

CV

Adrian Jaeggi

Current position(s): Associate professor or similar

Academic age: 15 year(s) 1 month(s)

Education

Degree	Organisation	Duration
Further Advanced Studies: CAS Leadership and Governance in Higher Education	Universität Zürich - ZH, CH Center for Higher Education and Science Studies	08.2022 - 07.2023 1 year(s)
PhD / Dr.: Evolutionary Biology Carel van Schaik	Universität Zürich - ZH, CH Biology	03.2007 - 10.2010 3 year(s) 8 month(s)
Master: Biological Anthropology Carel van Schaik	Universität Zürich - ZH, CH Biology	10.2000 - 10.2006 6 year(s) 1 month(s)

Employment

Role	Organisation	Duration
Associate professor or similar	Universität Zürich - ZH, CH Institute of evolutionary medicine	01.2025 - Present 1 year(s) 4 month(s)
Assistant professor without tenure track or similar	Universität Zürich - ZH, CH Institute of evolutionary medicine	01.2019 - 12.2024 6 year(s)
Assistant professor with tenure track or similar	Emory University, US Anthropology	01.2016 - 12.2018 3 year(s)

Role	Organisation	Duration
Junior researcher / Postdoc Michael Gurven	University of California, Santa Barbara, US Anthropology	01.2011 - 12.2015 5 year(s)

Major achievements

Achievement 1

Cooperation: I've contributed important empirical work and helped synthesize research on cooperation in humans and other primates, especially in the context of food sharing and reciprocity. This includes original research into the social and ecological determinants of cooperation in chimpanzees, bonobos, and a human subsistence society, the Tsimane [2]; narrative reviews summarizing the human and primate literatures and highlighting similarities and differences [1]; meta-analyses showing overall evidence for reciprocity in food sharing across species; comparative analyses of primate species and human societies testing correlates of food sharing and other kinds of cooperation. Through this body of work, reflected below by a selection of the most recent and impactful papers, I established myself as someone who 1) has a solid theoretical grasp on evolutionary explanations of behavior, 2) can span the human and nonhuman literatures on behavior and ecology, 3) brings clarity to the literature through clear definitions, insightful analyses and succinct synthesis, and 4) has considerable statistical skills such as multilevel modeling, meta-analyses and comparative phylogenetic analyses. Importantly, these skills and this reputation is also being transmitted to my students, who have themselves published impactful papers [3,4] and moved on to attractive positions.

[1] journal-article. Jaeggi, A. V., & Gurven, M. (2013). Natural cooperators: Food sharing in humans and other primates. *Evolutionary Anthropology*, 22(4), 186–195. [DOI](#). [Open Access](#).

[2] journal-article. Martin, J. S., Ringen, E. J., Duda, P., & Jaeggi, A. V. (2020). Harsh environments promote alloparental care across human societies. *Proceedings of the Royal Society B: Biological Sciences*, 287(1933). [DOI](#). [Open Access](#).

[3] journal-article. Jaeggi, A. V., Hooper, P. L., Beheim, B. A., Kaplan, H., & Gurven, M. (2016). Reciprocal exchange patterned by market forces helps explain cooperation in a small-scale society. *Current Biology*, 26(16), 2180–2187. [Open Access](#).

[4] journal-article. Martin JS, Beheim BA, Gurven M, Kaplan H, Stieglitz J, Trumble BC, Hooper PL, Cummings D, Eid Rodriguez D, Jaeggi AV (2025) Indirect genetic effects among neighbors promote cooperation and accelerate adaptation in a small-scale human society. *Science Advances* 11:eads3129. [DOI](#). [Open Access](#).

Achievement 2

Behavioral endocrinology: I've conducted or supervised several studies relating endogenous hormone levels to naturally occurring behaviors, in humans [3] and nonhuman primates [1], and co-authored a thorough review of the endocrine mechanisms underlying cooperative behavior [2]. Most of this work

has focused on the peptide oxytocin, which, in addition to its ancient roles in parturition, lactation, and mother-infant bonding, has been implicated in various social behaviors and heralded as a potential therapeutic target for impaired social behavior in conditions like autism. Ecological studies measuring naturally occurring hormone-behavior interactions and individual differences, coupled with an evolutionary perspective that acknowledges the tradeoffs inherent in hormonal systems can help bring new clarity to this field. This approach forms the basis of my current SNF project "Darwinizing the 'love hormone'", conducted among the Tsimane of Bolivia, which is yielding exciting results and first publications at the time of writing. For instance, we describe how oxytocin varies across age, responds to both cooperative and competitive social contexts, and relates to individual differences in personality and life history.

- [1] journal-article. Coppeto DJ, Martin JS, Ringen EJ, Palmieri V, Young LJ, Jaeggi AV (2024) Peptides and primate personality: Central and peripheral oxytocin and vasopressin levels and social behavior in two baboon species (*Papio hamadryas* and *Papio anubis*). *Peptides* 179:171270. [DOI](#). [Open Access](#).
- [2] journal-article. Trumble, B. C., Jaeggi, A. V., & Gurven, M. (2015). Evolving the neuroendocrine physiology of human and primate cooperation and collective action. *Philosophical Transactions of the Royal Society B: Biological Sciences*, 370(1683). [DOI](#). [Open Access](#).
- [3] journal-article. Jaeggi, A. V., Trumble, B. C., Kaplan, H. S., & Gurven, M. (2015). Salivary oxytocin increases concurrently with testosterone and time away from home among returning Tsimane' hunters. *Biology Letters*, 11(3). [DOI](#). [Open Access](#).

Achievement 3

Evolution of psychopathology: At first glance, many psychiatric conditions pose an evolutionary puzzle - if natural selection makes organisms more efficient over time, why hasn't it removed depression, anxiety, autism or schizophrenia? One possible answer is that these conditions, especially in sub-clinical form must have had some fitness advantage in the past, which offset their costs, at least in the kinds of environments our ancestors experienced. In a series of on-going projects we've pursued this logic to show that people in the relatively traditional Tsimane society of lowland Bolivia experience depressive symptoms that map on to hypothesized functions (e.g. illness, social conflicts), we've fleshed out and refined theoretical arguments for how lifelong conditions like autism could evolve through a process of social niche specialization [2], and how to properly evaluate such evolutionary hypotheses using available empirical evidence systematically [1], or how evolution can help our understanding of addictions [3] or the benefits and pitfalls of social media. Most importantly, we've developed a quantitative questionnaire to measure neurodivergent / psychopathological traits among the Tsimane, have applied this to >500 people and will use these data to test various evolutionary hypotheses, e.g. whether such traits are under selection in this traditional society. This will contribute hugely valuable empirical insights to a field often restricted to speculation about past evolutionary processes. In addition, me and my students have organized a workshop and special issue on this topic and have established a network of collaborations with other anthropologists, cross-cultural psychologists, and psychiatrists.

- [1] journal-article. Hunt AD, Jaeggi AV (2025) The DCIDE framework: systematic investigation of evolutionary hypotheses, exemplified with autism. *Biological Reviews* 100:1484–1511. [DOI](#). [Open Access](#).
- [2] journal-article. Hunt, A. D., & Jaeggi, A. V. (2022). Specialised minds: extending adaptive explanations of personality to the evolution of psychopathology. *Evolutionary Human Sciences*, 4. [DOI](#). [Open Access](#).

[3] journal-article. Hunt, A., Merola, G. P., Carpenter, T., & Jaeggi, A. V. (2024). Evolutionary perspectives on substance and behavioural addictions: Distinct and shared pathways to understanding, prediction and prevention. *Neuroscience and Biobehavioral Reviews*, 159. DOI: [Open Access](#).
