

AARON LIGHTNER

Social & Behavioral Researcher

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📍 Aarhus, Denmark

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🔗 [alightner](https://github.com/alightner)

RELEVANT EXPERIENCE

Postdoctoral Researcher

Aarhus University, Department of the Study of Religion

📅 August 2021 – present

📍 Aarhus, Denmark

- Contributing to a collaborative project titled *Gods, Games, and the Socioecological Landscape* as a member of the Religion, Cognition, and Culture research group.
- Currently designing surveys and experiments, collecting and analyzing data from cross-cultural religion databases, securing grant funding, developing game theoretical and computational models, and improving an R package for field survey methods.

Graduate Researcher & Instructor

Washington State University, Department of Anthropology

📅 August 2015 – August 2021

📍 Pullman, WA, USA

- *Communicated insights from complex research designs to project stakeholders, delivered talks at conferences and symposia, and published peer-reviewed articles and book chapters.*
- Collected qualitative ethnographic data, social network data, and quantitative data during fieldwork in Tanzania, through key informant interviews, focus groups, experiments, and surveys.
- Created, managed, and hosted R data packages for use in my own work and for other researchers on a consulting basis.
- Designed Qualtrics surveys and a live online experimental economic game on a Heroku Server, deployed on Amazon Mturk.
- Instructed 3 courses and assisted 5 courses across the introductory and upper-division levels, including a graduate-level psychology course on statistics in R.

RELEVANT PROJECTS

Investigating the Evolution of Science and Religion as Adaptive Knowledge Specialization

Issachar Fund and Templeton Religion Trust

- Designed and proposed a project that was awarded \$50,000 to contribute to an international and interdisciplinary project on science and religion. Contributed fieldwork, computational modeling, and a database on scientific expertise in 55 cultures.
R data package: [🔗 alightner/sciExpertiseHRAF](https://github.com/alightner/sciExpertiseHRAF)

Testing theories of mutualism in the context of rapid cultural change

National Science Foundation Dissertation Improvement Grant

- Designed and proposed a project that was awarded \$25,127 to investigate interpersonal trust and livestock management advice among herders in Tanzania.
R data package: [🔗 alightner/monduliDataset](https://github.com/alightner/monduliDataset)
Paper repo: [🔗 alightner/acclturationMarketInt_trust2020](https://github.com/alightner/acclturationMarketInt_trust2020)

EDUCATION

PhD, Anthropology

Washington State University

📅 2021

📍 Pullman, WA

MA, Anthropology

Washington State University

📅 2017

📍 Pullman, WA

BS, Biology & Psychology

University of Nebraska – Lincoln

📅 2011

📍 Lincoln, NE

TECHNICAL SKILLS



COURSEWORK

- Data wrangling, modeling, & visualization
- Quantitative & qualitative data collection
- Ethnographic & experimental study design
- Social network analysis
- Exploratory data analysis
- Ecological methods & statistics
- Agent-based modeling & simulation
- Effective research communication

SELECTED PAPERS

- **Lightner, AD**, Heckelsmiller, C, Hagen, EH (2021). Ethnomedical specialists and their supernatural theories of disease. *Review of Philosophy and Psychology*.
[🔗 alightner/ethnomedicine-magic](https://github.com/alightner/ethnomedicine-magic)
- **Lightner, AD**, Heckelsmiller, C, Hagen, EH (2021). Ethnoscience expertise and knowledge specialisation in 55 traditional cultures. *Evolutionary Human Sciences*.
[🔗 alightner/conceptualExpertsHRAF](https://github.com/alightner/conceptualExpertsHRAF)