

**ATHENA AKTIPIS**

Arizona State University  
Associate Professor  
Department of Psychology

**Curriculum Vita**

updated 11/19/2020  
aktipis@asu.edu  
www.athenaaktipis.org

**Current Positions**

2015-present Arizona State University  
Associate Professor, Department of Psychology  
Scientific Director, Interdisciplinary Cooperation Initiative, ASU President's Office  
Lincoln Professor of Cooperation and Social Behavior, Lincoln Center for Applied Ethics  
Member, Biodesign Center for Fundamental and Applied Microbiomics  
Member, Biodesign Center for Biocomputation, Security and Society  
Member, Center for Evolution and Medicine  
Member, Center for Social Dynamics and Complexity

2014-present Co-Director, The Human Generosity Project ([www.humangenerosity.org](http://www.humangenerosity.org))

**Education**

2008-2011 University of Arizona, Ecology and Evolutionary Biology, Post-doctoral Fellow  
2003-2008 University of Pennsylvania, PhD in Psychology  
2004 University of Pennsylvania, MS in Psychology  
1998-2002 Reed College, BA in Psychology, Phi Beta Kappa

**Past Affiliations**

2010-2014 University of California San Francisco, Center for Evolution and Cancer,  
Director of Human and Social Evolution & Research Scientist

2011-2014 Arizona State University, Department of Psychology, Assistant Research Professor

2009-2011 Arizona State University, Decision Center for a Desert City, Consultant

2010 (Spring) University of Pennsylvania, Department of Psychology, Adjunct Professor

2009 (Summer) Wistar Institute, Visiting Scientist

2002-2003 Portland State University, Course Developer/Instructor for Agent Based Simulation

1999 University of Arizona Economic Science Laboratory, Visiting Scholar

**Accomplishments and Contributions****LEADERSHIP POSITIONS**

2018-present Chair and founder of the Zombie Apocalypse Medicine Alliance

2018-present Vice President, International Society for Evolution, Ecology and Cancer (elected)

2013-14 Fellows Representative, Institute for Advanced Study, Wissenschaftskolleg, Berlin (elected)

**PUBLICATIONS**

Because of space limitations, I am summarizing my publication record rather than providing all publications

- 65 peer-reviewed publications in journals including *Nature Human Behavior*, *Nature Reviews Cancer*, *Nature Medicine*, and *Proceedings of the National Academy of Sciences*.
- H-index of 29, h-index excluding self-citations is 27
- 23 chapters in volumes
- 6 papers currently under review
- 9 papers currently in preparation
- 1 book "The Cheating Cell: How evolution helps us understand and treat cancer," Princeton University Press, March 2020
- 9 Blogs and pieces for general audiences including *Slate*, and a forthcoming piece in *Scientific American*

## GRANTS

Because of space limitations, I am summarizing my grant record

- 8 current grants totaling over 7 million dollars awarded
- 10 past grants totaling over 2 million dollars awarded

## SELECTED AWARDS/HONORS

Because of space limitations I am providing only selected awards/honors

- 2017- Lincoln Professor in ASU's Lincoln Center for Applied Ethics  
 2013-14 Fellow at the Institute for Advanced Study, Berlin, Wissenschaftskolleg  
 2012 National Academy of Science Kavli Fellow  
 2011 Distinguished Alumni Award, Willowbrook  
 2001 Udall Scholarship (declined due to conflict with attendance at Max Plank Institute, Berlin)

## SELECTED INVITED PRESENTATIONS

Because of space limitations I am providing only selected invited presentations

- 2019 **Invited Plenary Address, Templeton World Charity Foundation; Character, Social Connections and Flourishing in the 21<sup>st</sup> Century, The Bahamas, December 3-6**  
*Cooperation in the Apocalypse: The science of human nature in times of disaster*
- 2019 **Keynote, Wellcome Trust Genome Center, Cancer Evolution and Ecology Conference, July 19**  
*Transmissible cancer and the evolution of cellular cheating*
- 2019 **Keynote, University of British Columbia, Bioinformatics, Interdisciplinary Oncology and Genome Undergraduate Research Day, Vancouver, March 14**  
*Cooperation incarnate: How regulation and cheater detection stabilize cooperation*
- 2018 **Dean's Distinguished Lecture, Rutgers University, New Brunswick, NJ, April 20**  
*Cooperation incarnate: From human sharing to the evolution of multicellularity*
- 2018 **Public lecture, Harvard Museums, Boston, MA, April 4**  
*Why Cancer is Everywhere*
- 2017 **Invited talk, Special Seminar Series on Evolutionary Medicine, Max Planck Institute for Evolutionary Biology, Plon, Germany, September 8**  
*Cooperation theory for cancer biology: Is cancer a cellular cheater?*
- 2017 **Invited talk, America's Longest War, Against Cancer, Future Tense & New America, Washington DC, April 27, Changing The Way We Think About Beating Cancer**
- 2016 **TedX, Arizona State University Do you believe in Generosity?**
- 2015 **Invited talk, The Science of Sharing Forum, Exploratorium Science Museum, SF, CA, June 6**  
*Cooperation in multicellularity and other social systems*
- 2014 **Public lecture, Institute for Advanced Study (Wissenschaftskolleg), Berlin, Germany, Feb 4**  
*Cancer Evolution*
- 2013 **Chapman Keynote Research Lecture, Undergraduate Research Day, Kansas University Medical Center, April 5, Fundamental questions in cancer evolution: Knowns and unknowns**
- 2013 **Grand Rounds, Evolutionary Medicine Month, UCLA, February 6**  
*Evolutionary foundations for cancer biology*

## SELECTED EVENT ORGANIZING (these events included educational opportunities for students)

- 2020 *Organizer, ASU Interdisciplinary Study of Cooperation Winter School, Arizona State University*
- 2019, 2017 *Organizer, Two ASU Cooperation and Conflict Symposia*
- 2011 - 2019 *Organizer, Five International Society for Evolution, Ecology and Cancer Conferences*
- 2020, 2018 *Conference Chair, Two Zombie Apocalypse Medicine Meeting, Arizona State University*
- 2016, 2018 *Scientific Organizer & Lecturer, Evolutionary Biology and Ecology of Cancer Summer School, Cambridge, UK. Wellcome Trust Genome Cancer*