

Dimitris Xygalatas, Ph.D.

Assistant Professor, Anthropology at University of Connecticut

Storrs, CT, US

Dr. Xygalatas' research focuses on ritualistic behavior and human biological responses to rituals.

Biography

My research focuses on the interaction between cognition and culture, particularly with regards to religious and ritual practices. In my work I seek to develop and apply scientific methods and technologies in ethnographic field research. I have conducted several years of fieldwork in Southern Europe and Mauritius. Before coming to UConn, I held positions at the universities of Princeton, Aarhus, and Masaryk, where I served as Director of the Laboratory for the Experimental Research of Religion (LEVYNA). I am currently a visiting Associate Professor at Aarhus University and an affiliate of the Connecticut Institute for the Brain and Cognitive Sciences. At UConn, I direct the Experimental Anthropology Lab, which develops methods and technologies for quantifying behavior in real-life settings.

Areas of Expertise

Evolution and Cognition, Interaction between cognition and culture, Ritualized behavior, Ethnographic field research

Education

Queen's University Belfast

Ph.D. Anthropology

Aristotle University-Aarhus University

M.A. Religious Studies

Aristotle University Thessaloniki

B.A. Religious Studies

Accomplishments

Outstanding Researcher status

2014

US Department of Homeland Security

Distinguished Fellow

2014

Religion, Cognition & Culture unit, Aarhus University

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