

Anthony C. Lopez

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Employment

Washington State University, Vancouver, Washington

School of Politics, Philosophy, and Public Affairs

- 2012 – 2018: Assistant Professor, International Relations & Political Psychology
- 2018 – Present: Associate Professor, International Relations & Political Psychology

Education

Brown University, Providence, Rhode Island (2012)

Ph.D. Political Science. Sub-fields: International Relations and Political Psychology.

Dissertation: The Risk Contract of War: Offense and Defense in the Adapted Mind.

Committee: Rose McDermott (Chair, Brown), Leda Cosmides (UC Santa Barbara), Mark Blyth (Brown)

University of Denver, Korbel School of International Studies, Colorado (2005)

M.A. Global Finance, Trade and Economic Integration.

Thesis: The Role of Social Capital in State Development: The Case of Georgia.

Advisor: Ilene Gabel

Pitzer College, Claremont, California (2002)

B.A. Political Studies.

Thesis: From Sea to Shining Sea: A Comparison of American and Russian Territorial Expansion.

Advisor: Tom Ilgen

Research Areas

Research Statement

My research examines the evolution and psychology of war and its constituent elements. I have particular interest in dynamics related to the outbreak of war and the relationship between inter-group violence and within-group cooperation.

Primary Research Areas

- Offense-defense distinctions in war
- Revenge, deterrence, and the uses of force
- Leader-follower dynamics
- The role of emotions in violence (e.g., anger vs. hatred)
- Moral psychology
- Radicalization and recruitment in violent political organizations

Publications

Peer-Reviewed Articles & Book Chapters

- Snyczner, Daniel, Anthony C. Lopez and Alina Khamatdinova. (in prep). *Value and opportunity: Why defense is stronger but offense overcomes*.
- Lopez, A.C. (under review). *Ordinary Mechanisms, Extraordinary Actions: The Universality and Uniqueness of Political Violence*.
- Lopez, A.C. (under review). *From Individuals to Influence: Psychological Mechanisms in Global Politics*.
- Yakub, H. and Anthony C. Lopez. (under review). *Trauma as a pathway to extremist violence: An empirical analysis of the PIRUS dataset*.
- Zyla, Justin and Anthony C. Lopez. (forthcoming). *Evolutionary Psychology and War*.
- Khamatdinova, Alina and Anthony C. Lopez. 2025. *From Cheater Detection to Just War: The Evolutionary Psychology of Justice in Politics*. *Oxford Handbook of Evolutionary psychology*.
- Landers, Mitchell, Aaron Sell, Coltan Scrivner, and Anthony C. Lopez. 2025. *The Evolutionary Logic of Anger and Hatred: An Empirical Test*. *Evolution and Human Behavior* 46(6): 106776.
- Yakub, H. and Anthony C. Lopez. 2025. *The Social Ecology of Trauma and Extremist Violence*. In Max Abrahms, Ed. *The Routledge Companion to Terrorism Studies*.
- Sell, Aaron, Coltan Scrivner, Mitchell Landers and Anthony C. Lopez. 2024. *The Neutralization Theory of Hatred*. In Shackelford & Al-Shawaf, Eds. *The Oxford Handbook of Evolution and the Emotions*.
- A.C. Lopez. 2023. *Leader manipulation and warfare*. In Goethais & Allison, Eds. *SAGE Encyclopedia of Leadership Studies*.
- A.C. Lopez. 2022. *Evidence, inference, and the puzzle of ancestral warfare*. In Henley & Rossano, Eds. *Psychology and Cognitive Archaeology*. Routledge.

- A.C. Lopez. 2021. *Evolutionary Psychology and Warfare*. In Shackelford, Ed. *SAGE Handbook of Evolutionary Psychology*. SAGE.
- Ireland, Jane, Carol Ireland, Michael Lewis and Anthony C. Lopez, Eds. *International Handbook of Collective Violence*. Routledge, 2020.
- A.C. Lopez. 2020. *The Evolution of Warfare*. In Ireland et al., Eds. *International Handbook of Collective Violence*. Routledge.
- A.C. Lopez & A. Sell. 2020. *Emotional Underpinnings of War: An Evolutionary Analysis of Anger and Hatred*. In Ireland et al., Eds. *International Handbook of Collective Violence*. Routledge.
- A.C. Lopez. 2019. *Evolution and Political Decision Making*. In Redlawsk, Ed. *Oxford Encyclopedia of Political Decision Making*. Oxford University Press.
- A.C. Lopez. 2019. *The Importance of Raiding Ecology and Sex Differences in Offensive and Defensive War*. *Behavioral and Brain Sciences*.
- A.C. Lopez. 2019. *Making “My” Problem “Our” Problem: Warfare as Collective Action, and the Role of Leader Manipulation*. *The Leadership Quarterly*.
- A.C. Lopez. 2017. *The Evolutionary Psychology of War: Offense and Defense in the Adapted Mind*. *Evolutionary Psychology* 15(4).
- Lopez, A.C. and D. Johnson. 2017. *The Determinants of War in International Relations*. *Journal of Economic Behavior and Organization*.
- McDermott, R., A.C. Lopez and P. Hatemi. 2017. “Blunt Not the Heart, Enrage It”: *The Psychology of Revenge and Deterrence*. *Texas National Security Review* 1(1).
- McDermott, R., A.C. Lopez, and P. Hatemi. 2016. *An Evolutionary Approach to Political Leadership*. *Security Studies* 25(4).
- Lopez, A.C. 2016. *The Evolution of War: Theory and Controversy*. *International Theory* 8(1).
- Lopez, A.C. 2014. *The Hawkish Dove: Evolution and the Logic of Political Behavior*. *Millennium* 43(1).
- Lopez, A.C. & R. McDermott. 2012. *Adaptation, Heritability, and the Emergence of Evolutionary Political Science*. *Political Psychology* 33(3).
- Lopez, A.C., R. McDermott & M.B. Petersen. 2011. *States in Mind: Evolution, Coalitional Psychology, and International Politics*. *International Security* 36(2).
- McDermott, R. and A.C. Lopez. 2011. *Psychology and Constructivism: Uneasy Bedfellows?* In Shannon & Kowert, Eds. *Psychology and Constructivism in International Relations*. Michigan University Press.

Non-Peer-Reviewed Academic Articles

- Lopez, A.C. and Hammad Sheikh. 2019. *Extremism in Historical and Evolutionary Perspective*. Forum, Evolution Institute.
- Lopez, A.C. 2016. *Conditions Required for Evolution of Warfare Adaptations*. In *Encyclopedia of Evolutionary Psychological Science*. Springer.
- Lopez, A.C. 2014. *Adaptations for Territoriality and the False Residency Problem*. *Cliodynamics* 5(1).

- Lopez, A.C. 2012. *Neurobiology of Aggression: Punishment and Reward*. U.S. Department of Defense White Paper.
- Lopez, A.C. 2010. *Evolution, Coalitional Psychology, and War*. *H-Diplo/ISSF Roundtable on Biology and Security* 1(1).

Selected Media & Editorials

- Quoted in Edsall, Thomas. “*Revenge is a Dish Best Served from the White House.*” *New York Times*, January 14, 2025.
- “*Trump’s latest diplomacy efforts look pragmatic. Here’s why it isn’t.*” *Seattle Times*, March 19, 2025.
- *Extremism in Historical and Evolutionary Perspective*. Evolution Institute, 2019.
- *Does Conflict Drive Cooperation? Evolution: This View of Life*, August 2017.
- *Ends of War: Human Evolution and the Origins of Inter-Group Violence*. (with Dominic Johnson) *Evolution: This View of Life*, March 2016.
- *Errors, Interests, and Values: Why Better Advocacy May Produce Little Change*. *Social Evolution Forum*, Feb 2016.
- *Why Evolution Made Forgiveness Difficult*. *Greater Good*, March 2015.
- *Pinker, Politics, and the Decline of Violence*. *Evolution: This View of Life*, May 2012.

Academic Presentations

Invited Presentations

- *The Evolution and Psychology of War*. Rutgers University, March 2024.
- *Putin’s Invasion of Ukraine: Grievance, Opportunism, and Miscalculation*. Fort of Vancouver Library Forum, March 2022.
- *The Universality and Uniqueness of Extremist Violence*. International Big History Association, June 2021.
- *The Evolution of Warfare: Prospects and Limitations*. APSA Themed Roundtable, September 2021.
- *The Evolutionary Logic of Deterrence*. University of Minnesota, April 2021.
- Chair: *Neurobiology of War and Peace*. ISA Conference, March 2016.
- *The Within-Group Psychology of Between-Group Conflict: Elite Manipulation*. Peace Science Workshop, November 2015.
- *Immaterial Causes of War: A Taste for Revenge?* NIMBioS Workshop, September 2015.
- *Revenge and Deterrence in Evolutionary Perspective*. Harvard University, March 2014.
- *Revenge and Deterrence in Evolutionary Perspective*. UC Santa Barbara, July 2014.
- *Coalitional Psychology and International Politics*. HBES Conference, July 2013.
- *Born That Way? A Neurobiological Approach to Political Leadership*. European University Institute, December 2013.

Conference Presentations

- *Lex Talionis: Revenge and Deterrence in International Politics*. ISA Conference, Toronto, March 2014.
- *Bridging the Micro-Macro Divide: Evaluating Political Psychology in International Relations*. ISA Conference, San Francisco, April 2013.
- *The Evolution of War: Theory and Controversy*. ISA Conference, San Diego, April 2012.
- *The Risk Contract of War*. APSA Conference, Seattle, September 2011.
- *Hypotheses on Evolution*. APSA Conference, Washington, D.C., September 2010.
- *The Emergence of Evolutionary Political Science*. ISPP, San Francisco, July 2010.
- *Offense and Defense in the Adapted Mind*. Princeton Conference, February 2010.
- *Coalitional Psychology and International Relations*. ISA-West Conference, July 2008.
- *The Evolutionary Psychology of War*. ISPP, Portland, July 2007.

Professional Activities

- **Editorial Board:** *American Journal of Political Science* (2019–2021)
- **Associate Editor:** *International Security* (2025–); *Politics and the Life Sciences* (2025–)
- **President:** Foreign Policy Section, APSA (2019–2021)
- **Chair:** Best Book Award Committee – APSA Foreign Policy Section (2021–2024)

Memberships

- American Political Science Association
- International Studies Association
- International Society for Political Psychology
- Human Behavior and Evolution Society

Ad-hoc Reviewer

- Political Science Journals: *International Security*; *American Political Science Review*; *American Journal of Political Science*; *International Studies Quarterly*; *Political Behavior*; *Foreign Policy Analysis*; *Political Psychology*; *Peace and Conflict Studies*; *International Theory*; *European Journal of International Relations*
- Other Journals: *Evolution and Human Behavior*; *Evolutionary Psychology*; *Proceedings of the Royal Society B*; *Journal of Economic Behavior and Organization*; *Aggressive Behavior*; *Human Nature*; *Behavioral and Brain Sciences*; *Politics and the Life Sciences*

Other Roles

- Associate Editor, Politics Section, *Evolution: This View of Life* (2011–2020)
- Summer Program in Quantitative Methods of Social Research (ICPSR, University of Michigan, 2010)
- International Workshop on Methodology of Twin and Family Studies (University of Colorado, 2010)
- Summer Workshop on Analysis of Military Operations and Strategy (SWAMOS, Columbia University, 2008)
- Summer Institute for Political Psychology (SIPP, Stanford University, 2007)

Courses Taught

Washington State University, Vancouver

- POLS 103: Introduction to International Politics
- POLS 201: Political Research Methods
- POLS 314: Nation States and Global Challenges
- POLS 400: Psychology of War
- POLS 424: U.S. National Security
- POLS 427: American Foreign Policy
- POLS 428: Political Psychology: Dynamics of Collective Action
- POLS 429: Special Topics in American Foreign & Defense Policy
- POLS 530: Seminar on International Politics (Pullman)
- POLS 534: Seminar on International Political Economy (Vancouver)

University Service

- Program Leader (Public Affairs) – Vancouver (2020–present)
- Strategic Plan Student Success Implementation Team – Vancouver (2022–2024)
- CAS Website Committee (2023–2024)
- Graduate Studies Committee – Pullman (ex officio)
- Undergraduate Studies Committee – Pullman (ex officio)
- MPA Admissions Committee – Vancouver (2014–2020)
- MPA Assessment & Accreditation – Vancouver (2014–2020)
- MPA Scholarship Committee – Vancouver (2012–2014)
- Sociology Search Committee – Vancouver (2013)
- Global Politics Search Committee – Pullman (2014; 2023–2024)