

Michał Misiak

e-mail: michal.misiak@uwr.edu.pl

<http://michalmisiak.com/en/eng/>

University of Wrocław
Institute of Psychology

ul. Dawida 1,
50-527 Wrocław, Poland

Scientific Interests: Cooperation, Conflict, Evolution, Nutrition, and Culture

Skills

- Conducting field studies in pre-industrial populations (Tanzania, New Guinea, Australia)
- Statistics: SEM, Bayesian, Meta-analyses, Multilevel modelling
- Software: R, jamovi, JASP, SPSS
- Managing cross-cultural research groups
- Open Science (e.g., preregistrations, preprints)
- Developing psychological methods (e.g., stimuli, scales, graphical handouts for illiterate participants)
- Anthropometric measurement
- Psychophysiological software (e.g., ePrime, LabChart, FaceReader)

Education

2016 – 2021

PhD in Psychology, University of Wrocław, Poland

Title: *Determinants of Moral Judgments about Wasting Food*

Supervisor: Piotr Sorokowski, PhD

Funding: Polish National Science Centre (2016/23/N/HS6/00849)

Duties: Applied for funding, designed, and conducted studies on ecological, psychological, and physiological causes of food wasting moral judgments.

2011 – 2016

MA in Psychology, Adam Mickiewicz University, Poland

Title: *Affective Responses to an Immoral Success – a Study on Capitalization within Moral Foundations Theory Framework*

Supervisor: Lukasz Kaczmarek, PhD

Funding: Polish Ministry of Science and Higher Education (DI2014 011344)

Duties: Applied for funding, designed, and conducted two psychophysiological studies on affective responses to immoral achievements in the Moral Foundations Theory framework.

Professional Development

- 2024 – Present** **Principal Investigator, Institute of Psychology, University of Wroclaw, Poland**
Project: Taboos and their role in fostering cooperation
Funding: Polish National Science Centre (2023/51/D/HS6/O1294)
Duties: Manage team, conduct three studies on taboos: (1) psychological experiment, (2) Big Team Science experiment, (3) field experiment in Papua and Kashmir, prepare scientific publications, disseminate research results.
- 2022 – Present** **Research Affiliate, School of Anthropology & Museum Ethnography, University of Oxford, United Kingdom**
Duties: Manage projects on (1) ecological and cultural determinants of food wasting behaviour and (2) Morality-as-Cooperation and political attitudes.
- 2022 – Present** **Humanitarian and Scientific Consultant, Triangle, Beirut, Lebanon**
Duties: Support and develop behavioural interventions, design research plans, conduct analyses, and write reports for humanitarian organisations (e.g., UNICEF, UNDP, Mercy Corps).
- 2021 – Present** **Research Assistant, Psychological Science Accelerator (Big Team Science Project)**
Projects: PSA: 004, 006, 007, 008; PSACR: 001, 002, 003; PSA-JTF: 1, 2, 3
Duties: Coordinate the Polish research team and gather data.
- 2022 – 2024** **Research Assistant, IDN Being Human, University of Wroclaw, Poland**
Principal Investigator: Professor S. Craig Roberts
Funding: Polish Ministry of Science and Higher Education (IDUB Programme)
Duties: Manage projects, apply for funding, design several studies on cultural determinants of morality (50 countries), and prepare a study on HLA genes and mate selection in Pakistan and Papua.
- 2022 – 2024** **Research Assistant, ManyBabies (Big Team Science Project)**
Executive Director: Heidi Baumgartner, PhD
Duties: Lead the Polish research team and gather data on infant behaviour.
- 2021 – 2022** **Expert, Joint Research Centre, Belgium**
Project Leader: Laura Smillie
Funding: European Commission
Duties: Verify and prepare the report on the Meaningful & Ethical Communications project (Enlightenment 2.0) for European politicians summarising the extent to which facts, values and social relations affect behaviour and decision-making.

Field Experience

- July 2024** **Cook Islands** (Cook Islands Māori) **and Australia** (Aboriginal Australians): conducted interviews and forced-choice tasks.
- August 2023** **Australia:** Aboriginal Australians: conducted interviews and forced-choice tasks
- August 2018,**
August 2017 **Tanzania:** Hadza hunter-gatherers and Datoga pastoralists: conducted bioimpedance and anthropometric measurement, conducted economic experiments, developed a 'best-worst scaling' method to study morality, conducted interviews, and developed a method to study ingroup bias.
- May 2016** **Malaysia:** Malaysian students: assessed olfactory preferences with Sniffin' Sticks, conducted interviews and forced-choice tasks.
- April 2016** **Indonesia:** Yali horticulturalists: developed a ranking method to study moral judgments, adapted the trolley dilemma, assessed olfactory preferences with Sniffin' Sticks, conducted anthropometric measurement, conducted interviews.

Internships & Visits

- 2021-2022** **Intern, School of Anthropology and Museum Ethnography, University of Oxford, United Kingdom**
Supervisor: Professor Harvey Whitehouse
Duties: Designed and conduct cross-cultural studies.
- 2015 – 2020** **Trainee, Psychophysiology and Health Lab, Adam Mickiewicz University, Poland**
Head: Lukasz Kaczmarek, PhD
Duties: Designed, conducted and published psychophysiological experiments.
- Nov 2019** **Visiting student, Kindlab, United Kingdom**
Supervisor: Oliver Scott Curry, PhD
Duties: Developed studies in Morality as Cooperation framework.
- July 2018** **Visiting student, Laboratory of Brain Imaging, Nencki Institute of Experimental Biology, Poland**
Head: Artur Marchewka, PhD
Duties: Developed and validated a set of affective stimuli for an fMRI study.
- June 2017** **Visiting student, Population Studies Center, University of Michigan, United States**
Supervisor: Daniel J. Kruger, PhD
Duties: Developed and analysed a study on moral judgments of food wasting.
- May 2016** **Visiting student, University of Utara, School of Education and Modern Languages, Malaysia**
Supervisor: Professor Mohd Sofian Bin Omar Fauzee
Duties: Designed and conducted a field study among Malaysian students.

Relevant Publications

- Misiak, M.,** Kavanagh, C., Muzzulini, B., & Whitehouse, H. (2025). Bonding through adversity: Effects of Brexit and COVID-19 lockdown on identity fusion and pro-group behavior. *Political Psychology*. Advance online publication.
- Misiak, M.,** Sobol, M., Stefanczyk, M. M., Sakowski, Ł., Idziak, P., & Curry, O. S. (2025). Mapping moral judgments of food waste: Moving beyond truisms. *Personality and Individual Differences, 241*, 113184.
- Misiak, M.,** Butovskaya, M., & Sorokowski, P. (2024). Nutritional condition and nutrient intake predict moral condemnation of food wasting. *Food Quality and Preference*.
- Białek, M., **Misiak, M.,** & Dziekan, M. (2023). The vicious cycle that stalls statistical revolution. *Nature Human Behaviour, 7*(2), 161-163.
- Misiak, M.,** Curry, O. S., & Tureček, P. (2023). Moral Messaging: Testing a Framing Technique during a Pandemic. *Basic and Applied Social Psychology, 1-11*.
- Misiak, M.,** Sobol, M., Sakowski, L., Kowal, M., Jurczyk, A., & Wojtycka, L. (2023). Five ways to waste food: food wasting behaviours questionnaire. *British Food Journal, 125*(9), 3437-3455.
- Misiak, M.,** Behnke, M., Peters, B., Dziekan, M., Kosakowski, M., & Kaczmarek, Ł. D. (2022). Evil joy is hard to share: Negative affect attenuates interpersonal capitalizing on immoral deeds. *Emotion*. Advance online publication.
- Bago, B., Kovacs, M., Protzko, J., Nagy, T., Kekecs, Z., ... **Misiak, M.,** ... & Matibag, C. J. (2022). Situational factors shape moral judgments in the trolley dilemma in Eastern, Southern, and Western countries in a culturally diverse sample. *Nature Human Behaviour, 1-13*.
- Sorokowski, P., Marczak, M., **Misiak, M.,** & Białek, M. (2020). Trolley Dilemma in Papua. Yali horticulturalists refuse to pull the lever. *Psychonomic Bulletin & Review, 1-6*.
- Misiak, M.,** Butovskaya, M., Oleszkiewicz, A., & Sorokowski, P. (2019). Digit ratio and hand grip strength are associated with male competition outcomes: A study among traditional populations of the Yali and Hadza. *American Journal of Human Biology, e23321*.
- Sorokowski, P., Karwowski, M., **Misiak, M.,** Marczak, M. K., Dziekan, M., Hummel, T., & Sorokowska, A. (2019). Sex differences in human olfaction: A meta-analysis. *Frontiers in psychology, 10*.
- Misiak, M.,** Sorokowski, P., & Karwowski, M. (2019). Does the “incentive hope” hypothesis explain food-wasting behavior among humans? Yes and no. *Behavioral and Brain Sciences, 42*.
- Misiak, M.,** Butovskaya, M., & Sorokowski, P. (2018). Ecology shapes moral judgments towards food-wasting behavior: Evidence from the Yali of West Papua, the Ngorongoro Maasai, and Poles. *Appetite, 125*

Selected Conference Presentations

- July, 2024 **2024 ISHE Congress**
Title: *Unearthing the Foundations: Testing the Universality of Moral Foundations Theory in Three Non-Industrialised Populations*
Location: Humboldt, USA
- September 2019 **6th International Conference of the Polish Society for Human and Evolution Studies**
Title: *Everyday immorality: Testing the Moral Foundations Theory in the context of interpersonal interactions*
Location: Prague, Czech Republic
- September 2018 **2018 ISHE Congress**
Title: *The adaptive nature of moral concerns regarding wasting food.*
Location: Santiago, Chile
- June 2017 **6th Summer Institute of the International Society for Human Ethology (ISHE)**
Title: *Biology of hunters and warriors. Examination of digit ratio, hand grip strength and their link to hunting skills and warriorship status among men of Yali tribe.*
Location: Boise, USA
- May 2017 **29th Annual Meeting of Human Behavior and Evolution Society (HBES)**
Title: *Ecology shapes moral judgments towards food-wasting behavior: Evidence from the Yali of West Papua, the Ngorongoro Maasai, and Poles.*
Location: Boise, USA

Awards

- 2020 **START - Scholarship for the most talented early career researchers**
Awarding Body: Foundation for Polish Science
- 2018 **Scholarship of the Minister of Science and Higher Education for Outstanding Young Scientists**
Awarding Body: Minister of Science and Higher Education (Poland)
- 2018 **The Rector's Academic Scholarship of the University of Wrocław**
Awarding Body: Rector of the University of Wrocław

Awarded Grants

- 2024 **Sonata (2023/51/D/HS6/01294)**
Title: Taboos and their Role in Fostering Cooperation
Funding: Polish National Science Centre – 1 249 158 PLN
- 2020 **Etiuda (2020/36/T/HS6/00256)**
Title: *The Association of Food Insecurity with Food Wasting. The Mediating Role of Moral Judgments*
Internship: School of Anthropology & Museum Ethnography, University of Oxford, under supervision of prof. Harvey Whitehouse
Funding: Polish National Science Centre – 162 656 PLN
- 2017 **Preludium (2016/23/N/HS6/00849)**
Title: *Determinants of Moral Judgments about Wasting Food*
Supervisor: Piotr Sorokowski, PhD
Funding: Polish National Science Centre – 141 684 PLN
- 2015 **Diamond Grant (DI2014 011344)**
Title: *Affective Responses to an Immoral Success – a Study on Capitalization within Moral Foundations Theory Framework*
Supervisor: Łukasz Kaczmarek, PhD
Funding: Polish Ministry of Science and Higher Education – 167 310 PLN

Professional Memberships

- Polish Society for Human and Evolution Studies (Board Member)
- International Society for Human Ethology
- Psychological Science Accelerator