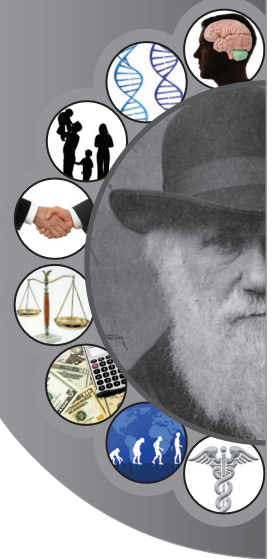


HBES

Human Behavior & Evolution Society



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HBES 2006 Conference



The 18th Annual Meeting of the Human Behavior and Evolution Society took place from June 7th through June 11th at the University of Pennsylvania and Drexel University in the city of Philadelphia. The conference attracted roughly 550

participants from five continents and a broad spectrum of academic disciplines, including anthropology, behavioral ecology, biology, economics, legal studies, neuroscience, political science, psychology, and many others.

For many, the highlight of the conference was Dan Dennett's Keynote address, "Domesticating the Wild Memes of Folk Religion," which in part highlighted ideas from his recent book, *Breaking the Spell: Religion as a Natural Phenomenon*. Professor Dennett also took part in a special presentation, "It's Time to Speak Up: A Panel Discussion on the Role of Evolutionary Scientists in Contemporary Public Discourse." Conference attendees were fortunate to hear legal scholars and others discuss this important issue. Included on the panel was U.S. District Judge John E. Jones III, who presided over the landmark case, *Kitzmiller et al. vs. Dover Area School District* in Dover, Pennsylvania. The conference organizers are grateful to the participants in the panel as well as R. Elisabeth Cornwell and Andy Thomson, who put this extremely interesting discussion together. [Read more...](#)

View

From the President's Window | David Buss

It is an exciting time to be working in the field of evolution and human behavior. We are in the midst of a scientific revolution that Charles Darwin envisioned nearly a century and a half ago. There is no turning back...



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Interview

Martin Daly & Margo Wilson

This issue features an interview with Martin Daly and Margo Wilson, Professors of Psychology at McMaster University. Martin and Margo, recently retired editors of *Evolution and Human Behavior*, have played a key role in the success of our field.



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Fit

The Fit Side | Doug Kenrick

Welcome to The Fit Side where anything goes. In this edition, one amongst us is visited from afar by a relentless antagonist. Still recovering from carpal tunnel, our medium brings us news from beyond. Have we heard the last from this prolific evolutionist?



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Students

The Student Voice | Jennifer Davis

Student representative, Jennifer Davis, gives an update on student membership, upcoming elections, and resources. Also, read the Featured Student Profile and the winning student abstracts from the HBES competitions.



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View From the President's Window | David Buss



Taking Stock of a Scientific Revolution in Progress: The Realization of Darwin's Prophecy

It is an exciting time to be working in the field of evolution and human behavior. We are in the midst of a scientific revolution that Charles Darwin envisioned nearly a century and a half ago. There is no turning back, no retreat to a pre-Darwinian understanding of the human mind. Although many of us sometimes feel frustrated by ignorance and hostility emanating from those mired in pre-evolutionary understandings of human behavior, I see many grounds for optimism. Two recent experiences—attending the recent HBES meetings and revising the *Evolutionary Psychology* text—make me especially sanguine about the future of our field.

The annual HBES meeting offers a bounty of theoretical and empirical riches. For one, *HBES is truly interdisciplinary*. We are treated to outstanding talks by cutting-edge theoretical biologists, fresh findings from anthropologists returning from far-flung field sites, the latest reports from the labs of experimental economists, studies about the design of the human mind from psychologists, and special treats from the front lines of psychiatry, literature, business, medicine, and the law. Where else can you attend talks by evolutionary biologists such as Richard Dawkins, John Maynard-Smith, Douglas Mock, Robert Trivers, George C. Williams, David S. Wilson, Edward O. Wilson, and Marlene Zuk; evolutionary anthropologists such as Rob Boyd, Elizabeth Cashdan, Napoleon Chagnon, Sarah Hrdy, Hillard Kaplan, Ruth Mace, Pete Richardson, and Joan Silk; evolutionary psychologists such as Leda Cosmides, Martin Daly, Steve Gangestad, Steve Pinker, Jim Sidanius, John Tooby, and Margo Wilson; evolutionary economists such as Robert Frank and Nobel Prize winner Vernon Smith; evolutionary legal scholars such as Owen Jones; and evolutionary philosophers such as Dan Dennett?

Underlying the dazzling array of talent displayed by both well-known and newly emerging scholars resides a shared knowledge of fundamental evolutionary principles. HBES attendees do not have to explain to audiences about a chap named Charles Darwin who had a rather important idea. At HBES one does not have to waste time (usually!) with the tiresome misunderstandings we all encounter repeatedly when interacting with non-evolutionary social scientists—"it's learned, not evolved;" "it's cultural, not biological;" and "the adaptationist program is bankrupt as Steve Gould showed." At HBES, conceptual disagreements, competing hypotheses, and methodological criticisms abound—all hallmarks of a healthy science. But they take place within the context of shared knowledge of modern evolutionary theory and a deep understanding of the importance of adaptation and natural selection for penetrating the mysteries of human nature.

HBES provides

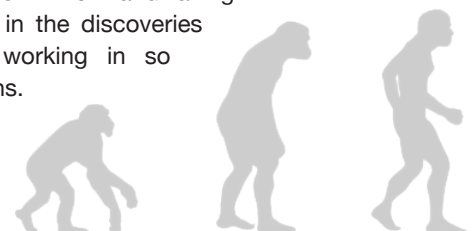
an intellectual feast. One

can find out about the latest breakthroughs in the areas of cooperation, signaling, emotions, facial expression, sexual attraction, psychopathology, kinship, personality, intelligence, sibling conflict, leadership, life history strategies, status competition, reproductive hormones, deception, aggression, homicide, eating adaptations, predator avoidance, sexual development, coalitional psychology, religion, discrimination, specialized learning mechanisms, adaptations to ovulation, cultural transmission, parental investment, evolution and the law, evolutionary neuroscience, evolutionary economics, evolutionary medicine, evolutionary psychiatry, family conflicts, and strategies of human mating. Of the half a dozen or so conferences I attend with any regularity, HBES is the only one during which I assiduously attend as many presentations as possible, posters as well as talks, yet still leave with regrets about having missed some important ones. Due to parallel sessions where one feels torn about which talks to attend and engrossing conversations during breaks that encroach on scheduled talks, it's impossible to absorb all that HBES offers. I always leave wanting more.

HBES is truly international. Its members, from 40 countries, from Australia to Slovakia, from Canada to Korea, from France to Finland, from Argentina to Japan, broaden the horizons of every attendee. For me, HBES provides unique opportunities to meet with far-flung friends and research collaborators and forge new friendships and research collaborations. Though widely dispersed, HBES members are among a small handful of the billions of humans present and past who share insight into the causal processes that created the design of the human mind. We share a sense of deep time, revel in our improbable existence, appreciate the countless generations and millions of selective events required to construct complex adaptations, and can locate our place in the grand chain of descent. As Darwin noted so eloquently in 1859, "there is grandeur in this view of life."

Most of us, immersed in the details and depths of our work, rarely have an opportunity to sit back and take stock of our rapidly expanding field. I've been fortunate to have an opportunity to do so recently, while revising *Evolutionary Psychology* for the 3rd edition. Revising the text affords one of those rare opportunities, aside from the annual HBES meetings, to find out what everyone else has been doing. During no other time do I feel justified in putting aside my own work and taking months to luxuriate in the discoveries of my colleagues working in so many diverse domains.

Four things stood out from my recent survey of our



sprawling discipline. First, the field has truly blossomed. During the five year interval from the first edition (1999) to the second edition (2004), I added nearly 200 new references. During the shorter interval between the second and third edition (2007), the number of new references is close to 400. There is now so much excellent work being done that it is difficult to do the field justice between the covers of a single volume. Second, much of the work has a cumulative quality that I find lacking in the literature of mainstream social science. We know a great deal more now about mating, morality, emotions, aggression, social exchange, and social conflict, to pick just a few domains, than was known ten, five, or even two years ago. As these advances cumulate, it becomes more and more difficult for skeptics to avoid evolutionary principles as foundational for understanding human behavior. A third trend also proved gratifying—the penetration of evolutionary ideas into every conceivable field that deals with human behavior—marketing, medicine, organizational psychology, the legal profession, economics, political science, sociology, and the humanities.

A fourth finding, however, troubled me—vitaly important areas remain virtually untouched. Despite the profusion of articles on topics such as mating, cooperation, and social conflict, the number of publications on parenting, kinship, status, and survival proved paltry by comparison. Notable exceptions occur for all of these, of course—check out the masterful chapter on kinship by Jeff Kurland and Steve Gaulin and the chapter on adaptations to predators and prey by Clark Barrett in *The Handbook of Evolutionary Psychology* (2005). Many uncharted forests of the human mind will bear fruit for intrepid scientists willing to break new ground.

As exciting as it is to be part of a scientific revolution, it is also important not to forget that we are beset on many sides by hostile forces that oppose us. A recent survey published in *Science* showed that acceptance of evolution in the United States is embarrassingly low (Miller et al., 2006). An astonishing 39% of Americans answer “false” to the statement “Human beings, as we know them, developed from earlier species of animals,” and another 21% answered “not sure.” Of the 32 countries surveyed, only Turkey showed less acceptance of evolution. Some mainstream social scientists who do accept evolutionary theory continue to see it as an explanation of last resort, only after such non-explanations as “learning,” “culture,” and “plasticity” somehow can be ruled out. Blank slate thinking continues to prevail in many academic areas. Critics of evolutionary work, often using egregious misrepresentations and shoddy arguments, are sometimes given unwarranted play in prestigious journals.

Our work is opposed by those who view discoveries about evolution and human behavior to be antithetical

to their preferred politics, ideologies, or religious beliefs.

And some view the findings from the field as abhorrent—the existence of evolved sex differences, adaptations for

sexual treachery, evolved proclivities for violence. Some don't want these things to be true; therefore, the convoluted thinking goes, they cannot be true. Human nature has a dark side that is difficult to accept. Some throw stones at the messengers.

I greatly admire those who endure slings and arrows of these hostile forces, yet persevere undeterred in their work, following the insights that evolutionary theory affords. In 1859, toward the end of *Origin*, Charles Darwin revealed this vision: “In the distant future I see open fields for more important researches.” The distant future that Darwin envisioned is here now. It is an honor and a privilege to be part of it.

Letter from the Editor

Dear Members,

We are proud to announce the return of the HBES newsletter. The HBES newsletter will appear twice a year, in the summer and winter. The purpose of the newsletter is, among other things, to report news about the upcoming and past HBES conference, provide updates regarding society elections, post achievements of HBES members, publish opinion pieces and letters to the editor, and, of course, entertain.

Future editions will set aside room to recognize members who have recently been in the news. If you or a member you know has recently received press for an achievement, award, publication, etc. and would like this information to be included in the next newsletter, please send an email to the address below. Also, if you would like to include a conference announcement, job posting, or funding opportunity, please send it along. Letters to the editor from members of the society are welcome though we reserve the right to determine publishability.

Comments and feedback are welcome and can be sent to newsletter@hbesociety.com.

Sincerely,
Debra Lieberman, Editor

Newsletter committee:
Robert Oum
Ilanit Tal
Josh Tybur



The Student Voice | Jennifer Davis



Students represent an important component of HBES. As of June, students accounted for roughly 30% of HBES' total 650 members. Often, we work on the fringe of important scientific contributions made by members of our society. Here we gain the valuable experience and prerequisite knowledge needed to become successful researchers and future mentors. The primary goal of The Student Voice is to keep HBES members informed of the issues and events affecting student members. In addition, the goal of this section is to recognize achievements made by the next generation of student researchers in the field.

NEW STUDENT WEBSITE

Over the last few months, we have been working hard to improve the student section of HBES with one goal in mind—drawing students together. Currently, a new student website is under construction to help fulfill this goal. You can find this site by going to www.evolutionarypsych.com/studenthbes. On this website you will find detailed information about students, events, information about the next meeting, a student directory, and most important, information about the upcoming election for a new HBES Student Representative. We are looking for ideas on how to make the student website more valuable so please send us your feedback and suggestions for improvement.

ELECTION FOR A NEW HBES STUDENT REPRESENTATIVE!

This fall an election will be held for a new HBES Student Representative. We need candidates! The Student Representative is appointed to a two-year term and typically works together with the previous student representative during their first year. Throughout the course of their appointment, representatives generate and implement ideas making the student section of the society more productive. This includes, but is not limited to, maintaining the student website, writing the student section of the HBES newsletter, and organizing student events at the annual conference. Candidates must be current graduate students enrolled in a MA or PhD program. If you are interested, don't be shy—send your name, school affiliation, and a short description of your research interests and any ideas you have for promoting the student agenda for the society to: jenna.davis.ua@gmail.com. Submissions must be received by September 30, 2006. The election will take place in October, 2006.



Poster Competition: Winner Vldas Griskevicius

Vlad, a fifth year doctoral student in Social Psychology at Arizona State University, won the HBES Poster Competition. The research described in his poster, "Going Along Versus Going Alone: When Fundamental Motives Facilitate Strategic (Non)Conformity," will appear in this month's edition of the *Journal of Personality and Social Psychology* and was funded in part by a National Science Foundation Graduate Research Fellowship.

Abstract: Much psychological research, such as the classic Asch line studies, demonstrates the prevalence of conformity. But would men continue to conform in the presence of an attractive woman? And would women go against the group if motivated to attract a desirable man? Two experiments examined how two fundamental social motives—mate-attraction and self-protection—influenced conformity. Self-protection motivation increased conformity for both men and women. In contrast, the effects of a romantic goal depended on sex, causing women to conform more, while engendering nonconformity in men. Men in a romantic state were particularly likely to nonconform when (1) nonconformity made them unique (but not merely a member of a minority), and when (2) the topic was subjective versus objective, meaning nonconformists couldn't be incorrect. Findings fit with a functional evolutionary framework, and indicate that fundamental motives, such as self-protection and mate-attraction, can stimulate specific forms of conformity or nonconformity for strategic self-presentation.



New Investigator Competition: Winner

Jane Mendle

Jane, a graduate student in Clinical Psychology at the University of Virginia, won the New Investigator Award for her paper entitled "Age of Menarche in Children-of-Twins: A Re-Evaluation of the Belsky-Draper Hypothesis."

Abstract: Girls who grow up in households with an unrelated adult male reach menarche earlier than peers, a finding hypothesized to be an evolutionary strategy for families under stress. Our research tests the alternative hypothesis that nonrandom selection into stepfathering due to shared environmental and/or genetic predispositions creates a spurious relation between stepfathering and early menarche. Using a children-of-twins statistical design, we found that cousins discordant for stepfathering did not differ in age of menarche. Moreover, controlling for mother's age of menarche eliminated differences in menarcheal age associated with stepfathering in unrelated girls. These findings strongly suggest selection, and not causation, accounts for the relationship between stepfathering and early menarche. Since early menarche is associated with early sexual intercourse and consequent single motherhood, it may be that mothers predisposed to raise children with an unrelated male in the home transmit an early maturation to their daughters.



FEATURED STUDENT PROFILE

Christine Garver-Apgar

Christine Garver-Apgar, a doctoral student in Human Evolutionary Behavior Sciences at the University of New Mexico, has been investigating changes in women's preferences and sexual interests across the menstrual cycle. Since beginning her graduate training at UNM she has made contributions at both an empirical and conceptual level.

Christine's most prominent research will soon appear in the American Psychological Society journal, *Psychological Science*, in which she is the first author. The paper reports the first study to examine how sharing major histocompatibility complex (MHC) alleles affects the relationships of couples. The participants, romantically involved couples, were assessed for MHC sharing at three genetic loci (A, B, DRB). They also completed questionnaires assessing sexual responsivity and unfaithfulness. The questionnaires were given at an initial session, and then to women during windows of low and high fertility.

The women (all normally cycling) that shared MHC alleles with their partners reported less sexual attraction to and less sexual responsivity to their partners than women who do not share MHC alleles with their partners. In addition, they also reported greater attraction to men other than their partners, but only during the fertile period. MHC sharing also predicted women's number of extra-pair partners in the current relationship, but interestingly, not in previous relationships.

Christine successfully defended her comprehensive exams in February 2005, and is currently working on her dissertation—investigating how masculine and feminine traits are inherited within families and the implications this has for the attractiveness and mate value of siblings, individual's romantic partner preferences, and family dynamics. She has been invited to give a talk at the Evolutionary Psychology Pre-Conference at the Society of Personality and Social Psychology Conference in Memphis, TN in January 2007. Her future plan is to pursue an academic career in the evolutionary behavioral sciences and continue conducting research. She hopes to begin applying for an academic position in the fall of 2007.

Select Publications

Gangestad, S. W., Thornhill, R., & Garver, C. E. (2002). Changes in women's sexual interests and their partner's mate retention tactics across the menstrual cycle: Evidence for shifting conflicts of interest. *Proceedings of the Royal Society of London Series B*, 269, 975-982.

Gangestad, S. W., Simpson, J. A., Cousins, A. J., Garver-Apgar, C. E., & Christensen, P. N. (2004). Women's preferences for male behavioral displays change across the menstrual cycle. *Psychological Science*, 15, 203-207.

Gangestad, S. W., Thornhill, R., & Garver-Apgar, C. E. (2005). The evolutionary psychology of female menstrual cycle variation: Applications of sexually antagonistic coevolutionary theory. In D. M. Buss (ed.), *Handbook of Evolutionary Psychology*. New York: John Wiley and Sons.

Featured Interview | Martin Daly & Margo Wilson



Martin Daly and Margo Wilson are Professors of Psychology at McMaster University. Along with a handful of others, Martin and Margo have been instrumental in the establishment of the science of human behavior and evolution. Their research spans a number of topics including interpersonal conflict and violence, kinship, and the consequences of paternity uncertainty. Additionally, they have been investigating the behavioral ecology of the Kangaroo rat. Their book, *Sex, Evolution, and Behavior*, continues to be a foundational text in the field. In short, Martin and Margo have laid important groundwork for the rigorous investigation into our evolved psychology and continue to contribute to the ongoing success of our field. Below is a brief interview that took place shortly after the recent HBES conference.

Q: What path led you to a career in evolution and human behaviour? Did a particular book or individual play a special role in starting you on this path?

M&M: We were products of the times. We got our PhDs in animal behaviour in the early '70s, and we read things by Bob Trivers, Richard Alexander and Ed Wilson shortly thereafter. (Martin: I was a postdoc with John Crook from 1971 to 1974, where we were all interested in comparative socio-ecology, and John's interest in applying the same adaptationist perspective to *Homo sapiens* may have rubbed off on me, although in truth, I don't remember that we talked much about human research.)

As regular attenders of the Animal Behavior Society in the 1970s, we were inspired by adaptationist talks about insect behavior by Randy Thornhill, John Alcock, and others, and then when we were writing the first edition of our textbook *Sex, Evolution & Behavior*, we decided we had better include some human material and started reading human research. Martin attended the 1976 American Anthropological Association meeting because we heard there were going to be some "human sociobiology sessions" and met people like Bill Irons, Nap Chagnon, Jeff Kurland and Irv DeVore there. It was a bit of an emotional "bonding" experience because there was a shared enemy: a motion to "censure sociobiology" was actually put to a vote by the AAA! Then in 1978, we both attended the hugely successful meeting organized by Dick Alexander and Don Tinkle, where we heard great talks by Bobbi Low, Mildred Dickemann, Mary Jane West-Eberhard, and Paul Sherman among others. How could we not embrace this new way of thinking?

Q: What is your academic lineage?

Who was your advisor? Who was your advisor's advisor?

M&M: Your question assumes a lineage of intellectual inheritance without asking us about any major mutations. Martin's supervisor was Jerry Hogan who got his PhD as a Skinnerian, but rebelled and became an ethologist; this may have provided Martin with pre-adaptations for behavioural ecology. Jerry remains a good friend, but he's never had much use for the kind of research we do. Margo did her PhD research on the behavioural endocrinology of macaques in London (in a psychiatric hospital, oddly), and doesn't feel much connection with that experience any more, although she's been pleased to keep half an eye on the successful career of one of her lab-mates, Barry Keverne.

Q: What changes have you seen in the field during your tenure at E&HB and more generally since the beginning of HBES?

M&M: The changes have been spectacular! There's been a sea of change in the general acceptance of taking an evolutionary perspective, and in both the quality and quantity of evolution-minded scholarship and research. We have been so gratified to learn about so many evolution-minded colleagues around the world taking an interest in the human animal.

In the work by evolutionary psychologists 10 or 20 years ago, there was probably excessive reliance on questionnaires, so we've been encouraged to see more experimental research in both the laboratory and the field, with clever unobtrusive methods being borrowed from sister disciplines.

Q: Where do you think the field is headed and what, if any, big challenges face the field currently?

M&M: The growth of interest and sophistication about evolution among economists has been impressive, and that may influence us all. And evolutionary approaches are certainly becoming integrated into "normal" social, cognitive and perceptual psychology. But battles with hostile forces have not abated, perhaps especially for our

anthropological colleagues, partly because anthropology is still divided between scientists and people who are hostile to the very idea of science.

One area in which we expect to see a lot of progress in the near future will be in integrating “HBES science” with new developments in the identification of genomic signatures of recent selection. And of course, the continued growth of Darwinian medicine is going to be important.

One big challenge that faces the field is the one faced by all evolutionary biologists: the widespread public ignorance and skepticism, which extends all the way up to influential legislators, educational and research policy-makers, and grant allocators. We have to help other evolutionists see to it that children are taught that basic biology = Darwinism from an early age.

Q: What have been the field's biggest successes? Where have we made the greatest impact?

M&M: Well, opinions on that may be a matter of taste, but the insights of Darwinian medicine are starting to make a difference, especially in an age in which it's urgent to understand how human behaviour affects pathogen evolution. David Haig's elaboration of prenatal Triversian parent-offspring conflict was an eye-opener, and as Bob Trivers says, it's now a pleasure to see the geneticists coming to us for interpretive enlightenment. Success is marked by every new discovery in science and there have been many among the evolutionists studying the human animal and other interesting critters.

Q: Do you see the EP vs. EA debate(s) as dead or are there still important issues in need of debate and resolution? If so, what are some of the issues?

M&M: We never really embraced this dichotomy. (Randy Thornhill once said “behavioural ecology is evolutionary psychology”, and we agree: the central topic in either case is the adaptive design of the machinery generating behaviour.) How best to talk about the relevance of ancestral environments, what we can and cannot infer from reproductive success differentials, and other such issues will continue to be discussed because they're thorny issues, and hopefully, these discussions will bring real conceptual clarifications. Our community of evolution-minded scholars and scientists have had many debates all to the good as we are obliged to improve our thinking and our science in the process. The debates

that are futile arise from the anti-scientific and creationist postures.

Q: Your 1983 book *Sex, Evolution, & Behavior* is still one of the leading texts in the field. Do you have any plans of updating the chapters to include recent empirical findings?

M&M: It's very generous of you to say that this book is still a leading text. And your question has been asked of us often: we have had such intentions, but it hasn't happened.

Q: What were some of the rewarding features of being editors of E&HB?

M&M: Well, it's been gratifying to see the growth of the field. When we started, we didn't always have enough publishable papers to fill all the pages we were allowed, and now the editors are obliged to reject papers that deserve a place in the literature. And when you're an editor, you develop a great appreciation for those people who put their hearts, souls and intellects into doing a good job of reviewing papers. We'll miss the opportunity to read the submissions including (some of) those that were not published. These papers and the presentations at HBES give a sense of the progress and diversity of ideas and research findings.

Q: What's your biggest word of advice for the next generation of evolutionary researchers?

M&M: Stay passionate about doing great evolutionary science.

HBES Officers & Council Members

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President: David Buss

Past-President: Bobbi Low

Treasurer: Raymond Hames

Secretary/Archivist: Lee Kirkpatrick

Journal Liaison Officer: Eric Alden Smith

Student Representative: Jennifer Davis

Council Members at Large:

Mark Flinn (2007)

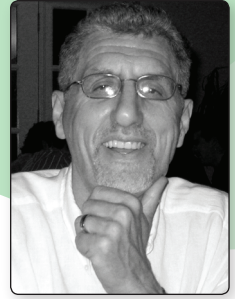
Marikoh Hiraiwa Hasegawa (2007)

Steven Pinker (2009)

Douglas Kenrick (2009)

Martie Haselton (2011)

Debra Lieberman (2011)

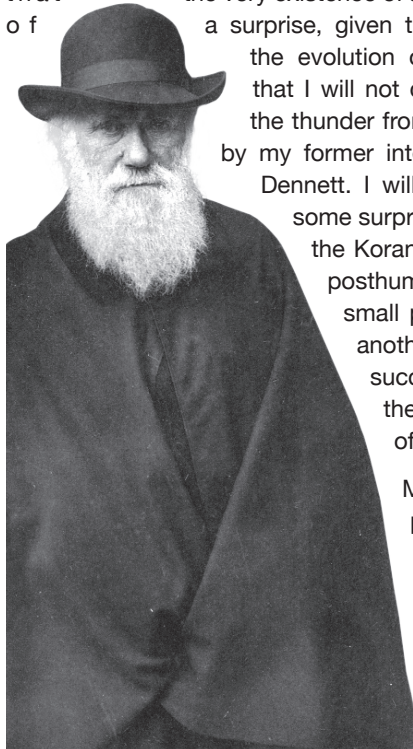


This View After Life: On DiMaggio, Darwin, and Dennett

Stephen Jay Gould¹

As I previously noted, in the New York Review of Books on August 18, 1988, Joe DiMaggio did, like me, manage to cheat death for some time. Alas, not unlike the legendary kingdom of Atlantis, whose fictional existence can be traced back to Plato's dialogues, and was possibly inspired by the destruction of the Minoan culture on Crete, DiMaggio and I were eventually swept beneath the sea, with death being a biological force that, I should note in passing, is more catastrophic than gradual. Besides his punctuated relationship with Marilyn Monroe, DiMaggio, otherwise known as "Joltin' Joe" to his justifiably large population of idolizing fans, is perhaps best remembered for his legendary 56 game hitting streak in 1941. Reflecting back on his life a half-century later, the then long-retired Yankee right fielder expressed great surprise that this record had still not been broken.

I recently had the pleasure of meeting Mr. DiMaggio, sans corporeal packaging. Putting aside humility (which is an over-rated virtue no doubt designed by the managerial elite to disempower competent members of the working class), I noted that I myself felt rather little surprise that no one had broken my record of 300 essays in Natural History. Joe countered by asking me if anything did surprise a "fancy Harvard professor" like myself. I observed that the very existence of an after-life was something of a surprise, given the difficulty of explaining the evolution of souls, per se, a topic that I will not dwell on to avoid stealing the thunder from the forthcoming volume by my former intellectual adversary Daniel Dennett. I will note however, also with some surprise, that some elements of the Koran believers' notion of thirty posthumous virgins captures one small part of the story, and that another clue comes if one can successfully free oneself from the traditional assumptions of spirit-body dualism.



Midway through my ponderings on the evolutionary conundrum of an afterlife, which seemed to have Mr. DiMaggio less than enthralled, who should stroll across onto our cloud but the spirit of Mr. Darwin

himself. I was initially delighted that his ethereal self was accompanied by his "bulldog"

Thomas Henry Huxley. Mr. Huxley is of course best remembered for his rebuttal of Bishop Wilburforce's question about whether Huxley claimed descent from an ape on his grandfather's or his grandmother's side. As Huxley later put it:

"If then, said I, the question is put to me would I rather have a miserable ape for a grandfather or a man highly endowed by nature and possessed of great means of influence & yet who employs these faculties & that influence for the mere purpose of introducing ridicule into a grave scientific discussion, I unhesitatingly affirm my preference for the ape."

I lauded Mr. Huxley's dismissal of those who would introduce ad-hominem editorializing and personal attack into scientific discussion, observing how unpleasant I personally found Prof. Dennett's "excoriating caricature of my ideas" in Darwin's Dangerous Idea. It was surely appropriate to be discussing these issues with Thomas Huxley, who himself had entered the stage in Act 1 of my two part response to Dennett's unfair personal attacks on myself. As I noted at the time: "If history, as often noted, replays grandeurs as farces, and if T.H. Huxley truly acted as "Darwin's bulldog," then it is hard to resist thinking of Dennett, in this book, as 'Dawkins's lapdog'" (New York Review of Books, June 12, 1997). (My apologies to those who cannot distinguish between what the neo-Marxist philosopher Herbert Marcuse called the violence of the oppressed versus the violence of the oppressor).

I perhaps too humbly wondered aloud if Mr. Darwin and Mr. Huxley were familiar with my efforts against the twentieth century Wilburforcian opponents of evolutionary theory (including those who would weaken it by embracing hyper-adaptationism). I was flattered to hear that Mr. Darwin had read all 300 essays, but disappointed to be informed that he had not yet found the time to get all the way to page 1433 of my "Structure of Evolutionary Theory" (sadly, the same is true of all too many living academic persons who faddishly aspire to call themselves evolutionary theorists). I was beginning to explain some finer points that regrettably were cast into footnotes at the suggestions of an over-zealous editor, when Mr. Huxley interrupted to follow up on Mr. DiMaggio's earlier query about posthumous surprises. Mr. Huxley inquired in a slightly more pointed way whether the wisdom of the after-life had led me to question any of the positions expressed in my extensive writings. In particular, Huxley seemed to take a particular interest in what were actually rather tangential discourses about so-called "evolutionary psychology," which I had described alternately as "a field now in vogue as a marketplace for ultra-Darwinian explanatory doctrine" and a "cult." As I noted in my response to Mr. Dennett, "Evolutionary psychology could, in my view, become a fruitful science by replacing its current

penchant for narrow, and often barren, speculation with respect for the pluralistic range of available alternatives that are just as evolutionary in status, more probable in actual occurrence, and not limited to the blinkered view that evolutionary explanations must identify adaptations produced by natural selection.”

Mr. Huxley inquired whether “there had indeed transpired any scientific investigations of behaviours stimulated by the ‘pluralistic range of alternatives’ you claim, sir, to be more probable than natural selection & equally as evolutionary.” I was taken aback at what I detected to be a tone of irritation in this question. Indeed, it reminded of me of a similar question posed by the ultra-Darwinian John Alcock in his grandiosely titled “Triumph of Sociobiology.” The challenging tone led me to ponder whether the once eminent

Huxley, who lived during the imperialistic height of the so-called British Empire, might not, like many of the white male Harvard-educated Anglo-Saxon Protestant academics of my own century, harbor a bit of anti-Semitic bias. To test whether I might be dealing with a defender of hegemonic patriarchal values, and all the distasteful accompaniments that world-view connotes, I decided to reverse the direction of inquiry, and asked Mr. Huxley whether he was familiar with Thornhill and Palmer’s so-called “Natural History of Rape,” a mini-masterpiece of just-so stories, which, while pretending to consider sexual assault as a possible byproduct as well as an adaptation, is clearly dismissive of a well-known fact I observed in my column on the use of the term “rape” in reference to non-human species: that rape researchers have found that rape is a political and not a sexual act.

I was taken aback to hear Huxley re-hash Thornhill and Palmer’s distasteful arguments, like the so-called “data” about rape victims being predominantly young women during the years of so-called “peak fertility” (a nebulous concept thrown around by evolutionary psychologists, who no doubt have made endless puerile jokes about “fertility cues” in their locker-room-like so-called “scientific conferences”). One wonders (in vain no doubt) whether these faddish neo-Sociobiologists have addressed what precisely would constitute evidence of “peak fertility” in the Burgess Shale.

Not wishing to hear Mr. Huxley further embarrass himself in front of both Mr. Darwin and Joe DiMaggio (who no doubt had as much ability to define “peak fertility” as any “evolutionary psychologist,” given his own relationship with Ms. Monroe), I again turned the tables on Darwin’s Bulldog, asking him how many evolutionary psychological studies there were of male nipples. To his knowledge, he admitted, there were none. Mr. Darwin was politely silent during this exchange, but his expression made it clear that he was himself shocked at Mr. Huxley taking his bulldog status a bit too literally. Although I perhaps violated certain prudish Victorian rules of polite discourse that were really

designed to protect class distinctions, I scored a few points with Mr. DiMaggio when I inquired whether Mr. Huxley claimed descent from a bulldog on his maternal or his paternal side.

Because self-righteousness, even when amply justified, does not always facilitate bilateral communication, and because I understood Mr. Huxley’s politics to be a product of his social class and historical background, I chose to divert his aggressiveness by explaining my opposition to evolutionary psychology in some detail. I recommended that Huxley consider the scientifically balanced critiques dissecting evolutionary psychology in the classic *Alas, Poor Darwin*. As my colleague Richard Lewontin noted in justly praising this eloquent and logically compelling collection of essays, “‘Evolutionary psychology’ is the latest

episode in the misuse of biology. Hilary and Steven Rose have been leaders in the struggle against this kind of pseudo-science and in *Alas Poor Darwin* they bring together a superb collection of essays debunking this latest attempt to hijack Darwin. Anyone who has been seduced by the claims of ‘evolutionary psychology’ should read this book.” Likewise, I pointed out, Ruth Hubbard, author of “The politics of women’s biology”

had noted at length the hidden political implications of the genetic determinism implicit in evolutionary psychology, which was, as she observed, merely “sociobiology, reincarnated.”

Rather than responding favorably, Mr. Huxley seemed to grow steadily more irritated, stating in a near growl: “Sir, I have endeavored to read just the volume to which you refer, and can only say that I found it replete with logical errors & rather lacking in evidence to indicate that said authors had actually read the body of scientifically gathered facts -- facts which when viewed with impartiality can be seen to stand in firm support of the application of Mr. Darwin’s ideas to human behaviour. Indeed, I would add that Mr. Darwin’s own work on human emotions could fairly be viewed as an early entry in this field of evolutionary psychology, so unjustly maligned by yourself and your associates. I think it not unfair to conclude that yourself and Mr. Lewontin have yourselves unfairly and maliciously muddled the line between social constructivism and scientific biology.”

At this point, Mr. DiMaggio broke into the conversation with an ill-chosen attempt at levity. “Here’s one for you. What’s the difference between a social constructivist and a Mafia don?” I confessed that this was not my area of expertise. “A Mafia don makes you an offer you can’t refuse. A social constructivist makes you an offer you can’t understand.”

Although this was met with laughter, I did not find it particularly amusing or tasteful. I gently pointed out to Mr. DiMaggio that ethnic humor, although popular during his time on earth, was a

“If then, said I, the question is put to me would I rather have a miserable ape for a grandfather or a man highly endowed by nature and possessed of great means of influence & yet who employs these faculties & that influence for the mere purpose of introducing ridicule into a grave scientific discussion, I unhesitatingly affirm my preference for the ape.”

weapon encouraged by elite classes to disempower members of immigrant groups, such as the Italian-Americans. I further pointed out that Mr. DiMaggio ought perhaps to stick to his own area of expertise, and that his accomplishments as a baseball player made it unnecessary to pretend to understand these complex issues of science and philosophy. In an attempt to bring the conversation back to such issues, I went on to explain to Mr. Huxley that it was not myself, but the hyper-adaptationists, who were allowing their world-view to color their so-called scientific studies. I explained to Mr. Huxley that, although natural selection was one force in evolution, these Darwinian fundamentalists had, in their zeal, failed to consider the various other forces – such as random drift, and the essential importance of appreciating that most of nature, like most of the cathedral of San Marcos, was likely composed of “spandrels.”

At the risk of self-flattery, I will observe that it was my strong sense that Mr. Darwin, though remaining politely silent to protect Mr. Huxley’s Victorian pride, not only agreed with me (being as I have oft noted a fellow pluralist), but had begun to regret not having put aside the time to fully appreciate my Structure of Evolutionary Theory....

(this article continues for 73 pages, which goes beyond the Newsletter’s electronic page allocation, but can be downloaded from www.SpandrelsInHeaven.com. However, in a continuing attempt to temper the Darwinian Fundamentalism often associated with the Human Behavior and Evolution Society, we will be publishing approximately 300 sequels, including “The Panda’s Thumb: Where is it now?”)

1. Transmitted via automatic writings to Douglas Kenrick, who was hospitalized afterwards with severe arm cramps and clinical dissociations owing to emotionally destabilizing levels of cognitive dissonance. Spectral investigations by the eminent team of New York parapsychologists Akroyd, Murray, and Ramis revealed indisputable evidence of supernatural visitation. Furthermore, although Kenrick claimed to be a member of a cult forbidden to read Gould’s writings, a claim verified by polygraph testing and fMRI analysis of the left occipital deception module, the quotes from Gould’s writings were checked and found to be uncannily accurate.

Announcements

From the Editors of Evolution & Human Behavior

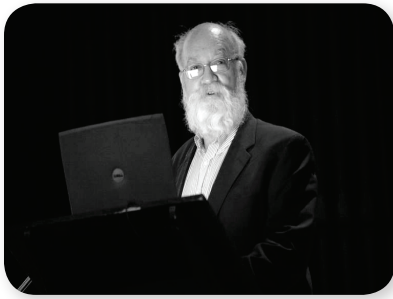
Evolution & Human Behavior announces the retirement of Margo Wilson and Martin Daly as Co-Editors-in-Chief. Professors Daly and Wilson performed a remarkable service to HBES, building E&HB into one of the leading journals in the field. Continuing Co-Editors-in-Chief Steven Gaulin, Ruth Mace, and Daniel Fessler are pleased to announce that Martie Haselton joins them as a Co-Editor-in-Chief of E&HB, and Robert Kurzban joins them as Book Review Editor; together, they will strive to continue the tradition of excellence that was the hallmark of Wilson and Daly’s editorship. Consistent with the growth and success of our field, E&HB will soon be expanding to a large physical format that will include invited synthetic review papers, brief commentaries, and invited book reviews. Spanning the full range of evolutionary approaches to human behavior, research articles, theory papers, and brief reports will continue to form the heart of the journal.

Those considering submission to E&HB will be pleased to learn that the journal has a strong impact factor of 2.81, currently placing it 1 of 26 in the “Social Sciences, Biomedical” category of the Social Science Citation Index; were it ranked in the “Anthropology” category, the “Psychology, Multidisciplinary” category, or the “Psychology, Social” category, E&HB would rank 2 of 51, 13 of 101, and 3 of 46, respectively; the Journal ranks 15 of 42 in the broad “Behavioral Sciences” category of the Science Citation Index. Manuscript handling is prompt, with the median time to decision being 38 days over the last two years. In addition, manuscripts accepted for publication are available as corrected page proofs on the Journal’s web site, further speeding their dissemination. The Editors look forward to a broad array of submissions addressing evolutionary psychology, human behavioral ecology, cultural evolution, and related topics.

HBES Membership

HBES membership application and renewal can be done on-line. For those who want to renew or join for the first time, go to http://hbes.com/join_hbes.htm. Members of HBES receive a free subscription to the HBES journal, Evolution and Human Behavior, a reduced subscription rate for the journal Human Nature, another top-ranked journal dedicated to advancing the interdisciplinary investigation of human behavior, reduced conference registration fees, a vote in the society elections, and, of course, the HBES newsletter. Members can also take advantage of the resources posted on the HBES website, developed and maintained by Michael Mills: <http://www.hbes.com>.

The 18th Annual Meeting of the Human Behavior and Evolution Society took place from June 7th through June 11th at the University of Pennsylvania and Drexel University in the city of Philadelphia. The conference attracted roughly 550 participants from five continents and a broad spectrum of academic disciplines, including anthropology, behavioral ecology, biology, economics, legal studies, neuroscience, political science, psychology, and many others.



For many, the highlight of the conference was Dan Dennett's Keynote address, "Domesticating the Wild Memes of Folk Religion," which in part highlighted ideas from his recent book, *Breaking the Spell: Religion as a Natural Phenomenon*. Professor Dennett also

took part in a special presentation, "It's Time to Speak Up: A Panel Discussion on the Role of Evolutionary Scientists in Contemporary Public Discourse." Conference attendees were fortunate to hear legal scholars and others discuss this important issue. Included on the panel was U.S. District Judge John E. Jones III, who presided over the landmark case, *Kitzmiller et al. vs. Dover Area School District* in Dover, Pennsylvania. The conference organizers are grateful to the participants in the panel as well as R. Elisabeth Cornwell and Andy Thomson, who put this extremely interesting discussion together.

The conference featured a collection of Invited Addresses from talented and distinguished researchers spanning the country (Los Angeles to Boston) and disciplines. Plenary Addresses were delivered by **Joe Campos**, Department of Psychology, University of California, Berkeley, **Robert Frank**, Johnson School of Business, Cornell University, **Mike Gurven** (filling in for **Hilly Kaplan**, to whom we extend our best wishes), Department of Anthropology, University of California Santa Barbara, **Jim Sidanius**, Department of Psychology, Harvard University, **Joan Silk**, Department of Anthropology, University of California Los Angeles, and **Marlene Zuk**, Department of Biology, University of California Riverside. Topics ranged from the benefits of parasites (Zuk) to the not-so-beneficial intergroup conflict (Sidanius), and many areas in between. UPenn's majestic Irvine Auditorium provided a worthy venue for these exciting and interesting talks.

As always, the Conference featured competitions for best Poster, best paper by a New Investigator (pre-doctoral), and best paper by Postdoctoral scholar (within 5 years of PhD). Competition was marked this year by a tremendous field both in terms of quality and quantity. Out of nearly 200 Posters, 82 New Investigator submissions, and 28 Postdoctoral submissions, the following three winners were – with great difficulty on the part of the diligent committees – selected. **POSTER COMPETITION:** Vidas Griskevicius, Arizona State University *Going Along Versus Going Alone: When Fundamental Motives Facilitate Strategic (Non)Conformity*. **NEW INVESTIGATOR COMPETITION:** Jane Mendle, University of Virginia -- *Age of Menarche in Children-of-Twins: A Re-Evaluation of the Belsky-Draper Hypothesis*. **POSTDOCTORAL COMPETITION:**

Norman Li, University of Texas, Austin -- *Sex Similarities and Differences in Preferences for Short-Term Mates*. Unlike previous years, winners received a laptop computer, made more special by the fact that each computer was actually used for this year's conference. Tim Ketelaar is owed a debt of gratitude for his efforts in organizing these competitions.

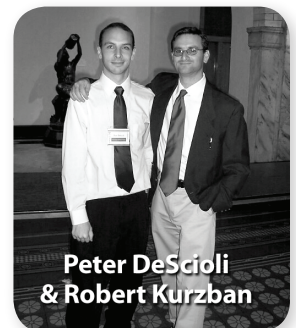
While the 18th Annual Conference continued many traditions such as these competitions, there were some innovations as well. For example, this conference saw the debut of a mechanism designed to help presenters manage their allotted time and Chairs keep their sessions in synchrony with those running in parallel (four, this year) so that people could move from room to room without worrying about missing the beginning of a talk. A functionally specialized computational mechanism, "Presentation Timer," was developed especially for the conference and placed on the conference computers. Presentation Timer generates a small, semi-transparent rectangle visible on the projected screen. The rectangle is green during the time allotted for the speaker's talk, orange during the allotted question and answer period, and red when it is time for the next speaker to be introduced. Though skeptical at first, HBESers seem to have liked the benefits provided by this mechanism. Feedback regarding its use can be left on the conference web site (see below).

This year's HBES was organized to try to make the Conference as cost effective as possible while trying to avoid red ink. We are pleased to report that with a Registration Fee of \$100 for students, over half of our attendees were students (or, at least, Registered as students – people whose consciences nag at them for free riding may send checks to the HBES treasurer), a fact which bodes well for the future of the discipline. We are also pleased to report that the Conference still managed to finish in the black, in no small part because of the very generous contributions made by the University Research Foundation (Penn), the College of Arts and Sciences (Penn), the Department of Psychology, (Drexel), the Department of Philosophy, Politics, and Economics (Penn), and the Department of Psychology (Penn). Budget information will be placed on the conference web site for people interested in how their Registration dollars were spent.

Of course, the conference could not have been held without enormous efforts by a number of volunteers. Their names are indicated in the conference program, but Jason Weeden, Peter DeScioli, and Diana Zarzuelo must be recognized for their tireless efforts.

The web site (www.hbes2006.com, which will redirect you to another site) will be maintained for several more months. On

the web site, there are links to pictures from the conference, budget information (as soon as these numbers have been finalized), press coverage, and, importantly, a place for people to leave feedback. Just click on the "Discussion Forum" link on the left side of the page. For those of you interested in not just t-shirts, but also mugs, hats, and clocks, themed merchandise is still available at <http://www.cafepress.com/hbes>.



**Peter DeScioli
& Robert Kurzban**

The 19th Annual Meeting of the Human Behavior and Evolution Society will be held at The College of William and Mary in Virginia, from May 30 to June 3, 2007. Our local hosts will be Lee Kirkpatrick and Brandy Burkett. Lee is an Associate Professor of Psychology at the College of William and Mary; Brandy is a doctoral candidate at the University of California, Santa Barbara.

About the College. Contrary to some popular misconceptions, W&M is a state-supported, modern university -- the "College of..." rubric has been kept for historical reasons -- with colleges of Law, Business Administration, Education, and Marine Science, in addition to Arts & Sciences, and numerous graduate programs. Founded in 1693, it is the second-oldest college/university in the nation, and the birthplace of both Phi Beta Kappa and the honor code system of conduct. W&M currently enrolls approximately 5700 undergraduate and 2000 graduate students. For more information, go to <http://www.wm.edu>.

About Williamsburg. W&M is located in historic Williamsburg, Virginia, approximately 150 miles south of Washington, D.C. and midway between Richmond and Norfolk. Colonial Williamsburg, directly adjacent to campus, is one of the top family tourist destinations in the U.S. Also nearby are the historic sites of Jamestown and Yorktown -- completing the Historic Triangle -- as well as the Busch Gardens and Water Country USA amusement parks. The year 2007 will mark the 400th anniversary of the founding of the Jamestown colony (1607). We expect to be able to provide substantial discounts to conference registrants for tickets to Colonial Williamsburg, and possibly some of the other local attractions. If you've never been to C.W., we can both attest that it is well worth a visit. You can read more about it at http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Colonial_Williamsburg, or visit the official C.W. site at <http://www.history.org>.

About Conference Facilities. All (or nearly all) conference events will take place in the University Center, which was built about ten years ago with modern professional conference facilities an integral part of the plan and design. Both inexpensive dormitory housing and quality hotel housing (with negotiated group rates) will be available within a block's distance from the University Center. Also within a block's distance are three casual bar/restaurants, including the official conference tavern, the Greene Leaf Cafe.

About Transportation. The closest and most convenient airport, less than 30 minutes away from campus, is the Newport News/Williamsburg airport. Richmond International airport is less than an hour away, and Norfolk slightly farther (and more likely to involve traffic delays). We expect to be able to provide shuttle service to and from Newport News and Richmond airports during the busiest arrival and departure times. We look forward to another terrific conference.

HBES

Human Behavior & Evolution Society

2007



Resources

Conferences

American Anthropological Association
November 15-19, 2006, San Jose, California
<http://www.aaanet.org/mtgs/mtgs.htm>

American Psychological Association
August 10-13, 2006, New Orleans, Louisiana
<http://www.apa.org/convention06/>

Animal Behavior Society
August 12-16, 2006, Snowbird, Utah
<http://www.animalbehavior.org/Conference/Snowbird06/>

Association for Politics and the Life Sciences
October 25-26, 2006, Bloomington, Indiana
<http://www.aplsnet.org/>

Association for Psychological Science
May 24-27, 2007, Washington, D.C.
<http://www.psychologicalscience.org/convention/>

Behavior Genetics Association
June 2-6, 2007, Amsterdam, The Netherlands
<http://www.bga.org/pages/1/Home.html>

Cognitive Neuroscience Society
<http://www.cogneurosociety.org/>

Cognitive Science Society
August 1-4, 2007, Nashville, Tennessee
<http://www.cognitivesciencesociety.org/cogsci.html>

European Conference on Complex Systems
September 25-29, 2006, University of Oxford, England
<http://complexsystems.lri.fr/>

European Human Behavior and Evolution
March 28-30, 2007, London, UK
[http://www.hbes.com/Hbes/EHBE-2006\].htm](http://www.hbes.com/Hbes/EHBE-2006].htm)

European Society for Evolutionary Biology
August 20-25, 2007, Uppsala, Sweden
<http://www.eseb.org/>

Human Behavior & Evolution Society
May 30-June 3, 2007, College of William and Mary, Virginia
<http://www.hbes.com>

International Meeting on Evolutionary Archeology
September 4-9, 2006, Lisbon, Portugal
<http://ica-uba.tripod.com/evolutionaryarchaeologyinternationalmeeting/index.html>

International Society for Human Ethology
July 30-August 3, 2006, Detroit, Michigan
<http://evolution.anthro.univie.ac.at/ishe>

International Society for Intelligence Research
December 14-16, 2006, San Francisco, California
<http://www.isironline.org/>

The Moral Brain
October 20-21, 2006, Ghent, Belgium
<http://www.themoralbrain.be/>

NorthEastern Evolutionary Psychology Society (NEEPS)
April 13, 2007, SUNY New Paltz
<http://www.newpaltz.edu/~geherg/neeps/>

Organization for Computational Neuroscience
July 8-12, Toronto, Canada
http://www.cnsorg.org/cns_meeting.htm

Psychonomics Society Annual Meeting
November 16-19, 2006, Houston, Texas
<http://www.psychonomic.org/meet.htm>

Society for the Evolutionary Analysis in Law,
<http://law.vanderbilt.edu/seal/index.htm>

Society for Personality and Social Psychology
January 25-27, 2007, Memphis, Tennessee
<http://www.taramillerevents.com/spsp2007/>

SPSP Evolutionary Psychology Preconference
January, 25, 2007, Memphis Tennessee
http://www.debralieberman.com/spsp_2007

Society for the Study of Evolution
<http://www.evolutionarysociety.org/>

Society for the Study of Human Biology and BioSocial Society
Symposium: Medicine and Evolution
December 11-12, 2006, York, UK
<http://evolutionandmedicine.org/>

Job Postings

University of Texas at Austin: Assistant Professor
<http://www.psy.utexas.edu/psy/recruit.html>

California State Fullerton: Assistant Professor
<http://psych.fullerton.edu/search2006.html>
HBES: http://www.hbes.com/jobs___collaboration.htm
APA: <http://www.apa.org/jobs/>

PsycCareers (APA): <http://jobs.psycareers.com/search/>

APS: <http://www.psychologicalscience.org/jobs/>

Nature: <http://www.nature.com/naturejobs/index.html>

Science: <http://sciencecareers.sciencemag.org/>

AAA: <http://www.aaanet.org/careers.htm>

Chronicle of Higher Education

http://chronicle.com/jobs/faculty_resources.htm

Predoctoral Fellowships/Grants

NSF: Graduate Research Fellowship Program
<https://www.fastlane.nsf.gov/grfp/>

Ford Foundation: Diversity Fellowships
<http://www7.nationalacademies.org/fellowships/>

NIH: Predoctoral Fellowship for Minority Students
<http://grants.nih.gov/grants/guide/pa-files/PA-00-069.html>

APA: Predoctoral Fellowship in the Neurosciences
<http://www.apa.org/mfp/prprogram.html>

AAUW: American Fellowships (women)

http://www.aauw.org/fga/fellowships_grants/american.cfm

Guggenheim: <http://www.hfg.org/df/guidelines.htm>