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SUMMARY

Outgoing, collaborative researcher in the fields of psychology, anthropology, and public health. Interested in using mixed methods approaches to understand the relationships between social connection, socioeconomic status, and health.

PROFESSIONAL ROLES

University of Oxford (Oxford, UK)

October 2016 – Present

- **Postdoctoral Researcher** • Research with Dr Emma Cohen, funded by the James S. McDonnell Foundation, focusing on how early life social adversity influences the buffering effects of perceived social support on fatigue during physical exercise; this project will extend research from my DPhil (PhD), which showed that feelings of social inclusion and support can reduce perceptions of fatigue, increase feelings of energy, and enhance outputs during physical exercise (January 2022 – January 2025).
- **Junior Research Fellow, Wadham College** • Member of Governing Body and of Liaison & Equality Committee (May 2023 – present).
- **Course Convenor – Mind & Culture Seminar for MSc in Cognitive and Evolutionary Anthropology** • Designed course in collaboration with Prof Emma Cohen, which reviews theoretical and empirical advances in modern scientific understandings of human cognition in context; the course explores and integrates evolutionary, social, developmental, and cross-cultural perspectives on how human minds work and how they shape and are shaped by sociality and culture (Spring 2023, 2024).
- **Student Supervision** • Supervision of MSc and DPhil students, focusing on quantitative methods (2022 – present)
- **Postdoctoral Affiliate** • Investigated the relationships amongst social environments, physical activity, and well-being in experimental and survey-based datasets using multilevel statistical techniques and structural equation modelling (July 2019 – January 2022)
- **Graduate Instructor – Quantitative Research Methods** • Taught theory and application of essential statistical techniques in the programming language R to MSc and MPhil students (October 2018 – December 2020).
- **Undergraduate Tutor** • Tutored students in quantitative methods, cognitive anthropology, and evolutionary theory (October 2016 – present).
- **Interviewer – Undergraduate Admissions** • Creation and delivery of interview structure and questions with Prof Emma Cohen and Dr Paula Sheppard for prospective Human Sciences undergraduates at Wadham College (December 2016, 2023, 2024).

Texture AI (London, UK)

June 2019 – January 2022

- **Chief Data Scientist** • Built algorithms for analysing sentiment in online text related to public health issues (e.g., measuring vaccine hesitancy and disease outbreaks using Twitter data); used the Python programming language and methods from natural language processing, experimental psychology, and machine learning.

EDUCATION

University of Oxford (Oxford, UK)

October 2013 – June 2019

- **DPhil (PhD) in Anthropology (2019)** • Supervised by Prof Emma Cohen at the Institute of Cognitive and Evolutionary Anthropology
 - Used experimental, observational, survey, and 'big data' methods to investigate the effects of social support on physical activity; developed a theoretical account of how and why social environments affect the psychophysiological processes underpinning experiences and outcomes during physical exercise.
- **MSc in Cognitive and Evolutionary Anthropology (2014)** • Graduated with distinction

South Dakota State University (Brookings, SD, USA)

September 2008 – May 2012

- **BA in Spanish & Global Studies (double major)** • Graduated summa cum laude (4.0 GPA) from Honor's College
 - Awarded an athletic scholarship to compete in the javelin throw for the Track & Field team; team co-captain (2011 – 2012); NCAA Division I Academic All-American (2012); Summit League All-Conference (2011).
 - Credits (4.0 GPA) from: the University of Minnesota (Minneapolis, MN, USA; 2013; courses in evolution, genetics, and biopsychology) • Georgetown University (Washington, DC, USA; 2011; courses in political science) • St. John's University (Collegeville, MN, USA; 2008; general credits) • Cotter High School (Winona, MN, USA; 2006 – 2007; general credits).

AWARDS

Oxford University (Oxford, UK)

- Junior Research Fellowship at Wadham College (2023 – present).
- Full Blue in javelin throw for Oxford University Athletics Club (2015); recipient of Wolfson College High Profile Support Grant for Sport; placed 7th in the javelin throw at the 2016 British University and Colleges Outdoor Athletics Championships.
- Clarendon Scholarship for DPhil studies (2014 – 2018).
- Dr Nicola Knight Dissertation Prize in Quantitative Methods for best use of quantitative methods in an anthropological dissertation (MSc dissertation; 2014).

South Dakota State University (Brookings, SD, USA)

- Capital One NCAA Division I Track & Field Academic All-American (2012); Summit-League All-Conference (2011).
- Schultz-Werth Award (2012) – top cash prize (US \$2,500) for outstanding undergraduate research thesis, which focused on the benefits of liberalising immigration policy in the United States.

PUBLICATIONS

- Berdugo, S., Cohen, E., Davis, A. J., Matsuzawa, T., & Carvalho, S. (2024). Reliable long-term individual variation in wild chimpanzee technological efficiency. *Nature Human Behaviour*, 1-9. doi:10.1038/s41562-024-02071-8
- Davis, A. J., Cohen, E., Nettle, D. (2024) Associations amongst poverty, loneliness, and a defensive symptom cluster characterised by pain, fatigue, and low mood. *PsyArXiv Preprints*. doi:10.31234/osf.io/mxevt
- Cohen E., Davis, A.J., & Taylor, J. (2023). Interdependence, Bonding and Support Are Associated With Improved Mental Well-being Following an Outdoor Team Challenge. *Applied Psychology: Health and Well-Being*, 1-24. doi:10.1111/aphw.12351

- Davis, A. J., Crittenden, B., & Cohen, E. (2021a). Effects of social support on performance outputs and perceived difficulty during physical exercise. *Physiology & Behavior*, 239, 113490. doi:10.1016/j.physbeh.2021.113490
- Davis, A. J., MacCarron, P., & Cohen, E. (2021b). Social reward and support effects on exercise experiences and performance: Evidence from parkrun. *PLoS ONE*, 16(9), e0256546. doi:10.1371/journal.pone.0256546
- Davis, A. J., Hettinga F., & Beedie, C. (2020). You don't need to administer a placebo to elicit a placebo effect: Social factors trigger neurobiological pathways to enhance sports performance. *European Journal of Sport Science*, 20(3): 302-312. doi:10.1080/17461391.2019.1635212
- Davis, A. J. (2019). Robin Dunbar, *Human Evolution: Our Brains and Behavior* (New York: Oxford University Press, 2016), 415 pages. ISBN: 9780190616786. *Politics and the Life Sciences*, 1-3. doi:10.1017/pls.2019.5
- Beedie, C., Benedetti, F., Barbiani, D., Camerone, E., Cohen, E., Coleman, D., Davis, A. . . & Szabo, A. (2018). Consensus statement on placebo effects in sports and exercise: The need for conceptual clarity, methodological rigour, and the elucidation of neurobiological mechanisms. *European Journal of Sport Science*, 18(10), 1383-1389. doi:10.1080/17461391.2018.1496144
- Davis, A., & Cohen, E. (2018). The Effects of Social Support on Strenuous Physical Exercise. *Adaptive Human Behavior and Physiology*, 4(2), 171-187. doi:10.1007/s40750-017- 0086-8
- Taylor, J, & Davis, A. (2018). Social Cohesion. *The International Encyclopedia of Anthropology*. doi:10.1002/9781118924396.wbiea2297
- Davis, A., Taylor, J., & Cohen, E. (2016). How the buzz of dancing and sports bond us together. Aeon.
- Davis, A., Taylor, J., & Cohen, E. (2015). Social Bonds and Exercise: Evidence for a Reciprocal Relationship. *PLoS ONE*, 10(8), e0136705. doi:10.1371/journal.pone.013670
- Davis, A. (2012). "Immigration Liberalization in the United States and Beyond." *South Dakota State University Journal of Undergraduate Research*, 10, 1-42.

SELECTED PRESENTATIONS

- BBC Ideas & Davis, A. J. (2024). The surprising benefits of exercising with friends [Video]. BBC. <https://www.bbc.co.uk/videos/c17g8lx2y7po>
- Davis, A. J., Cohen, E., Nettle, D. (2024). Social relationships, poverty, and energetic regulation. Talk presented at the Human Behavior and Evolution Society Annual Meeting. Århus, Denmark.
- Davis, A. J., Greenhouse-Tucknott, A., Beedie, C., Cohen, E. (2024) Effects of social support on energy expenditure, perceived fatigue, and performance outputs during aerobic physical activity. Talk presented at the European Human Behaviour and Evolution Association Conference. London, United Kingdom.
- Davis, A., Mac Carron, P., & Cohen, E. (2017, April). Buffering effects of social cohesion and support during exercise: a 'big data' investigation of parkrun. Plenary talk presented at the European Human Behaviour and Evolution Association Conference. Paris, France.
- Taylor, J., & Davis, A. (2016, June). Social Bonds and Exercise: Evidence for a Reciprocal Relationship. Talk presented at the Human Behavior and Evolution Society Annual Meeting, Vancouver, Canada.

VOLUNTEER WORK

Local Civics (New York, NY, USA)

January 2021 – May 2021

- **Data science consultant** • Created reports on government funding opportunities and analysed mobile application data on student engagement with events promoted by Local Civics, a for profit company with the aim of building civic engagement and community leadership in the United States.

University of Oxford outreach (Oxford, UK)

June 2016 – present

- **Mentor and presenter** • Worked with the Oxford Hub and the Oxford University Athletics Club (OUAC) to organise and run outreach events aimed at underrepresented undergraduate student populations; presented at outreach events and worked with OUAC to help prospective student-athletes apply to the University (2016 – 2018); taught introductory lessons for the Human Sciences degree at the Wadham Summer School (2024).

South Dakota State University's ESL School (South Dakota, USA)

September 2011 – May 2012

- **Student Director and co-founder** • Organised community outreach programmes and taught English as a Second Language (ESL) courses to Honduran, Guatemalan, and Mexican migrants.

M.O.M.I.E.S. TLC (Washington, DC, USA)

June 2011 – August 2011

- **Teacher** • Created lessons, taught, and fundraised for M.O.M.I.E.S. TLC (Mentors of Minorities in Education's Total Learning System), a non-profit organisation that provides creative and culturally relevant out-of-school programmes aimed at fostering academic development.

Aldea Yanapay (Cuzco, Peru)

February 2008 and January 2013

- **Intern** • Created lessons, coordinated volunteer teaching, taught, and led international fundraising campaigns for Aldea Yanapay, an after-school programme for disadvantaged children.

REFEREES

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