

Alejandro M. Andirkó

Ph.D. student

PERSONAL DETAILS

Birth September 3, 1994
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EDUCATION

Ph.D. student 2018-
University of Barcelona: Cognitive Science and Language
Under the supervision of Prof. Cedric Boeckx

MA. Cognitive Science and Language 2016-2017
University of Barcelona

BA. Spanish Language and Literature 2012-2016
University of Murcia

COURSES

AI for research Workshop 2020
Microsoft / University of Barcelona

Archaeological Science in the Post-Genome Era 2018
University of Copenhagen, Natural History Museum

Analyses of genotyping and NGS data in medical and population genetics 2018
University of Copenhagen

PUBLICATIONS

- *Dosage analysis of the 7q11.23 Williams region identifies BAZ1B as a major human gene patterning the modern human face and underlying self-domestication* Matteo Zanella, Alessandro Vitriolo, **Alejandro Andirkó**, Pedro T Martins, Stefanie Sturm, Thomas O'Rourke, Magdalena Laugsch, Natascia Malerba, Adrianos Skaros, Sebastiano Trattaro, Pierre-Luc Germain, Marija Mihailovic, Giuseppe Merla, Alvaro Rada-Iglesias, Cedric Boeckx, Giuseppe Testa
Science Advances. <https://doi.org/10.1126/sciadv.aaw7908> (2019)
- *Derived Homo sapiens cis-eQTL regulation: implications for brain evolution* **Alejandro Andirkó**, Cedric Boeckx
BioRxiv. <https://www.biorxiv.org/content/10.1101/771816v1> (2019)

TALKS

- *Agent-based modelling and ordered steps towards modern linguistic complexity*
Marcel Ruland, **Alejandro Andirkó**, Cedric Boeckx
Protolang 6 (2019)
- *7q11.23 Syndromes Reveal BAZ1B as a Master Regulator of the Modern Human Face and Validate the Self-Domestication Hypothesis*. Alessandro Vitriolo, Matteo Zanella, Pedro Tiago Martins, Stefanie Sturm, Thomas O'Rourke, **Alejandro Andirkó**, Magdalena Laugsch, Natascia Malerba, Adrianos Skaros, Sebastiano Trattaro, Pierre-Luc Germain, Giuseppe Merla, Alvaro Rada-Iglesias, Cedric Boeckx, Giuseppe Testa
Flash talk — EMBL. Reconstructing the Human Past - Using Ancient and Modern Genomics (2019)
- *A hypothesis concerning how the evolution of prosociality impacted vocal learning*. Pedro T. Martins, Thomas O'Rourke, **Alejandro Andirkó**, Stefanie Sturm, Cedric Boeckx
Center for the Interdisciplinary Study of Language Evolution Inaugural Workshop (2019)
- *Rethinking neoteny and neuroplasticity in language evolution*. Bridget Samuels, Pedro Tiago Martins, Thomas O'Rourke, **Alejandro Andirkó**, Saleh Alamri, Constantina Theofanopoulou, Cedric Boeckx.
SLE Workshop: New Directions in Language Evolution. (2018)
- *The biocognitive 'guns, germs, and steel' underlying Homo sapiens' unique material culture*. **Alejandro Andirkó**, Saleh Alamri, Stefanie Sturm, Thomas O'Rourke, Pedro Tiago Martins, Cedric Boeckx.
Evolang12 workshop: *The 'stuff' of language* (2018)

POSTERS

- *Sapiens derived cis-eQTL regulation in brain development and evolution* **Alejandro Andirkó**, Cedric Boeckx
Ettore Majorana center (Erice). Brain and Behavior Evolution in Primates workshop (2019)
- *Complex interactions among language subcomponents*. Thomas O'Rourke, **Alejandro Andirkó**, Stefanie Sturm, Pedro Tiago Martins, Juan Moriano, Sara Silvente i Font, Mireia Rumbo i Roig, Cedric Boeckx
UBICS meeting (2019)
- *Identifying signals of neoteny in modern human evolution through paleogenomics*, **Alejandro Andirkó**, Cedric Boeckx
EMBL. Reconstructing the Human Past - Using Ancient and Modern Genomics (2019)
- *7q11.23 Syndromes Reveal BAZ1B as a Master Regulator of the Modern Human Face and Validate the Self-Domestication Hypothesis*. Alessandro Vitriolo, Matteo Zanella, **Alejandro Andirkó**, Pedro Tiago Martins, Stefanie Sturm, Thomas O'Rourke, Magdalena Laugsch, Natascia Malerba, Adrianos Skaros, Sebastiano Trattaro, Pierre-Luc Germain, Giuseppe Merla, Alvaro Rada-Iglesias, Cedric Boeckx, Giuseppe Testa

EMBL. Reconstructing the Human Past - Using Ancient and Modern Genomics (2019)

- *A functional dissection of the genetic circuits selected in Anatomically Modern Humans and inferred from the study of Neurodevelopmental Disorders.* Adrianos Skaros, Alessandro Vitriolo, Sebastiano Trattaro, Mateo Zanella, **Alejandro Andirkó**, Michael Boettcher, Cedric Boeckx, Giuseppe Testa
EMBL. Reconstructing the Human Past - Using Ancient and Modern Genomics (2019)
- *Language-readiness: Descent, modification, and further modification.* **Alejandro Andirkó**, Thomas O'Rourke, Juan Moriano, Cedric Boeckx
Center for the Interdisciplinary Study of Language Evolution Inaugural Workshop (2019)
- *Glutamatergic modulation of vocal learning circuits through the dopaminergic projections of the Periaqueductal Gray.*, Pedro T. Martins, Thomas O'Rourke, **Alejandro Andirkó**, Stefanie Sturm, Cedric Boeckx
Language and Music in Cognition Spring School (2019)
- *Molecular evolution of human-specific facial traits and socio-cognitive profile: Insights from neurocristopathies.* Matteo Zanella*, Alessandro Vitriolo*, **Alejandro Andirkó**, Nicolo Caporale, Adrianos Skaros, Cedric Boeckx, Giuseppe Testa.
ESHE meeting (2018)
- *The symbolic species?* **Alejandro Andirkó**, Stefanie Sturm, Thomas O'Rourke, Pedro Tiago Martins, Cedric Boeckx.
UBICS meeting (2018)
- *Differences on the OXTR between modern humans and extinct hominids: a window to our language-ready behavior.* **Alejandro Andirkó**, Constantina Theofanopoulou, Cedric Boeckx.
Protolang5 (2017)

LANGUAGES

Spanish (mother tongue)
Hungarian (mother tongue)
English (fluent)
French (fluent)
Catalan (basic)

GRANTS AND AWARDS

- *Best Science Communication Video.* Thomas O'Rourke, Stefanie Sturm, **Alejandro Andirkó**, Pedro Tiago Martins.
UBICS (2019)
- *Predoctoral grant*
Spanish Ministry of Science, Universities and Innovation (2018-2022)

SCIENCE OUTREACH

- *¿Cómo evolucionó la cara humana? El síndrome de Williams nos aporta pistas* **Alejandro Andirkó**, Mateo Zanella, Alessandro Vitriolo, Cedric Boeckx, Giuseppe Testa, Pedro Tiago Martins.
Scientific journalism piece at The Conversation (2020) (Spanish edition)
- *Participation in El Quiosco de la Investigación*
Series of workshops that aim to bridge scientists and civil society
Two sessions
- *It's not about cats.* Stefanie Sturm*, Thomas O'Rourke*, Pedro Tiago Martins*, **Alejandro Andirkó***
Scientific journalism piece at Babel (2019)
- *¿Qué es la vida? El futuro de la biología, 75 años después de Schrödinger* **Alejandro Andirkó***, Stefanie Sturm*, Thomas O'Rourke*, Pedro Tiago Martins*, Cedric Boeckx.
Scientific journalism piece at The Conversation (2018) (Spanish edition). Reappeared in El País, Cadena Ser and other national digital media, reaching a total readership of 30.000 persons.
- *Participation in Somos científicos.*
Initiative that brings together high school teenagers and scientists in order to answer their questions
2 weeks

Intern

2016

Asociación Arqueología de Guardia

Arqueología de Guardia organizes cultural activities, science communication events, and educational workshops involving new findings in the fields of Archaeology, History and Cultural Heritage. As an intern, I participated in the organization and execution of some of these activities, including archaeological prospection, field analysis and communications for non-specialized public.

MEMBERSHIPS

- European Society for the Study of Human Evolution (ESHE)
- UBICS (University of Barcelona Institute of Complex Systems).
- Asociación Española de Comunicación Científica

SERVICE

- UBICS PhD student Representative on the Board of Directors
- Proceedings of the Royal Society B: Biological Sciences.
Article co-reviewer
- Evolutionary Bioinformatics.
Article co-reviewer

- Evolutionary Anthropology.
Article co-reviewer
- Biolinguistics.
Article reviewer