

# HUMAN BEHAVIOR & EVOLUTION SOCIETY



Winter 2008 Newsletter

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The next HBES conference will be held at Kyoto University, Japan, June 4 - June 8, 2008. The conference website is <http://beep.c.u-tokyo.ac.jp/~hbes2008/index.htm>. Abstract submission is now open! March 15 is the deadline for all submissions. Conference announcements, travel awards, and call for symposium. [Read more...](#)

## HBES LIFETIME CONTRIBUTION AWARD

Congratulations to Richard Alexander! [Read more...](#)

## HBES EARLY CAREER AWARD

Congratulations to Rob Kurzban! [Read more...](#)

## SPECIAL FEATURES

Evolutionary Psychology in China by Charles Crawford. [Read more...](#)

## View

From the President's Window  
Steve Gangestad

Our new HBES president is Steve Gangestad, Distinguished Professor of Psychology at the University of New Mexico. In this issue, Steve discusses two new methods for computing journal impact scores. Both show EHB is among the top scientific journals.

[Read more...](#)



## Interview

Don Symons

The featured interview is with Don Symons, Emeritus Professor of Anthropology at the University of California Santa Barbara. A pioneer of Darwinian Psychology, Don has been a champion of the adaptationist program and has fueled the study of human sexuality.

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## MisMannered

Doug Kenrick

MisMannered is currently on a well-deserved hiatus. I'd like to take this opportunity to say a big thank you to Doug for entertaining us in the last three newsletters! Stay tuned for the next edition of the MisMannered column. I am sure it will be a treat!

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## Students

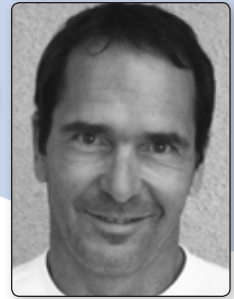
The Student Voice | Aaron Blackwell

In this issue, read the Student Profile on William McKibbin, a doctoral student working with Todd Shackelford in the Evolutionary Psychology Lab at Florida Atlantic University. William's research focuses on rape avoidance behaviors.

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# View From the President's Window | Steven W. Gangestad



So here's a fun fact to know and tell: By a newly created empirical index of journal reputation, *Evolution and Human Behavior*, the official journal of HBES, now ranks at the 96th percentile of all psychology journals, the 94th percentile of journals in the biological sciences, and the 92nd percentile of science journals in general (all 13,208 of them). Impressively, that's better than nearly all of the 30+ empirically oriented journals of the American Psychological Association, including "flagship" outlets that pride themselves on publishing seminal papers such as *Journal of Personality and Social Psychology* (JPSP), *Journal of Abnormal Psychology* (JAP), *Journal of Experimental Psychology: Learning, Memory & Cognition* (JEP:LMC), *Developmental Psychology* (DP), and *Journal of Consulting and Clinical Psychology* (JCCP). (*Journal of Experimental Psychology: General* [JEP:Gen] and *Behavioral Neuroscience* [BN] are the sole exceptions.) No journal in anthropology with a primary focus on behavior currently has a higher ranking.

## Some background

In the 1960s, Eugene Garfield, founder of ISI and its Science Citation Index, devised a simple metric of a journal's impact, the Journal Impact Factor (IF). For a given target year (say, 2007), a journal's IF is the mean number of citations that its articles published during the previous two years (here, 2005–2006) received in any one of 7,000+ ISI-tracked journals during the target year. EHB's IF for 2006 (the last published year) sits at 2.59. On average across this decade, its IF has been at the 86th percentile of all science journals. That's highly respectable for a specialty journal in behavioral science. But it's exceeded by most of the IFs of broad flagship APA journals (e.g., JPSP: 4.22; JAP: 4.37; JEP:LMC: 2.61; DP: 3.57; JCCP: 4.03). That's not surprising; after all, these APA journals attract much attention from researchers drawn from an extensive array of subspecialty domains. (For instance, perhaps thousands of social psychologists across the globe treat the latest table of contents of JPSP [if not the entire issue] as essential reading material for the month.)

Many bibliometricians, however, argue that the IF is too simple a metric of journal impact. In the IF, all citations receive equal weight. But if citations reflect an article's influence through a spreading network of other research—a broad corpus of scientific literature it speaks to—then two citations need not reflect equal impact. Effect on and citation in a paper that, in turn, gets cited in 100 other articles, after all, results in broader influence than does a citation in an article that is virtually ignored forevermore, and never gets cited.

In the past year, two alternative methods that differentially weight citations have appeared. One can be found at [eigenfactor.org](http://eigenfactor.org). (Co-founders include Carl Bergstrom and Ted

Bergstrom, both one-time, if not current, members of HBES.) A journal's Eigenfactor (EF) is directly proportional to the amount of time an individual would spend looking at the journal's articles if she were to randomly choose a starting journal, randomly select a cited article, proceed to that article, go to a randomly chosen paper cited in it, and so on—with that process iterated endlessly (and some fixed probability of starting with a randomly chosen journal altogether at any given step). A journal's Article Influence (AI) is its EF adjusted for number of articles the journal published in the period of concern. In 2006, EHB's AI was at the 93rd percentile of all journals, ranking notably better than its IF (though still below the AI of most APA journals).

Then, in December of 2007, SCImago Research Group launched SCImagoJR.com, which features its own reputation index, the SCImago Journal Rank (SJR). A journal's SJR is based on transfer of prestige of one journal to another through citation. In a nutshell, each journal's citations are effectively weighted by the SJR of journals in which articles are cited. A journal does better if its articles are well-cited of course, but particularly so if the journals in which its citations appear are themselves well-connected, through widespread citations, to other well-cited journals. (An iterative process is used to arrive at each journal's SJR, based on that of all others.)

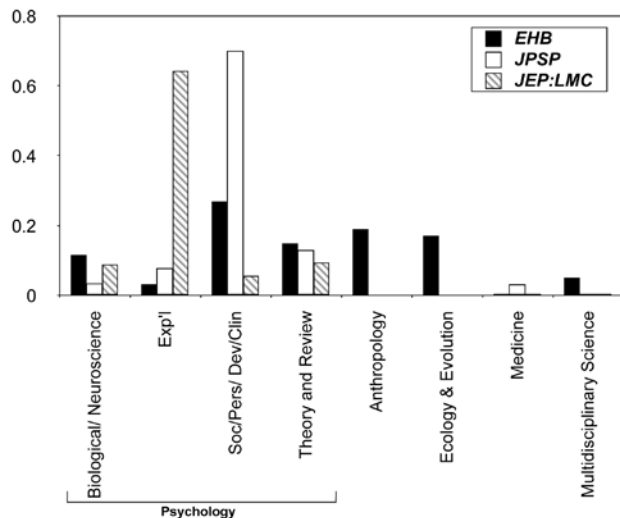
Both eigenfactor and SCImagoJR are derived from Google's PageRank algorithm, though details differ. And whereas eigenfactor works with ISI's database, SJRs are based on Scopus' more extensive database, which includes many new journals (e.g., open access outlets) not yet included by ISI.

The SJR is where EHB truly excels, as I described at the outset. Again, for instance, its 2006 SJR (.348) exceeds that of all but 30 of 721 journals classified as covering psychology. (EHB, I note, is not—it is classified by Scopus as a biology journal—though that's beside the point here.) And if we exclude review journals (e.g., *Psychological Bulletin*) and those having more to do with neurobiology than behavior (e.g., *Neurobiology of Aging*), that number shrinks to 13. Those APA journals I mentioned? They rank well—but EHB's 2006 SJR exceeds those of JPSP, JAP, JEP:LMC, DP, and JCCP by 20% to over 100%. (They range from .172 to .288. Again, out of 30+ APA empirical journals, just two, JEP:Gen and BN, have higher 2006 values, but by just 14% and 9%, respectively.)

## So what does it mean?

Though EHB articles are less cited, on average, than those in these comparison journals, they must be cited in journals that themselves, on average, have higher distributed impact;

otherwise, it's not clear how EHB could have a higher SJR. I did some further data-sifting (using Web of Science) to document this pattern. But I also looked to understand it more deeply. What are these higher impact journals? And can the pattern speak to anything about evolutionary behavioral science, as opposed to alternative approaches? As it happens, I think so.



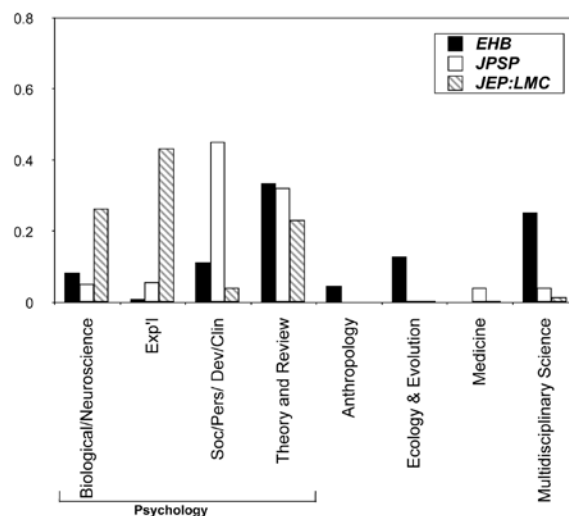
**Figure 1. Proportions of citations of articles published in target journals (EHB, JPSP, JEP:LMC) during 2003-2007 that appeared in specific categories of journals. Citations within the target journal itself (e.g., citations of EHB articles appearing in EHB) are excluded. (They are 17%, 10%, and 12% for EHB, JPSP, JEP:LMC, respectively.) Theory and review journals in psychology include Behavioral and Brain Sciences, Psychological Review, Psychological Bulletin, Psychological Inquiry, Current Directions in Psychological Science, Annual Review of Psychology, Review of General Psychology, American Psychologist, European Psychologist, and Psychological Science (which also publishes empirical articles of general interest). Together, these account for the vast majority of the impact in this category, but I also included more specialized review outlets, which vary in IF: Trends in Cognitive Sciences, Personality and Social Psychology Review, Advances in Experimental Social Psychology, Advances in Child Development, Clinical Psychology Review, Developmental Review, Academy of Management Review, Child Clinical and Family Psychology Review, Educational Psychology Review, Nature Reviews Neuroscience, Neuroscience and Biobehavioral Reviews. (The pattern shown for this category holds even when specialized review journals are excluded, leaving only general theory and review journals. Moreover, the mean IF of theory and review journals citing EHB exceeds the mean IF of those citing JPSP and JEP:LMC.) Multidisciplinary science journals include Nature, Science, and Proceedings of the National Academy of Science USA. Very small proportions of articles appearing in journals in fields not listed (e.g., economics, law) are omitted.**

EHB articles published during a 5-year window (2003-2007) were cited 1063 times in 721 different ISI-tracked journal articles (from 1 time to 39 times in individual journals, excluding EHB itself). I ignored the many journals with a single citation. For all others (96 of them), I tracked down the 2006 ISI Impact Factor. Journals in which citations appeared (weighted by their number of papers citing EHB articles) had a mean IF of 4.39. I chose two comparison APA journals, JPSP and JEP:LMC (which broadly concern topics similar to those many EHB articles investigate—social behavior and cognition), and

applied similar procedures. (Other APA journals already noted would probably show the same pattern.) As expected, the mean weighted IF of journals citing articles in JPSP and JEP:LMC was less: 2.79 and 3.02, respectively. That is, the mean IF of a journal citing an EHB paper was about 45% to nearly 60% higher than the mean IF of a journal citing a JPSP or JEP:LMC paper.

Figure 1 breaks down the sources of citations into various categories. As can be seen, the majority of citations of JPSP and JEP:LMC appear in journals dedicated to comparable areas: social/personality/developmental/clinical psychology (excluding a few review journals) in the case of JPSP (70%), and basic experimental psychology in the case of JEP:LMC (64%). Not surprisingly given its interdisciplinary nature, citations to EHB articles appear in a wider range of journals. While 27% appear in s/p/d/c psychology journals, for instance, 19% and 17% appear in anthropology and ecology & evolution journals, respectively.

So where does the greater impact of EHB-citing journals arise from? To construct something related to (and easily computed—though not nearly so sophisticated as) what the SJR reflects, I weighted each citation by the citing journal's IF. I then recalculated the percentages shown in Figure 1, but this time using the IF-weighted citations. These percentages, shown in Figure 2, crudely reflect the degree to which categories of journals pull each journal's total impact (as captured by, e.g., the SJR). A couple of comparisons across journals, I think, are notable.



**Figure 2. Proportions of IF-weighted citations of articles published in target journals (EHB, JPSP, JEP:LMC) during 2003-2007 that appeared in specific categories of journals. (See text. See also Figure 1.)**

First, a very large proportion of EHB's IF-weighted citation is achieved through the big multidisciplinary science journals, Nature, Science, and PNAS: a whopping 25% vs. 5% and 2% for JPSP and JEP:LMC, respectively.

Second, EHB achieves a lot of impact through theoretical and review journals in psychology (importantly, Behavioral and Brain Sciences, Psychological Review, Psychological



Bulletin, and Psychological Inquiry), in light of its proportion of impact through psychology journals overall. Again, EHB's interdisciplinary nature means that a much lower proportion of its citations appear in psychology journals compared to JPSP and JEP:LMC: 58% vs. 95% and 99%, respectively. Despite that fact, however, EHB's proportion of impact in psychology achieved through theoretical and review journals matches or exceeds that of these psychology journals. EHB's impact through psychology journals, then, is substantially more weighted toward theoretical and review journals (about 60% vs. 25-35% for JPSP and JEP:LMC).

The mean IF (weighted by number of citations of these journals) of the big multidisciplinary journals is around 20. The mean IF of the theoretical and review psychology journals is close to 8. By contrast, the mean weighted IF of cited journals in all other categories ranges from around 4 (for the biologically oriented journals) down to less than 2 (the anthropology and social/personality/developmental/clinical psychology journals). The SJR is a complex function of a lot of factors. Nonetheless, it's little stretch to propose that substantial representation of citations in multidisciplinary, theoretical, and review journals goes a long ways toward explaining why EHB's SJR exceeds that of most APA empirical journals.

(Again, EHB papers are cited in biology and anthropology journals more often than papers in APA journals as well. For reasons largely unrelated to journal quality, biology journals have IFs greater than psychology journals, on average, and anthropology journals have lower IFs. But averaged across both categories, these IFs are not terribly different from those of psychology journals. Hence, this variation accounts for little of EHB's greater SJR. It might be interesting to examine EHB articles' citations in theoretical and review journals in biology and anthropology as well as psychology, but for purposes here I didn't separate out those citations)

What do these patterns mean? I suspect that they mean what many working in our field have long assumed, but which now appears evident in the bibliometric data. Evolutionarily informed perspectives on human behavior are inspired by and, in turn, inform powerful, integrative conceptualization of broad, general interest, and much more so than most other approaches to an understanding of human behavior. The number of researchers currently applying evolutionary behavioral science does not yet generate the kinds of mean citation rates achieved by articles appearing in the most visible broad psychology journals. A sizeable proportion of citations of "seminal" articles in broad APA journals, however, may well appear in non-influential journals reporting research that is narrowly derivative and hence with very little downstream impact. By contrast, because evolutionarily informed research informs broad theory, to an unusual extent it is cited in major multidisciplinary science journals as well as, within psychology itself, major theoretical and review journals. As a result, the average EHB article currently has a greater distributed impact on scientific discourse than does the average article appearing in the vast majority of behavioral science journals, including most empirical APA journals.

As noted at the outset, this is a fun fact to know—and tell. You might think about printing two copies of this newsletter—and giving one to your departmental chair.

### Miscellaneous notes

EHB's SJR has risen substantially in the past couple of years and only recently distinguishes EHB from, e.g., JPSP and JEP:LMC. (See Figure 3.) Time will tell whether this trend is stable. Nonetheless, EHB's mean SJR from 2000-2007 is greater than that of JPSP or JEP:LMC—despite, once again, lower IFs.

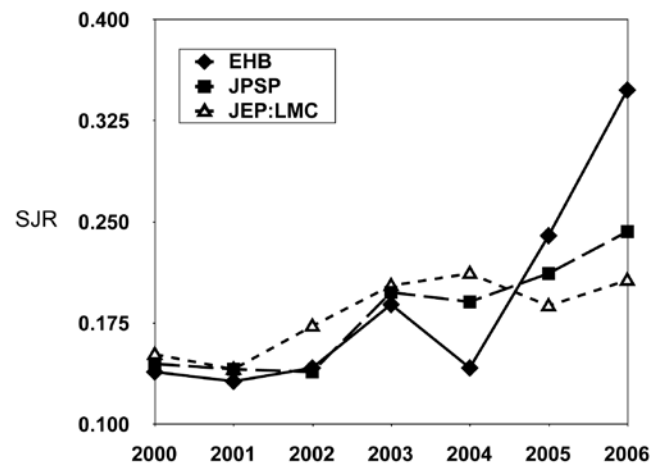


Figure 3. SJR for EHB, JPSP, and JEP:LMC for 2000-2006.

Simply due to different numbers of psychologists and anthropologists in our field, EHB's papers are somewhat more psychology-oriented than anthropology-oriented (though, of course, both are well-represented). But the same pattern—better relative SJR than IF—can be observed for Human Nature, an evolutionary behavioral science journal with more anthropology than psychology emphasis. Its 2006 SJR was .172, better than the SJRs of 97% of all social science journals and 83% of science journals in general. More generally, many evolution-minded papers appear in broad journals (e.g., the APA journals noted already). The pattern of citation documented for EHB should apply broadly to much evolution-minded research, not just EHB.

Naturally, the action editors of these journals deserve much credit for publishing high impact empirical articles. Over the past decade, EHB's editors include Martin Daly, Margo Wilson, Steve Gaulin, Ruth Mace, Dan Fessler, and Martie Haselton. Rob Kurzban serves as book editor. Human Nature is edited by Jane Lancaster.

Many thanks to my colleague Geoffrey Miller for recently drawing my attention to the SJR.

Journal-specific data on the new impact indexes discussed herein are freely available on the web and can be found at [www.scimagojr.com](http://www.scimagojr.com) and [www.eigenfactor.org](http://www.eigenfactor.org).

If you have comments or suggestions or wish to know details on the procedures I used to arrive at any of the figures stated here, please feel free to contact me at [sgangest@unm.edu](mailto:sgangest@unm.edu).

## Featured Interview | Don Symons



**D**on Symons is Emeritus Professor of Anthropology at the University of California Santa Barbara. A pioneer of the field of Darwinian Psychology, Don has stressed the importance of the adaptationist program for understanding human behavior and cognition. In addition to his many articles, Don is author of “The Evolution of Human Sexuality”, still a foundational text in the field, “Warrior Lovers” co-authored with Catherine Salmon, and “Play and Aggression: A Study of Rhesus Monkeys”. Please enjoy this special interview.

**DL: What path led you to a career in anthropology? Did a particular book or individual play a special role in starting you on this path? What I am really interested in is how you became interested in evolutionary approaches to human behavior and how this led you to a career in anthropology versus, say, psychology or biology.**

DS: During the summer of 1963, when I was a 21-year-old junior psychology major at UC Berkeley, I took a class from Benbow Ritchie, a professor and historian of psychology. Ritchie had recently become obsessed with human evolution, and one of the books he assigned was “African Genesis” by the playwright and popular science writer Robert Ardrey. I’ve never admitted this in public before, but Ardrey’s potboiler about humans as the descendants of African killer apes somehow inspired me and instilled in me the understanding that human nature was shaped by natural selection over unimaginable periods of time in a world that no longer exists. Today, I wouldn’t recommend the book, even as a historical curiosity, but when I re-read its opening sentences I still feel the hair on my neck prickling: “Not in innocence, and not in Asia, was mankind born. The home of our fathers was that African highland reaching north from the Cape to the Lakes of the Nile. Here we came about--slowly, ever so slowly--on a sky-swept savanna glowing with menace.” Okay, maybe you had to be there (1963, that is, not the sky-swept savanna). The one time I told this story in private, at dinner with two respected evolutionists of a certain age, both admitted that they too had been inspired by “African Genesis.”

1963, remember, was long before the birth of evolutionary psychology (unless you count Darwin). At that time the only discipline devoted to the study of human evolution was biological anthropology. I considered changing my major to anthropology, but I was (well) advised to finish my degree in psychology and then to enter UCB’s biological anthropology

PhD program in “limited status” until I made up the necessary anthropology coursework. A year later I graduated with a B.A. in psychology and immediately became a student of anthropologist Sherwood Washburn, specializing in nonhuman primate behavior.

Wafting in the Berkeley air in those days, along with the jasmine and marijuana, was the vague and unexamined notion that by studying nonhuman primate behavior one would illuminate human nature. Yet no one seemed to think that by studying lemur behavior one would illuminate gorilla nature. Such inconsistencies should have aroused my suspicions, but I was a slow study, and it took years--including a stint of fieldwork on play among free-ranging rhesus monkeys, the writing of my dissertation, and the writing of a book (“Play and Aggression”)--before the scales fell from my eyes. Anyway, the short answer is that I chose anthropology because at the time it was the only real choice for someone who hoped to use Darwin’s view of life as a guide to the study of human nature.

**DL: What changes have you seen in the field of anthropology since you joined the faculty at UCSB?**

DS: In 1970, when I joined the UCSB faculty, most anthropology departments, including mine, were structured along the traditional “4-fields” lines: social/cultural anthropology; archaeology; biological anthropology; and anthropological linguistics (though most departments were too small to have their own linguist). Without waxing too nostalgic about the halcyon days of yore, the faculty in my department generally respected and supported one another, and there was a great deal of intellectual collaboration and camaraderie among our department’s three subdivisions. It was a congenial and exciting place to work.

This began to change with the rise of the smugly vacuous nihilism of postmodernism, and my

department, like many others, gradually became a fractured and less pleasant place to work. Some U.S. anthropology departments even fissioned into distinct science-minded and non-science-minded entities. The future of anthropology is uncertain, though I'm happy to report that in my own department the forces of sanity and science are ascendant.

**DL: Do you see the EP vs. EA debate(s) as dead or are there still important issues in need of debate and resolution?**

DS: Niels Bohr said that prediction is very difficult, especially if it's about the future. Prediction is easier, however, if it's about the past, and the last few centuries overwhelmingly confirm the prediction that adaptationism is immensely useful. The conception of human beings as integrated collections of species-typical problem-solving devices has produced a vast body of knowledge that constitutes one of the greatest achievements in the history of science. As evolutionary psychology is a modern tributary of this great river--a conscious and explicit adaptationist approach to the study of human nature--I expect it to have a rosy future. The fates of alternative programs, with shorter and sketchier track records, are more difficult to predict.

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

DS: If one construes "the field" to encompass both progress in our understanding of evolution by natural selection and adaptationist research on human nature, the accomplishments of the last half of the 20th century are breathtaking. Mostly, I'd cite the usual suspects.

In the domain of theoretical contributions: W.D. Hamilton for kin selection; George Williams for senescence; Bob Trivers for parent-offspring conflict, sexual selection, and reciprocal altruism; John Tooby for the evolution of sex; Leda Cosmides and John Tooby for extra-chromosomal inheritance and anisogamy; David Haig for mother/fetus conflict and genomic imprinting; and Paul Ewald for host/parasite co-evolution and the evolution of virulence (in a better world than this Ewald would already have won a Nobel Prize).

In the domain of empirical applications to human beings I'd cite David Buss for mating psychology, Martin Daly and Margo Wilson for parental love, and Leda Cosmides and John Tooby for social exchange.

Over many years these scientists responded to their critics with increasingly refined empirical studies, and they prevailed.

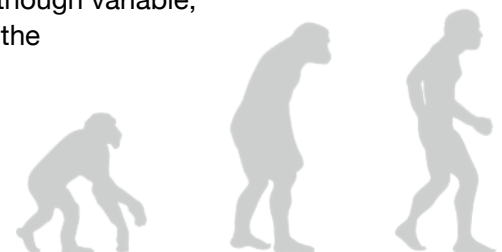
In addition, I'd cite a number of scientists who took chances on adaptationist hypotheses that were not intuitively obvious and produced compelling arguments and evidence. This includes Ed Hagen, especially for his work on depression, and Margie Profet for her ground-breaking hypotheses about pregnancy sickness, menstruation and, especially, the allergic response. Also, Helen (aka Yonie) Harris's 3-volume doctoral dissertation "Human Nature and the Nature of Romantic Love" (UCSB, 1995) is the most important and comprehensive work ever written on romantic love.

Finally, there has long been a demand among educated Americans, including many of our professional colleagues, for rosy views of nature and of human nature. Consequently, there has never been a shortage of evolutionists willing to supply such views. Thus, I have special respect and admiration for scientists like David Buss, Napoleon Chagnon and Richard Wrangham who unblinkingly gazed at the dark side and reported what they found.

**DL: What are some topics in the field (and beyond) that require additional attention?**

DS: In my view, evolutionists need to become more mindful of the environment of evolutionary adaptedness (EEA). It's logically impossible to describe an adaptation without explicitly or implicitly describing the specific features of ancestral environments to which the adaptation is adapted. The EEA is not optional; it's ineluctably embedded in every adaptationist hypothesis. No EEA, no adaptationism.

Here's one example (which Ed Hagen and I discuss elsewhere). There is a large literature in evolutionary psychology on human mating adaptations that fails to consider the implications of the fact that in the great majority of human societies, in all forager societies, and, hence, almost certainly in the EEA, parents and other elders exert and exerted substantial, though variable, control over the marriages of young people.



**DL: Your 1979 book *The Evolution of Human Sexuality* is still regarded as a foundational text in the field. What, if anything, would you change about the book today? Speaking of which, any chance we will see a 30th anniversary edition?**

DS: I sent the manuscript of “The Evolution of Human Sexuality” (EHS) to Oxford U.P. in June, 1978, so the most recent references cited therein were published before many readers of this interview were born. If I were writing the book today, no doubt I’d cite a few publications that appeared during the last 30 years.

Second, I now think that EHS takes too long to build up a head of steam. The more philosophical material in early chapters no longer seems so compelling. Evidently, with age I’ve become more of a minimalist. The first third of the little book “Warrior Lovers” that Catherine Salmon and I wrote consists of a more minimalist introduction to evolution by natural selection and evolutionary psychology. If I were writing EHS today, the basics would be covered more along the lines of “Warrior Lovers.”

Third, EHS contains a few regrettable errors. By “regrettable” I mean errors that were avoidable and that violated the spirit of the book. One newspaper reviewer of EHS wrote that its most salient quality is its sturdy acceptance of common sense. That warmed my heart, because I privately held the same view, and it was gratifying to learn that at least one other person had noticed. Thus, it pains me to acknowledge that I did not invariably live up to my own standards.

The literature on human sexuality is not just littered with piffle and falsehoods (e.g., humans pair bond like gibbons), it’s littered with piffle and falsehoods that the perpetrators themselves must have known were false, based on common sense and everyday life. Because I preened myself on my imagined resemblance to the boy who proclaimed that the emperor wore no clothes, I regret having presented hypotheses that were undermined by empirical evidence that I knew about. The most egregious example: Anyone who even casually peruses the ethnographic record on the determinants of physical attractiveness will notice that a preference for lighter-than-average female skin is mentioned frequently among peoples with very different absolute skin colors, and a darker-than-average preference is mentioned nowhere (as far as I know). Having read much of this literature, I was aware of the widespread (probably universal) preference for lighter-than-the-local average female skin, and I

mentioned it in passing; but instead of trying to explain it, I tried to explain it away. The reason is that at the time I was in love with the hypothesis that the “central tendency” of each population should be perceived by the members of that population as most attractive, and the ethnographic data on female skin color didn’t seem to support the prediction. My punishment was leaving that low hanging fruit for Pierre van den Berghe and Peter Frost to pick--and they did, in a wonderful article on the “fair sex.”

But on the whole, EHS seems to me to have aged pretty gracefully. I still think that a George Williams-style adaptationism is the light and the way, and I still think that EHS’s main arguments--about sex differences, female orgasm, the significance of contrasts between gay men and lesbians, etc.--are correct.

And EHS contains one or two chapters that, even by today’s standards, I still take special pride in. Let me segue to one of those chapters via a joke:

An Irishman, an Italian and an Iowan are arguing about which bar is the world’s best. “The best bar in the world is Paddy’s Pub in County Cork,” says the Irishman. “After you’ve bought two drinks at Paddy’s, the house stands you to a third.”

“That’s a good bar,” says the Italian, “but not as good as Antonio’s in Old Napoli. At Antonio’s, for every drink you buy the bartender buys you another.”

“Now, those sound like mighty fine bars,” says the Iowan, “but the best bar in the world is Bob’s Bar and Grill in Des Moines. When you go into Bob’s you get three free drinks and then you get to go in the back room and get laid.”

The Irishman and the Italian are astonished to hear this, but they are forced to admit that Bob’s Bar and Grill must indeed be the best bar in the world.

Suddenly, however, the Italian gets suspicious. “Wait a minute,” he says to the Iowan. “Did that actually happen to you personally?”

“Well, no, not to me personally,” admits the Iowan. “But it actually happened to my sister.”



Now, whether or not people think the joke is funny, they get it, and they get it no matter what their professed views are about male and female sexualities, and they get it instantly, without having to think about it. Everyone gets it because everyone's real world experience is that male and female sexualities differ profoundly, even if it's difficult to articulate the precise nature of those differences. "Copulation as a Female Service," Chapter 8 in EHS, still seems to me to be a creditable analysis of, and meditation on, the many reasons why everyone gets the joke.

You're very kind to ask about a 30th anniversary edition of EHS. Many professors retire in order to write the book they'd always wanted to write but hadn't had time to work on because of teaching and other academic duties. By contrast, my goal in retiring in 2002 was to get up every morning and do whatever I want for the rest of my life. I don't wish to appear immodest, but I have a considerable gift for indolence. Although to date I've been unable to hone and burnish that gift as much as I'd hoped, my answer to your question still must be that if you look out your window one morning and see a flock of pigs flying by, they may well be heralding a new edition of EHS.

**DL: If you are game, here are some sentence completions:**

**If I had to do it all over again...**

DS: ...I'd buy Microsoft the day it went public. Also, I'd try my hand more often at empirical research, at least long enough to see whether I was any good at it. Since my fieldwork on rhesus play, the few empirical studies I've been involved in were really the brainchildren of others (Bruce Ellis and Catherine Salmon). For most of my career I was happy and grateful that other people enjoyed doing empirical research so that I didn't have to. However, when David Perrett published his first paper in "Nature" on the perception of human female facial attractiveness I was stunned by the simple elegance of his method and wished that I'd thought of it. That got me musing about what might have been.

**DL: The most rewarding aspect of pursuing a career in evolutionary science...**

DS: ...is the chance to discover a heretofore unknown adaptation or to add to our knowledge of a known adaptation. An adaptation instantiates in its design millions of independent selection events that occurred over vast expanses of time and, often, space. An inherently unobservable process is made manifest in

the adaptation's architecture.

After all these years, I still find that idea thrilling. The closest I've come to such a discovery is described in "The stuff that dreams aren't made of: Why wake-state and dream-state sensory experiences differ" (Cognition, 47,181-217, 1993).

**DL: If I were to write another book, the title would be...**

DS: ..."Accounting for Taste." The phenomenon of taste (in the sense of aesthetic judgment, not gustation) has

always intrigued me; but, unfortunately, so far the only actual idea I've had about it is the book title.

Now that I think of it, however, I've also been intrigued by the (gustatory) taste of sour. The functions of the other tastes (sweet, salty, bitter and umami) seem to be reasonably well understood, but I haven't seen a convincing account of the function of sour.

**DL: My advice for students entering the field of human evolutionary science is...**

DS: ...to read George Williams's "Adaptation and Natural Selection" (Princeton U.P., 1966) until you feel it in your bones, to use Richard Dawkins's phrase. Many people seem to think of this book primarily as a refutation of group selection, but refuting group selection is far from its most important contribution. The heart of Williams's argument is that to identify a phenotypic feature as an adaptation it is neither necessary nor sufficient to demonstrate that the feature confers a benefit, reproductive or otherwise. It is both necessary and sufficient to demonstrate that the feature was designed to achieve a goal; that is, to demonstrate that there is such a close fit between an adaptive problem and a phenotypic solution to

*"...read George Williams's  
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research of others."*



that problem that chance can be ruled out as an explanation. Adaptive design is recognized in such things as the precision, efficiency, complexity and stability with which effects are achieved. If students entering the field come to feel Williams's message in their bones they will ask better questions in their own research and they will be better able to evaluate the research of others. Let me give you a couple of examples of what I have in mind.

Demonstrating the existence of many kinds of human sex differences obviously has played a major role in evolutionary psychology. But it's important to keep in mind that a sex difference per se is not an adaptation; rather, it is a consequence, or byproduct, of adaptations. The scientific goal is to discover and describe male adaptations, on the one hand, and female adaptations, on the other. Imagine that the human brain was sexually dimorphic in only a single mechanism. The number of potential sex differences in feeling, thought and action could still be essentially infinite. Studies demonstrating sex differences could be multiplied endlessly, limited only by researchers' cleverness in creating new experimental designs. But the experimental demonstration of a sex difference contributes to adaptationism only to the extent that it enhances our knowledge about a male adaptation or a female adaptation or both.

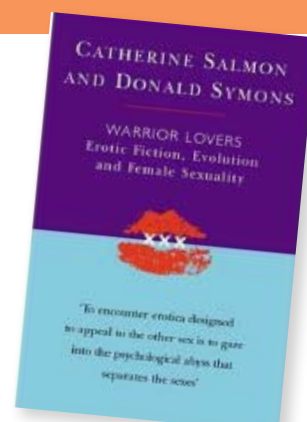
Here's another example. Imagine that a scientist has proposed that human female orgasm is an adaptation designed by selection to promote conception by enhancing sperm retention, and that it is designed to achieve this goal only when it occurs within a certain time window bracketing the male partner's ejaculation. Now, the first thing that a Williams-inspired adaptationist might ask is why a series of coordinated muscle contractions in a female body that mimic the muscle contractions of ejaculation in a male body

would miraculously turn out to be well designed to achieve an entirely different goal. That is, shouldn't we expect the design of a female device whose function is to promote conception by retaining sperm to differ in important ways from the design of a male device whose function is to propel semen from the body, for the same reasons that we expect a device designed to pump blood to differ from one designed to digest food?

Furthermore, if women are more likely to conceive when ejaculation occurs close to the time of their orgasm, that implies the existence of intense selection pressures on male anatomy, physiology and psychology to confine ejaculations to the conception-promoting interval by influencing the timing of ejaculation or of the female partner's orgasm or both. E.g., selection could favor males who observe the simple "rule": thrust until your partner orgasms, then immediately ejaculate. The adaptationist would want to know whether there is any evidence that selection has acted on human males in the predicted ways. As far as I can see, there is not a scintilla of evidence that it has. To my mind, these two independent lines of evidence so seriously undermine the hypothesis that female orgasm is an adaptation to promote conception that if it were demonstrated that female orgasm does promote conception, the implication would not be that it is an adaptation. Rather, the implication would be that during the course of human evolutionary history female orgasm didn't occur often enough during sexual intercourse for selection to have capitalized on this potential opportunity.

**DL: I almost forgot! My favorite Beatles song is...**

DS: ...I'd tell you, Deb, but, as you know, I shun controversy.





## FEATURED STUDENT PROFILE

### William McKibbin

William McKibbin is a doctoral student working with Todd Shackelford in the Evolutionary Psychology Lab at Florida Atlantic University ([www.ToddKShackelford.com](http://www.ToddKShackelford.com)). He is in his third year of graduate study. William has served as a reviewer for numerous journals including *Human Nature*, *Journal of Family Psychology*, and *Personality and Individual Differences*.

He is Assistant Managing Editor for *Evolutionary Psychology* ([www.epjournal.net](http://www.epjournal.net)). Currently William is involved in projects studying human sexual conflict and sperm competition. His work has been published in journals including *Personality and Individual Differences*, *Journal of Comparative Psychology*, and *Review of General Psychology*.

Recently, William began investigating women's rape avoidance behavior. Working with fellow lab members, he developed a taxonomy of behaviors that women perform to avoid being raped. A preliminary version of this inventory was presented at the 2007 HBES conference. Using this inventory, William has begun testing hypotheses derived from evolutionary psychological theory about women's rape avoidance behaviors. For example, William found empirical support for the hypothesis that women living close to family members, particularly male family members, would perform more rape avoidance behaviors than women with no family members close by. In the future, William plans to pursue an academic career in evolutionary psychology, where he will expand his rape avoidance research, particularly by developing a longitudinal study of women's rape avoidance. He also plans to expand into new research topics, including the use of partner-directed insults by men and women, and how couples' self-perceptions and perceptions of their partners interact to affect their relationships.

### Selected Publication

McKibbin, W. F., Shackelford, T. K., Goetz, A.T., & Starratt, V. G. Evolutionary psychological perspectives on rape. (in press) In J. Duntley and T. K. Shackelford (Eds.), *Evolutionary Forensic Psychology*. New York: Oxford University Press.

Buss, D. M., Shackelford, T. K., & McKibbin, W. F., (2008). The Mate Retention Inventory-Short Form (MRI-SF). *Personality and Individual Differences*, 44, 322-334.

McKibbin, W. F., Goetz, A. T., Shackelford, T. K., Schipper, L., Starratt, V. G., & Stewart-Williams, S. (2007). Why do men insult their partners? *Personality and Individual Differences*, 43, 231-241.

# HBES 2008 KYOTO JAPAN

4-8, June, 2008  
Kyoto University  
The Clock Tower Centennial Hall

*Registration is now open!*

Conference website:  
[http://beep.c.u-tokyo.ac.jp/  
~hbess2008/index.htm](http://beep.c.u-tokyo.ac.jp/~hbess2008/index.htm)

*Please see the  
announcements on  
the next page.*

*Keynote Speaker:  
Richard D. Alexander*

*Plenary Speakers:  
Nicholas Humphrey  
Tetsuro Matsuzawa  
Wayne Potts  
Carel van Schaik  
Andrew Whiten  
Toshio Yamagishi*



*HBES 2008 Hosts:  
Toshikazu Hasegawa  
Mariko Hiraiwa-Hasegawa*





# *Conference Announcements*

## *GENERAL CONFERENCE INFORMATION*

For information regarding registration, travel, abstract submission, and procedure for the HBES competitions, please visit the conference website: <http://beep.c.u-tokyo.ac.jp/~hbes2008/index.htm>

The hosts have also developed a forum to exchange information regarding travel and the coordination of symposia and sight-seeing day-trips: <http://hbes2008.forumotion.com/index.htm>

## *HBES TRAVEL AWARDS*

HBES will be making 20 awards to support international travel to Japan, primarily aimed at assisting graduate students. Awards will be for US\$350 or its equivalent. While we realize that this amount will hardly pay for full airfare from North America, Europe, or most other international sites, we hope that these awards will permit attendance and participation by some individuals otherwise unable to afford the meetings.

To be eligible, an individual must (1a) be a graduate student in a Ph.D. program OR (1b) be a scholar from an institution outside of North America or Western Europe. In addition, applicants must (2) submit an abstract for a first-authored paper or poster presentation for the meeting, and (3) submit a brief statement of why attending the meeting would be an unusual financial hardship. The letter of need should be emailed to Steve Gangestad ([sgangest@unm.edu](mailto:sgangest@unm.edu)). The deadline for submitting posters and abstracts is March 15. Applicants must submit their statement of need to Steve Gangestad no later than March 20.

Decisions about allocation of awards will be made quickly (by March 31) to permit as much advance travel planning as possible. If we receive more than 20 applications, awards will be drawn from the pool of candidates with accepted presentations or posters through a random lottery system. (In the random draw, graduate students will be given double the chances of being chosen, compared to non-students.) All applicants will be notified of these decisions by email. Payments will be made to awardees upon their arrival in Kyoto.

## *CALL FOR PHOTOGRAPHER*

Interested in serving as "HBES photographer" for the upcoming conference in Kyoto? The newsletter editor would like to include pictures of the keynote speaker, plenary speakers, and conference attendees in the next newsletter. If you have a digital camera of decent quality and wish to play photographer for a few days, send an email to Deb Lieberman ([debra@debralieberman.com](mailto:debra@debralieberman.com)).





# Conference Announcements

## *PROPOSED SYMPOSIA*

### Proposed Symposium on Teaching

This symposium at the 2008 HBES conference is designed to bring together people who want to exchange ideas and experiences about teaching EP, especially at the introductory level. Unlike in a research symposium, presenters would each discuss their topic for 10 minutes, followed by 10 minutes of discussions. Members of the audience would be encouraged to describe their own experiences. Here are some possible categories of topics:

- Teaching of a specific topic, such as domains (e.g., status), cross-cutting topics (e.g., sex differences, proximate mechanisms), principles (e.g., evolution, criteria for a good theory). Among other things, one might discuss take-home messages, metaphors, and key examples.
- Course-wide issues (e.g., lectures vs. discussion, order of topics)
- Use of internet (e.g., video clips, Wikipedia, assignments)
- Politics of teaching (e.g., PC & sex differences, academic turf issues)
- Research exercises

If you are interested in giving a presentation, please email an abstract (<150 words) by March 6 to one of us. (The symposium proposal needs to be submitted by March 15.) We recognize that your travel plans may be tentative at this point. Abstracts from East Asia are encouraged.

W. Pete Welch, George Mason University email: [w.pete.welch@gmail.com](mailto:w.pete.welch@gmail.com)

April Bleske-Rechek, University of Wisconsin-Eau Claire email: [bleskeal@uwec.edu](mailto:bleskeal@uwec.edu)

### Proposed Symposium on Cooperation

Evolutionary thinkers continue to be intrigued by the sustainability of high levels of non-kin cooperative behavior. There are those who theorize that cooperation evolved due to the expectation for reciprocity or strong reciprocity, while others think costly signaling is the key to its understanding. If you want to give a paper that fits any of these categories, please notify Rick Goldberg ([goldberg@io.com](mailto:goldberg@io.com)) in the next two weeks so we can put together a symposium for the Kyoto conference.

## *TOUR OF JAPANESE MACAQUES*

The 2008 HBES conference will be the first in a country with nonhuman primates. What would be the best way to see the macaques of Nagano? Perhaps a graduate student in primatology would be willing to give a tour to HBES members (e.g., on June 3, the day before the conference begins).

W. Pete Welch, George Mason University email: [w.pete.welch@gmail.com](mailto:w.pete.welch@gmail.com)

# Congratulations to the winners of the new HBES Awards!



## **HBES DISTINGUISHED SCIENTIFIC AWARD FOR LIFETIME CONTRIBUTION TO HUMAN BEHAVIOR AND EVOLUTION**

### **Richard D. Alexander**

Richard D. Alexander is the recipient of HBES's inaugural Lifetime Career Contribution Award. Dr. Alexander grew up as a farm boy in central Illinois during the great depression. He worked the land with horses, which he still does today. He started his formal education in a one-room schoolhouse, received his Ph.D from the Ohio State University in 1956, and took a job at the University of Michigan, where he stayed throughout his career and currently is emeritus professor and curator of insects in the Museum of Zoology. Dr. Alexander gained recognition as a world expert on singing insects and speciation, winning the AAAS Newcomb Cleveland Prize, the NAS Alfred Giroud Elliot medal, and membership in the National Academy of Sciences.

Dick Alexander has always had a deep interest in understanding human behavior. In a couple of early papers (1968, 1971), he proposed that competition among coalitions was especially important in human evolution. He developed an interest in cultural diversity, and suggested new ways to approach classic issues in anthropology such as matrilineal and patrilineal kinship, cousin marriage systems, infanticide, incest taboos, and grandparenting (e.g., 1974, 1975, 1979). He also emphasized the importance of understanding unusual physical traits of humans, including menopause, lack of estrus swellings, large brains, hairlessness, altricial infants, and a long childhood. Later, he addressed the problem of human cooperation and reciprocity, including ethics, morality, and legal systems (e.g., 1977, 1987, 2005, 2006). Alexander published a comprehensive model of human evolution that incorporated all of these diverse attributes of humans in his 1989 and 1990 papers "Evolution of the human psyche" and "How humans evolved."

In addition to his classic books "Darwinism & human affairs" (1979) and "The biology of moral systems" (1987), and co-edited volumes "Natural selection and social behavior: recent research and new theory" (1981) and "The biology of the Naked Mole Rat" (1991), Alexander has written several collections of children's stories, poetry, and a book on horse training.

Professor Alexander influenced a generation of students at the University of Michigan with his immensely popular courses on Evolution and Human Behavior. He helped develop one of the finest cohorts of graduate students in evolutionary biology – Mary Jane West-Eberhard, Gerry Borgia, Bernie Crespi, Steve Frank, John Hoagland, Paul Sherman, Beverly Strassmann, Randy Thornhill, and many others.

Dick Alexander steadfastly championed the ideas of his fellow evolutionary biologists George Williams, Bill Hamilton, and Bob Trivers through thick and thin. He worked to bring together scholars from the biological and social sciences when it was not always popular to do so. He was a catalyst for the interdisciplinary meetings that eventually developed into our Human Behavior and Evolution Society, and served as president from 1995-1996.

# Congratulations to the winners of the new HBES Awards!



## **HBES DISTINGUISHED SCIENTIFIC AWARD FOR AN EARLY CAREER CONTRIBUTION TO HUMAN BEHAVIOR AND EVOLUTION**

### **Robert Kurzban**

The inaugural winner of the HBES Distinguished Scientific Award for an Early Career Contribution to Human Behavior and Evolution is Robert O. Kurzban of the Department of Psychology, University of Pennsylvania.

This award is for outstanding contributions to the study of human behavior from an evolutionary perspective by someone who received the

PhD ten or fewer years before, and there were several excellent nominees, but the selection committee was unanimous in choosing Rob.

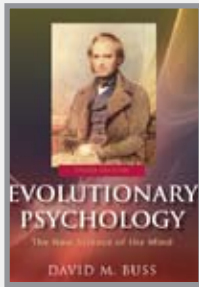
Robert Kurzban was our host for the 2006 Human Behavior & Evolution Society meeting, and you will surely agree that it was an outstanding conference. He is currently the Book Review editor for our journal, *Evolution & Human Behavior*. His publication list of 25 refereed journal papers and numerous book chapters, reviews and comments is exceptional, not only for its length and breadth but for the high quality of the journals in which he has published, including the *American Economic Review*, *PNAS*, *Psychological Bulletin*, *Psychological Review*, and, of course, *E&HB*. He also gives great talks; you won't be surprised to discover he's given numerous research talks in several countries.

To get a flavor of the diversity of his research interests, here's a sample of published titles:

- Audience effects on moralistic punishment.
- Can race be erased? Coalitional computation and social categorization.
- Evolutionary origins of stigmatization: The functions of social exclusion.
- HurryDate: Mate preferences in action.
- Modularity and the social mind: Are psychologists too self-ish?
- Oxytocin mediates interpersonal trust in humans.

The prescient person who nominated Kurzban for this award wrote: "Rob's research investigates adaptations for social life, and his important contributions cover a lot of territory— stigma, social categorization processes, cooperation in groups, the "self," modularity, trust, friendship, mate choice, and morality. Rob's research attacks important questions in conceptually elegant and empirically rigorous ways, integrating the best of evolutionary theory with social psychology, cognitive science, and experimental economics. He is an intellectual leader." The awards committee agreed.

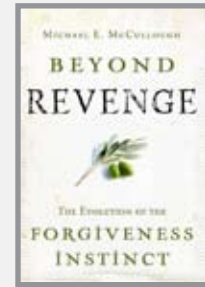
# New Books by HBES Members



Buss, D.M. (2008). *Evolutionary Psychology: The New Science of the Mind* (3rd Edition). Boston, MA: Allyn & Bacon.



Crawford, C. & Krebs, D., (Eds.). (2008). *Foundations of evolutionary psychology*. Taylor and Francis.



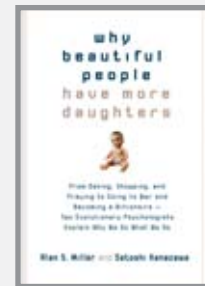
McCullough, M. E. (2008). *Beyond Revenge: The Evolution of the Forgiveness Instinct*. Jossey-Bass.



Moxon, S. (2008). *The Woman Racket: The New Science Explaining How the Sexes Relate at Work, at Play and in Society*. Imprint Academic.



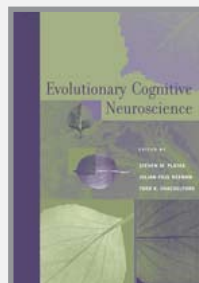
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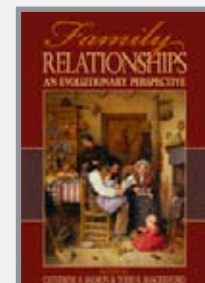
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Platek, S. M., Keenan, J. P., & Shackelford, T. K. (Eds.). (2007). *Evolutionary Cognitive Neuroscience*. Cambridge, MA: MIT Press.



Salmon, C. A., & Shackelford, T. K. (Eds.). (2007). *Family Relationships: An Evolutionary Perspective*. New York: Oxford University Press.



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### More Information

- See <http://nihroadmap.nih.gov/pioneer>
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- Have not yet obtained an NIH R01 or similar grant
- Hold an independent research position at an institution in the United States
- Received a doctoral degree or completed medical internship and residency within the past 10 years
- Will commit at least 25% of their research effort to the project

### Streamlined Application

- Electronic application allows preliminary data but does not require it
- Applications accepted in March; exact dates announced each fall



### More Information

- See [http://grants.nih.gov/new\\_investigators/innovator\\_award](http://grants.nih.gov/new_investigators/innovator_award)
- E-mail questions to [newinnovator@nih.gov](mailto:newinnovator@nih.gov)

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# Special Features

## Evolutionary Psychology in China

by Charles Crawford

**Friday, October 5, 2007**

I am on Air Canada Flight 29 to Beijing, PR China. I will be spending the next three weeks in the City of Tianjin teaching a course on evolutionary psychology and giving professional lectures. Tianjin is the third city of China, with the administrative status of a province, and the port city of Beijing. I don't know much about my students or even how many there may be in my course. As I have not taught a course since I retired five years ago I am a bit nervous about the next three weeks.

I have tried to design a course that can be taken by students of different levels. There are introductory readings in Chinese and a technical reading in English for each lecture. There are now two introductory books on evolutionary psychology in Chinese. One is a translation of David Buss's (2004) introductory text. The other is Chang Lei's text, which was published a few days before I arrived in China. The introductory readings are from these two Chinese books. The advanced readings are from Crawford, C. & Krebs, D. (2008), *Foundations of Evolutionary Psychology*, Taylor and Francis. It is a book for those who want to learn evolutionary psychology from the ground up and has a strong emphasis on basic evolutionary biology.

I will also be giving three professional lectures. One is on John Locke and Charles Darwin for the Tianjin Philosophic Society; one is on evolutionary psychology and public policy for the School of Management; and one is for the School of Marxism Studies. I see the one for the School of Marxism Studies as the most problematic. The reason is that Karl Marx liked Darwin, yet many Marxists favour a rather environmentalist approach to psychology. As I see it a Darwinian approach to psychology must focus considerable attention on genetically innate specialised mental mechanisms. I think that Marx's attraction to Darwin may have come from his dislike of religion. However, I wonder if he really understood the scientific implications of Darwin's thinking for the functioning of the human mind, culture and society. Many are attracted to Darwin because of their anti-religious sentiments rather than its scientific value in explaining the mind and behaviour.

## My approach to evolutionary psychology

I consider myself a hard core evolutionary psychologist. Many now define evolutionary psychology as the study of the innate design of the human psyche. There are two reasons why I don't like this definition. First, it omits evolution by natural selection from the definition. Second, it does not recognise that we 21st century folks may inhabit a world that is quite different from the one where many of our psychological adaptations evolved. As I see it, evolutionary psychology is concerned with the problems and stresses our hominin and primate ancestors encountered in their environments, the psychological adaptations natural selection shaped to deal with these problems and stresses, and the way these adaptations function in the times and places where we now live.

## My invitation

Why is it, you are surely wondering, that a 70 year old emeritus professor who has not taught a course for five years or given a scientific paper for three years has been invited to PR China to teach what I am told is the first graduate course on evolutionary psychology given there and to give professional lectures? I have kept academically quite active since I retired. During the last five years I have edited two books on evolutionary psychology and published a number of articles, chapters and commentaries on evolutionary psychology. However, if my friend Marilyn had not decided to write a book on a 19th century Scottish missionary to China I might never have received the invitation.

In March 2003, the year after I retired, she came to my little office and told me that she would be gone for the next six months doing research on the missionary. She explained that she was supposed to take care of a visiting scholar from China during the time she would be away. I agreed to take the visitor to coffee every couple of weeks to see how she was doing and help with any problems she might have. About a month later a small Chinese woman approaching middle age appeared in the office down the hall. I invited her to coffee as I had agreed to do. Her name was Fengyan. She told me that she taught Marxism at a key Chinese university. Then she showed me her business card. It stated that she was also director of the University News Service. I asked her about her duties. In barely

## Special Features (cont.)

passable English she explained that she had 25 people working for her and that she ran a TV station, a radio station and a newspaper. I began to suspect that she was no ordinary professor. I asked her if she was a member of the Communist Party. She said, "Of course!" Getting to know her was an opportunity that an old Alberta farm boy and evolutionary psychologist could not resist.

I discovered that she was a hard core Chinese communist. She believed that if there was a problem in China that had not been solved it was simply because the party had not had the time to get to it: and that when it did the problem would be solved. She was also a Chinese patriot. She believed that Chinese culture was the oldest and best in the world. She had as much faith in these beliefs as I have in Darwin's theory of evolution. Third, she was a charming person with a great sense of humour. My wife and I visited China at her invitation in the fall of 2004 and I gave lectures on evolutionary psychology at Nankai University and Tianjin Normal University. Now I was returning to talk in much more detail about my favourite subject.

I knew that I would live above my position in life for three weeks. Fengyan had advanced through the party ranks since her sabbatical at Simon Fraser. She was now the senior vice secretary of the Leader's Group at Tianjin Normal University and was subtly organising her ducks for her next move. The leader's group is similar to the committee of vice presidents that runs many western universities. It is made up of several senior party officials and several vice presidents. However, the party officials are also academics. Fengyan has an undergraduate degree in engineering and a Ph.D. in philosophy. Incidentally, the current president of the University is not a member of the Communist party. There is only one other university president in the city of Tianjin who is not a Party member.

However, I am also apprehensive. As I mentioned earlier, I know almost nothing about my students. Moreover, I have always had very poor eyesight. It has never been better than four percent of normal. Recently, my right eye has deteriorated considerably. Would I be able to manage my computer and the class?

### Arrival and Mongolian Dinner

Fengyan, her interpreter, Miss Yang, and her car and

driver met me at the Beijing airport. On my first night in China we went to Fengyan's favourite restaurant in Beijing. It was the same Mongolian restaurant where she had taken me in 2004. It is typical of the Chinese



restaurants that I ate in during my stay. There is big dining room on the main floor that looks much like a Chinese restaurant in any western city. However, we did not eat in it. We walked to the back of the dining room and

up a flight of stairs. On the second floor there is a dozen or more private dining rooms. The food was great and so was the



Mongolian singing. One of the party officials gave me an Olympic medal in an elegant case. I later discovered that he is the secretary of Seeking Truth, the official journal of the Central Committee of the Communist Party of China. He does not speak much English, but

he seems like a fine fellow. On the left you can see Fengyan toasting my arrival. I will be involved in many toasts during the next three weeks.



# Special Features (cont.)

## Saturday, October 6

When we arrived in Tianjin on Saturday afternoon I was booked into a room at the Golden Bridge to Friendship Hotel, the official hotel of Tianjin Normal University. Everyone is very worried that because of my eyesight I will get run down by a truck or an electric bicycle. I have a young man, Jinyang, who takes care of me. I spent considerable time with him during my visit. He is a graduate student in Marxism. If only his English were a little better, I could have learned so much from him. I tried to talk to him about ancient Chinese philosophy. I got the impression that it is not emphasised in his studies. As I see it, there is a similarity between Confucius's teaching and modern Chinese Marxism. Both emphasise the development of a harmonious society. Both seem authoritarian to me. However, as he sees it, Confucius focused on the authority of the emperor and encouraged people to submit to his authority, while the party rejects this line of thinking and emphasises the authority of the people.

## Chinese toasting

On Monday afternoon, after my first lecture, I had lunch with some senior officials and professors. It was in a small elegant dining room in the Centre for International Studies in the Golden Bridge. The secretary of the university (the equivalent to our chair of the board of governors) had heard that my wife says, "Coffee smells so good but tastes so bad," so he brought a big box of Chinese tea in an elegant box for her.

Sometimes one hears stories about long boring Chinese dinners with long toasts. During the next three weeks I attended a number of elegant lunches and dinners. There was a great deal of fun at them. Every lunch and dinner that I attended was a good experience. I found Chinese toasting especially interesting. It appears to be very friendly and jovial, but as an evolutionary psychologist, I suspect subtle competition is involved in it. Sometimes I concentrate so hard on the toast that I forget to drink. Then Miss Yang, my interpreter and social coach, reminds me that one must drink when one is involved in a toast. My friend, Fengyan, seems to be very skilled at toasting. She often picks up her glass, strides around the table to toast someone with a long string of vivacious Chinese. It appears to be very friendly and jovial, but I sense that she dominates all the women and most of

the men that she toasts.

The more I learn about Chinese toasting the more I think it is an area for evolutionary psychologists to work on. For example, when the glasses touch, the person of lower status is supposed to put his glass a little lower than the person of higher status. I would like to obtain information on the Chinese toasting, which is somewhat codified, and then use this information to develop protocols for analysing Western toasting. My bet is that the toasting in China and the West obey similar rules about dominance. I suspect there are aspects of toasting that are common to a culture and specific to local regions. I would like to code videos of western political leaders toasting each other to test some of my ideas. I think Chinese toasting is worth several Ph.D. theses in evolutionary psychology.

## My students: Days 4,5 & 6 - October 8, 9 & 10

I have now met my students for the third time. There are 40 of them and they are a great bunch.



I spent two hours the first day giving them my approach to evolutionary psychology. The students, who are MA and Ph.D. students, are quite familiar with western psychology. I used incest and its avoidance to develop the logic. First, I diagrammed how I believe non evolutionary psychologists would use evolutionary theory to explain incest avoidance.

Then I gave my conception of evolutionary psychology. I talked about the EEA and adaptations to its characteristics. I focused on ancestral psychological adaptations and how they might have worked in the EEA and how we can use them to explain both adaptive and non adaptive current human behaviours. I emphasised the conceptual differences between "Then" and "Now."



## Special Features (cont.)

I love the lectures. The room is my size - about 35 feet wide and 40 feet long with long tables. There are three chairs to a table. There are different kinds of lecturers. Some people are laid back and sophisticated.



Some are well organised with pre-planned jokes. I try to be energetic, spontaneous and interactive with my Chinese students. They seem to like it.

I also think that Professor Bai, who is the senior professor connected with the course, likes it too. Today he made Pu'er tea for me. It is a very special Chinese tea. I have had it before, but it tasted better today than ever before. He came into the classroom today and took many pictures of me interacting with the students. Here are some of them.



### Innate developmental organisation

Although I do not believe that evolutionary psychology can be adequately defined as the study of innate design, the issue of innate design must be covered in any course on evolutionary psychology. I claim Innate genetic developmental organization is concerned with the degree that particular ancestral genetic predispositions are involved in the development of the specialized mechanisms that produce behavior. Then, I emphasises the difference between Then and Now with another slide that follows from the emphasis on innate design and the differences between ancestral and current environments.

I gave ten two-hour lectures with a strong focus on evolutionary theory and how it can be applied to the study of human behaviour. I didn't cover current research in detail as it was covered in both the Chinese and English reading assignments. So that is what my students learned about evolutionary psychology in, what I was told, was the first graduate course on the subject given in PR China.

### Tianjin Normal University

The Psychology Department is located on the old campus in the centre of Tianjin, a city of about 10 million. One afternoon I visited the new campus, which is still under construction. It is a massive place a few miles from the city centre. There are many problems in Chinese universities. One is the problem of support of retired professors and staff. The universities were set up under a system where the "work group" would care for the retirees. Now, that system is going and the universities must pay the pensions out of operating expenses. The government won't let universities raise student fees to obtain money. Universities are also being continually pressured to take in more students. In China most students live on campus, so there is the cost of constructing and running student residences. Since many of the new wealthy class in China did not attend universities, it is difficult for universities to raise money from alumni.

The university borrowed money from the bank to build the new campus. The plan was to sell the old campus in downtown Tianjin to get money to pay the loan. However, the sale of the old campus did not bring in as much money as was expected. Where will the difference come from?

## Special Features (cont.)

The university was formed when three institutions, a normal school for teachers, a school of the Chinese performing arts and a business school, were amalgamated. Integrating these three different academic cultures has not been as easy as the people who dreamed up the idea thought it would be. As you see, some of the problems of Chinese universities are similar to those of our universities.

### Professional Lectures

I gave the first of my 'professional' lectures to the School of Management today, October 9. The subject was evolutionary psychology and public policy. I spoke in English and did not have translation. I wasn't too happy with my lecture and I am not sure how much the audience of about 150 understood. The operation was a bit more classy, and hence, more inhibiting, than I like. After the lecture we had another fine dinner. Fengyan was an hour late because she was in a meeting and we could not start eating without her. However, the others were worried about my hunger so they gave me a little to eat. After about half an hour of waiting the dean of the school, his executive assistant and one of the professors left the room to do some work. I stayed with my interpreter and one professor. We had fun talking while the others worked.

I learned something new at the dinner. It is about wine. We were served a rather good red wine - light, mellow and dry - just what I like in a wine. It is called Dynasty and the different wines the company makes are named for the different Chinese dynasties. I asked if it is exported. I was told, not yet. However, if the Chinese can make wines like that at Chinese prices the wine world will tremble when they hit the market. A few years ago the Chinese figured out how to mass produce cultured pearls and drove the Japanese cultured pearl industry out of sight. If they can keep the same dry, mellow quality and add a bit of flavour it could be a big seller outside China.

I tested my interpreter's English as we waited. She is a new graduate of the Beijing Foreign Languages Institute. Her English is amazing. The only way I could cause her to make a mistake was with tongue twisters. She had trouble with "A skunk sat on a stump, the skunk said the stump stunk; the stump said the skunk stunk." By the way, the Chinese also have tongue twisters in their language.

### The School of Marxism: October 11, 2007

Today I gave a talk on evolutionary psychology to the School of Marxism. The topic was development. It is an interesting and important topic. But the issues are so complex that I could not deal with many of them in a talk to 200 students and professors. It may be that developmental systems theory, which I think is unproductive for psychologists, is as attractive to Chinese Marxists as it is to some in the West. Developmental systems theory is the notion that there are genetic-environment interactions at many levels between genes and behaviour and that unless all the interactions at these levels are considered, valid statements about behaviour cannot be made. It makes an evolutionary psychological science impossible. That is why some like it: it appears to be scientific, while at the same time, making science so complex that no one can do it.

After the lecture I was taken for one of the most elegant meals that I had in China. The hostesses were dressed in elegant floor-length cheongsams. There was my friend, Fengyan, the Vice Secretary of the university, the dean of School of Marxism, a jolly fiftyish woman, the secretary and vice secretary of the school, and two professors.

Here the Dean of school of Marxism is presenting me with masks from the Peking opera.



One of the professors was a cultural anthropologist and one was a Marxist scholar. I had some interesting discussions with the Marxist. She told me that Marxist studies are changing in China. In the past Chinese Marxist scholars had studied several different aspects

## Special Features (cont.)

of Marxism independently. However, now the emphasis is becoming holistic. I would have liked to have talked to her more and to the anthropologist as well, but there wasn't time.

I had prepared an advanced talk on development for professors and graduate students in the Psychology Department and had not intended to give a public professional lecture on the topic. I was surprised that my Friend, the senior party official in the university who teaches a graduate course in Marxism, had chosen the topic of development for the School of Marxism.

At 2:00, on day 13 of my trip, I was picked up and taken to the Tianjin Foreign Languages University to give a talk on John Locke and Charles Darwin to the Tianjin Philosophic Society. The most interesting thing about the talk was the venue. The university is located in buildings of the old European Concessions. (There are about 1,000 western buildings from that period left in Tianjin.) My lecture was in a long narrow hall with a



sloping floor in one of the Buildings of the old British Concession. It was designed as a church. It is an elegant old building and must have been very classy in its prime. Now it is getting good use as a classroom for teaching Chinese students foreign languages. My interpreter was simply amazing. He could do a whole paragraph of evolutionary psychology at a time.

### Visiting labs and shopping with some of my students: October 12

Yesterday I spent about an hour in the Event Related Potentials Laboratory. I tried on the equipment and had about an hour's discussions with the graduate

students working there. They have a 256-channel machine. However, they mostly use 64 channels because of the difficulty of analysing the data. They



are working on things like priming and cognitive categorisation. I suggested that they try using faces as stimuli and focus attention on the aspects of faces that evolutionary psychologists are discovering are involved in sexual attraction. Today I spent about an hour with the graduate students who use eye tracking cameras to track eye movements in the study of reading in Chinese and English. We had a great discussion.

This afternoon three lovely young women took me shopping to a traditional Chinese shopping street - Old Culture Street. Monica, a tall woman of about 25, was the leader. Daisy and Dedi were her assistants. I bought identical red silk cheongsams for my wife, daughter, and daughter-in-law. We tried to determine which of the women students were similar in size to my family members. Once we did that they tried on the dresses to show me how they looked. They helped me bargain for them. I also bought outfits for both my grandson and granddaughter. All four cost me just over \$100 Canadian.

Several days later some male students took me shopping. First, we went to the biggest computer store I have ever been in: three floors. It makes Future Shop and Best Buy look small. After that we went to the big French supermarket Carrefour. It sells every thing from rice to stoves and refrigerators. People are making a big fuss over Walmart opening a couple of stores in China. Carrefour is the second largest retailer in the world and already had 100 large stores in China.



## Special Features (cont.)

### A great day, but Outclassed: Day 13

When I go to lunch or dinner with people I am always given the seat of honour at the head of the round table. Even Fengyan, my friend the Vice Secretary, often sits beside me. However, that changed today. After today's lecture Professor Bai told me that the professors would take me to lunch and that he would come and get me and bring me to the lunch. When I entered the dining room the seat at the head of the table was already taken by an old Chinese man. It was Professor Shen, the most senior academic psychologist in China. I was given a seat beside him. Then Professor Chang Lei, who had come from the Chinese University of Hong Kong to meet me, was placed in the other side of him. I was on Shen's right; Chang was on his left. Professor Shen served us both some of our food. The whole thing was done with skill and subtlety – very Chinese. Many pictures were taken. This is usual at such occasions. Chinese LOVE taking pictures. They are taken at every possible occasion. There must be billions of pictures in Chinese cupboards.



### Reading the News

I read the CNN and New York Times news every day on my computer. But as I adjust to life in China they are beginning to seem self indulgent and somewhat parochial. I see that Bush is hosting the Dalai Lama and giving him a freedom medal and that someone else has introduced a motion for the USA to boycott the Beijing Olympics. Talk about foolish, naïve and unproductive actions – loose cannon – can we survive them?

Almost every one I meet has a positive attitude to the

West. However, they are also proud of the 4,000 years of Chinese history and achievement. For the Chinese, whatever their political attitudes, the Olympics is a symbol of the past and present achievements of China. To make the Olympics a political weapon against the government is to attach the Chinese people. They will not easily for get it.

However, I miss my favourite internet news: the BBC. When I click on it nothing happens. Why is the BBC banned and CNN so easy to find?

### The Golden Bridge Hotel

I want to tell you about the Golden Bridge (to Friendship) Hotel. Flags from around the world



decorate the entrance hall. It is an eight-story building with a restaurant on the main floor. It is a sophisticated operation that caters to students, Chinese and foreign





## Special Features (cont.)

visitors as well as faculty and staff. There is a large dining room with standard Chinese round tables. Along one side of main dining room there are small dining rooms for more private dinners. On the other side of the main dining room the floor is raised about two feet and contains two rows of tables for four people. The special order food is very good – as good as the food in the best Chinese restaurants in Vancouver. At lunchtime it is full of action with people from the university, the city and foreign countries socialising in preparation for the afternoon's deal making.

The Golden Bridge is Tianjin headquarters of what I call the Chinese international outreach program. There are two full time interpreters who are in constant demand to meet foreign delegations. Although Tianjin Normal University is not a technical university, it plays a major part in the outreach program. There are up to 2,000 foreign students here. They learn Chinese language and culture and then go on to technical universities for advanced study. A few days ago I met a student from Saudi Arabia. When his language and culture studies are completed he plans to attend one of the big Chinese medical schools. However, I heard that although the students are enthusiastic about learning the Chinese language and culture, they are not so ready to learn to write Chinese using the Chinese characters, even the simplified ones. How long will it be until Canadians are coming to the Golden Bridge to learn Chinese language and culture so that they can study engineering? I wonder how many more "Golden Bridges" there are in China.

### My last day of lectures: Friday, Oct. 19



After my last lecture Professor Bai and one of the other professors took me to lunch at the Golden Bridge. It was packed with about 300 people talking, laughing and socialising – laying the basis for all sorts of deals. I was toasted with powerful white liquor, Moutai,

from Tianjin that is 45 percent alcohol. We talked about research on Chinese topics – foot binding and Chinese toasting. Professor Bai took the traditional explanation of foot binding – that it was a kind of chastity belt. I argued that it had begun in the Song Dynasty and spread very quickly through the culture; and hence, that it might be some type of female sexual or dominance display. However, we both agreed that we needed photographs of foot bound women so that we could code them for various variables, such as posture, to test our differing ideas. We ended up with three hypotheses: chastity belts, female sexual and dominance displays and resource control displays. If I only had a couple of students I could do some great EP here.

### Culture Shock

Dinner was a culture shock tonight. Now Chinese food varies in tastiness to me. Chinese eat some things, such as sea cucumbers, that don't feel right in my mouth. For tonight's dinner, Jennifer, the vice secretary



of the News Service, picked me up in her little Japanese/Chinese car and drove me to the restaurant. When I got out I found myself in front of TGI Fridays. I like a good hamburger and looked forward to having one after two weeks of Chinese food. However, when I looked at the menu it began to appal me - the big pictures of the

greasy food, the descriptions of the food, the size of the portions,... I finally found a simple soup, tomato and basil, to go with my hamburger. But when it came pieces of buttery bread were floating in it. When the hamburger arrived it was huge and slathered with about five kinds of rich sauces.

Now Fengyan cannot be controlled when ordering food, at least by me - she has to go Chinese so everyone can share. We ended up with chicken wings, onion rings and a few other things that she thought we could share. The table became crammed with western food. The place is favoured by well off, over weight, Westerners. The food is exactly like the food at TGIF's in Vancouver, except that it is more expensive. For example, a NY steak was listed at \$33 Canadian.

## Special Features (cont.)

### The visit to Confucius's home

We took the train to Shandong to visit the place where Confucius was born. I had heard a lot about Chinese trains and especially about the washrooms on them, so I was prepared for an interesting experience. Seats had been booked for three of us, my interpreter, Jingyan and me. However, since booking seats is expensive, many people save money by not booking them. They wander the train looking for seats. When one becomes vacant they take it until someone comes along who has booked it. Then they begin the search for another vacant seat. This can involve considerable seat changing, as some journeys are rather long. I met one young art student who was spending 26 hours on the train as he was going from Shandong to Harbin. He had only been on a few hours and was already beginning to show signs of fatigue. However, he had a dozen Mandarin oranges with him and paper containers of noodles. Many Chinese take containers of noodles when taking trains and fill them with hot water from special spouts at the ends of the cars.

Before going on I have to admit that I have always liked to travel by train. First, there is the sound of the wheels on the rails. Chinese trains have a very nice, currrump, currrump, currrump rhythm as they roll across the county side. Second, little communities often develop on trains. One reason is that people can move around on trains in a way that they can't on planes and busses. I really have only one complaint about Chinese trains - the seats. To get the maximum number of seats into the cars the chairs are perfect right angles with the

seats parallel the floor. This is good for posture, but poor for sleeping. There is a small table bolted to the wall just under each window. On one side of the aisle there are groups of three seats in a row, while on the other side there



are groups of two seats in a row. This arrangement tends to bring people together. It is almost impossible not to get to know your seat mates with this seating arrangement.



The train officials are dressed very smartly in blue uniforms with brass buttons just like they used to be in the heyday of Canadian trains. However, unlike old Canadian train officials, the Chinese train personnel are not officious. Many of them are young women and men. They do their jobs with a bit of style and playfulness. Vendors in smart white uniforms are continually going up and down the aisles selling food and gadgets. As they move down the aisles they call out their wares in musical voices that I found very pleasing. Because the trains are so crowded, garbage tends to collect in the aisles. Smartly dressed young people are constantly sweeping and washing the floor. Hence, the floors are always clean and the washrooms are not quite as bad as I had been led to believe they might be - or maybe it was just my poor eyesight. The toilets are squat toilets.

Our goal was Cufu, the birthplace of Confucius. After about an hour I stood up to stretch my legs and bumped into a Chinese woman in late middle age. She smiled and said something in Chinese. My interpreter said she wanted to talk. She had learned from him that I was a Canadian professor and wanted to talk. With the help of my interpreter we had good conversation. There was a teenage girl with her that I assumed was her daughter, so I said "You have a beautiful daughter." She told me the daughter was 28 and had son. So I whipped out my cell phone and showed her my pictures of my grandchildren. She pulled out her



## Special Features (cont.)



cell phone and showed me a picture of her and her grandson. Then using our cell phones we took pictures of each other. She said she was just a simple server in a restaurant and that her daughter worked as a clerk in a supermarket. She and her daughter offered to share their fried bread with us, but we had just eaten so we didn't take it. The interaction would never have happened on a plane or bus.

You cannot really understand the place of Confucius in Chinese history until you visit his birth place. He lived from 551-479 BC – almost 2,500 years ago – but the family continues and is in its 83rd generation. The present descendent lives in Taiwan where he fled in 1947 when Mao's armies approached. The home consists of three parts: a large Confucian temple, the mansions where the extended family lived and the cemetery where his descendants are still being buried. The cemetery contains over 40,000 burials. The national treasury supported the whole operation.



Emperors came and went, dynasties rose and fell, but the Confucian family remained and remains.

Our guide told us that the first Ming emperor (Ming dynasty 1368 to 1644) began life as uneducated peasant and had trouble managing the empire until he adopted Confucianism. Our guide hated the ground that Mao Tse-Dong walked on and was not shy about saying so. His father had owned a factory that produced tiles for the Confucian temples. It was nationalised in 1956 with only small compensation.



However, for our guide the worst was to come. Just before he completed high school the Cultural Revolution struck and he was sent to toil in the fields for 11 years. He married his wife and had his children there. He had wanted to become an engineer. However, when the cultural revolution ended he enrolled in foreign language school, learned English, and became a guide at the Confucius birthplace. He loves Confucius. He told me that the local authorities at first tried to resist the Red Guards, but since the orders came from Beijing they could not be resisted for very long.

The site is a big tourist site, especially for Chinese. There are hundreds of vendors selling all sorts of Confucian memorabilia. I did not buy any. However, I did buy a copy of the Analects and I hope to read it. The current government is establishing Confucian colleges in many parts of the world to teach Chinese culture and language. One of my interpreters, Miss Kong, is being interviewed this week for a job in the one in Thailand. One wonders if the current regime, like the first Ming emperor, isn't discovering the value of Confucianism in governing China.

## Special Features (cont.)

### Shanhaigua and Old Dragon Head



My friends took me on a visit to Old Dragon Head and Shanhaigua. Old Dragon Head is where the Great Wall meets the sea. Shanhaigua is the great Ming Dynasty gate in the Great Wall, known as the First Pass Under Heaven. In the past, the area west of this gate was within the jurisdiction of central

China, while the area to the east was beyond the control of the ancient Chinese. It took me 30 very long steps to walk through the gate in the Great Wall. The



guidebook says it is 50 feet high. It was built in 1381 by Ming engineers and provides an illustration of their great skill. Old Dragon Head is a Ming fortress where the Great Wall meets the sea. In their time these were



great military fortresses, but Old Dragon Head came to a sad end in 1900. It was bombarded and destroyed by a coalition of eight

nations: gunboats from Japan and seven western nations shelled and destroyed it. It and the temple to the sea goddess were rebuilt in the mid 1980s. Across the harbour you can see a modern container port.

I like the gate and the fort because their history helps us understand something about the past and present of China. The construction of these fortifications illustrates China at one of its greatest periods.



Remember what Europe was like in 1381. However, in 1900 China was no match for modern Western military, economic and political weapons. By the beginning of the 20th century China was almost completely under the control of foreign nations. They imposed huge reparations for inept and confused Chinese attempts to resist and took control of the Chinese customs and the post office, two key sources of revenue for the Chinese government. In his two-volume work on the history of China, the French historian, Jacques Gernet, concludes that this period was the most tragic in the entire 4,000 year history of China and that only a peasant rebellion of the kind organised by Mao could have freed China from its foreign domination.

As I see it, history might have been different. In 1790 the British sent Lord McCartney as an envoy to establish diplomatic and trade relations with China. He spent two years organising the expedition. It included the latest in the technology of the industrial revolution that the British hoped would interest the Chinese. The Chinese treated him very kindly and generously. However, on leaving they wrote him an arrogant and condescending letter rejecting any kind of relations with the British. From their point of view Great Britain



## Special Features (cont.)

had nothing that could be of any possible value to them.

McCartney was the best diplomat the Great Britain possessed. He was also a keen observer. One of his observations was that the Chinese military training was not up to the standard of the British military and that if a conflict between them occurred the British would likely be victorious. He also learned of small rebellions in parts of China that were easily put down by the Chinese authorities. However, he thought that these rebellions might grow and produce trouble for the emperor. The real decline in China began about 50 years later with the Opium wars, which were really wars about silver. Much British silver was going to China to pay for Chinese goods imported into Britain. The British wanted the sale of opium to the Chinese to help with the trade imbalance!

Many western historians blame the Chinese officials, scholars and the emperor for their failure to understand the world situation. But, remember that in 1790 the Chinese empire was the greatest in the world. How could the Chinese officials understand that something called the industrial revolution on a little island on the other side of the world was bringing the world's first super power into existence? Try to imagine how President Bush would treat Lord McCartney if he sailed into New York harbour from a little island that Bush knew little or nothing about and asked for diplomatic and trade relations. But of course the saddest words are "What might have been."

### Departure from Beijing



We arrived in Beijing several hours before I was to board Air Canada flight 30 to Vancouver. So we stopped at a part of Beijing where a large artist's colony is developing. There is a large number of abandoned Mao-era small factories in this part of Beijing

that are being turned into artists studios, art stores and restaurants. We spent a several of hours browsing through them. We had lunch in a trend coffee bar that could have been in New York or London. The read letters on the wall are sayings such as "We love Chairman Mao." Some Mao era machinery has been



left in some of the studios. There were several buss loads of American tourists browsing though the studios. We had lunch a restaurant that could have been in New York or London - Italian food and German beer. The area is becoming a trendy place for well off Chinese to live.

### Epilogue.

I lived above my position in life for three weeks. The Chair of the Leaders Group of the university entertained me. I have never met the chair of our board of governors. I had lunch three times with the secretary of the Seeking Truth, the journal of the Central Committee of the Communist Party of China. I met the Secretary of the Tianjin Industrial Development Area (TIDA). I taught and interacted with graduate Chinese graduate students. I met several of China's leading psychologists and became good friends with one of them. I also interacted with taxi drivers, clerks in stores and strangers on trains. If there is anything about my experience that is unique, is it the variety of people that I interacted with socially. My three weeks in China was one of the best three weeks in my life. However, the best part of it was my Chinese graduate students.

I think the most important thing I learned is how superficial cultural differences are. The Chinese are so similar to us Anglo Americans - Americans, Australians, British, Canadians, and maybe even the French and Italians - that we could easily change places. I doubt that it would take my friend Fengyan long to adjust to a vice president's role at a large western university. As she said to me at our first coffee break, "Running a city in China is not much different from running one in Canada."

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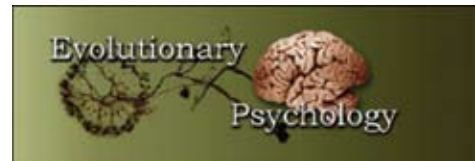
# Letters From the Editors

## Letter from the Editors of Evolutionary Psychology

Todd K. Shackelford, Editor  
Steven M. Platek, Associate Editor and Managing Editor  
Catherine A. Salmon, Associate Editor  
David P. Barash, Book Review Editor

Evolutionary Psychology ([www.epjournal.net](http://www.epjournal.net)) continues to strive to meet the needs of the international, interdisciplinary HBES community. Evolutionary Psychology receives over 20,000 page views per month from across the globe (see Figure 1). Our Readers Survey ( $n = 142$ ) indicates that Evolutionary Psychology's readers include academics from psychology, economics, anthropology, biology, neuroscience, animal behavior, and sociology. Over 85% of readers who have submitted manuscripts to Evolutionary Psychology rate the handling of manuscripts as better, much better, or excellent compared to other journals. Nearly 80% of authors rate the time to receive reviews as better or much better compared to other journals. Of those authors who were successful at publishing their manuscript(s) in Evolutionary Psychology, 77% rated the post-acceptance handling of their manuscript as much better or the best compared to other journals. Nearly 50% of accepted manuscripts are published within 2 days of receiving proofs and about 90% are published within 2 weeks.

To ensure that Evolutionary Psychology continues to grow as an internationally recognized leading journal in the evolutionary sciences, we recently appointed Dr. Daniel Kruger as Media Relations Officer. Working closely with authors, Dan has increased the visibility of the journal in the mainstream press with notable mentions at CNN, The New York Times, and the Financial Times, for example.



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## Letter from the Newsletter Editor

Dear HBES Members,

I hope you enjoy this installment of the HBES newsletter. Please send URLs of members in the news to [newsletter@hbesociety.com](mailto:newsletter@hbesociety.com). If you would like to suggest (or conduct) an interview, please submit your suggestions to the email listed above. Also, if you have suggestions for additional content in future newsletters (e.g., illustrations, photographs, poetry, or otherwise), please drop me a line at [newsletter@hbesociety.com](mailto:newsletter@hbesociety.com).

Debra Lieberman, Editor

# Resources

## Conferences

American Anthropological Association  
November 19 - November 23, 2008, San Francisco, CA  
<http://www.aaanet.org/meetings/>

American College of Epidemiology Annual Meeting  
“The Dawn of Evolutionary Epidemiology”  
September 15-16, 2008 Tucson, Arizona  
<http://www.acepidemiology2.org/documents/2008MeetingFlyer.pdf>

American Psychological Association  
August 14-17, 2008, Boston, MA  
<http://www.apa.org/>

Animal Behavior Society  
August 14-19, 2008, Snowbird, UT  
<http://www.animalbehavior.org/ABSM Meetings/site-content>

Association for Psychological Science  
May 22-25, 2008, Chicago, IL  
<http://www.psychologicalscience.org/convention/index.cfm>

Behavior Genetics Association  
June 25-28, 2008, Louisville, KY  
<http://www.bga.org/pages/1/Home.html>

Cognitive Neuroscience Society  
April 12-15, 2008, San Francisco, CA  
<http://www.cnsmeeting.org/>

Cognitive Science Society  
July 23-26, 2008, Washington, D.C.  
<http://www.cognitivesciencesociety.org/cogsci.html>

European Human Behavior and Evolution  
April 2-4, 2008, Montpellier, France  
<http://www.ehbes.com/conf/2008/>

Human Behavior & Evolution Society  
June 4-8, 2008, Kyoto, Japan  
<http://beep.c.u-tokyo.ac.jp/~hbes2008/index.htm>

International Conference on Cognitive, Psychological and Behavioral Sciences  
July 4-6, 2008, Paris, France  
<http://wahss.org/cpbs08/>

International Conference on Complex Systems  
October 28-November 2, 2008, Quincy, MA  
<http://www.necsi.org/events/iccs7/>

International Society for Human Ethology  
July 15-19, 2008, Bologna  
<http://www.ishe08.org/>

NorthEastern Evolutionary Psychology Society (NEEPS), May 2-4, 2008, Manchester, NH  
<http://www.neepsociety.com>

Organization for Computational Neuroscience  
July 20-24, 2008, Portland, OR  
[http://www.cnsorg.org/cns\\_meeting.htm](http://www.cnsorg.org/cns_meeting.htm)

Society for Cross-Cultural Research  
Feb. 20-23, 2008, New Orleans, LA  
<http://meeting.sccr.org/>

Society for Evolutionary Analysis in Law (S.E.A.L.)  
<http://www.sealsite.org>

Society for the Study of Evolution  
June 20-24, 2008, Minneapolis, MN  
<http://www.evolutionsociety.org/meetings.asp>

Theory in Cognitive Neuroscience  
<http://www.upd.unibe.ch/research/symposien/HA14.html>

## Predocctoral Fellowships/Grants

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

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

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

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

AAUW: American Fellowships (women)  
[http://www.aauw.org/fga/fellowships\\_grants/american.cfm](http://www.aauw.org/fga/fellowships_grants/american.cfm)

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