

# MATTHEW SAMSON

*University of Cambridge Gates Scholar  
Cambridge University Trusts Scholar Alumnus  
Prime Minister's Australia-Asia Award Alumnus*

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## EDUCATION

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2014 - Present *Trinity Hall, University of Cambridge*

PhD in Psychology

Supervisor: Dr. Alex Kogan (Cambridge Prosociality and Well-Being Lab)

2013 - 2014 *Trinity Hall, University of Cambridge*

MPhil Social and Developmental Psychology

Final Score: Merit (73.325)

Distinctions (75+): Advanced Linear Regression, Basic Linear Regression & Psychometrics

Supervisor: Dr. Simone Schnall (Cambridge Embodied Cognition and Emotion Lab)

Dissertation: *'Examining the Effects of Moral Elevation, Anger and Disgust on Moral Judgments Using Facial Electromyography'*

2009 - 2013 *Macquarie University (Sydney, Australia)*

BA-Arts Psychology

*Vice Chancellor's Commendation for Postgraduate Coursework*; 4.0/4 GPA.

1<sup>st</sup> in cohort: Psychological Research Methods; Personality; Psychoanalysis; Cultural Studies and History of Popular Culture.

2<sup>nd</sup> in cohort: Advanced Statistics, Intermediate Statistics and Social Psychology.

Dissertation: *'The Personal Responsibility Paradox: Increases in Personal Responsibility Increase Moral Disengagement and Aggression'*

Study Abroad: Nanyang Technological University (Singapore; 2012-2013) – 4.67/5 GPA; and, Michigan State University (USA; 2010-2011) – 4.0/4 GPA.

GRE Psychology - 98<sup>th</sup> Percentile.

## SCHOLARSHIPS, AWARDS AND HONOURS

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2014 - *Gates Scholarship, University of Cambridge (£107,500)*

50 from 3,500 eligible applicants selected annually, to provide “a global network of future leaders committed to improving the lives of others.”

2013 - 2014 *Cambridge Trusts Scholarship (£7,000)*; and, *Trinity Hall Research Studentship (£5,000)*

To enable academically meritorious students to undertake post-graduate research degrees at Cambridge.

2012 - 2013 *Prime Minister's Australia Asia Award (£36,000)*

20 from 10,000+ applicants selected annually, to provide “the opportunity to enrich [students'] academic experience through exposure to unique education systems, teaching expertise and comparative perspectives while ... undertaking collaborative research at leading universities [and institutions] in Asia.”

Affiliations: Nanyang Technological University; Qufu Shaolin Kung Fu School (China); Human Development Foundation: Mercy Centre (Thailand).

2010 - 2012 *Macquarie University Mobility Scholarship (£7,000)*

To foster the cross-cultural intelligences of exemplary students.

Institutional Affiliations: Michigan State University; Peru's Challenge (Cusco, Peru).

2006 - 2008 *Duke of Edinburgh's Gold, Silver and Bronze Awards*

Enables “Young people aged 14-24 the chance to develop skills for life and work, fulfil their potential and have a brighter future.”

## **PUBLICATIONS**

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- Samson, M. (2014). *Examining the Effects of Moral Elevation, Anger and Disgust on Moral Judgments Using Facial Electromyography* (Unpublished MPhil dissertation). University of Cambridge, United Kingdom.
- Samson, M. (2013). The Ethics of Early Intervention: Identifiable Gene-Environment Interactions Predict Psychopathy... And Athletic Success, in Top 25 Abstracts from the 2012 Annual International Neuroethics Society Meeting in New Orleans, *American Journal of Bioethics*, 4, 63-75.
- Samson, M. (2012). *The Personal Responsibility Paradox: Increases in Personal Responsibility Increase Moral Disengagement and Aggression* (Unpublished BA dissertation). Macquarie University, Australia.
- Samson, M. (2012). Perpetuation and destruction of the American creation narrative. *History Initiates*, 1, 10-22.

## **LEADERSHIP AND COMMUNITY INVOLVEMENT**

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### **~ ADVANCING OTHERS' EDUCATION ~**

- 2013 *English Teacher, Mercy Centre (Charity in the Klong Toey Slum Area, Bangkok, Thailand)*
1. Consolidated electronic-based ESL teaching materials into a single, indexable database. Content was divided into 'Beginner', 'Intermediate' and 'Advanced' sections and ordered sequentially.
  2. Recatalogued library to improve patron and teacher access to Centre resources. Implemented a colour-coded system, dividing books by language, fiction/non-fiction and subject area (e.g. 'Sciences').
  3. Tutored patrons (predominantly orphaned and rescued from poverty) classified as high potential, for entry into English-speaking high school. Emphasis was on mastering academic English.
- 2012 *Volunteer, Peru's Challenge (NGO in the indigenous Quilla Huata community, Cuzco, Peru)*
1. Tutored English to adolescents; facilitated regular empowerment exercises (e.g. assisted students to run 15-minute class presentations on English word categories, such as 'greetings').
  2. Taught Sport to children, to prepare them for the transition into more formal modes of education.
  3. Contributed to the construction of a building for local handicraft production (a key source of community revenue), which has since become a haven for the oral transfer of craft-making techniques.
- 2011 - 2012 *Faculty Representative to the PROVOST's Office, Macquarie University*
1. Communicated student concerns regarding the adoption of 'Bologna Process' educational reforms (reforms are designed to enhance the comparability of university standards across countries).
  2. Launched an marketing initiative to allay student misconceptions about the Bologna Process.
  3. Successfully petitioned for the expansion of the Peer Assisted Learning Program within the Faculty of Human Sciences, to include classes for Statistics, Linguistics and Physiotherapy.
- 2011 - 2012 *Peer Assisted Learning Program (PAL) Tutor, Macquarie University*
1. Devised syllabi for Introductory Psychology and Statistics modules. Lessons focused on achieving a conceptual grasp of challenging course content (e.g. Trichromatic Theory of Colour Vision).
  2. Trained junior Tutors, emphasising the dissemination of engaging content and facilitating lively discussion. Subsequently, these tutors ranked amongst the highest for attendances in PAL.
  3. Conducted tutorials for Introductory Psychology and Statistics. Attendees scored on average 5-10 marks higher than others in their cohort.

### **~ REALISING SOCIETAL AND ORGANISATIONAL OBJECTIVES ~**

- 2009 - 2012 *Registrar Kuring-gai District Football Referees Association (Sydney, Australia)*
1. Implemented policy requiring all constituent clubs to have a minimum number of qualified referees, doubling the size of the Association to 500+ members, at its peak. This enabled more games to be adjudicated by trained and impartial referees.
  2. Pioneered shift to electronic registrations, reducing Association's environmental footprint.
  3. Introduced the incremental 'Levels' qualification to enhance referee quality. At its highest ('Level 1'), referees are required to meet FIFA mandated fitness and theoretical requirements.
- 2013 *Consultant, Qufu Shaolin Kung Fu School (Qufu, China)*
1. Recommendations: Revamp fees structure to reward long-term patronage; create partnership with English-speaking doctor to enhance student wellbeing; and, improve dissemination of organisational decisions to students.
  2. Attended to patron grievances, and served as an intermediary between patronage and management.

- 2012 - 2013     *Researcher, Singapore Adolescent Behaviour and Relationship Survey*
1. Identified peer and teacher report measures of anti-social behaviour and adolescent attachment for the fourth wave of data collection. Results may guide future interventions.
  2. Secured ethical approval from Singaporean Ministry of Education and constituent schools to collect the fourth wave of data. Subsequently liaised with schools to implement study.
  3. Statistically modelled data from the first three waves of the study.

**~ LEADERSHIP: FOSTERING INTERACTIONS BETWEEN INDIVIDUALS AND GROUPS ~**

- 2004 - 2013     *International, National and Provincial Football Tournament Referee (Australia and Singapore)*
1. ASEAN Cup (Singapore, 2013): Involving teams from Australasia and South-East Asia.
  2. McDonald's KANGA Cup (Australia, 2006 & 2007): Involving teams from South Korea, India, USA and Malaysia, amongst others. Awarded 'Best Assistant Referee' in 2007.
  3. NSW Telechoice Premier League (Australia, 2010-2012): Semi-professional provincial competition, one tier beneath the national (and professional) A-League competition.
  4. Australian Boys National Youth Championships (2009 & 2010): Involving State representative teams. Awarded 'Best Assistant Referee' and 'Runner-Up Best Referee' respectively.

- 2012 - 2013     *International Student Leader, Nanyang Technological University (NTU)*
1. International Ambassador for Inbound Study-Abroad Program: Presented on '*The Benefits of Studying Abroad at NTU*' to delegates from University College London and Cornell; and, advised on strategies to increase NTU's appeal as a study abroad destination in Australasia.
  2. Hosted Hari Raya, Deepavali and Chinese New Year events for NTU Global. Events aimed to educate and foster a sense of community amongst international students.
  3. Counselling Service: Conceived and implemented stress management classes prior to final exams. Emphasis was on the cathartic properties of both exercise and sleep, and on reframing stressors.

**MOVING FORWARDS: CAMBRIDGE**

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- 2013 – Present     *Trinity Hall MCR Committee*
1. President-elect 2014/2015.
  2. Re-negotiated Formal Hall wine arrangements with Conference Office, saving MCR members approximately £7,000 pa.
  3. Implemented survey of MCR attitudes towards College dinners. Subsequently petitioned College to increase portion sizes and introduce of non-alcoholic dinner beverages, amongst other initiatives. As a result, MCR College dinner satisfaction drastically improved.
- 2014 – Present     *Trinity Hall Men's MCR Football Team Captain*
1. Retained an unprecedented number of players for the coming season (80%).
  2. Arranged for a new kit and kit sponsor.
  3. Arranged season fixture list, including pre-season friendlies.
- 2014 – Present     *Cambridge Homeless Outreach Program (CHOP)*
1. Executive Committee 2014/2015.
  2. Role will involve fostering partnerships with local homeless charities and arranging volunteer work placements for CHOP members.
  3. In the process of organising recruitment drive for 2014/2015 Freshers' Fair.
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