

Luke Glowacki

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Boston, MA 02215 USA

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PROFESSIONAL APPOINTMENTS

2021- Assistant Professor, Department of Anthropology Boston University
2019- Co-Director of the Omo Valley Research Project
2018-2020 Assistant Professor, Department of Anthropology, Penn State University
2016-2018 Research Fellow, Institute for Advanced Study in Toulouse
2015-2016 Mind, Brain, and Behavior Postdoctoral Fellow, Harvard University

EDUCATION

2015 Ph.D. in Human Evolutionary Biology, Harvard University

OTHER AFFILIATIONS

2016-2024 Associate, Department of Human Evolutionary Biology, Harvard University
2013 Visiting Student, Max Planck Institute for Social Anthropology
2009-2011 Affiliated Researcher, Institute for Ethiopian Studies, Addis Ababa University

HONORS AND AWARDS

2023 Margo Wilson Award for Best Paper in *Evolution in Human Behavior*
2019 New Investigator Award, European Human Behaviour and Evolution Association
2017 Multidisciplinary Prize (with Alice Baniel), IAST, €40,000
2014 Lagerzpetz Award for Exceptional Presentation, International Society for Research on Aggression
2013 Best Student Investigator Award, Evolutionary Anthropology Section, American Anthropological Association

GRANTS AND FELLOWSHIPS

2023- NSF Human Networks and Data Science Program, Award# 2214088. Network formation and function within and between groups. Role: PI, Amount funded: \$447,116
2020 Population Research Institute, Pennsylvania State University, \$1150
2019 Center for Global Studies, Pennsylvania State University, \$2000
2017 Mind, Brain, and Behavior Research Award, Harvard University, \$40,000
2016 Mind, Brain, and Behavior Research Award, Harvard University, \$40,000
2015 Foundations of Human Behavior, Harvard University, \$14,900
2013 Merit Fellowship, Harvard University
2011 Dissertation Fieldwork Grant, Wenner-Gren Foundation
2011 National Science Foundation REG Research Award (Grant #1132859, PI Karen Kramer)

2012 Sheldon Traveling Fellowship, Harvard University
 2010 Mind, Brain, and Behavior Research Award, Harvard University, \$5,000
 2007 Tanner Fellowship, University of Utah

OTHER PROFESSIONAL EXPERIENCE

2022 Consultant, Stanford University School of Medicine
 2014 Consultant, GIZ IS (German Agency for International Cooperation)
 2012 Consultant IGAD-CEWARN, Addis Ababa, Ethiopia

PUBLICATIONS

* Corresponding author

+ Equal contribution

& Student / Trainee publication

PAPERS IN REVIEW OR PREPRINT PUBLISHED

Glowacki L., Morath F. & Rusch H. High minority power facilitates democratization across ethnic fault lines. <https://hdl.handle.net/10419/286389>

+Bohm R., +Glowacki L., +Theilmann, I. & +Rusch, H. Untangling altruism and parochialism in human intergroup conflict. <https://hdl.handle.net/21.11116/0000-000F-BEFE-E>

JOURNAL ARTICLES

Glowacki L. 2025. Robust evidence foragers sometimes participate in war. In press for *Evolution and Human Behavior*.

Glowacki L. 2024. The controversial origins of war and peace: apes, forager, and human evolution. *Evolution and Human Behavior* 45:106616.

<https://doi.org/10.1016/j.evolhumbehav.2024.106618>

Venkataraman V., Joffman J.,Glowacki L., Haneul JI,& Stibbard-Hawkes. 2024. Female foragers sometimes hunt, yet gendered divisions of labor are real. *Evolution and Human Behavior* 45:106586. <https://doi.org/10.1016/j.evolhumbehav.2024.04.014>

Glowacki L. 2024. The Evolution of Peace. *Behavioral and Brain Sciences* 47:1-71.

<https://doi.org/10.1017/S0140525X22002862>

*Garfield Z. & *Glowacki L. 2023. Interpersonal conflicts and third-party mediation in a pastoralist society. *Evolution and Human Behavior* 44:613-623.

<https://doi.org/10.1016/j.evolhumbehav.2023.10.003>

Yurdu L., Singh M., Glowacki L., Vardy T., Atkinson Q., Hilton C., Sauter D., Krasnow M., & Mehr, S. 2023. Universal interpretations of vocal music. *Proceedings of the National Academy of Sciences* 120: e2218593120 <https://doi.org/10.1073/pnas.2218593120>

Garfield Z., & Buckner W., & Medupe D., Wrangham R. & *Glowacki L. 2023. Norm violations and punishments across human societies. *Evolutionary Human Sciences* 5:e11
<https://doi.org/10.1017/ehs.2023.7>

&Medupe D., Shenk M., Roberts S. & *Glowacki L. 2023. Why did foraging, horticulture, and pastoralism persist after the Neolithic transition? The oasis theory of agricultural intensification. *Philosophical Transactions of the Royal Society—Biological Sciences* 378:20220300.
<https://doi.org/10.1098/rstb.2022.0300>

Singh M. & Glowacki L. 2022. Human Social Organization during the Late Pleistocene: Beyond the nomadic-egalitarian model. *Evolution and Human Behavior* 43(5):418-431.
<https://doi.org/10.1016/j.evolhumbehav.2022.07.003>

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

Dogan G., Glowacki L., & Rusch H. 2022. Are strangers just enemies you have not yet met? Group identities, not intergroup relations, shape ingroup bias in three natural groups. *Philosophical Transactions of the Royal Society: Biological Sciences* 377:20210419.
<https://doi.org/10.1098/rstb.2021.0419>

*Glowacki L. & McDermott R. 2022. Key individuals catalyze collective violence. *Philosophical Transactions of the Royal Society: Biological Sciences* 377:20210141.
<https://doi.org/10.1098/rstb.2021.0141>

*Glowacki L. & Lew-Levy S. 2021. How small-scale societies achieve large-scale cooperation. *Current Opinion in Psychology* 44:44-48. <https://doi.org/10.1016/j.copsyc.2021.08.026>

Savage P., Loui P., Tarr B., Schachner A., Glowacki L., Mithen S., Fitch T. 2021. Music as a coevolved system for social bonding. *Behavioral and Brain Sciences* 44:e59.
doi.org/10.1017/S0140525X20000333

Glowacki L. 2020. The emergence of locally adaptive institutions: insights from the traditional social structures of East African Pastoralists. *Biosystems* 198: 104257.
<https://doi.org/10.1016/j.biosystems.2020.104257>

*Glowacki L., Wilson M. & Wrangham R. 2020. The evolutionary anthropology of war. *Journal of Economic Behavior and Organization* 178: 963-982. <https://doi.org/10.1016/j.jebo.2017.09.014>

*Mehr, S., *Singh, M., Knox, D., Ketter, D. M., Pickens-Jones, D., Atwood, S., Lucas, C., Egner, A. A., Jacoby, N., Hopkins, E. J., Howard, R. M., Hartshorne, J. K., Jennings, M. V., Simson, J., Bainbridge, C. M., Pinker, S., O'Donnell, T. J., Krasnow, M. M., & ***Glowacki**, L. 2019. Universality and diversity in human song. *Science* 366, eaax0868:1–17.

<https://doi.org/10.1126/science.aax0868>

*Wild H, ***Glowacki** L, Maples S, Mejía-Guevara I, Krystosik A, Bonds M, Hiruy A, LaBeaud D & Barry M. 2019. Making pastoralists count: geospatial methods in the surveillance of a nomadic population. *American Journal of Tropical Medicine and Hygiene* 101:661–669.

<https://doi.org/10.4269/ajtmh.18-1009>

+Dogan G., ****Glowacki** L., & **Rusch H. 2018. Spoils division rules shape aggression between natural groups. *Nature Human Behaviour* 2: 322–326. <https://doi.org/10.1038/s41562-018-0338-z>

+Equal contribution; order listed alphabetically.

Mehr S., Singh M., *York H., **Glowacki** L., & Krasnow M. 2018. Form and function in human song. *Current Biology* 28: 356–368. <https://doi.org/10.1016/j.cub.2017.12.042>

Singh M., Wrangham R. & **Glowacki** L. 2017. Self-interest and the design of rules. *Human Nature* 28: 457–480. <https://doi.org/10.1007/s12110-017-9298-7>

***Glowacki** L. & Molleman L. 2017. Subsistence styles shape human social learning strategies. *Nature Human Behaviour* 1: 0098. <https://doi.org/10.1038/s41562-017-0098>

Glowacki L., Isakov A., McDermott R., Wrangham R., Fowler J. & Christakis N. 2016. Formation of raiding parties for inter-group violence is mediated by social network structure. *Proceedings of the National Academy of Sciences USA* 43: 12114–12119. <https://doi.org/10.1073/pnas.1610961111>

Isakov A., Holcomb A., **Glowacki** L. & Christakis N. 2016. Modeling the role of network and individual differences in inter-group violence. *PloS ONE* 11: e018314 <https://doi.org/10.1371/journal.pone.0148314>

*von Rueden C., Gavrilets S. & ***Glowacki** L. 2015. Solving the puzzle of collective action through inter-individual differences. *Philosophical Transactions of the Royal Society B: Biological Sciences* 370: 20150002.

***Glowacki** L. & von Rueden C. 2015. Leadership solves collective action problems in small-scale societies. *Philosophical Transactions of the Royal Society B: Biological Sciences* 370: 20150010.

McAuliffe K., Wrangham R., **Glowacki** L. & Russell A. 2015. When cooperation begets cooperation: the role of key individuals in galvanizing support. *Philosophical Transactions of the Royal Society B: Biological Sciences* 370: 20150012.

*Glowacki L. & Wrangham R. 2015. Warfare and reproductive success in a tribal population. *Proceedings of the National Academy of Sciences USA* 112: 348-353.
<https://doi.org/10.1073/pnas.1412287112>

*Glowacki L. & Wrangham R. 2013. The role of rewards in motivating participation in simple warfare. *Human Nature* 24: 444-460.

Glowacki L. & Gönc K. 2013. Customary institutions in pastoralist societies: a neglected potential for conflict resolution. *Conflict Trends* 1: 26-32.

Wrangham R. & Glowacki L. 2012. Intergroup aggression in chimpanzees and war in nomadic hunter-gatherers: evaluating the chimpanzee model. *Human Nature* 23: 5-29.

BOOK CHAPTERS AND EDITED VOLUMES

Glowacki L., Gavrillets S. & von Rueden C (eds). 2015. Solving the puzzle of collective action through inter-individual differences: evidence from primates and humans. *Philosophical Transactions of the Royal Society* 370.

Wilson M. & Glowacki L. 2017. Violent cousins: chimpanzees, humans, and the roots of war. Muller M., Wrangham R. & Pilbeam D. (eds). *Chimpanzees and Human Evolution*. Cambridge, MA: Harvard University Press.

COMMENTARIES AND REVIEWS

&Elster E. & Glowacki L. 2025. “We are one people”: Group myths also draw cues from self-concept formation. *Behavioral and Brain Sciences* 47:e177. [doi:10.1017/S0140525X24000803](https://doi.org/10.1017/S0140525X24000803)

Glowacki L. 2024. Multiple origins for the evolution of collective rituals. Religion, Brain, and Behavior 14:415-416. <https://doi.org/10.1080/2153599X.2023.2197978>

Glowacki L. 2024. Author’s response: The challenge of peace. *Behavioral and Brain Sciences*. 47:e32. <https://doi.org/10.1017/S0140525X23002790>

Glowacki L. 2021. The radical origins of anthropology. *Anthropology Book Forum* 7(1).

&Buckner W. & Glowacki L. 2019. Reasons to strike first. *Behavioral and Brain Sciences*. 42: e119
<https://doi.org/10.1017/S0140525X19000840>

Glowacki L. 2019. War is easy but peace is hard. 2019. Comment on collective action for war and peace: A case study among the Enga of Papua New Guinea. *Current Anthropology* 60: 238-239.

Glowacki L. 2018. The cultural evolution of war rituals. *Behavioral Sciences and Brain Sciences*. 41: e74. <https://doi.org/10.1017/S0140525X17002059>

Singh M., Glowacki L. & Wrangham R. 2016. Self-interested agents create, maintain, and modify group-functional culture. *Behavioral and Brain Sciences* 39:40-41.
<https://doi.org/10.1017/S0140525X15000242>

Glowacki, L. 2016. Review of Violence and Warfare among Hunter-Gatherers. Mark W. Allen and Terry L. Jones, eds. Walnut Creek, CA. Left Coast Press. *Journal of Anthropological Research* 72:124-125.

*Glowacki L. & Wrangham R. 2015. Cultural institutions can provide adaptive benefits for costly cooperation. *Proceedings of the National Academy of Sciences USA* 112: E2558 [Letter].
<https://doi.org/10.1073/pnas.150528811>

POPULAR AUDIENCE

| | |
|---|-------------------|
| Glowacki L. Human Behavior & Evolution Society Blog. https://www.hbes.com/the-controversial-origins-of-war-and-peace/ | February 14, 2025 |
| Glowacki L. <i>The Washington Post</i> How the tribal war of our ancestors explains the Islamic State. | March 24, 2016 |
| Glowacki L. <i>The Los Angeles Times</i> Are people violent by nature? | Jan. 19, 2014 |
| Glowacki L. <i>Anthropology News</i> Pastoralism's crisis in East Africa. | 2013 |
| Glowacki L. <i>SORC Newsletter</i> 3(1):4 Milk, water, and grass. | 2013 |
| Glowacki L. <i>The New York Times</i> Stories that matter. | August 9, 2012 |
| Glowacki L. <i>Christian Science Monitor</i> A message to Occupy. | December 13, 2011 |
| Glowacki L. <i>Marshfield Mariner</i> Evidence of evolution is overwhelming. | Nov. 1, 2011 |

CONSULTANT REPORTS

Glowacki L. 2022. Deploying a satellite imagery-generated sampling framework in the field. Developed for Stanford University Medical School.

Glowacki L. & Gönc K. 2015. Conflict and development needs assessment in land investment areas of southern Ethiopia. Published internally for the German Agency for International Cooperation (GIZ IS). Addis Ababa: Ethiopia.

Glowacki L. & Gönc K. 2013. Investigating the potential of peace committees in Ethiopia. A needs assessment in IGAD CEWARN's Karamoja and Somali clusters. Addis Ababa: IGAD CEWARN.

SYMPOSIA AND WORKING GROUPS ORGANIZED

Co-organizer, Workshop on "Reorganizing social organization: Building a science of human societies". Max Planck Institute for Evolutionary Anthropology. June 2019.

Co-organizer, Workshop on “Evolutionary approaches to the understanding of warfare”. National institute for Mathematical and Biological Synthesis (NIMBioS). September 2015.

Co-organizer, “Inter-individual differences in collective action”. Invited poster symposium at 84th Annual Meeting of the American Association of Physical Anthropologists, March 2015.

INVITED TALKS

- 2025 Human Nature Lab, Institute for Network Science, Yale University
- 2024 Culture, Cognition, Coevolution Lab. Department of Human Evolutionary Biology. Harvard University
- 2024 Bioanthropology Colloquium, Department of Anthropology, Yale University.
- 2023 Cooperation Colloquia. International colloquia series hosted jointly between Vrije Universiteit Amsterdam, the University of Vienna, and M.I.T.
- 2023 LEVYNA, Department for the Study of Religions, Masaryk University, Czech Republic
- 2022 Center for Human Evolutionary Studies Rutgers University
- 2021 Institute for Advanced Study in Berlin (*Wissenschaftskolleg zu Berlin*). War and peace since life began: Toward a unified evolutionary theory of intergroup relationships
- 2019 Department of Psychology, Social Psychology Wing, Harvard University
- 2019 Centre for Cultural Evolution, Stockholm University, Symposium on Violence and its Variation
- 2019 European Human Behaviour and Evolution Association (Plenary). Toulouse, France
- 2018 Department of Experimental Anthropology, Université Catholique de Lille
- 2017 IAST-Fondation Royaumont, The Origins of Music in Human Society Paris, France
- 2017 Evolutionary Models of Leadership Across Human Society, Jepson School of Leadership, University of Richmond
- 2017 Behavior, Economics, and Evolution Lecture Series, University of Lausanne, Switzerland
- 2017 Station d'Ecologie Experimentale du CNRS, Moulis, France
- 2016 Anthropology Department Colloquium, Pennsylvania State University
- 2015 Anthropology Department Colloquium, University of California-Santa Barbara
- 2015 Comparative Behavioral Biology Workshop. University of Chicago
- 2015 Old World Archaeology Program. University of Connecticut
- 2015 Workshop on Evolution and Warfare. National Institute for Mathematical and Biological Synthesis (NIMBioS). University of Tennessee
- 2015 The origins of violence. Women Explore. Cambridge, MA.
- 2015 Warfare in an interdisciplinary perspective. Simon Fraser University
- 2013 Bioanthropology Colloquium. Department of Anthropology. Yale University
- 2013 Interrelated Conflicts in Northeast Africa Border Region. Max Planck Institute for Social Anthropology
- 2013 Winter University. Max Planck School on Retaliation, Mediation, & Punishment.

LECTURES

- 2022 Panelist, Khodadad Distinguished Lecture on Greed and Human Suffering, Department of Psychological and Brain Sciences, Boston University
- 2022 Tertulia, The Evolution of Peace, Boston University

ADVISING

Undergraduate Thesis Supervisor

Noelle Musolino, Penn State University

Jonathan Zhang, Boston University

Undergraduate Thesis Committee Member

Zoie Chan, Psychological and Brain Sciences, Boston University

Victoria Zdanowicz, Anthropology, Boston University

Graduate Advisor

Dithapelo Medupe, Penn State University (PhD)

Brooke Rothamer, Boston University (PhD)

Bhavya Deepti Vadavalli, Boston University (PhD)

Masters Thesis Examiner

Grégory Fiorio, École Normale Supérieure, June 2024

PhD Committee Member

Christian Gagnon, Boston University, December 2023

Hristo Hristov, Oxford University, February 2020

Dan Řezníček, Masaryk University, May 2023

Manvir Singh, Harvard University, April 2020

SERVICE

Editorial Boards

American Anthropologist (2017-2020)

Human Nature (2017-present)

Evolution and Human Behavior (Review Board) (2023-present)

Evolutionary Anthropology (2025-)

Journal of Hunter-Gatherer Research (2025-)

Peer Reviewing (25+ separate journals, two academic presses)

American Anthropologist, American Journal of Tropical Medicine and Hygiene, Animal Behaviour, Behavioral and Brain Sciences, Behavioral Ecology and Sociobiology, Cambridge University Press, Current Anthropology, Current Opinion in Environmental Sustainability, Evolution and Human Behavior, Evolutionary Anthropology, Evolutionary Behavioral Sciences, Evolutionary Human Sciences, Evolutionary Psychology, Group Processes & Intergroup Relations, Journal of Biogeography, Human Ecology, Human Nature, Nature Human Behaviour, Perspectives on Psychological Science, Philosophical Transactions of the Royal Society, Proceedings of the National Academy of Sciences (PNAS), Proceedings of the Royal Society B, Psychology of Violence, Quaternary Science Reviews, Rowman and Littlefield Publishers, Royal Society Open Science, Science Advances, Scientific Reports, The Leadership Quarterly

Grant & Fellowship Reviewing

Czech Science Foundation, European Research Council (€3,200,000), Leakey Foundation, McArthur Fellowship, National Science Foundation, Natural Environment Research Council (UK) (£1,600,000)

Other

- 2019-2022 Grant Advisory Panel: National Science Foundation: The evolutionary origins of leadership in chimpanzees: from individual minds to collective action. PI: Alexandra Rosati, Zarin Machanda, Melissa Emery Thompson, Martin Muller
- 2022-2024 Pathfinder Educational Divide Reform, Anthropology Program

University and Departmental Service

Boston University College of Arts and Sciences

- 2024 Susan K. Jackson Graduate Student Award Committee
- 2023-2024 CAS Conduct Liaison for Anthropology

Boston University Graduate School of Arts and Sciences

- 2021-2024 Bloom Fellowship Committee
- 2024 GRUF Fellowship Committee

Boston University Department of Anthropology

- 2024 Graduate Student Professional Development Series: NSF grants
- 2024 Graduate Student Professional Development Series: Cover letters
- 2023 CAS Undergraduate Major Fair
- 2023 Panelist Anthropology in the Works.
- 2023 Graduate Student Professional Development Series: Writing for popular audiences
- 2022 Graduate Student Professional Development Series: Academic Job Search 101
- 2021-2022 Graduate Student Admissions Committee

TEACHING

Guest Lectures

- 2024 Boston University, Anthropology 705
- 2022 & 2023 Boston University, College of General Studies, Social Science 103
- 2022 AN 102: Human Biology, Behavior, and Evolution

Boston University

- Fall 2024 AN 102: Introduction to Human Biology
- 2022 & 2023 AN 262 The Evolution of Culture and Society
- 2021-2023 AN 321 Cognition and Culture
- Spring 2022 AN 591 Special topics in Biological Anthropology

Pennsylvania State University

- 2019 & 2020 Anth 45Q: Cultural Diversity
- 2019 & 2020 Anth 444: The Evolution of War

Harvard University

- 2015 Supervised Research in Human Evolutionary Biology
- 2010 & 2014 Thesis Workshop Mentor for Mind, Brain, and Behavior Initiative
- 2014 Evolution of Human Behavior (Teaching Fellow)
- 2011 Sophomore Tutorial in Human Evolutionary Biology
- 2010 Anatomy and Physiology (Teaching Fellow)

MEDIA COVERAGE

- 2024 On Humans Podcast, The Great Gender Divergence Substack,
- 2023 *History.com*, *Dissenter Podcast*, *NZZ* (German language newspaper)
- 2022 *Center for Innovation in Social Science (BU)* Meet our Faculty, *New York Times*
- 2021 *New Scientist*, *Nautilus Magazine*, *Wired Magazine*
- 2020 *Behavioral Brain Sciences* Article: *Discover Magazine*, *New York Times*
- 2019 *Science* Article: *Smithsonian*, *Le Monde*, *Reuters*, *Newsweek*, *Scientific American*, *Nature*, *The Wall Street Journal*, *Forbes*, *Popular Science*, *The Times of London*, *National Geographic*, *The Daily Star (India)*, *Psychology Today*, *Prospect Magazine*, etc.
- 2019 Other: *Psychology Today*, *Harvard Gazette*, *Skeptic.com*
- 2018 *Current Biology* Article: *The Atlantic*, *NPR Morning Edition*, *PRI's Science Friday*, *The New York Times*, *The Economist*, *Smithsonian*, *The Boston Globe*, etc.
- 2017 *New Scientist*
- 2016 PNAS Paper: *CT Post*, *Daily Mail*, *Psychology Today*, *Yale News*
- 2016 Other: *New York Times*, *Scientific American*, *Washington Post*
- 2015 PNAS paper: *BBC4*, *Daily Mail*, *India Today*, *LA Times*, *Science*, *Wall Street Journal*
- 2013 *Wall Street Journal*

Published Photography

- New York Times*, July 24, 2022
- The National Post* (Canada), May 4, 2021
- Current Anthropology* vol 61:1, 2020
- Stanford News*, November 27, 2019
- Sapiens*, May 21, 2019
- Cbc.ca* November 25, 2019
- The Conversation*, May 2, 2019
- The Harvard Gazette*, December 10, 2018
- Ethnographie des Fusils Jaunes: Éthiopie I. 1970-1971*, 2017.
- Nature Human Behaviour* 1: 2017
- Yale News*, October 10, 2016.
- Philosophical Transactions of the Royal Society Biology* (Cover) 2015
- Conflict Trends*, 2013
- Digital Journal*, March 13, 2011