
bethany ojalehto mays

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EDUCATION:

- 2010 - 16** **Ph.D., Psychology, Northwestern University** (December 2016)
Advisors: Douglas Medin (Chair); Sandra Waxman; Rebecca Seligman
Thesis: *Who's at stake? Nonhuman agency concepts and cultural (folk)ecologies*
- 2008** **M.S., Cognitive Psychology, Northwestern University** (June 2012)
- 2008** **B.S. with honors & distinction, Cornell University**
Individual Curriculum: Psychology & Human Rights, with Certificate of African Studies
Advisors: Qi Wang (Chair); Shimon Edelman; Stephen Ceci
Thesis: *Meta-Conceptual Thinking and Positive Outcomes among Youth in a Refugee Camp*

PROFESSIONAL POSITIONS:

- 2018 -** **Assistant Professor**, Human Development, Cornell University
- 2017 - 2018** **Postdoctoral Fellow**, Psychology, Northwestern University

FELLOWSHIPS & DISTINCTIONS:

- Nominated for the Andrew Carnegie Fellows Award (Junior Level) by the College of Human Ecology, September 2018. (*CHE is invited to nominate one candidate for this award at the junior level each year.*)
- Institute for Social Sciences at Cornell ISS Small Grant (\$6000) (2018-2019)
- Advanced Cognitive Science Fellowship for interdisciplinary research, Northwestern University (2013-2014)
- National Science Foundation Graduate Research Fellowship (2010-2013)
- Smithsonian Tropical Research Institute Short-Term Fellowship, "Cultural Models and Conceptual Development in a Ngöbe Community," Panama (2010)
- U.S. Fulbright Research Grant to Kenya, Law and Psychology (2008-2009)
- Merrill Presidential Scholar, Cornell University Class of 2008
- Cornell Presidential Research Scholar (2004–2008)

GRANTS & AWARDS:

- NSF Doctoral Dissertation Research Improvement Grant, Decision, Risk and Management Sciences (\$25,722 for international dissertation research) (April 2014 - present)
- Northwestern Alumnae Gifts and Grants Committee Grant Award (\$2000 for dissertation data collection in Panama) (April 2014)
- Language Preservation Grant, Foundation for Endangered Languages (\$1000 to support the Ngöbe Cultural and Language Education Program, Panama) (March 2013)
- Psychology Departmental Faculty Grant, "Cultural Perspectives on Concepts" with Amanda Herrera & Douglas Medin (\$6000 for international summer research) (March 2013)

Best Student Paper/Presentation Prize, Society for Anthropological Sciences (March 2014, 2013, 2012)
 Cognitive Science Program Travel Award, Northwestern University (March 2013)
 Northwestern Summer Language Grant (\$2000 for Ngöbere language studies, Panama) (March 2013)
 Northwestern University Graduate Research Grant (\$2900 for research in Panama) (May 2011)
 Zuckerman Award for Best Honors Thesis in Human Development (2008)

MAJOR RESEARCH INTERESTS:

Culture, cognition, and conceptual development; Environmental cognition and decision making;
 Agency and animism; Indigenous epistemologies; Socio-ecological systems

RESEARCH PUBLICATIONS:

Peer-reviewed journal articles:

- ojalehto mays, b., Sachdeva, S., Narby, J., & Chappuis, C. (submitted). The rights of nature: A cognitive investigation in two Western industrialized nations.
- ojalehto, b., Seligman, R., & Medin, D. (in press). Cognition beyond the human: cognitive psychology on the new animism. *Ethos*.
- ojalehto, b., Medin, D., & García, S. (2017). Grounding principles for inferring agency: Two cultural perspectives. *Cognitive Psychology*, 95, 50-78.
- Medin, D., ojalehto, b., Marin, A., & Bang, M. (2017). Systems of (non-)diversity. *Nature Human Behaviour*, 1, 0088. DOI: 10.1038/s41562-017-0088.
- ojalehto, b., Medin, D., & García, S. (2017). Conceptualizing agency: Folkpsychological and folkcommunicative perspectives on plants. *Cognition*, 162, 103-123.
- Iliev, R., & ojalehto, b. (2015). Bringing history back to culture: on the missing diachronic component in research on culture and cognition. *Frontiers in Psychology*, 6: Article 716. DOI: 10.3389/fpsyg.2015.00716.
- ojalehto, b., Medin, D., Horton, W., García, S., & Kays, E. (2015). Seeing cooperation or competition: Ecological interactions in cultural perspectives. *TopiCS: Exploring cognitive diversity: Anthropological perspectives on cognition*, pp. 1-22. DOI: 10.1111/tops.12156.
- ojalehto, b., & Medin, D. (2015). Perspectives on culture and concepts. *Annual Review of Psychology*, 66, 249-275. DOI: 10.1146/annurev-psych-010814-015120.
- ojalehto, b., Waxman, S., & Medin, D. (2013). Teleological reasoning about nature: intentional design or relational perspectives? *Trends in Cognitive Sciences*, 17(4): 166–171.
- ojalehto, b., & Wang, Q. (2008). Children's spiritual development in forced displacement: a human rights perspective. *International Journal of Children's Spirituality*, 13(2), 129-143.

Book chapters, reviews, and other articles:

- Marin, A., Medin, D., & ojalehto, b. (2017). Conceptual change, relationships, and cultural epistemologies. In T. Amin & O. Levrini (Eds.), *Converging Perspectives on Conceptual Change: Mapping an Emerging Paradigm in the Learning Sciences*. Routledge.
- ojalehto, b., Medin, D., & García, S. (2015). Agency concepts across cultures: How intuitive is folkpsychology? In Noelle, D. C., Dale, R., Warlaumont, A. S., Yoshimi, J., Matlock, T., Jennings, C. D., & Maglio, P. P. (Eds.), *Proceedings of the 37th Annual Meeting of the Cognitive Science Society* (pp. 1763 – 1768). Austin, TX: Cognitive Science Society.
- ojalehto, b., & Medin, D. (2015). Book review, *Theory of Mind in the Pacific: Reasoning Across Cultures*. *Ethos*, 43(1), e5-e8. DOI: 10.1111/etho.12075.

- ojalehto, b., & Medin, D. (2015). Emerging trends in culture and concepts. In: R.A. Scott & S.M. Kosslyn, (Eds.), *Emerging Trends in the Social and Behavioral Sciences: An Interdisciplinary, Searchable, and Linkable Resource*. 1–15. DOI: 10.1002/9781118900772.etrds0064
- Medin, D., ojalehto, b., Waxman, S., & Bang, M. (2015). Relations: language, epistemologies, categories and concepts. In: E. Margolis & S. Laurence, (Eds.), *The Conceptual Mind: New Directions in the Study of Concepts* (pp. 349-378). Cambridge, MA: MIT Press.
- Medin, D., ojalehto, b., Marin, A., & Bang, M. (2014). Culture and epistemologies: putting culture back into the ecosystem. In: M. Gelfand, CY Chiu, & Y-Y. Hong (Eds.), *Advances in Culture and Psychology Series*, Vol. 4, (pp. 177-217). New York: Oxford University Press.
- ojalehto, b. (2010). The cognitive landscape of a refugee camp. *The Society for International Development: Human Mobility Observatory*, February 1, 2010.

In-prep articles:

- ojalehto mays, b. & Sachdeva, S. (2020). Ecocentrism as a cognitive driver of environmental stewardship. Manuscript in preparation.

INVITED TALKS:

- ojalehto, b. Invited Panelist: AAA (American Anthropological Association) Executive Session
Sponsored Panel: Pluralizing the Anthropocene: Indigenous and Decolonial Contributions to Climate Science. Organizers: L. Rival and U. Ulturgasheva. Vancouver, B.C., November 20-24, 2019.
- ojalehto, b. Conceptualizing social and ecological domains across cultures. Columbia University Psychology Department, New York, NY. March 4, 2019.
- ojalehto, b. Cultural diversity in ecological cognition and stewardship. Bronfenbrenner Center for Translational Research, Cornell University, Ithaca, New York. November 26, 2018.
- ojalehto, b., & Herrmann, P. Who is our community? Conceptualizing human-nature relationships across cultures. The Field Museum Action Center, Chicago, Illinois, Mar. 19, 2015.
- ojalehto, b., Medin, D., & García, S. Conceptualizing agency across cultures: How intuitive is folkpsychology? University of Chicago Cognitive Brownbag Talk, Chicago, IL, Feb. 19, 2015.
- ojalehto, b. Human and non-human agents: Conceptualizing causes in socio-ecological networks. Exploring the cultural constitution of (causal) cognition: Theoretical foundation and empirical approaches. ZiF Center for Interdisciplinary Research, Bielefeld, Germany. Apr. 11-12, 2013.
- ojalehto, b. Culture & theory of mind: Explanatory frameworks for mental-physical causation. Agents and causes: Interdisciplinary aspects in mind, language and culture, ZiF Center for Interdisciplinary Research, Bielefeld, Germany. Mar. 22, 2012.

CONFERENCE PRESENTATIONS:

- ojalehto, b. (2019) Organizer: New Approaches to Animism across Cultures and Development. SRCD 2019 Paper Symposium. Baltimore, MD: Mar. 21-23, 2019.
- ojalehto, b. (2019) Animism as Folkcommunication: A Conceptual Alternative to Folkpsychology. SRCD 2019 Symposium paper. Baltimore, MD: Mar. 21-23, 2019.
- ojalehto, b., Medin, D., & García, S. (2017) The culture of theories and folktheories: The case of agency. In Sackler Colloquium: Pressing Questions in the Study of Psychological and Behavioral Diversity. National Academy of Sciences, Irvine CA. Sep. 7-9, 2017.
- ojalehto, b., Medin, D., & Waxman, S. (2017) Purpose in perspective: Ngobe children's ecological reasoning. In Symposium: Cultural variation in the development of folk ecological knowledge. Society for Research in Child Development, Austin, TX, Apr. 6 –8, 2017.

- ojalehto, b., & Sachdeva, S. (Organizers) Symposium: Cultural perspectives on environmental cognition and decision making. Society for Applied Anthropology Annual Meeting, Vancouver, British Columbia, Mar. 29 – Apr. 2, 2016.
- Sachdeva, S., & ojalehto, b. Experience, expertise, and environmental management outcomes. Society for Applied Anthropology Annual Meeting, Vancouver, BC, Mar. 29 – Apr. 2, 2016.
- ojalehto, b., Medin, D., & García, S. (2015) Conceptualizing nonhuman agency across cultures. 37th Annual Cognitive Science Meeting, Pasadena, CA, Jul. 22-25, 2015.
- ojalehto, b., Medin, D., & García, S. Conceptualizing agency across cultures. Society for Anthropological Sciences Annual Meeting, Pittsburgh, PA, Mar. 25-28, 2015.
- ojalehto, b., Medin, D., Horton, W., García, S., & Kays, E. Seeing cooperation or competition: How folk theories diverge across cultures and converge across disciplines. Society for Anthropological Sciences Annual Meeting, Albuquerque, NM, Mar. 18-22, 2014.
- ojalehto, b. Sentience in Nature: Ngöbe Perspectives on Mind(ing). Society for Applied Anthropology Annual Meeting, Albuquerque, NM, Mar. 18-22, 2014.
- ojalehto, b., & Medin, D. Communities of values: Moral reasoning about human-plant interactions among Indigenous Ngöbe of Panama. 35th Annual Cognitive Science Meeting, Berlin, Germany. Aug. 1, 2013.
- ojalehto, b., & Medin, D. (Organizers) Symposium: Conceptualizing Complex Systems: How People Navigate Social and Ecological Systems. Society for Applied Anthropology Annual Meeting, Mobile, AL, Feb. 20-23, 2013.
- ojalehto, b., & Medin, D. Multiple Models, One Ecology: Ngöbe, Latino, and Euro-American folk theories and causal models of a shared Caribbean island ecosystem. Society for Applied Anthropology Annual Meeting, 2013, Mobile, AL, Feb. 20-23, 2013.
- ojalehto, b. Cultural frameworks in theory of mind: Cross-cultural evidence for different framework theories of mind. Society for Anthropological Sciences Symposium: Cultural Constitution of Cognition: Perspectives across Disciplines, Las Vegas, NV. Feb. 24, 2012.
- Herrmann, P., Medin, D., ojalehto, b. Flora, fauna, and familiarity: Ecological reasoning in the Ngöbe community. Society for Anthropological Sciences Meeting, Las Vegas, NV. Feb. 23, 2012.

COMMUNITY OUTREACH TALKS:

- ojalehto, b., & García G. Ngöbe and Foreigners' views on natural resource use in a shared ecology: New findings. *Perspectivas de Ngöbe y de los extranjeros sobre el uso de los recursos naturales en una ecología compartida: Nuevos informes*. Pueblo de Quebrada Sal, Bocas del Toro, Panama. Nov., 2018.
- ojalehto, b., & García G. Sistemas culturales de uso de recursos naturales: Nuevos informes. (*Cultural systems of natural resource use: New findings*) Pueblo de Quebrada Sal, Bocas del Toro, Panama. Sep. 20, 2015.
- ojalehto, b., & García G. Aprender de los Ngöbe sobre La Naturaleza. (*Learning from the Ngöbe about Nature*) Pueblo de Quebrada Sal, Bocas del Toro, Panama. Sep. 20, 2015.
- García G., S., Jiménez, A.G., & ojalehto, b. Aprender del Grupo Ngöbe: La Naturaleza & La Ciencia Nativa. Colegio Rogelio Josue Ibarra, Bocas del Toro, Panama. Mar. 19, 2013.
- ojalehto, b & García G., S. Learning from Ngöbe perspectives: nature, minds, and Native Science education. Smithsonian Tropical Research Institute, Bocas del Toro, Panama. Jun. 21, 2012.
- ojalehto, b. The Kakuma News Reflector: can a refugee free press exist? Northwestern University Conference on Human Rights, Invited speaker, Evanston, Illinois. Jan. 21, 2011.

TEACHING EXPERIENCE:

- Psychology and Culture of Human-Environment Relationships (Human Development 4410/6410): graduate and undergraduate course designed and instructed; Cornell University, Fall 2019 (partial)
- Cultural Psychology (Human Development 2800): undergraduate course designed and instructed; Cornell University, Spring 2019.
- Culture and Cognition (Learning and Organizational Change 214): undergraduate course designed and instructed; Northwestern University, Winter 2017 and 2018.
- Cultural Psychology (Psychology 344): designed and taught advanced undergraduate course on cultural psychology; Northwestern University, Summer 2015.
- Teaching Assistantships: Cognitive Science (Cognitive Science 211), Instructor: Dedre Gentner, Spring 2014; Cognitive Psychology (Psychology 228), Instructor: William Horton, Fall 2012.
- Guest Lectures: Conceptual Change and Learning in School Gardens (Psychology 460); Native Americans and Environmental Decision Making (Psychology 332); Culture and Cognition (Learning and Organizational Change 214); Cognitive Psychology (Psychology 228).
- Teaching of Psychology (Psychology 456): Course to prepare graduate students in psychology for the role of classroom teacher, Instructor: Renee Engeln, Spring 2014.
- Research Mentorship: advised advanced supervised research and independent research projects for four undergraduate students; mentored ten other research assistants.

OTHER PROFESSIONAL EXPERIENCE & SERVICE:

- Review of articles for *Nature Scientific Reports*, *Proceedings of the National Academy of Sciences*, *Global Environmental Change*, *Cognitive Psychology*, *Cognitive Science*, *Cognitive Development*, *Developmental Science*, *Developmental Review*, *Child Development*, *Ethos*, *Topics in Cognitive Science*, *Frontiers in Psychology*, and *Cognition and Instruction*, among others
- Review editor, Editorial Board of Cultural Psychology, *Frontiers in Psychology* (2015-2016)
- Co-founding collaborator, Ngöbe Language & Culture Education Program, Panama (2011-present)
- Member, Graduate Student Committee on Diversity Search, Northwestern University (Fall 2015)
- Presenter, Sneak Peek Diversity Event workshops (for underrepresented minority students interested in graduate careers in psychology), Northwestern University (June 2012, 2013, 2014, 2015)
- Nominated participant, Communicating Science to Policy Leaders and the Interested Public, Bulletin of the Atomic Scientists, Chicago (November 18, 2015)
- Founder and initial editor, *Kakuma News Reflector: A Refugee Free Press*, Kenya. Online news blog and human rights monitoring at www.kanere.org (2008-2009)
- Senior Fellow, Humanity in Action, Global network for human rights promotion, NY (2006 – present)
- Intern, UN High Commissioner for Refugees Protection Unit, Kakuma, Kenya (6 months, 2006-2007)

FIELDWORK, INTERCULTURAL, & LANGUAGE EXPERIENCE:

- Research fieldwork in an Indigenous Ngöbe community of Bocas del Toro, Panama: ongoing research partnership and community engagement (over 25 months on site, March 2010-present)
- Research, fieldwork, and advocacy in Kakuma Refugee Camp, Kenya (16 months on site, 2006-2009)
- Languages: Conversationally fluent in Spanish; Beginning Ngöbere (Panama) and Kiswahili (Kenya)