

# **Dimitris Xygalatas, Ph.D.**

**Assistant Professor, Anthropology at University of Connecticut**

Storrs, CT, US

Dr. Xygalatas' research focuses on ritual, sports, bonding, and the things that make us human.

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## **Biography**

Dimitris Xygalatas is an anthropologist and cognitive scientist at the University of Connecticut. His research interests include some of the things that make us human, including ritual, sports, music, cooperation, and the interaction between cognition and culture. His work on those topics involves an interdisciplinary approach that combines lab and field methods. He held positions at the universities of Princeton, Aarhus, and Masaryk, where he served as director of the Laboratory for the Experimental Research of Religion (LEVYNA). At UConn, he directs the Experimental Anthropology Lab, which develops interdisciplinary methods and technologies for studying behavior in real-life settings. He has conducted several years of fieldwork in Southern Europe and Mauritius. His research has been published in numerous journals across various fields, including anthropology, biology, psychology, religious studies, and general science. He is the author of the monograph *The Burning Saints*, and coeditor of the volume *Mental Culture: Classical Social Theory and the Cognitive Science of Religion*. He is the President of the International Association for the Cognitive Science of Religion.

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## **Areas of Expertise**

Cognition and Culture, Sports, Ritual, Cooperation

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## **Education**

**Queen's University Belfast**

Ph.D. Anthropology

**Aristotle University-Aarhus University**

M.A. Religious Studies

**Aristotle University Thessaloniki**

B.A. Religious Studies

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## **Accomplishments**

**2023 Society for Anthropological Sciences Carol R. Ember Book Prize**

The Carol R. Ember Book Prize recognizes books whose significant theoretical, empirical, or methodological contributions to anthropology embody the mission of the Society for Anthropological Sciences to advance the scientific study of human societies. Dr. Xygalatas was recognized for his book, *Ritual: How Seemingly Senseless Acts Make Life Worth Living*.

**2022 William C. Bier Award**

Presented by the American Psychological Association, this award honors an outstanding contribution through publication and professional activity to the dissemination of findings on religious and allied issues or who has made a notable contribution to the integration of these findings with those of other disciplines, notably philosophy, sociology and anthropology.

**Outstanding Researcher status**

2014 US Department of Homeland Security

**Distinguished Fellow**

2014 Religion, Cognition & Culture unit, Aarhus University

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