A. (2007). Genetic evidence for a major Southern Asian chapter in human prehistory. *Evolution 2007* (the combined meeting of the American Society of Naturalists, the Society for the Study of Evolution and the Society of Systematic Biologists), Christchurch, New Zealand, 16th-20th June, 2007.

Atkinson, Q. D., Meade, A., Venditti, C. and Pagel, M. (2007). Language families reveal historical signal of punctuational evolution. *Evolution 2007* (the combined meeting of the American Society of Naturalists, the Society for the Study of Evolution and the Society of Systematic Biologists), Christchurch, New Zealand, 16th-20th June, 2007.

Atkinson, Q. D., Meade, A., and Pagel, M. (2006). Understanding rates of language evolution. Presented at *The Divergence of Languages: Mathematical Modelling and Estimation*, St Peter's College, Oxford, 7th December 2006.

Atkinson, Q. D., Gray, R. D., and Drummond, A. (2006). The Perils of Dating Eve - Time-dependency in human mtDNA rate estimates. *Evolution 2006* (the combined meeting of the American Society of Naturalists, the Society for the Study of Evolution and the Society of Systematic Biologists), Stony Brook, NY, June 23rd-27th, 2006.

Atkinson, Q. D., Greenhill, S. J. and Gray, R. D. (2005). If Our Genes Could Talk: Reconstructing human population history with genetic and linguistic data. Presented at – *Molecular Biology and Evolution Conference*, Auckland, NZ. June 19th-23rd, 2005.

Atkinson, Q. D. and Gray, R. D. (2005), Language trees – What difference does an ancestor make? Presented at NZIMA Phylogenetics meeting, Whitianga05, New Zealand.

Poster: **Atkinson, Q. D.** and Gray R. D. (2005), How old is the Indo-European language family – A biological solution to a linguistic problem. Presented at – *NZBio Conference*, Auckland, NZ. March 14th-15th, 2005.

Atkinson, Q. D. and Gray, R. D. (2004). How old is the Indo-European language family? Illumination or more moths to the flame? Presented at - *Phylogenetic methods and the prehistory of languages*, MacDonald Institute, Cambridge, UK.

Poster: **Atkinson, Q. D.** and Gray R. D. (2004), How old is the Indo-European language family? – A biological solution to a linguistic problem. Presented at – *Evolution of Language: Fifth International Conference*, 2004, Max Planck Institute, Leipzig, Germany.

Atkinson, Q. D. and Gray, R. D. (2004), How old is the Indo-European language family – A biological solution to a linguistic problem. Presented at NZIMA Phylogenetics meeting, DOOM04, New Zealand.

Additional examples of media coverage

Sample of responses to Ruck et al., 2019, *Nature Human Behaviour*, *Cultural foundations of modern democracy* The Telegraph - <https://www.telegraphindia.com/india/high-price-of-intolerance/cid/1723833>

Sample of responses to Watts et al., 2018, *Nature Human Behaviour*, *Christianity spread faster in small, politically structured societies*.

Times, UK – [Power, not poverty, spreads Christianity study finds](#), 23rd July, 2018.

Nature Human Behaviour – [Predicting societal-level cultural change](#), 23rd July, 2018.

NZ Herald - [What's Christianity's spread teaches us about social change](#), 24th July, 2018

Sample of responses to Sheehan et al., 2018, PNAS, Coevolution of landesque capital intensive agriculture and sociopolitical hierarchy

Max-Planck-Gesellschaft News - [Intensification of agriculture and social hierarchies evolve together](#), 23 March, 2018

Le Scienze - [Gerarchia sociale e agricoltura si sono evolute insieme](#), 22 March, 2018

Science Daily - [Intensification of agriculture and social hierarchies evolve together](#), 19 March, 2018

Phys.Org - [Intensification of agriculture and social hierarchies evolve together](#), 19 March, 2018

Sample of responses to Bouckaert et al., 2018, Nature Ecology & Evolution, The origin and expansion of Pama-Nyungan languages across Australia.

Pour La Science - [L'énigmatique expansion des langues Pama-Nyungan](#), 22 March, 2018

The Guardian - [Most Australian Indigenous languages came from just one place](#), 14 March, 2018

ABC Australia RN Breakfast - [Pama-Nyungan: Australia's largest family of Indigenous languages](#), 13 March, 2018

Sample of responses to Saunders et al., 2016, Royal Society Open Science, No evidence that a range of artificial monitoring cues influence online donations to charity in an MTurk sample.

Scimex.com - [Feeling like someone's watching doesn't increase online charity donations](#), 19 Oct 2016

Sample of responses to Watts et al., 2016, Nature, Ritual human sacrifice promoted and sustained the evolution of stratified societies

Science - [Human Sacrifice May Have Helped Societies Become More Complex](#), 4 April, 2016

[Nature.com](#) - [How Human Sacrifice Propped Up The Social Order](#), 4 April, 2016

The Guardian - [Study Shows Human Sacrifice Was Less Likely In More Equal Societies](#), 4 April, 2016

New York Times - [Why Some Societies Practiced Ritual Human Sacrifice](#), 4 April, 2016

NPR (US National Public Radio) - [Human Sacrifice Linked to Social Hierarchies in new study](#), 4 April, 2016

Smithsonian - [Human Sacrifices May Lie Behind the Rise of Ancient Social Status](#), 4 April, 2016

Daily Mail - [Human sacrifice played a key role in shaping ancient societies](#), 4 April, 2016

New Scientist - [Has ritual human sacrifice shaped societies and class systems?](#), 4 April, 2016

The Conversation - [Why did early human societies practice violent human sacrifice?](#), 4 April, 2016

ABC Australia - [Human sacrifice may have helped build and sustain social class systems](#), 4 April, 2016

NZ Herald - [Human sacrifice used to maintain power](#), 4 April, 2016

Sample of responses to Purzycki et al., 2016, Nature, Moralistic gods, supernatural punishment and the expansion of human sociality

The Washington Post – [Fear of a vengeful God may explain humanity's global expansion](#), 10 Feb, 2016.

ScienceNews - [Rise of human civilization tied to belief in punitive gods](#), 10 Feb, 2016.

The Telegraph - [God was 'vital for the development of civilisation' as we know it](#), 10 Feb, 2016.

- The Conversation - [How punitive, omniscient gods may have encouraged the expansion of human society](#), 10 Feb, 2016.
- New Scientist - [Belief in punitive gods linked with expansion of human societies](#), 10 Feb, 2016.
- El Pais - [El 'ojo vigilante' de dios facilitó la aparición de sociedades complejas](#), 10 Feb, 2016
- ABC - [Fear of vengeful omniscient gods may have helped human societies expand](#), 11 Feb, 2016.
- NewsTalk ZB – Breakfast interview with Mike Hosking, 11 Feb, 2016.
- Sample of responses to Watts et al., 2015, Proc Roy Soc Lon B, Broad supernatural punishment but not moralizing high gods precede the evolution of political complexity in Austronesia.
- Mail Online - [Civilisation does NOT need faith in God: Belief in supreme being doesn't play a role in forming complex societies, study finds](#), 5 March, 2015
- Richard Dawkins Foundation - [Complex Societies Evolved without belief in all-powerful deity](#), 10 March, 2015.
- Scientific American - [Complex Societies Evolved without Belief in All-Powerful Deity](#), 6 March, 2015.
- International Business Times - [Belief in supernatural punishment not 'big gods' gave rise to complex societies](#), 4 March, 2015.
- Science News - [To foster complex societies, tell people a god is watching](#), 4 March, 2015.
- Nature News - [Complex societies evolved without belief in all-powerful deity](#), 4 March, 2015
- Sample of responses to Opie et al, 2014, PNAS, Phylogenetic reconstruction of Bantu kinship challenges main sequence theory of human social evolution.
- Phys.Org - [Scientific methods shed new light on evolution of kinship patterns](#), 26 November, 2014.
- Sample of responses to Kamilar and Atkinson, 2014, PNAS, Cultural assemblages show nested structure in humans and chimpanzees but not orang-utans.
- Morin, M. (2013) [Humans and chimps share cultural roots](#), study says, *LA Times*, 9 December.
[Humans, chimps appear to sequentially adopt cultural traits](#), *Wisconsin Daily Independent*, 15 December, 2013.
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