

Peter DeScioli

Curriculum Vitae

Department of Political Science
Stony Brook University
Stony Brook, NY 11794
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DATE OF BIRTH May 14, 1977

CITIZENSHIP United States

POSITIONS HELD

2013-present Assistant Professor, Stony Brook University
2012-2013 IFREE Fellow in Psychology, Harvard University
2010-2012 Florence Levy Kay Fellow in Psychology and Economics, Brandeis University
2008-2010 Postdoctoral Research Associate, Economic Science Institute, Chapman University
1999-2001 Teacher, Whittier Elementary School, District of Columbia Public Schools
1999-2001 Corps Member, Teach For America, Washington DC

EDUCATION

2003-2008 University of Pennsylvania, Philadelphia, PA
Program: Psychology
Advisor: Robert Kurzban
Degree: M.A., Psychology, May 2004
Title: An eye on the median: An investigation of reciprocity in groups
Degree: Ph.D., Psychology, May 2008
Title: Investigations into the problems of moral cognition
2002-2003 University of Pennsylvania, Philadelphia, PA
Program: Interdisciplinary Studies in Human Development
Advisor: Douglas Frye
1995-1999 University of Delaware, Newark, DE
Majors: Philosophy, Anthropology; Advisor: Alan Fox
Degree: B.A., Philosophy and Anthropology (with Honors)

PUBLICATIONS

- DeScioli, P., Shaw, A., & Delton, A. W. (in press). Share the wealth: Redistribution can increase economic efficiency. *Political Behavior*.
- DeScioli, P., Karpoff, R., & De Freitas, J. (in press). Ownership dilemmas: The case of finders versus landowners. *Cognitive Science*.
- De Freitas, J., DeScioli, P., Nemirow, J., Massenkoff, M., & Pinker, S. (in press). Kill or die: Moral judgment alters linguistic coding of causality. *Journal of Experimental Psychology: Learning, Memory, and Cognition*.
- Thomas, K. A., De Freitas, J., DeScioli, P., & Pinker, S. (2016). Recursive mentalizing and common knowledge in the bystander effect. *Journal of Experimental Psychology: General*, *145*, 621-629.
- DeScioli, P. (2016). The side-taking hypothesis for moral judgment. *Current Opinion in Psychology*, *7*, 23-27.
- Kurzban, R., & DeScioli, P. (2016). Morality. In D. M. Buss (Ed.), *The Handbook of Evolutionary Psychology*, Second Edition (pp.770-787). Hoboken, NJ: Wiley.
- Neuberg, S., & DeScioli, P. (2016). Prejudices: Managing perceived threats to group life. In D. M. Buss (Ed.), *The Handbook of Evolutionary Psychology*, Second Edition (pp.704-721). Hoboken, NJ: Wiley.
- DeScioli, P., & Karpoff, R. (2015). People's judgments about classic property law cases. *Human Nature*, *26*, 184-209.
- DeScioli, P., Rosa, N. M., & Gutchess, A. H. (2015). A memory advantage for property. *Evolutionary Psychology*, *13*, 411-423.
- DeScioli, P., Kurzban, R., & Todd, P. (2015). Evolved decision makers in organizations. In R. D. Arvey & S. M. Colarelli (Eds.) *Biological foundations of organizational behavior* (pp. 203-235). Chicago: University of Chicago Press.
- DeScioli, P., Massenkoff, M., Shaw, A., Petersen, M. B., & Kurzban, R. (2014). Equity or equality? Moral judgments follow the money. *Proceedings of the Royal Society B*, *281*, 20142112.
- Thomas, K. A., DeScioli, P., Haque, O. S., & Pinker, S. (2014). The psychology of common knowledge and coordination. *Journal of Personality and Social Psychology*, *107*, 657-676.
- Reed, L., DeScioli, P., & Pinker, S. (2014). The commitment function of angry facial expressions. *Psychological Science*, *25*, 1511-1517.

- DeScioli, P., & Bokemper, S. (2014). Voting as a counter-strategy in the blame game. *Psychological Inquiry, 25*, 206-214.
- DeScioli, P., & Kurzban, R. (2013). A solution to the mysteries of morality. *Psychological Bulletin, 139*, 477-496.
- Tybur, J. M., Lieberman, D., Kurzban, R., & DeScioli, P. (2013). Disgust: Evolved function and structure. *Psychological Review, 120*, 65-84.
- Kurzban, R., & DeScioli, P. (2013). Adaptationist punishment in humans. *Journal of Bioeconomics, 15*, 269-279.
- DeScioli, P., & Krishna, S. (2013). Giving to whom? Altruism in different types of relationships. *Journal of Economic Psychology, 34*, 218-228.
- DeScioli, P. (2013). Does market competition explain fairness? Comment on "A mutualistic approach to morality." *Behavioral and Brain Sciences, 36*, 87-88.
- DeScioli, P., Asao, K., & Kurzban, R. (2012). Omissions and byproducts across moral domains. *PLoS ONE, 7*, e46963.
- DeScioli, P., Gilbert, S., & Kurzban, R. (2012). Indelible victims and persistent punishers in moral cognition. *Psychological Inquiry, 23*, 143-149.
- Shaw, A., DeScioli, P., & Olson, K. (2012). Fairness versus favoritism in children. *Evolution and Human Behavior, 33*, 736-745.
- Kurzban, R., DeScioli, P., & Fein, D. (2012). Hamilton vs. Kant: Pitting adaptations for altruism against adaptations for moral judgment. *Evolution and Human Behavior, 33*, 323-333.
- DeScioli, P., Christner, J., & Kurzban, R. (2011). The omission strategy. *Psychological Science, 22*, 442-446.
- DeScioli, P., & Wilson, B. (2011). The territorial foundations of human property. *Evolution and Human Behavior, 32*, 297-304.
- DeScioli, P., Bruening, R., & Kurzban, R. (2011). The omission effect in moral cognition: Toward a functional explanation. *Evolution and Human Behavior, 32*, 204-215.
- DeScioli, P., Kurzban, R., Koch, E. N., & Liben-Nowell, D. (2011). Best friends: Alliances, friend ranking, and the MySpace social network. *Perspectives on Psychological Science, 6*, 6-8.
- DeScioli, P., & Kurzban, R. (2011). The company you keep: Friendship decisions from a functional perspective. In J. I. Krueger (Ed.), *Social judgment and decision making* (pp.209-225). New York: Psychology Press.

- DeScioli, P. (2010). Heavy hearts and heads held high—A review of *Glimpses of creatures in their physical worlds* by Steven Vogel. *Evolution and Human Behavior*, *31*, 304-306.
- Weisbord, R. K., & DeScioli, P. (2010). The effects of donor standing on philanthropy: Insights from the psychology of gift-giving. *Gonzaga Law Review*, *45*, 225-289.
- DeScioli, P., & Kurzban, R. (2009). Mysteries of morality. *Cognition*, *112*, 281-299.
- DeScioli, P., & Kurzban, R. (2009). The alliance hypothesis for human friendship. *PLoS ONE*, *4*, e5802.
- DeScioli, P. (2008). Beyond selfish and selfless. [Review of *Moral sentiments and material interests: The foundations of cooperation in economic life* by H. Gintis, S. Bowles, R. Boyd, and E. Fehr (Eds.)]. *Journal of Economic Behavior and Organization*, *67*, 524-528.
- Kurzban, R., & DeScioli, P. (2008). Characterizing reciprocity in groups: Information-seeking in a public goods game. *European Journal of Social Psychology*, *38*, 139-158.
- DeScioli, P., & Kurzban, R. (2008). Cracking the superhero's moral code. In R. Rosenberg (Ed.), *The Psychology of Superheroes* (pp. 245-259). Dallas, TX: BenBella Books.
- Kurzban, R., DeScioli, P., & O'Brien, E. (2007). Audience effects on moralistic punishment. *Evolution and Human Behavior*, *28*, 75-84.
- DeScioli, P. (2007). Peering underneath the hood of morality [Review of *Moral minds* by M. D. Hauser]. *Evolutionary Psychology*, *5*, 306-312.
- DeScioli, P., & Kurzban, R. (2007). The games people play. In S. Gangestad & J. Simpson (Eds.), *Evolution of mind: Fundamental questions and controversies*. (pp. 130-136). New York: Guilford.

UNPUBLISHED MANUSCRIPTS AND WORK IN PROGRESS

- DeScioli, P., & Kimbrough, E. O. (under review). Alliance formation in a side-taking experiment.
- Kline, R., Bokemper, S., & DeScioli, P. (under review). Unfair rules for unequal pay: The coordination hypothesis for procedural justice.
- DeScioli, P., Cho, B., Bokemper, S. E., & Delton, A. W. (under review). Selfish and cooperative voting: Can the majority restrain themselves?

- Delton, A. W., Petersen, M. B., DeScioli, P., & Robertson, T. E. (under review). Compassion and support for social welfare.
- Reed, L. I., & DeScioli, P. (under review). The communicative function of sad facial expressions.
- Thomas, K., DeScioli, P., & Pinker, S. (under review). Common knowledge, coordination, and the logic of self-conscious emotions.
- DeScioli, P., & Bokemper, S. (in prep.). The psychology of social choice: People's judgments about how groups should decide.
- Bokemper, S. E. & DeScioli, P. (in prep.). Who needs help? Honest communication in a peer safety net for unemployment.
- DeScioli, P., & Kraft, P. (in prep.). Should the majority rule? When majority-rule voting leads to suboptimal choices.
- Connors, E., DeScioli, P., & Ryan, T. (in prep.). The effects of moral versus cost-benefit framing on abortion attitudes.
- Del Ponte, A., & DeScioli, P. (in prep.). The orange game: A new economic game for studying spending and saving.

INVITED TALKS

- DeScioli, P., & Kimbrough, E. (2016, June). Alliance formation in a side-taking experiment. Talk given at the Center for the Study of American Politics Conference 2016, Yale University, New Haven, CT.
- DeScioli, P., & Kimbrough, E. (2015, May). Alliance formation in a side-taking experiment. Talk given at the New York Area Political Psychology Meeting, Columbia University, New York, New York.
- DeScioli, P., & Kimbrough, E. (2015, March). Alliance formation in a side-taking experiment. Talk given at the NYU CESS Experimental Political Science Conference, New York, New York.
- DeScioli, P. (2013, November). Function and Variation in Human Property Rules. Stony Brook University, Department of Political Science.
- DeScioli, P. (2013, August). Property, Alliances, and Morality. The International Max Planck Research School on Adapting Behaviour in a Fundamentally Uncertain World. Jena, Germany.
- DeScioli, P. (2013, April). The Side-Taking Function of Morality. Synthesizing the Evolutionary and Social Science Approaches to Human Cooperation: A NESCent Catalysis Meeting, Durham, NC.

- DeScioli, P. (2012, November). Strategy and Counter-Strategy in Moral Cognition. Stony Brook University, Department of Political Science.
- DeScioli, P. (2012, November). Strategy and Counter-Strategy in Moral Cognition. Rutgers University—Camden, Department of Psychology.
- DeScioli, P. (2012, September). Strategy and Counter-Strategy in Moral Cognition. University of Massachusetts—Amherst, Department of Psychology.
- DeScioli, P. (2012, July). Function and Variation in Human Property Rules. University of Alaska Anchorage, Department of Economics.
- DeScioli, P. (2012, April). The Territorial Foundations of Human Property. Simon Fraser University, Department of Economics.
- DeScioli, P. (2012, April). People's Judgments About Classic Property Law Cases. Brandeis University, Department of Psychology.
- DeScioli, P. (2012, February). Strategy and Counter-Strategy in Moral Cognition. Harvard University, Department of Psychology.
- DeScioli, P. (2011, September). Strategy and Counter-Strategy in Moral Cognition. Boston University, Boston Area Moral and Social Cognition Group.
- DeScioli, P. (2011, September). The Omission Strategy. Brandeis University, Department of Psychology.
- DeScioli, P. (2011, February). Strategy and Counter-Strategy in Moral Cognition. University of Maryland, Developmental Science Colloquium.
- DeScioli, P. (2010, November). Mysteries of Morality. Yale University, Mind and Development Lab.
- DeScioli, P. (2010, October). Property Intuitions. Brandeis University, Department of Psychology.
- DeScioli, P. (2010, October). Who Owns What? Understanding How People Think About Property. Brandeis University, Department of Economics.
- DeScioli, P. (2010, May). Mine and Thine: The Foundations of Human Property. Fourth Annual 3UC Evolutionary Perspectives on Human Behavior Conference, San Luis Obispo, CA.
- DeScioli, P. (2010, March). Mysteries of Morality. Occidental College, The Cognitive Science Program, Remsen Bird Speaker Series.

DeScioli, P. (2010, March). Mine and Thine: The Foundations of Human Property. Brandeis University, Psychology and Economics Colloquium.

Kurzban, R., & DeScioli, P. (2009, May). Adaptationist Morality. Plenary Address, Human Behavior and Evolution Society Conference, Fullerton, CA.

DeScioli, P. (2009, January). The Alliance Hypothesis for Human Friendship. Chapman University, Economic Science Institute.

DeScioli, P. (2008, December). The Alliance Hypothesis for Human Friendship. UCLA, Behavior, Evolution, and Culture Series.

CONFERENCE PRESENTATIONS

Bokemper, S.E., & DeScioli, P. (2016, September). Experiments on social safety nets. Talk given at the American Political Science Association Conference, Philadelphia, PA.

Bokemper, S., & DeScioli, P. (2016, September). Deciding in groups. Poster presented at the Political Psychology Preconference for the American Political Science Association Conference, Philadelphia, PA.

Bokemper, S., & DeScioli, P. (2016, May). Experiments on social safety nets. Poster presented at the Behavioral Models of Politics Conference 2016, Pittsburgh, PA.

Del Ponte, A., & DeScioli, P. (2016, May). The Orange Game: An online platform to study economic decisions. Poster presented at the Behavioral Models of Politics Conference 2016, Pittsburgh, PA.

DeScioli, P., & Kimbrough, E. (2016, April). Alliance formation in a side-taking experiment. Talk given at the Midwest Political Science Association Conference, Chicago, IL.

Bokemper, S., & DeScioli, P. (2016, April). Deciding in groups. Talk given at the Midwest Political Science Association Conference, Chicago, IL.

Del Ponte, A., & DeScioli, P. (2016, April). The Orange Game: An online platform to study economic decisions. Poster presented at the Midwest Political Science Association Conference, Chicago, IL.

Connors, E. C., DeScioli, P., & Ryan, T. J. (2016, April). Online studies of moral frames in abortion attitudes. Poster presented at the Midwest Political Science Association Conference, Chicago, IL.

DeScioli, P., & Kimbrough, E. (2015, May). Helping friends and punishing enemies: Alliance formation in a side-taking experiment. Talk given at the Association for Psychological Science 27th Annual Convention, New York, New York.

- De Freitas, J., Thomas, K. A., DeScioli, P., & Pinker, S. (2015, May). The strategic bystander: Recursive theory of mind and common knowledge in decisions to help. Talk given at the 27th Human Behavior and Evolution Society Conference, Columbia, Missouri.
- Kurzban, R., Shaw, A., & DeScioli, P. (2015, May). Costs of neutrality in moral disputes. Talk given at the 27th Human Behavior and Evolution Society Conference, Columbia, Missouri.
- Reed, L. I., & DeScioli, P. (2015, May). The communicative function of sad facial expressions. Talk given at the 27th Human Behavior and Evolution Society Conference, Columbia, Missouri.
- DeScioli, P. (2015, April). Equity or equality? Moral judgments follow the money. Talk given at the Midwest Political Science Association Conference, Chicago, IL.
- Kraft, P. K., & DeScioli, P. (2015, April). Relaxing assumptions about voter utilities and majority rule efficiency. Talk given at the Midwest Political Science Association Conference, Chicago, IL.
- Thomas, K., DeScioli, P., Haque, O. S., & Pinker, S. (2015, April). The psychology of common knowledge and coordination. Talk given at the Northeastern Evolutionary Psychology Society, Boston, Massachusetts.
*Received award for Best Student Presentation.
- DeScioli, P., & Shaw, A. (2015, February). Share the wealth: Redistribution can increase economic efficiency. Talk given at the Society for Personality and Social Psychology Convention, Long Beach, California.
- DeScioli, P. (2014, May). The Side-Taking Function of Moral Condemnation. Talk given at the Association for Psychological Science 26th Annual Convention, San Francisco, California.
- DeScioli, P. (2013, July). People's Ownership Intuitions About Disputes Between Finders and Landowners. Talk given at the Human Behavior and Evolution Society Conference, Miami, Florida.
- DeScioli, P., & Kurzban, R. (2012, June). The Side-Taking Function of Morality: Part 1- The Adaptive Problem. Talk given at the Human Behavior and Evolution Society Conference, Albuquerque, New Mexico.
- DeScioli, P., & Kurzban, R. (2012, June). The Side-Taking Function of Morality: Part 2- A Proposed Solution. Talk given at the Human Behavior and Evolution Society Conference, Albuquerque, New Mexico.
- Thomas, K., DeScioli, P., Haque, O. S., & Pinker, S. (2012, June). The Psychology of Common Knowledge and Coordination. Talk given at the Human Behavior and Evolution Society Conference, Albuquerque, New Mexico.

- Asao, K., DeScioli, P., & Piazza, J. (2012, June). You'll Be the First to Know: Loyalty and the Sharing of Good News. Poster presented at the Human Behavior and Evolution Society Conference, Albuquerque, New Mexico.
- DeScioli, P., & Karpoff, R. (2012, January). People's Judgments About Classic Property Law Cases. Poster presented at the Society for Personality and Social Psychology conference, San Diego, California.
- Piazza, J., & DeScioli, P. (2012, January). Who Else Knows? The Strategic Significance of Secrets. Poster presented at the Society for Personality and Social Psychology conference, San Diego, California.
- Hailey, S. E., Altshteyn, I., & DeScioli, P. (2012, January). Moral Intuitions of Self Defense. Poster presented at the Society for Personality and Social Psychology conference, San Diego, California.
- DeScioli, P., & Krishna, S. (2011, July). Giving to Whom? Altruism in Different Types of Relationships. Talk given at the Human Behavior and Evolution Society Conference, Montpellier, France.
- Thomas, K., DeScioli, P., Pinker, S., & Haque, O. S. (2011, July). Common Knowledge and Coordination. Poster presented at the Human Behavior and Evolution Society Conference, Montpellier, France.
- DeScioli, P., & Wilson, B. (2011, April). The Territorial Foundations of Human Property. Talk given at the Northeastern Evolutionary Psychology Society Conference, Binghamton, NY.
- Hailey, S., & DeScioli, P. (2011, January). Moral Intuitions About Self Defense. Poster presented at the Society for Personality and Social Psychology Conference, San Antonio, TX.
- Wilson, B., & DeScioli, P. (2010, November). Mine and Thine: The Territorial Foundations of Human Property. Talk given at the Economic Science Association Conference, Tucson, AZ.
- **DeScioli, P., & Wilson, B. (2010, June). Mine and Thine: The Foundations of Human Property. Talk given at the Human Behavior and Evolution Society Conference, Eugene, OR.
- **Received the *HBES 2010 Postdoctoral Award* for best paper by a recent PhD.
- DeScioli, P., Bruening, R., & Kurzban, R. (2009, May). The Omission Effect and the Design of Moral Psychology. Talk given at the Human Behavior and Evolution Society Conference, Fullerton, CA.

Christner, J., DeScioli, P., & Kurzban, R. (2009, May). Strategic Omissions in a Reverse Dictator Game. Talk given at the Human Behavior and Evolution Society Conference, Fullerton, CA.

DeScioli, P., & Kurzban, R. (2007, June). Divided Loyalties and Rank-Masking Among Friends. Talk given at the Human Behavior and Evolution Society Conference, Williamsburg, VA.

Jayawickreme, E. R., Schueller, S. M., & DeScioli, P. (2007, May). Divided Loyalties and Happiness. Poster presented at the Association for Psychological Science 19th Annual Convention, Washington, DC.

DeScioli, P. (2006, June). The Four Basic Games. Talk given at the Human Behavior and Evolution Society Conference, Philadelphia, PA.

DeScioli, P. (2005, June). Characterizing Reciprocity in Groups: Information-Seeking in a Public Goods Game. Talk given at the Human Behavior and Evolution Society Conference, Austin, TX.

GRANTS

International Foundation for Research in Experimental Economics, Small Grants Program (2016). With Scott Bokemper. "Experiments on social safety nets" (\$8,400).

Stony Brook University, FAHSS Grant (2015). "Online experiments in behavioral political economy" (\$1000).

Stony Brook University, TALENT Grant (2014). "Building an interactive online game to help students understand alliances" (\$6,000).

International Foundation for Research in Experimental Economics, Small Grants Program (2011). "Experimental investigations of alliance-building" (\$6,760).

Brandeis University, Schiff Undergraduate Fellowship (2011). With Siddhi Krishna. "The psychology and economics of fairness" (\$2,500).

Wharton Risk Management and Decision Processes Center, Ackoff Award, (2005). "The Development of Common Knowledge Representation" (\$1,800).

FELLOWSHIPS

2012-2013 *International Foundation for Research in Experimental Economics*
(IFREE) Postdoctoral Fellowship, Harvard University

2010-2012 Florence Levy Kay Fellowship in Psychology and Economics, Brandeis
University

2007-2008 International Foundation for Research in Experimental Economics (IFREE) Predoctoral Fellowship, University of Pennsylvania

TEACHING

Moral Politics (Stony Brook University, 2014, 2015, 2016)
The Political Animal (Stony Brook University, 2013, 2016)
Research Project (Stony Brook University, 2013, 2014, 2015, 2016)
Evolutionary Psychology (Stony Brook University, 2014, 2016)
Social Psychology (Brandeis University, 2013)
Experimental Economics (Brandeis University, 2011, 2012)
Evolutionary Psychology (Brandeis University, 2011 Spring and Fall)
Cognitive Development (University of Pennsylvania, 2007)
Human Sexuality: An Evolutionary Approach (University of Pennsylvania, 2005, 2006)

PROFESSIONAL AFFILIATIONS

Midwest Political Science Association, American Political Science Association, Association for Psychological Science, Society for Personality and Social Psychology, Human Behavior and Evolution Society

PROFESSIONAL ACTIVITIES

Co-Associate Director, Center for Behavioral Political Economy, Stony Brook University
Treasurer, American Political Science Association, Experimental Research Section
Ad hoc reviewer: *American Journal of Political Science*, *Journal of Politics*, *Political Behavior*, *Psychological Science*, *Psychological Bulletin*, *Journal of Experimental Psychology: General*, *Evolution and Human Behavior*, *Cognition*, *Personality and Social Psychology Review*, *Journal of Economic Psychology*, *Journal of Experimental Social Psychology*, *Human Nature*, *Current Directions in Psychological Science*, *Emotion*, *Social Psychology Quarterly*, *PLoS ONE*, *Evolutionary Psychology*, *Journal of Social, Evolutionary, and Cultural Psychology*, *Adaptive Behavior*, *Southern Economic Journal*, *Journal of Behavioral and Experimental Economics*, *Journal of Empirical Legal Studies*, *National Science Foundation*, *Oxford University Press*

UNDERGRADUATE AND POST-BAC STUDENTS

Samantha Franks (2003-2004), Erin O'Brien (2004-2005), Alan Carniol (2004-2005), Amelia Fong (2004-2006), Diana Zarzuelo (2005-2006), Craig Bergman (2006-2007), Kelly Asao (2007-2008), Alex Shaw (2007-2008), Sarah Gilbert (2007-2008), Rachel Karpoff (2010-present), Siddhi Krishna (2010-2011), Rachel Koffer (2011), Ian Mark (2011-2013), Bay McCulloch (2012-2013), Ben Carter (2015-present)

GRADUATE STUDENT COLLABORATORS

John Christner (2008-2014), Kyle Thomas (2010-present), Sarah Hailey (2010-2014), Kelly Asao (2011-2014), Jaimie Krems (2012-2014), Graham Noblit (2014-2015), Maxim Massenkoff (2012-present), Jason Nemirow (2012-present), Julian De Freitas

(2014-present), Scott Bokemper (2013-present), Patrick Kraft (2013-present), Bowen Cho (2015-present), Elizabeth Connors (2014-present), Alessandro Del Ponte (2014-present)

RESEARCH INTERESTS

Morality, Condemnation, Punishment, Impartiality, Friendship, Alliances, Property, Ownership, Common Knowledge, Cooperation in Groups, Collective Decisions, Cooperative Voting, Redistribution of Wealth, Social Safety Nets