

# Miriam Lindner, Ph.D.

## RESEARCH INTERESTS

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Evolutionary and political psychology; Psychological underpinnings of violent extremism; Misogyny, mass violence, and suicidality; Extreme male violent cognition; Public reactions to terrorism; Emotional programs underlying intergroup aggression

## EMPLOYMENT

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- 2026-     **Founder & CEO**, State of Mind | Political Psychology & Strategy
- 2023-     **Associate**, **Harvard University**, Department of Psychology
- 2023-25   **Assistant Teaching Professor**, **University of Rhode Island**, Department of Psychology
- 2018-23   **Postdoctoral Fellow**, **Harvard University**, Department of Psychology  
Faculty Sponsors: Steven Pinker; Max Krasnow (2018-2021; left the Department)

## EDUCATION

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- 2018     **Ph.D. in Political Science** (Political Psychology), Aarhus University, Denmark  
Dissertation: Of Friends and Foes: How human coalitional psychology shapes public reactions to terrorism  
Faculty Advisors: R. Sloothus, L. Lindekilde, M. Bang Petersen (removed & replaced in May 2017)
- 2014     **M.A. Political Science (summa cum laude)**, Hebrew University of Jerusalem, Israel
- 2011     **M.Sc. Neuropsychology**, Maastricht University, Netherlands
- 2011     **B.A. Arts and Culture (cum laude)**, Maastricht University
- 2010     **B.Sc. Psychology**, Maastricht University  
Semester Abroad – Boğaziçi University, Istanbul, Turkey (Spring 2010)

## PUBLICATIONS

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### Publications

- Lindner, M.** (2023). The sense in senseless violence: Male reproductive strategy and the modern sexual marketplace as contributors to violent extremism. *Adaptive Human Behavior and Physiology*, 9, 217-251.
- Lindner, M.** (2023). Evaluating competing hypotheses in incel research. *Adaptive Human Behavior and Physiology*, 9, 260-263.
- Kennair, L.E.O., **Lindner, M.**, Larsen, S., & Hagen, K. (2024). *Anxiety and phobias*. In The Oxford Handbook of Evolution and the Emotions. (Eds. Al-Shawaf & Shackelford). Oxford University Press.
- Lindner, M.** & Krasnow, M. (2022) Indirect intergroup bargaining: An evolutionary psychological theory of microaggression. *Evolutionary Psychological Science*, 8, 478–492.
- MacInnis, B., Miller, J., Krosnick, J.A., **Lindner, M.**, Below, C. (2021) Candidate name order effects in New Hampshire: Evidence from primaries and general elections with party column ballots. *PLOS One* 16(3), e0248049.
- Lindner, M.** (2020). Review: Sex, Power, and Partisanship: How evolutionary science makes sense of our political divide. *Evolutionary Studies in Imaginative Culture*, 4(2), 141-144.
- Lindner, M.** (2018). Public reactions to male versus female terrorism: Experimental evidence for the Male Warrior Hypothesis. *Evolutionary Psychology*, 16(2), 1-12.

**Lindner, M.** (2018). Memory (mis-)matches: Accurate and biased recall of terror suspects. *Evolutionary Psychological Science*, 5(2), 213-219.

**Lindner, M.** Of Friends and Foes: Human coalitional psychology shapes public reactions to terrorism. *Politika*.

**Lindner, M.** (2018). Of Friends and Foes: How Human Coalitional Psychology Shapes Public Reactions to Terrorism: Ph.D. Dissertation. *Politika*.

Kennair, L.E.O. & **Lindner, M.** (2017). The evolutionary psychology of fears and phobias. In T.K. Shackelford & V.A. Weekes-Shackelford (Eds.), *Encyclopedia of Evolutionary Psychological Science*.

Canetti, D. & **Lindner, M.** (2014). *Exposure to political violence and political behavior: Psychological mechanisms for transformation*. In K.J. Reynolds & N.R. Branscombe (Eds.). *The Psychology of Change: Life Contexts, Experiences, and Identities*. New York: Psychology Press.

### **Manuscripts & Projects in Preparation**

**Lindner, M.** & Pinker, S. Wicked Thoughts: Surveying illicit fantasies and deviant behaviors across the population.

**Lindner, M.** Mandemic: Mass shootings and suicide as divergent behavioral strategies in response to proximate mating motives.

**Lindner, M.** Explaining male suicide: The Sexual Competition and Aggressive Reactivity (SCARS) hypothesis.

**Lindner, M.** From rage to despair: An analysis of emotional trajectories in violence and suicide among involuntary celibates (incels).

**Lindner, M.** & Krasnow, M. Group-based insults increase anger and support for intergroup violence: Experimental Evidence from the US and Mexico.

Kelly, F. & **Lindner, M.** From venting to goodbye: An examination of psychological constructs and severity on the online pro-suicide forum, *Sanctioned Suicide*.

**Lindner, M.** & Krasnow, M. The evolutionary psychology of microaggression: Experimental evidence.

**Lindner, M.**, (& Bang Petersen, M; pending). Citizens' intuitions about "terrorism": Intergroup bias and its political implications.

**Lindner, M.** & Krasnow, M. The roots of intergroup aggression lie in the logic of bargaining: From microaggressions to hate crime to terrorism.

Bannon, B., **Lindner, M.**, & Krosnick, J. A. (revising for resubmission). News media priming: Priming effects, projection, or both? Working Paper.

Laustsen, L., **Lindner, M.**, and Bang Petersen, M. When reality and predispositions collide: Outgroup perceptions following a terrorist attack. Working Paper.

### **SELECTED MEDIA/PRESS COVERAGE & PUBLIC OUTREACH**

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#### **Selected Media/Press Coverage**

- **iHeart True Crime.** [Bonus: Evolutionary Echoes—Incels – Apple Podcasts](#).
- **Jyllands-Posten.** [Vreden over at blive afvist er urgammel. Men vi kan lære at håndtere den, mener international topforsker](#) (2025, July 22).
- **CNA Insider.** [Why These American Men Are Seeking Love in Asia: The Rise of Passport Bros](#) (2024, December 6).
- **The Public Radio.** [URI study finds links between mass violence and online incel communities](#) (2024, March 13).
- **Boston Globe.** [Incel culture and its rise in the modern dating world](#). (2024, January 29).
- **The Telegraph.** [Men who hate women: How 'incel' culture became mainstream](#). (2024, April 21).

- **Türkiye Today.** [Explained: Who incels are, how they threaten women in Türkiye and beyond.](#) (2024, October 9).
- **Rhody Today.** [New research sheds light on incel community's connection to mass violence](#) (2024, January 18).
- **Harvard Gazette.** [The rise of 'incels'](#) (2023, October 18).
- **Financial Times.** [We should pity \(some of\) the incels](#) (2023, September 7).
- **Reckon News.** [What you need to know about the rise of antifeminists in the U.S.](#) (2024, January 18).
- **Reckon News.** [Inside the rise of lonely, bitter men and their impact on reproductive freedom](#) (2023, November 3).
- **Deutsche Welle.** [Deep inside a toxically masculine mind](#) (2023, October 9).
- **Deutsche Welle.** [Warning: This interview is toxically masculine](#) (2023, October 20).
- **N1.** [Harvard expert tells N1: Social norms in the Balkans can encourage violence](#) (2023, August 28).

*Forthcoming:* The Global List Podcast, The Economist

### **Public Outreach**

- TikTok: [@mira is psyched](#) (60k+ followers)
  - Creator of educational social media focused on political psychology. Aims to translate scholarly research into accessible, engaging formats for a general audience.
- *State of Mind: Political Psychology & Strategy* (coming Spring 2026)
  - Founder of *State of Mind*, a public-facing platform dedicated to applying political psychology to everyday democratic challenges. Developed in my personal capacity outside formal academic roles, this platform offers digital resources designed to support emotional regulation amidst political stress, strengthen civic awareness, and foster democratic resilience. Offerings include e-books, card decks, and workbooks for citizens, educators, and NGOs.

## **PRESENTATIONS**

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### **Refereed Conference Talks**

**Lindner, M.** Human Behavior and Evolution Society, Atlantic City, NJ (2025)

- From Rage to Despair: An Analysis of Emotional Trajectories in Violence and Suicide Among Involuntary Celibates (Incels).
- Status Defeat and Suicidal Ideation: A Mixed-Methods Analysis of Incel Discourse

**Lindner, M.** Status and Aggressive Reactivity: A Case Study of NEET Incels. Human Behavior and Evolution Society, Aarhus (DK). *Declined invitation.*

Kelly, F. & **Lindner, M.** From venting to goodbye: An examination of psychological constructs and severity on the online pro-suicide forum, *Sanctioned Suicide*. International Summit on Suicide Research, Barcelona, Spain (2023).

**Lindner, M.** The Sense in Senseless Violence: Male Reproductive Strategy and the Modern Sexual Marketplace as Contributors to Violent Extremism. Human Behavior and Evolution Society, Palm Springs, CA (2023).

**Lindner, M.** Alone together and angry: Misogynistic terrorism as intergroup bargaining for sexual access. Human Behavior and Evolution Society, Virtually Everywhere (2022); canceled participation due to unforeseen circumstances

**Lindner, M.** & Krasnow, M. The roots of intergroup aggression lie in the logic of bargaining: From microaggressions to hate crime to terrorism. Human Behavior and Evolution Society, Boston, MA (2019)

**Lindner, M.** & Krasnow, M. Indirect intergroup bargaining: An evolutionary psychological theory of microaggression. Human Behavior and Evolution Society, Boston, MA (2019)

**Lindner, M.** Memory (mis-)matches: Accurate and biased recall of terror suspects. Human Behavior and Evolution Society, Amsterdam NL (2018)

**Lindner, M.** Citizens' intuitions about "terrorism": Intergroup bias and its political implications.

- Midwest Political Science Association, Chicago, IL (2018); American Political Science Association, Philadelphia, PA (2016)
- Human Behavior and Evolution Society in Vancouver, BC (2016); Poster

**Lindner, M.** Does coalitional affiliation override race in shaping punishment of terror-suspects? An experimental study. Junior Scholar Symposium, Midwest Political Science Association, Chicago, IL (2018)

**Lindner, M.** Tolerance in times of terror: Can political elites shape public opinion in the aftermath of terrorism?

- Midwest Political Science Association, Chicago, IL (2018)
- Midwest Political Science Association, Chicago, IL (2017; declined)

**Lindner, M.** Public reactions to male versus female terrorism: Experimental evidence for the Male Warrior Hypothesis.

- Political Psychology Pre-Conference, American Political Science Association in San Francisco, CA (2017)
- Human Behavior and Evolution Society in Boise, ID (2017)

Laustsen, L., **Lindner, M.**, and Bang Petersen, M. When reality and predispositions collide: Outgroup perceptions following a terrorist attack. Midwest Political Science Association in Chicago, IL (2016)

### **Invited Talks**

Delaware County Democratic Committee, 2026

MIT, Media Lab's Center for Constructive Communication, 2023

University of California (Fullerton), Center for the Study of Human Nature, 2022

Boston University, Morality Lab, 2019

New York University, Social Justice Lab, 2019

Stanford University, Political Psychology Research Group, 2017, 2018

Harvard, Working Group on Political Psychology, 2017

## **TEACHING & MENTORING EXPERIENCE**

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### **Assistant Teaching Professor, University of Rhode Island**

Responsibilities included designing the syllabus, choosing course materials, leading class discussions, grading all assignments, administering exams, and advising students.

- General Psychology (Fall 2023, Spring 2024, Fall 2024, Fall 2025)
  - Asynchronous (Summer 2024, Winter 2025, Summer 2025, Winter 2026)
- Toward Self-Understanding (Fall 2023, Spring 2024, Fall 2024)
  - Asynchronous (Spring 2025)
- Theories of Personality (Fall 2023, Fall 2024, Spring 2025)
- Social Psychology (Spring 2024; Spring 2025)
- Problems in Psychology (Spring 2024; Fall 2024, Spring 2025)
- Introduction to Psychopathology (Fall 2024; Spring 2025; Fall 2025)
- History and Systems of Psychology (Spring 2025; Fall 2025)

### **Instructor, Harvard Extension School**

Responsibilities included designing the syllabus, choosing course materials, leading class discussions, grading all assignments, administering exams, and advising students.

- Psychology of Terrorism and Intergroup Conflict (Fall 2022)

### **Instructor, Aarhus University, Denmark**

Responsibilities included designing the syllabus, choosing course materials, leading class discussions, grading all assignments, administering exams, and advising students.

- MA Seminar: The Political Psychology of Terrorism and Intergroup Conflict (Fall 2017)

### **Teaching Assistant**

Responsibilities included leading class discussions, grading all assignments, and advising students.

Harvard University, Cambridge, MA

- Psychological Science (Spring 2023, Spring 2021, Spring 2019; with Steven Pinker)
- Introduction to Psychological Science (Fall 2020; with Dan Gilbert)
- Evolution and Cognition (Spring 2019; with Max Krasnow; helped grading weekly assignments/final papers)

Maastricht University, Netherlands

- Advanced Statistics, 2014-15
- Logic, 2014-15
- Computational Neuroscience, 2014-15
- Social Psychology, 2009-11
- Biological Psychology, 2009-11
- Psychopathology, 2009-11
- Consciousness, 2009-11
- Critical Thinking, 2009-11

### **Mentoring Experience**

- University of Rhode Island (2023-present). Advisor of 30 undergraduate students.
- FRESH group, Harvard (2021-2022). Mentored research assistants from various labs in the Department of Psychology.
- PPREP - Prospective Ph.D. & RA Event in Psychology, Harvard (2020). Helped students from historically minoritized groups with their applications to graduate programs in psychology.

### **SELECTED AWARDS & GRANTS**

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#### **Grants & Fellowships**

- Psychology Research Innovation Fund (Talley Fund), Harvard University \$65,000, 2022
- Psychology Research Innovation Fund (Talley Fund), Harvard University (\$54,000), 2022
- Mind Brain Behavior Initiative, Harvard University (\$67,000), 2020-2022
- International Postdoc Grant, Independent Research Fund Denmark (\$280,000), 2018-2023
- Aarhus University Research Foundation (\$17,500), 2017
- Interacting Minds Centre, Aarhus University (\$12,000), 2017
- Summer Institute in Political Psychology at Stanford (Aarhus University, \$10,000), 2016
- Golda Meir Fellowship, Brain Sciences ELSC/ICNC, Hebrew University of Jerusalem, 2011

#### **Academic Recognition**

- Postdoctoral Award, Human Behavior and Evolution Society, 2023
- Best Dissertation Award, International Society for Political Psychology, 2019
- Top 3% Award, Faculty of Arts and Social Sciences, Maastricht University, 2008
- German National Merit Foundation (Studienstiftung des Deutschen Volkes), 2010-14
  - The *Studienstiftung* is Germany's most prestigious scholarship foundation, awarding scholarships to fewer than 0.5% of German students.

#### **Teaching Recognition**

- Dean's Commendation for Distinguished Teaching Performance (Harvard DCE), Fall 2022
- Certificate of Distinction, Derek Bok Teaching Center (Harvard), 2021, 2020, 2019

### **EXTRACURRICULAR ACTIVITIES IN POLITICAL PSYCHOLOGY**

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2016	Summer Institute in Political Psychology, Stanford University
2016	Workshop in Political Psychology, University of Southern Denmark
2013-2014	Research Assistant, Political Psychology, University of Haifa
2014	Fieldwork: Research on effects of exposure to terrorism in Gaza-bordering communities during the 2014 Israel-Gaza Conflict (Operation Protective Edge)

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## **SERVICE/PROFESSIONAL MEMBERSHIPS**

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**Committee Member**, University of Rhode Island, 2023-present

- Undergraduate Curriculum Committee
- Behavioral Science Program Committee

**Associate Editor**, Research & Politics, 2022-present

**Editorial Board Member**, Men and Masculinities, 2023-present

**Ad-hoc reviewer for**

- Frontiers in Psychology
- Perspectives on Psychological Science
- Terrorism and Political Violence
- Journal of Personality and Social Psychology: Interpersonal Relations and Group Processes
- Journal of Nervous and Mental Disease
- Men and Masculinities
- Evolutionary Behavioral Sciences
- Aggressive Behavior
- Psychology, Crime and Law
- Journal of Sexual Aggression

**Professional Memberships:**

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

**Other**

**2023- Voluntary Crisis Counselor, Crisis Text Line** (supporting individuals in crisis)

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## **LANGUAGES**

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German (native), English (full professional proficiency), Dutch (full professional proficiency – NT2 certified - 2007), Hebrew (full professional proficiency (Ptor certified – 2013), Danish (Intermediate)