

Alberto Acerbi

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Current position

Centre for the study of cultural evolution, Stockholm University (Sweden) 2010 - current
Post-doctoral research associate

Areas of specialization

Cognitive anthropology, evolutionary anthropology, individual based modeling, artificial life

Education

PhD, Anthropology, University of Siena (Italy) November 2007
MA, Philosophy (*cum laude*), University of Siena (Italy) October 2002

Previous positions

Department of Psychology, University of Bologna (Italy) 2008 - 2009
Post-doctoral research associate

Max Planck Institute for Evolutionary Anthropology, Leipzig (Germany) 2007 - 2008
Post-doctoral research associate

Institute of Cognitive Sciences and Technologies, CNR, Rome (Italy) 2004 - 2007
Research assistant

Publications

SUBMITTED:

1. **Acerbi A**, Ghirlanda S, Enquist M, Age and Cultural Change, *Journal of Artificial Societies and Social Simulations*
2. **Acerbi A**, Mundry R, Tennie C, The role of redundant information in cultural transmission and stabilization, *Current Anthropology*

JOURNALS:

1. **Acerbi A**, Ghirlanda S, Enquist M (2012), The logic of fashion cycles, *PLoS ONE*, 7(3): e32541
2. **Acerbi A**, Jacquet P, Tennie C (2012), Behavioral constraints and the evolution of faithful social learning, *Current Zoology*, 58(2): 307-318
3. **Acerbi A**, Tennie C, Nunn CL (2011), Modeling imitation and emulation in constrained search spaces, *Learning & Behavior*, 39(2): 104-114

4. **Acerbi A**, Nunn CL (2011), Predation and the phasing of sleep: an evolutionary individual-based model, *Animal Behaviour*, 81(4): 801-811
5. Ghirlanda S, **Acerbi A**, Enquist M, Nakamaru M (2010), The Sometimes Evitable Route to Conservatism and Persuasiveness. A Replay to Xue and Costopoulos, *Current Anthropology*, 51(2): 271-272
6. **Acerbi A**, Enquist M, Ghirlanda S (2009), Cultural evolution and individual development of openness and conservatism, *Proceedings of the National Academy of Sciences, USA*, 106(45): 18931-18935
7. **Acerbi A**, Marocco D, Vogt P (2008), Social Learning in Embodied Agents, *Connection Science*, 20(2-3): 69-72
8. **Acerbi A**, McNamara P, Nunn CL (2008), To Sleep or not to Sleep: The Ecology of Sleep in Artificial Organisms, *BMC Ecology*, 8(10): 1-12
9. **Acerbi A**, Parisi D (2006), Cultural Transmission Between and Within Generations, *Journal of Artificial Societies and Social Simulations*, 9(1)

CONFERENCE PROCEEDINGS:

1. **Acerbi A**, Ghirlanda S, Enquist M (2012), Regulatory Traits in Cultural Evolution, in: *Proceedings of the Italian Workshop on Artificial Life and Evolutionary Computation* (Cagnoni S et al., Eds.), University of Parma: 1-9
2. **Acerbi A**, Marocco D (2009), Orienting learning by exploiting sociality: an evolutionary robotics simulation, in: *IJCNN 2009 Conference Proceedings*, Piscataway, NJ, IEEE Press: 20-27
3. Marocco D, **Acerbi A** (2007), Adaptation and Social Facilitation in a Population of Autonomous Robots, in: *Proceedings of the Seventh International Conference on Epigenetic Robotics* (Berthouze L et al., Eds.), Lund, Lund University Cognitive Science Series: 85-91
4. Cecconi F, Zappacosta S, Marocco D, **Acerbi A** (2007), Social and individual learning in a microeconomic framework, in: *Proceedings of the Econophysics Colloquium and Beyond*, Univeristy of Ancona
5. **Acerbi A**, Marocco D, Nolfi S (2007), Social Facilitation on the Development of Foraging Behaviors in a Population of Autonomous Robots, in: *Advances in Artificial Life. Proceedings of ECAL 2007* (Almeida e Costa F et al., Eds.), Berlin, Springer: 625-634
6. **Acerbi A**, Parisi D (2007), The Evolution of Pain, in: *Advances in Artificial Life. Proceedings of ECAL 2007* (Almeida e Costa F et al., Eds.), Berlin, Springer: 816-824
7. **Acerbi A**, Nolfi S (2007), Social Learning and Cultural Evolution in Embodied and Situated Agents, in: *Proceedings of the First IEEE Symposium on Artificial Life* (Abbass HA et al., Eds.), Piscataway, NJ, IEEE Press: 333-340

CONFERENCE PROCEEDINGS (ABSTRACTS):

1. **Acerbi A**, Enquist M, Eriksson K, Ghirlanda S (2010), Cultural evolution of cultural systems, *Primate Research*, 26: 74
2. **Acerbi A** (2008), Different by Nature, in: *Experiencing Diversity and Mutuality: Book of Abstracts, 10th Biennial EASA Conference* (Mesarci A et al., Eds.), University of Ljubljana, Faculty of Arts: 381

EDITED VOLUMES:

1. **Acerbi A**, Marocco D, Vogt P (2008), *Social Learning in Embodied Agents*, special double issue of *Connection Science*, 20(2-3)

Publications in Italian

JOURNALS:

1. **Acerbi A** (2009), Modelli evuzionistici della cultura, *Rivista Italiana di Filosofia del Linguaggio*, 0: 2-19
2. **Acerbi A**, Marocco D (2008), Trasmissione sociale di comportamenti in una popolazione di robot autonomi, *Sistemi Intelligenti*, 20(2): 259-274
3. **Acerbi A** (2005), Antropologia cognitiva: uno stato dell'arte, *Sistemi Intelligenti*, 17(3): 469-488
4. **Acerbi A** (2003), La mente nella cultura: cognizione ed analisi dei fatti culturali, *Annali della Facoltà di Lettere e Filosofia dell'Università di Siena*, 24: 207-230

CONFERENCE PROCEEDINGS:

1. **Acerbi A**, Marocco D (2007), Trasmissione sociale di comportamenti in una popolazione di robot autonomi, in: *WIVACE 2007: Atti del workshop italiano di vita artificiale e computazione evolutiva* (Nicosia G *et al.*, Eds.), Università di Catania
2. **Acerbi A**, Nolfi S (2006), Trasmissibilità culturale di tratti discreti e continui, in: *Atti del III Convegno AISC* (Greco A *et al.*, Eds.), Genova, Erga Edizioni: 159-164

BOOK CHAPTERS:

1. **Acerbi A** (2009), Naturalmente differenti. Spiegazioni naturalistiche e variabilità culturale, in: *Umano troppo umano. Riflessioni sull'opposizione natura/cultura in antropologia* (Lutri A *et al.*, Eds.), Firenze, SEID: 1-14
2. **Acerbi A** (2008), Le trasmissioni della cultura, in: *Modelli della mente e processi di pensiero: il dibattito antropologico contemporaneo* (Lutri A, Ed.), Catania, ed.it: 139-157
3. **Acerbi A** (2005), Antropologia cognitiva e modularità della mente: il caso della folkbiology, in: *Architettura della mente: saggi sulla modularità* (Ferretti F, Marraffa M., Eds.), Catanzaro, Abramo Editore: 189-212
4. **Acerbi A** (2005), Esiste una folkanthropology? E, se esiste, a chi interessa?, in: *Memorie, relazioni, senso comune: per un lessico dell'antropologia* (Solinas PG., Ed.), Siena, Dipartimento di Filosofia e Scienze Sociali: 85-94

EDITED VOLUMES:

1. Lutri A, **Acerbi A**, Tonutti S (2009), *Umano troppo umano. Riflessioni sull'opposizione natura/cultura in antropologia*, Firenze, SEID
2. **Acerbi A** Giansante S, Marocco D (2006), *WIVA 3: Atti del III Workshop Italiano di Vita Artificiale*, Siena, CSC

TRANSLATIONS:

1. Atran S (2008), Teoria cognitiva della cultura. Un'alternativa evuzionistica alla sociobiologia ed alla selezione di gruppo (from French to Italian), in: *Modelli della mente e processi di pensiero: il dibattito antropologico contemporaneo* (Lutri, A., Ed.), Catania, ed.it: 65-107

Conference presentations and invited talks (selected)

- *Is human social learning special?*, Department of Clinical Neuroscience, Division of Psychology, Karolinska Institute, Stockholm, Sweden, March 28, 2012 (invited)
- *Regulatory traits in cultural evolution*, Italian Workshop on Artificial Life and Evolutionary Computation, Parma, Italy, February 21, 2012
- *Why model culture*, Department of Archeology and Classical Studies, Stockholm University, Sweden, December 6, 2011 (invited)
- *The logic of fashion cycles*, Department of Human Evolutionary Biology, Harvard University, USA, November 17, 2011 (invited)
- *Cultural transmission of preferences creates fashion and fads*, European Human Behavior and Evolution Association Conference, Gießen, Germany, March 25, 2011
- *Cultural evolution of cultural systems*, New methodological approaches to cumulative culture: how and why do humans differ from other animals? Workshop, International Primatological Society XXIII Congress, Kyoto, Japan, September 12, 2010 (invited)
- *Cultural transmission of an herding related skill among Raika pastoralists* (with T Sbriccoli), Cognitive Specializations of Nomadic Pastoralists Workshop, Max Planck Institute for Social Anthropology, Halle, Germany, October 30, 2009 (invited)
- *The evolution of openness and conservatism*, Anthropology and physics: prospects and challenges Workshop, Institute for Advanced Study, Durham University, UK, April 17, 2009 (invited)
- *Social learning mechanisms influence cultural dynamics: modeling imitation and emulation*, European Human Behavior and Evolution Association Conference, St. Andrews, UK, April 8, 2009
- *Different by Nature*, The fall of cultural man Workshop, The 10th Biennial Conference of the European Association of Social Anthropologists, Ljubljana, Slovenia, August 27, 2008
- *Social facilitation of foraging behavior in a population of autonomous robots*, ECAL 2007, Lisbon, Portugal, September 13, 2007
- *Social learning and cultural evolution in embodied and situated agents*, IEEE Alife 07, Honolulu, USA, April 4, 2007
- *Biological Evolution and Cultural Evolution*, Epistemic Complexity, Scientific Invariants and Cultural Evolution, University Tor Vergata, Roma, Italy, October 7, 2006 (invited)

Teaching

- Stockholm University, Master course in human ethology (cultural evolution section) - 2011
- Stockholm University, Master course in human ethology (cultural evolution section) - 2010

Conferences and workshops organization

- *The Fall of Cultural Man* (with A Lutri) workshop at EASA (The 10th Biennial Conference of the European Association of Social Anthropologists), Ljubljana, Slovenia, August 27, 2008
- *Social Learning in Embodied Agents* (with D Marocco and P Vogt), workshop at ECAL (European Conference of Artificial Life), Lisbon, Portugal, September 10, 2007
- *WIVA 3. Italian Workshop on Artificial Life* (with D Marocco and S Giansante), Siena, Italy, September 12-15, 2006
- *Confronti interdisciplinari: metodi ed esperienze della ricerca* (with T Sbriccoli), a one-day workshop on Anthropology and Interdisciplinarity, Siena, Italy, April 19, 2006

Conference committee member

- *EPOS V. Epistemological Perspectives on Simulations Conference*, San Antonio, USA, October 10-12, 2012 (program committee member)
- *WCCI Bio-inspired developmental mechanisms*, Brisbane, Australia, June 10-15, 2012 (program committee member)
- *WIVACE 2012. Italian Workshop on Artificial Life and Evolutionary Computation*, Parma, Italy, February 20-21, 2012 (scientific committee member)
- *WIVACE 2008. Italian Workshop on Artificial Life and Evolutionary Computation*, Venezia, Italy, September 8-10, 2008 (scientific committee member)
- *SAB 2008. The Tenth International Conference on the Simulation of Adaptive Behavior*, Osaka, Japan, July 7-12, 2008 (scientific committee member)
- *WIVACE 2007. Italian Workshop on Artificial Life and Evolutionary Computation*, Baia Samuele (RG), Italy, September 5-7, 2007 (scientific committee member)
- *WIVA 3. Italian Workshop on Artificial Life*, Siena, Italy, September 12-15, 2006 (scientific committee member)
- *SAB 2006. The Ninth International Conference on the Simulation of Adaptive Behavior*, Roma, Italy, September 25-29, 2006 (organizing committee member)
- *Evolang2006. The Sixth International Conference on the Evolution of Language*, Roma, Italy, April 12-15, 2006 (organizing committee member)

Editorial board member

- Topoi. An International Review of Philosophy (Springer).

Reviewer

- **Books:** Berghahn Books
- **Journals:** Animal Behavior, Advances in Complex Systems, Connection Science, Current Zoology, IEEE Autonomous Mental Development, Journal of Evolutionary Psychology, Journal of Artificial Societies and Social Simulations, Journal of Cognitive Systems Research, PLoS ONE, Rivista Italiana di Filosofia del Linguaggio
- **Conferences:** WIVACE 2012, WIVACE 2008, SAB 2008, WIVACE 2007, ECAL 2007, EEG 2007 (Evolution, Emergence, and Generation), SAB 2006, WIVA III