

Andrew W. Delton

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College of Business
Stony Brook University
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Research Focus

There are two strands to my research. One strand is to discover the evolved psychology that underpins human sociality and morality. This includes research on cooperation, generosity, and emotions like anger, compassion, shame, and gratitude. I view human psychology as a series of information-processing systems, each one designed to solve a common problem faced throughout human evolution. The second strand of my research is to apply this knowledge to understand politics, including voting, partisanship, and public goods. Current work includes a forthcoming book on the politics of preventing disasters. I am also interested in how our evolved psychology gives rise to political thought, focusing on liberalism, rights, and toleration. I use many methods to study these topics, particularly experimental economic games.

Academic Positions

Associate Professor 2019 - Present
Assistant Professor 2014 - 2019
Department of Political Science
College of Business
Center for Behavioral Political Economy
Stony Brook University

Postdoctoral Researcher 2010-2014
Center for Evolutionary Psychology
Department of Psychological & Brain Sciences
Department of Anthropology
University of California, Santa Barbara

Education

Ph.D. Psychology, 2010
University of California, Santa Barbara
Primary Field: Evolutionary Psychology
Minors: Quantitative Methods, Cognitive Science, Human Development

M.A. Psychology, 2006
University of California, Santa Barbara

B.S. Psychology, 2003
Arizona State University
Summa cum laude
Graduate of Barrett Honors College

Updated: August 31, 2021

Peer-Reviewed Publications

(Underlined names are current or former students)

Delton, A. W., Kane, J. V., Petersen, M. B., Robertson, T. E., & Cosmides, L. (in press). Partisans use emotions as social pressure: Feeling anger and gratitude at exiters and recruits in political groups. *Party Politics*.

Andrews, T. M., **Delton, A. W.**, & Kline, R. (in press). Is a rational politics of disaster possible? Making useful decisions for others in an experimental disaster game. *Political Behavior*.

Del Ponte, A., **Delton, A. W.**, & DeScioli, P. (2021). Altruism and spite in politics: How the mind makes welfare tradeoffs about political parties. *Political Behavior*, 43, 1289-1310.

DeScioli, P., Cho, B., Bokemper, S., & **Delton, A. W.** (2020). Selfish and cooperative voting: Can the majority restrain themselves? *Political Behavior*, 42, 261-283.

Delton, A. W., DeScioli, P., & Ryan, T. J. (2020). Moral obstinacy in political negotiations. *Political Psychology*, 41, 3-20.

*Sznycer, D., ***Delton, A. W.**, Robertson, T. E., Cosmides, L., & Tooby, J. (2019). The ecological rationality of helping others in need: Potential helpers integrate cues of recipients' need and willingness to sacrifice. *Evolution and Human Behavior*, 40, 34-45.

***Shared first-authorship between Sznycer and Delton**

*Andrews, T. M., **Delton, A. W.**, & Kline, R. (2018). High risk–high reward investments to mitigate climate change. *Nature Climate Change*, 8, 890-894.

***Alphabetical authorship**

Delton, A. W., Petersen, M. B., & Robertson, T. E. (2018). Partisan goals, emotions, and political mobilization: The role of motivated reasoning in pressuring others to vote. *Journal of Politics*, 80, 890-902.

Delton, A. W., Petersen, M. B., DeScioli, P., & Robertson, T. E. (2018). Need, compassion, and support for social welfare. *Political Psychology*, 39, 907-924.

DeScioli, P., Shaw, A., and **Delton, A. W.** (2018). Share the wealth: Redistribution can increase economic efficiency. *Political Behavior*, 40, 279-300.

Robertson, T. E., Sznycer, D., **Delton, A. W.**, Cosmides, L., & Tooby, J. (2018). The true trigger of shame: Social devaluation is sufficient, wrongdoing is unnecessary. *Evolution and Human Behavior*, 39, 566-573.

Delton, A. W. & Krasnow, M. M. (2017). The psychology of deterrence explains why group membership matters for third-party punishment. *Evolution and Human Behavior*, 38, 734-743.

*Del Ponte, A., **Delton, A. W.**, Kline, R., & Seltzer, N. A. (2017). Passing it along: Experiments on creating the negative externalities of climate change. *Journal of Politics*, 79, 1444-1448.

***Alphabetical authorship; Delton and Kline are corresponding authors**

*Krasnow, M. M., ***Delton, A. W.**, Cosmides, L., & Tooby, J. (2016). Looking under the hood of third-party punishment reveals design for personal benefit. *Psychological Science*, 27, 405-418.

***Shared first-authorship between Krasnow and Delton.**

*Krasnow, M. M. & ***Delton, A. W.** (2016). Are humans too generous and too punitive? Using psychological principles to further debates about human social evolution. *Frontiers in Psychology*, 7, 799.

***Shared first-authorship between Krasnow and Delton**

- Kirkpatrick, M., **Delton, A. W.**, Robertson, T. E., de Wit, H. (2015). Prosocial effects of MDMA: A measure of generosity. *Journal of Psychopharmacology*, 29, 661-668.
- *Krasnow, M. M., ***Delton, A. W.**, Cosmides, L., & Tooby, J. (2015). Group cooperation without group selection: Modest punishment can recruit much cooperation in public goods. *PLoS ONE*, 10, e0124561.
***Shared first-authorship between Krasnow and Delton.**
- Robertson, T. E., **Delton, A. W.**, Klein, S. B., Cosmides, L., & Tooby, J. (2014). Keeping the benefits of group cooperation: Domain-specific responses to distinct causes of social exclusion. *Evolution and Human Behavior*, 35, 472-480.
- Delton, A. W.** & Sell, A. (2014). The co-evolution of concepts and motivation. *Current Directions in Psychological Science*, 23, 115-120.
- Delton, A. W.**, Nemirow, J., Robertson, T. E., Cimino, A., & Cosmides, L. (2013). Merely opting out of a public good elicits moralization: An error management approach to cooperation. *Journal of Personality and Social Psychology*, 105, 621-638.
- *Krasnow, M. M., ***Delton, A. W.**, Tooby, J., & Cosmides, L. (2013). Meeting now suggests we will meet again: Implications for debates on the evolution of generosity. *Nature Scientific Reports*, 3, 1747, DOI:10.1038/srep1747.
***Shared first-authorship between Krasnow and Delton.**
- Griskevicius, V., Ackerman, J. M., Cantú, S., **Delton, A. W.**, Robertson, T. E., Simpson, J. A., Emery Thompson, M., & Tybur, J. M. (2013). When the economy falters, do people spend or save? Responses to resource scarcity depend on childhood environments. *Psychological Science*, 24, 197-205.
- Delton, A. W.**, Cosmides, L., Guemo, M., Robertson, T. E., & Tooby, J. (2012). The psychosemantics of free riding: Dissecting the architecture of a moral concept. *Journal of Personality and Social Psychology*, 102, 1252-1270.
- Delton, A. W.** & Robertson, T. E. (2012). The social cognition of social foraging: Partner selection by underlying valuation. *Evolution and Human Behavior*, 33, 715-725.
- *Sznycer, D., *Takemura, K., ***Delton, A. W.**, Sato, K., Robertson, T. E., Cosmides, L., & Tooby, J. (2012). Cross-cultural differences and similarities in proneness to shame: An adaptationist and ecological approach. *Evolutionary Psychology*, 10, 352-370.
***Shared first-authorship among Sznycer, Takemura, and Delton.**
- Griskevicius, V., Tybur, J. M., Ackerman, J. M., **Delton, A. W.**, Robertson, T. E., & White, A. E. (2012). The financial consequences of too many men: Sex ratio effects on saving, borrowing, and spending. *Journal of Personality and Social Psychology*, 102, 69-80.
- Klein, S. B., Robertson, T. E., **Delton, A. W.**, Lax, M. L. (2012). Familiarity and personal experience as mediators of recall when planning for future contingencies. *Journal of Experimental Psychology: Learning, Memory, and Cognition*, 38, 240-245.
- Delton, A. W.**, Krasnow, M. M., Cosmides, L., & Tooby, J. (2011). The evolution of direct reciprocity under uncertainty can explain human generosity in one-shot encounters. *Proceedings of the National Academy of Sciences of the United States of America*, 108, 13335-13340.
- Griskevicius, V., Tybur, J. M., **Delton, A. W.**, & Robertson, T. E. (2011). The influence of mortality and socioeconomic status on preferences for risk and delayed rewards: A life history theory approach. *Journal of Personality and Social Psychology*, 100, 1015-1026.

- Griskevicius, V., **Delton, A. W.**, & Robertson, T. E., Tybur, J. M. (2011). Environmental contingency in life-history strategies: Influence of mortality and socioeconomic status on reproductive timing. *Journal of Personality and Social Psychology, 100*, 241-254.
- Klein, S. B., Robertson, T. E., & **Delton, A. W.** (2011). The future-orientation of memory: Planning as a key component mediating the high levels of recall found with survival processing. *Memory, 19*, 121-139.
- Delton, A. W.** & Cimino, A. (2010). Exploring the NEWCOMER concept: Experimental tests of a cognitive model. *Evolutionary Psychology, 8*, 317-335.
- Cimino, A. & **Delton, A. W.** (2010). On the perception of newcomers: Toward an evolved psychology of intergenerational coalitions. *Human Nature, 21*, 186-202.
- Klein, S. B., Robertson, T. E., & **Delton, A. W.** (2010). Facing the future: Memory as an evolved system for planning future acts. *Memory and Cognition, 38*, 13-22.
- Maner, J. K., Kenrick, D. T., Becker, D. V., Robertson, T. E., Hofer, B., Neuberg, S. L., **Delton, A. W.**, Butner, J., & Schaller, M. (2005). Functional projection: How fundamental social motives can bias interpersonal perception. *Journal of Personality and Social Psychology, 88*, 63-78.
- Maner, J. K., Kenrick, D. T., Becker, D. V., **Delton, A. W.**, Hofer, B., Wilbur, C. J., & Neuberg, S. L. (2003). Sexually selective cognition: Beauty captures the mind of the beholder. *Journal of Personality and Social Psychology, 85*, 1107-1120.

Other Academic Publications

(Underlined names are student collaborators)

- Delton, A. W.** (2020). Book Review of *Why We Disagree About Human Nature* (2018), edited by E. Hannon & T. Lewens. *Quarterly Review of Biology, 95*, 66.
- Andrews, T. M. & **Delton, A. W.** (2018). Beyond market behavior: Evolved cognition and folk political economic beliefs. *Behavioral and Brain Sciences, 41*, e160.
- Delton, A. W.** & Robertson, T. E. (2016). How the mind makes welfare tradeoffs: Evolution, computation, and emotion. *Current Opinion in Psychology, 7*, 12-16.
- Krasnow, M. M. & **Delton, A. W.** (2016). The sketch is blank: No evidence for an explanatory role for cultural group selection. *Behavioral and Brain Sciences, 39*, 43-44.
- Delton, A. W.** & Krasnow, M. M. (2015). Adaptationist approaches to moral psychology. In J. Decety and T. Wheatley (Eds.), *The moral brain* (pp. 19-34). Cambridge, MA: MIT Press.
- Delton, A. W.** & Krasnow, M. M. (2014). An independent replication that the evolution of direct reciprocity under uncertainty explains one-shot cooperation. *Evolution and Human Behavior, 35*, 547-548.
- Krasnow, M. M. & **Delton, A. W.** (2012). Is there evidence for special design of a group-selected psychology? Comment on Steven Pinker's The false allure of group selection. *Edge*. Retrieved from <http://edge.org/conversation/the-false-allure-of-group-selection#mkad>
- Delton, A. W.**, Krasnow, M. M., Cosmides, L., & Tooby, J. (2011). Reply to McNally and Tanner: Generosity evolves when cooperative decisions must be made under uncertainty. *Proceedings of the National Academy of Sciences of the United States of America, 108*, E972.

Delton, A. W., Krasnow, M. M., Cosmides, L., & Tooby, J. (2010). Evolution of fairness: Rereading the data. *Science*, 329 (5990), 389.

Kenrick, D. T., **Delton, A. W.**, Robertson, T. E., Becker, D. V., & Neuberg, S. L. (2007). How the mind warps: A social evolutionary perspective on cognitive processing disjunctions. In J. P. Forgas, M. G. Haselton, & W. Von Hippel (Eds.), *The evolution of the social mind: Evolutionary psychology and social cognition* (pp. 49-68). New York: Psychology Press.

Delton, A. W., Robertson, T. E., & Kenrick, D. T. (2006). The mating game isn't over: A reply to Buller's critique of the evolutionary psychology of mating. *Evolutionary Psychology*, 4, 262-273.

Other Writing

Ryan, T. J., **Delton, A. W.**, & DeScioli, P. (January 28, 2019). The shutdown took so long to end because it became a moral issue. *The Conversation*. <https://theconversation.com/the-shutdown-took-so-long-to-end-because-it-became-a-moral-issue-110547>. Republished in *Salon*; https://www.salon.com/2019/02/03/the-shutdown-took-so-long-to-end-because-it-became-a-moral-issue_partner/

External Grants

The Hidden Correlates of Social Exclusion
National Science Foundation Grant # 0951597
 PIs: Leda Cosmides & John Tooby
 Additional Lead Authors: Andrew W. Delton & Theresa E. Robertson
 Total award: \$400,000 (2010-2014)

Motivation in Political Collective Action
Time-Sharing Experiments in the Social Sciences
 Lead Author, with co-author Leda Cosmides
 Approximate value: \$15,000
 Special Competition Award Winner, 2005

Internal Grants

Insuring Each Other: Prosocial Concerns and Preferences for Insurance
Stony Brook University Fine Arts, Humanities, and Social Science Initiative
 PI: Andrew W. Delton; Co-PIs: Daniella Alva and Talbot Andrews
 Total award: \$3,500 (2021)

Responses to Emerging Technologies for Climate Change Mitigation
Stony Brook University Fine Arts, Humanities, and Social Science Initiative
 PI: Reuben Kline; Co-PIs: Andrew W. Delton and Talbot Andrews
 Total award: \$3,500 (2020)

Institutions and Incentives for Mitigating Climate Change
Stony Brook University Fine Arts, Humanities, and Social Science Initiative
 PI: Andrew W. Delton; Co-PIs: Reuben Kline and Talbot Andrews
 Result: Paper in preparation; data part of a book project
 Total award: \$2,940 (2018)

Risk Pooling and Risk Sensitivity in Climate Change Innovation Policy
Stony Brook University Fine Arts, Humanities, and Social Science Initiative

PI: Reuben Kline; Co-PIs: Andrew W. Delton and Talbot Andrews
Result: Paper based on this proposal published at *Nature Climate Change*
Total award: \$1,400 (2017)

The Politics of Moral Conviction

Stony Brook University Fine Arts, Humanities, and Social Science Initiative

PI: Andrew W. Delton; Co-PIs: Peter DeScioli and Timothy J. Ryan

Result: Paper based on this proposal published at *Political Psychology*

Total award: \$1,000 (2016)

Fellowships and Awards

Postdoctoral Researcher Award, *Human Behavior and Evolution Society*, 2012
Young Investigator Award, *Human Behavior and Evolution Society*, 2009
Fellowship, *Summer Institute in Cognitive Neuroscience*, 2007
National Science Foundation Graduate Fellowship Honorable Mention, 2005
Winner, Special Competition for NSF's *Time-sharing Experiments in the Social Sciences*, 2005
National Science Foundation Graduate Fellowship Honorable Mention, 2004
Chancellor's Funds for Professional Activities, *UC Santa Barbara*, 2004
Chancellor's Fellowship, *UC Santa Barbara*, 2003-2010
Outstanding Undergraduate Research Paper in Psychology, *Arizona State University*, 2003
National Dean's List, *Arizona State University*, 2003
Dean's Council Award for Psychology, *Arizona State University*, 2002
National Merit Finalist University Award, *Arizona State University*, 1999-2003
President's Scholarship, *Arizona State University*, 1999-2003
Dean's List, *Arizona State University*, 1999-2003

Working Papers & Manuscripts Submitted for Publication

(Underlined names are student collaborators)

Andrews, T. M., **Delton, A. W.**, & Kline, R. *Climate Games: Experiments on the Strategy of Disaster Prevention*. Book project in preparation; currently under advance contract.

Andrews, T. M., **Delton, A. W.**, & Kline, R. *Moral Hazard and Geoengineering*. Manuscript submitted for review.

Andrews, T. M., **Delton, A. W.**, & Kline, R. *Who do you trust? Inefficiency incentives in disaster prevention*. Manuscript submitted for review.

*Petersen, M. B., ***Delton, A. W.**, Robertson, T. E., Tooby, J., & Cosmides, L. *How you feel reveals who you are: Undercover partisans have distinct emotional reactions to party conflict*. Manuscript submitted for review.

***Shared first-authorship between Petersen and Delton**

Teaching

Research Methods in Political Science (master's Course), 2016, 2018, 2019, 2021
Organizational Behavior (undergraduate course), 2016, 2017, 2020, 2021
Ecological Rationality (PhD course), 2015, 2019
Experimental Methods in Political Science (PhD course), 2015, 2016, 2017, 2018, 2019, 2020, 2021
Introductory Statistics (undergraduate course), 2014, 2017, 2018, 2020, 2021
Developmental Psychology (undergraduate course), 2006, 2008 (at UC Santa Barbara)

Invited Talks

Kindness Labs, 2019
 Multidisciplinary Experimental Research on Cooperation, Sicily, 2017 (Invited Discussant)
 New York Area Political Psychology Meeting, 2017, with Peter DeScioli, Bowen Cho, and Scott Bokemper
 Columbia University, Department of Psychology, 2016
 Adelphi University, Department of Psychology, 2015
 Yale University, Department of Psychology, 2015
 Universidad del Desarrollo and Universidad de Chile, Santiago, Morality and Evolution Conference, 2015
 Stony Brook University, Organization and Management Group, 2014
 Stony Brook University, Department of Psychology, 2014
 University of Illinois, Urbana-Champaign, 2013
 Stony Brook University, Department of Political Science, 2013
 Columbia University, Department of Psychology, 2013
 Society for Personality and Social Psychology, Evolutionary Psychology Pre-Conference, 2013
 Purdue University, Department of Psychological Sciences, 2012
 3UC Conference, San Luis Obispo, CA, invited discussant, 2012
 Harvard University, Department of Psychology, 2012
 University of California, Irvine, Department of Cognitive Sciences, 2012
 University of Georgia, Department of Psychology, 2012
 Yale University, Department of Psychology, 2011
 University of Tennessee, Department of Psychology, 2011
 Florida State University, Department of Psychology, 2011
 CSU Fullerton Society for Interdisciplinary Research on Evolution, 2011
 UCLA Center for Behavior, Evolution, and Culture, 2011
 3UC Conference, San Luis Obispo, CA, 2009
 Evolution and Sociality of Mind Conference, Santa Barbara, CA, with Max Krasnow, 2008

University Service

Political Science Department Service

Director of PhD Admissions, 2021-present
 Executive Committee, 2018-2019
 Graduate Studies Committee, 2017-present
 Graduate Examination Committee (Political Economy), 2017-present
 Visiting Scholar Committee, 2017-present
 Department Representative, University Senate, 2015-2017
 Department Representative, CAS Senate, 2015-2017
 Behavioral Political Economy Curriculum Committee, 2014
 Political Psychology Curriculum Committee, 2014

College of Arts and Science Service

GCF Selection Committee, 2020
 Psi Chi Career Panel, 2015
 CAS Admitted Student Phone Bank, 2015
 CAS Admitted Students Day Hands-On Demonstration Leader, 2015

Business College Service

Management Area PhD Program Development Committee, 2014-2015
 Assurance of Learning Task Force: MBA Critical Thinking Skills, 2015
 Assurance of Learning Task Force: MBA Leadership and Team Interaction, 2015

Committee Service – Past Institutions

UCSB Graduate Students Association, Psychology Representative, 2004-2007
 UCSB Psychology Department Graduate Executive Committee, 2003-2004

Professional Service

Editor

Evolution and Human Behavior
2020 - present

Ad Hoc Action Editor

Proceedings of the National Academy of Sciences USA
2014
2017

Grant Reviewer

National Science Foundation
Time-Sharing Experiments in the Social Sciences

Reviewer

Multiple journals, including *American Journal of Political Science*; *American Political Science Review*; *Cognition*; *Current Directions in Psychological Science*; *Emotion*; *Evolution & Human Behavior*; *International Security*; *Journal of Personality & Social Psychology*; *Journal of Politics*; *Nature*; *Nature Climate Change*; *Nature Human Behavior*; *PNAS*; *Political Psychology*; *Psychological Science*; *Quarterly Review of Biology*

Organizer

Symposium: Categories for Cooperation: Evolution and experience, 2013
Society for Personality and Social Psychology Conference
Evolution and the Sociality of Mind Conference, 2008
UC Santa Barbara and Hokkaido University
Symposium: Adaptations for Welfare Tradeoffs, 2008
Human Behavior and Evolution Society Conference, Kyoto, Japan
Evolution and the Sociality of Mind Conference, 2007
UC Santa Barbara and Hokkaido University
Evolution, Mind, & Behavior Conference, 2007
UC Santa Barbara and UC Los Angeles

Selected Media Coverage

The Economist
CNN
Boston Globe
American Enterprise Institute
Reason Magazine
The Terry Project (interview guest)
Alan Colmes Radio Show (interview guest)
Radio Causeway (interview guest)

Special Skills

Ancient Greek – Epic and Attic Dialects