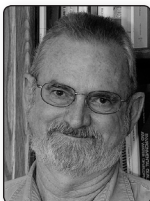# HUMAN BEHAVIOR & EVOLUTION SOCIETY

## In This Issue

**The next HBES Conference will be held in Montepelier, France, June 30-July 3, 2011**

## View
### From the President's Window
### Pete Richerson

Our HBES president is Pete Richerson, Distinguished Professor in the Department of Environmental Science and Policy at UC Davis. In this edition, Professor Richerson discusses the study of the complexity and diversity of human societies.

Read more...

## Interview

If you would like to conduct an interview with one of the leading scholars in the field, please contact the newsletter editor.

## MisMannered
### Doug Kenrick

He's back! After a long hiatus, the HBES newsletter is proud to announce the return of the MisMannered collumn by Professor Doug Kenrick. (It's aboot time!) We hope you enjoy the latest contribution in which Doug provides a new view of the human mind.
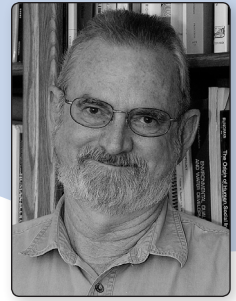
Read more...

## Students
### Carolyn Hodges Simeon & Kate Hanson Sobraske

Current HBES Student Representatives are Kate Hanson Sobraske and Carolyn Hodges Simeon, both at UC Santa Barbara.

Read more...

## Complexity and Diversity

When Rob Boyd and I started thinking about the evolution of human behavior back in the 1970s, we decided that the complexity and diversity of human societies and cultures was one of the main challenges. For those of us with a background in biology—I came from entomology and ecology—an appreciation for the complexity of organisms and their diversity was part of the atmosphere. Entomologists are fond of the reply that the great early 20th Century evolutionist JBS Haldane is reputed to have given to a clergyman who asked him what he had learned of the Creator by studying his work: "He must have an inordinate fondness for beetles." Beetles are the most diverse order of the most diverse class of animals, the insects. Regarding complexity, Haldane was equally pithy: "My suspicion is that the world is not only queerer than we suppose, but queerer than we can suppose."

One of the paradoxes of ecology and evolutionary biology was, and still is, that theoretical biologists were fond of creating simple models the world. Doesn't a complex real world suggest that our thought about that world have to be complex? Biological theorists made three different kinds of arguments for applying simple models to complex, diverse phenomena:

1) Surface diversity and complexity concealed a lot of simplicity that proper theory accurately depicts. This position is often called reductionism.

2) Complex models are not worth the effort it takes to construct them. This used to be inescapable, but with advent of digital computers that could manage complexity it became less true. Ecologists could imagine making quite complex models and many did. But in practice complex models had only slightly or no greater predictive power than rather simpler models.

3) Simple models are hard enough to understand and complex ones are impossible. Science is about using the human mind to think about the world. Since there are limits to our ability to understand complexity we either have to use rather simple models or to blindly trust the robotic "thinking" of computers.

Even if we grant that the reductionist argument is too simplistic, or just plain wrong, the second two arguments remain valid. Besides, if complex realistic models are ultimately useful, they will have to be built up from simpler components.

The philosopher of biology Bill Wimsatt argued for a toolkit view of theory in complex diverse fields. Evolutionists and ecologists make many models for diverse problems. In the face of particular problems, biologists rummage through their toolkit for appropriate models likely to explain the case at hand. It often turns out that the behavior of the system they are studying is dominated by a manageable number of processes. Its behavior can be understood and predicted and understand with a relatively simple model. Of course, there are no guarantees, but as their toolkit expands biologists can hope to explain more and more phenomena. The toolkit itself becomes a highly organized system of submodels with known properties so that the analyst can readily guess that, for example, a frequency dependent model of selection is likely to apply if strategic interactions between individuals are important.

Humans are certainly diverse, complex organisms. Through culture, people adapt to their environments in historically contingent ways leading cultures to become diverse. In ecological terms humans resemble an adaptive radiation of species rather than a single species. The diversity of individual behavior within complex societies is comparable to that of the diversity of tissues and organs that make up multicellular organisms.

Many anthropologists and historians celebrate the complexity and diversity of human life much as natural historians do biological complexity and diversity. Other social scientists take a more reductionist view, arguing that much of the complexity and diversity of human behavior is superficial. Most famously, Noam Chomsky argued that most of linguistic diversity

was superficial. Underneath the surface, languages were underlain by a few innate principles each with a relatively few parameter settings that differed from language to language. Perhaps much apparent human complexity and diversity will collapse in this way.

For Rob Boyd and I, the issue of whether human complexity and diversity turned out to be superficial or deep didn't matter in the first instance. Simple models of cultural evolution would be useful no matter how the reductionism issue came out. So we and others built up a toolkit of simple models that typically have variables and parameters that are open to interpretation. People are biased in favor of adapting some cultural variants as opposed to others in such models. Are the kinds of biases few or many? Are the bias parameters controlled by genes, culture, or a mix of the two? Are individuals or cultures variable with respect to the biases they apply or is there a lot of inter-individual and cross-population similarity? The models themselves were silent about such empirical issues.

After decades of studying ecosystems, ecologists and evolutionists still find that nature being "queerer than we can suppose" resonates. In my guise as an ecologist, I conducted long term studies of three lakes, all of which turned up major surprises even after years of study. As the applied ecologists Kenneth Burnham and David Anderson put it in their extremely influential 2002 statistics text, Model selection and multimodel inference: a practical information-theoretic approach (10,000+ sites according to Google Scholar) put it "we believe that 'truth' (full reality) in the biological sciences has essentially infinite dimension." At the same time, the data available about the complex real world is always strictly limited. In practice, our data

limits us to only a glimpse of reality. The statistical theory Burnham and Anderson describe is designed to help us choose models that extract all of the information in our data (avoid "underfitting") while not imagining that our data contains more information than it does (avoid "overfitting").

Scientists have long worried about the problems of overfitting and underfitting data. Consider Einstein's famous aphorism "models should be as simple as possible, but no simpler." Information theoretic statisticians aim to put Einstein's intuition on a sound

theoretical footing.

Economists, policy analysts and the like are fitting models to human societies all the time, trying to understand, trying to make sense of the complexity and diversity based on very little data – trying to predict outcomes. We want simple models but we want to choose the models that account for the maximum amount of the available data. Models that "underfit" leave real information in our data unused. As Nassim Taleb explained in his book Black Swan, risk analysts inspired by too-simple models "underfit" the problem of uncertainty contributed to recent economic policy disasters. They ignored the fact that real economic time series data had more extreme values than predicted by the too-simple normal distribution, leading them to create masses of securities that were far riskier than they believed them to be.

By the same token, we don't want to accept a simple genetic explanation for a bit of human behavior if culture also plays an important role, or vice-versa. The attempt of linguists to find a compact set of principles and parameters underlying the superficial diversity of languages failed as Fredrick Newmeyer, one who tried, explained to me recently. Languages have a lot of real diversity. Joe Henrich, Richard Nisbett and their colleagues have used experimental methods to buttress classical ethnographic accounts of cultural diversity. At the same time increasingly abundant gene sequence data is telling an increasingly complex story of rapid organic evolution in the late Pleistocene and early Holocene as modern humans spread out of Africa and adopted agricultural subsistence.

On the other hand, modern statistical packages tempt us to plug lots of explanatory variables into a multiple regression model to try to explain our data.

But if we're not careful, we'll fit the noise as well as the information in the data. If we "overfit" our data, any truth it contains will be confounded with error. Chocolate consumption will appear to cause cancer in one study and protect against it in the next, even though we have no real grounds for thinking that chocolate has much to do with cancer one way or the other.

Information theoretic methods have a neat twist that reflects the fundamental uncertainty of the scientific enterprise. "Full reality" in all its complexity appears

on both sides of a key equation in the derivation the information theoretic measure of "goodness of fit" of models. It therefore drops out of the analysis. We are left with an estimate how much closer or further away from full reality models in our analysis are compared to each other, but we remain completely in the dark about how close the best model is to the truth in an absolute sense. Full reality attracts our models, if we do our science right, but is itself never visible. This is an elegant way of restating the basic falsificationist or falliblist philosophy of science. Some theories are decisively poorer than others given the data we currently have. But more or better data and new candidate theories are likely to change things in the future in ways we cannot predict today.

Underfitting, overfitting and kindred problems are not rare in scientific practice. John Ioannidis wrote an influential paper in PLoS Medicine in 2005 entitled Why most published findings are false. Journalist David Freedman's new book Wrong: Why experts keep failing us rehearses these problems for a general audience. If we have a favorite explanation, and most of us do, and compare its ability to explain a set of data against a null hypothesis we risk underfitting. Any number of other hypotheses, alone or in combination with our favorite hypothesis, may fit the data better than our favorite. Others often approach data with no preconceived idea of what might explain a particular phenomenon. This invites "data dredging." Data dredging is an example of overfitting. Survey researchers and government statisticians sometimes produce huge data sets. In such cases, we are tempted to use all of the possible independent variablesin a blind hunt for a plausible explanation. If the list of independent variables is long, one of them is quite likely to fit the data quite well for spurious reasons.

In a complex, diverse world where full reality is always hidden, Burnham and Anderson recommend first thinking carefully about the explanations that are plausible candidates for the problem you are interested in. Not knowing full reality you are always prisoners of existing science and what you can imagination. No help for that! To the best of your ability, you put all plausible explanations on the table lest you underfit our data. But you want to rule out implausible explanations that invite overfitting before you address the data. Then, if you are lucky, your

toolkit already contains good formal models of our candidate explanations. If not, you may have some theoretical work to do. With a considered collection of models in hand you set out to design an experiment or collect observational data to fit your models to. Finally, you to draw conclusions about the best model(s) given your data.

Even if we have followed the best practices possible, scientists of the complex and diverse should have a large dose of humility. Sooner or later, better models and better data will almost certainly come along. If our conclusion is lucky enough to be on the main trend of future findings, it may become part of the currently accepted wisdom. If we're unlucky, our findings may shortly be shown to be probably false. Even then, you can never be sure! Perhaps the disconfirming data is false, not your model. Darwin believed that the inheritance of acquired variation was an important evolutionary process. Throughout most of the 20th Century, this was held to be one of his greatest errors. Now, new data, reviewed by Eva Jablonka in a recent number of the Quarterly Review of Biology, suggests that trans-generational epigenetic inheritance provides a mechanism for the inheritance of acquired variation after all.

If you are tempted to enter the policy arena and give expert advice based on your science you are under a special obligation to be careful. Evolutionary scientists face a potential paradox. Our science suggests that behavior is very often adaptive and adaptations can be quite subtle. Of course, maladaptations also exist. But giving advice presumes that we know the difference!

No matter how much you know, you never know it for certain!

# The Mind as Canada

The metaphor of the Mind as a Blank Slate is dead, with the final coffin-nailing officiated by the eminent Canadian Steven Pinker (2003). Although a Frankenstein-like version still continues to be sighted regularly by pop science journalists and "Philosophers of Science," those of us who favor scientific progress over 19th century science fiction need a new metaphor. A few have been suggested. Leda Cosmides and John Tooby have offered a couple of candidates, including the Swiss Army Knife and the Jukebox (e.g., Tooby & Cosmides, 1992). There's a lot to like about those metaphors, but both may imply that the outcome is already set in there. As an alternative, I have suggested instead a metaphor of a Coloring Book (with fixed lines, but flexibility in how those lines are filled) (Kenrick, Nieuweboer, & Buunk, 2010). Geoffrey Miller, displaying his peacock-like brain, has suggested a Technicolor array of possibilities, including the mind as an Amusement Park (Miller, 2000). But so far, none of these memes has matched the reproductive success levels of Hölldobler and Wilson's (2008) leaf-cutter ants. So, I'd like to offer another – the Mind as Canada.

The metaphor of the Mind as Canada has several important features. For one thing, it is modular, but not too modular (the Mind as the United States would be too modular, the mind as Haiti, not modular enough). Canada, like the mind, is also appropriately hierarchical in being composed of mini-components within the larger modules. Swiss army knives have 8 or 10 components, with no subcomponents (some of the bigger knives have more parts, but they don't fit in your pocket). Each of the brain's modules is composed of sub-modules and sub-modules, which are ultimately composed of millions of component parts. Think of the mechanisms involved in vision, with cones and rods contributing inputs to line-detectors, which contribute to feature-detectors, which contribute to face-detectors and word-detectors. Canada's provinces are likewise made up of component parts. Some like Ontario, have millions of components, others like Northwest Territory, have only about 32, depending on recent births, deaths, and whether there has been an especially bad blizzard recently.

Here's another benefit of the Canadian Model of Mind. Unlike the former Soviet Union, it is not encapsulated. Anyone with a Canadian passport can carry information from Newfoundland to British Columbia (although like neural impulses, typical Canadians communicate mostly with their neighbors and only go out driving during the two-week thaw in late July). Some of the brain's modules do not communicate much—the color analysis mechanism doesn't talk to the sound frequency mechanism. Likewise for Canadian provinces; as in the case of Quebec and Ontario. So Fodor could perhaps reduce his blood pressure medicine if he started to think of the mind as Canada (this assumes that his modularity module is not already completely encapsulated against inputs from the outside world, including Canada).

Colin Martindale was a cognitive psychologist from the University of Maine (which for all practical and geographical purposes is more a part of Canada than of the U.S.). Martindale suggested that mental processing is organized

hierarchically, with a few functional "sub-selves" at the top. Again, Canada provides a perfect way to imagine the adaptive sub-selves who take turns running our minds. Each of our minds encompasses a hard-riding cowpoke subself from Alberta, a serious fisherman subself from Nova Scotia, an effete intellectual snob from Vancouver, BC, a businessmen from Ontario, a romantic Frenchman from Quebec, and the brave RCMP Sergeant Preston from the Yukon. Each subself handles different kinds of threats and opportunities: The French-accented subself takes over when there are mating opportunities on the horizon, Sergeant Preston takes over when we need to defend ourselves against crooked American drug-dealers, and so on.

In case you have reservations about the scientific merits of the proposed model of the Mind as Canada, I'll fall back on a persuasive strategy popular amongst leaders of the American Psychological Association – focusing on the theory's political advantages rather than its connection to any evidence. First of all, the proposed model would honor the many Canadian contributors to evolutionary psychology. Some HBES members are aware that Martin Daly, Margo Wilson, Dennis Krebs, Charles Crawford, Steven Pinker, and David Sherry all hailed from North of the Minnesota border, but few have considered where evolutionary psychology would be without the contributions of Jim Carey, Leonard Cohen, Neil Young, Pierre Trudeau, and Nelly Furtado. And a model of the Mind as Canada also primes concepts of diversity, spanning the cultures encompassed by Molson, Labatt's, and Granville Island Pale Ale.

Another distinct advantage of Canada as a metaphor for the mind is that much of it is a frozen and barely explored wasteland. As a typical American, I admit not knowing much about Canada, but most Americans know even less about the mind, so it works out elegantly. Indeed, if this model becomes popular, it will help educate people not only about the mind, but about Canada as well. For example, Canadians often complain that they are the victims of stereotyping. Consider the question: "How do you get a Canadian to apologize?" The standard answer from Americans is "Step on his foot." But Canadians object that they are not quite so stereotypically nice and sweet, pointing to the national celebration of brutal violence in the sport of hockey. Again, Canada meets Cognitive Science meets Evolutionary Biology: The Canadian mind, like human minds everywhere, has a very successful politeness module covering for the activities of the other barbarian modules in charge of beer-drinking, goal-scoring, and teeth-bashing. Hence, with regard to oversimplified views of Canadian citizens as well as human minds, this new model will be all aboot throwing 'em oot with the old mukluks, eh?

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# The Student Voice | Kate Hanson Sobraske & Carolyn Hodges Simeon

A note from your student representatives:

Work on HBES 2011 is in full swing and promises to be very student-friendly. Hosted in Montelier, France, June 30th–July 4th, the venue will support a large attendance and student housing will be available. The venue has a permanent, on-site place for posters, granting student researchers a greater audience throughout the conference. Similarly, the Executive Council is considering providing the finalists for the New Investigator and Postdoc Awards their own session, possibly even their own plenary. However, it was also discussed that the deadlines for award applications should be moved up; keep your eyes out for announcements of the specific dates.

# Featured Student Profile

### BRIAN WOOD

Brian Wood is a PhD student in the Department of Human Evolutionary Biology at Harvard University. His general research interest is human behavioral ecology, and his work has focused on the energetics, food-sharing, kinship, and residence patterns of hunter-gatherers. Brian studied anthropology as an undergraduate at UC Davis, and developed a keen interest in human behavioral ecology after taking Robert Bettinger's "Hunter-Gatherers" class. He soon traveled to Paraguay to take part in a human evolutionary ecology field school among the Ache, directed by Kim Hill and Magdalena Hurtado. While there, he conducted a study of foraging group formation that tested predictions of the show-off hypothesis (Wood and Hill 2000).

After graduating with high honors from UC Davis in 1999, Brian worked for two years as a dig bum (i.e. "contract archaeologist") in California. From 2001-4 he pursued a MS degree in computer science at Cal Poly San Luis Obispo, where he studied programming, GIS, and agent based modeling for anthropological applications. For his MS thesis he created software that computes the energetic cost of pedestrian travel through three dimensional terrain, and then predicts optimal travel routes and spatial patterns in archaeological distributions (Wood and Wood 2004). He received an MS with distinction in 2004.

In 2004, Brian began the PhD program in Biological Anthropology at Harvard. His advisers have been Frank Marlowe, Richard Wrangham, and Karen Kramer. He has conducted 18 months of fieldwork among Hadza hunter-gatherers, and is currently writing articles on the subjects of kinship, residence patterns, foraging, and food-sharing. Brian has been a member of HBES and the Evolutionary Anthropology Society, and has served as the EAS student board representative (2005-6), and webmaster. His paper "Hadza Kinship and its Influence on Residence Patterns and Food Sharing" received the "Best Student Paper" award from the EAS at the 2009 AAA meetings. Brian will begin a postdoc at Stanford University in September 2010, advised by Jamie Jones.

Fore information, including a list of publications, visit: http://www.people.fas.harvard.edu/~bmwood/ Fieldwork images: http://www.flickr.com/photos/briansgallery/  Film: http://www.vimeo.com/8383805

## NEW INVESTIGATOR COMPETITION WINNER

### Aaron Lukaszewski, University of California Santa Barbara

Congratulations to Aaron Lukaszewski, Graduate Student in the Department of Psychology, University of California Santa Barbara for winning the 2010 HBES New Investigator Award for a paper co-authored with Jim Roney.

Title: The origins of extraversion: Joint effects of facultative calibration and functional genetic polymorphism

Abstract: The origins of variation in extraversion are largely mysterious. Recent theories and some findings suggest that personality variation can be orchestrated directly by genetic polymorphisms. Few studies, however, have examined the alternative hypothesis that personality traits like extraversion are facultatively calibrated to variation in other phenotypic features, and none have considered how these distinct processes may interact in personality determination. Since physical strength and physical attractiveness likely predicted the success of extraverted behavioral strategies over human history, it was theorized that extraversion is calibrated to variation in these characteristics. Confirming these predicted patterns, across two studies, strength and attractiveness together explained a surprisingly large fraction of variance in extraversion – effects that were independent of variance explained by the androgen receptor CAG repeat polymorphism. These novel findings initially support an integrative model wherein facultative calibration and specific genetic polymorphims operate in concert to determine personality variation.

## POST-DOCTORAL COMPETITION WINNER

### Peter DeScioli

Congratulations to Peter DeScioli at the University of Pennsylvania for winning the 2010 HBES Post-Doctoral Competition for a paper coauthored with B. Wilson.

Title: Mine and thine: The foundations of human property

Abstract: Research shows that many animal species have morphological and cognitive adaptations for fighting with others to gain resources, but it remains unclear how humans make fighting decisions. Non-human animals often adaptively calibrate fighting behavior to ecological variables such as resource quantity and whether the resource is distributed uniformly or clustered in patches. Also, non-human animals use strategies to reduce fighting costs such as resolving disputes based on power asymmetries or conventions. Here we show that humans apply an ownership convention in response to the problem of severe fighting. Participants interacted as avatars in a virtual environment where they could forage and fight for electronic food items (convertible to cash). In the patchy condition, we observed an ownership convention—the avatar who arrives first is more likely to win—but in the uniform condition, where severe fighting is rare, the ownership convention is absent.

## POSTER COMPETITION WINNER

### Sandeep Mishra, University of Lethbridge

Congratulations to Sandeep Mishra, PhD Candidate in the Department of Psychology at the University of Lethbridge for winning the 2010 HBES Poster Competition.

Poster Title: Does inequality cause risk-taking?

Abstract: Income inequality has been associated with crime rates at the aggregate level, suggesting that inequality may cause crime. No experimental research, however, has investigated this hypothesis. Because crime is a form of risk-taking, in two studies, I examined whether people engage in higher risk-taking after experiencing inequality, manifesting through (1) structural means, or (2) competitive disadvantage. In the first study, structural inequality was induced among pairs of subjects. Half were given an initial cash payment, and the other half, nothing. In the second study, I manipulated the experience of competitive disadvantage by providing positive or negative feedback about one's intelligence relative to peers in a purported aptitude test. In both studies, I found that participants engaged in significantly higher risktaking when they were the victims of inequality. Individual differences in personality played no significant role. These results represent the first experimental evidence that inequality causes risk-taking. Sponsor:Social Sciences and Humanities Research Council, Alberta Gaming Research Institute

## THE MARGO WILSON AWARD

### Andreas Wilke and Clark Barrett

Congratulations to Andreas Wilke, Assistant Professor of Psychology at Clarkson University and H. Clark Barrett, Associate Professor of Anthropology at UCLA for winning the inaugural Margo Wilson Award for best paper published in Evolution and Human Behavior in 2009.

Article Title: The hot hand phenomenon as a cognitive adaptation to clumped resources

Abstract: The hot hand phenomenon refers to the expectation of "streaks" in sequences of hits and misses whose probabilities are, in fact, independent (e.g., coin tosses, basketball shots). Here we propose that the hot hand phenomenon reflects an evolved psychological assumption that items in the world come in clumps, and that hot hand, not randomness, is our evolved psychological default. In two experiments, American undergraduates and Shuar hunter–horticulturalists participated in computer tasks in which they predicted hits and misses in foraging for fruits, coin tosses, and several other kinds of resources whose distributions were generated randomly. Subjects in both populations exhibited the hot hand assumption across all the resource types. The only exception was for American students predicting coin tosses where hot hand was reduced. These data suggest that hot hand is our evolved psychological default, which can be reduced (though not eliminated) by experience with genuinely independent random phenomena like coin tosses. (*Evolution and Human Behavior,* 30, 161-169)

# HBES 2010 Career Award Winners



**LIFETIME CAREER AWARD**

**Napoleon A. Chagnon, University of California Santa Barbara**



**EARLY CAREER AWARD**

**Michael Gurven, University of California Santa Barbara**

*The 23rd Annual HBES Conference will be held in Montpelier, France*
*June 29-July 3, 2011*

# Letters From the Editors

## Letter from the Editors of Evolution and Human Behavior

Now publishing volume 31, HBES' sole proprietary journal—Evolution and Human Behavior—continues to grow in prestige and influence. The Science Citation Index (and the identical Social Science Citation Index) Impact Factor provides a widely used quantitative measure of scholarly influence and it has a ready interpretation: the average number of times that an article published by a journal in the previous two years has been cited in the current year. E&HB's current SCI/SSCI Impact Factor is 3.594. Comparisons with the SCI/SSCI Impact Factors of other journals (below) suggest that E&HB is a top venue for disseminating ideas.

| Discipline | N of Journals Ranked | E&HB's Impact-Factor Rank |
|---|---|---|
| Anthropology | 67 | 1 |
| Biology | 74 | 13 |
| Economics | 246 | 8 |
| Political Science | 113 | 2 |
| Psychology | 481 | 36 |
| Sociology | 115 | 2 |

The Journal's current stature is testimony to the growing success of the Darwinian revolution in the social sciences, and to the combined efforts of so many of our Society's members in advancing this intellectual endeavor. Please share it with your colleagues and administrators. Another group of people who also deserve credit for this situation is the editors who have shepherded the Journal over the years. We want to call special attention to the energetic, diligent and visionary service of Martin Daly, of Margo Wilson (who sadly passed away in September 2009; obituary E&HB 31: 1-6), and of Dan Fessler whose term as editor is now expiring. Largely uncompensated (and risking varying degrees of wrath), their nuanced decisions and generous advice have helped to put our field in the intellectual spotlight.

Beginning with issue 1 of volume 32 there will be some visible changes on the Journal masthead reflecting changes is editorial staffing that are being implemented now. Rob Kurzban (who has created a vibrant department as Book Review Editor) will replace Dan Fessler as a Coeditor-in-Chief. (Ruth Mace, Martie Haselton and Steven Gaulin will continue to serve with Rob until the end of their respective terms.) Daniel Nettle will replace Rob as Book Review Editor. Please have your publisher send your new books for review consideration to Daniel Nettle, Centre for Behaviour and Evolution, Newcastle University, Henry Wellcome Building, Framlington Place, Newcastle NE2 4HH, UK

In addition, Lisa Weber who has been our bright and dependable editorial assistant for the past two years is moving on and will be replaced by Sarah Leach.

At the 2010 HBES meeting in Eugene, we announced the winner of first annual Margo Ings Wilson Award, an editor's-choice award for the best paper in each volume of E&HB. This year the prize of $US 1500 went to Andeas Wilke for his paper with H. Clark Barrett, "The Hot Hand Phenomenon as an Adaptation to Clumped Resources" E&HB 30: 161-169. Congratulations!

# Letters From the Editors

Pageviews by month
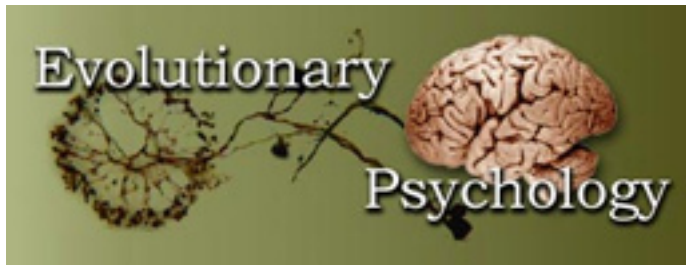
Evolutionary Psychology (www.epjournal.net) is proud to announce the promotion of Steven M. Platek to Co-Editor, as well as the arrival of four new Associate Editors: Aurelio José Figueredo, Professor of Psychology, Family Studies and Human Development at the University of Arizona, Bernard Fink, Emmy-Noether-Research Group at the University of Göttingen, Debra Lieberman, Assistant Professor of Psychology at the University of Miami, and Achim Schützwohl, Lecturer in Psychology at Brunel University.

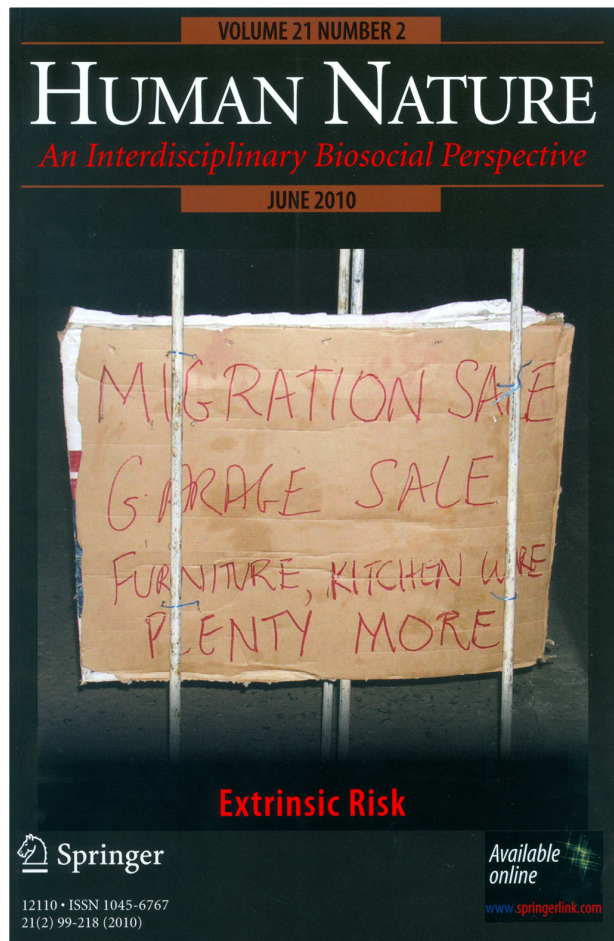Evolutionary Psychology covers empirical, philosophical, historical, and socio-political perspectives and includes a diverse editorial board composed of distinguished and enthusiastic individuals who wish to encourage appropriate submissions across all relevant fields, including original research papers, subject reviews, topic reviews, and book reviews. Recent published articles continue to elevate the Journal's visibility, producing articles in mainstream media such as Miller-McCune, New York Daily News, and The Wilson Quarterly. Evolutionary Psychology now receives approximately 20,000 to 30,000 page views per month (see Figure 1), and our articles are accessed nearly half a million times annually.

Evolutionary Psychology is indexed by PsycInfo, EBSCOhost, Scopus, Socolar, Google Scholar, and the Thomson Reuters databases Web of Science, Social Sciences Citation Index, and Current Contents/Social and Behavioral Sciences. In addition, and effective immediately, Evolutionary Psychology will be indexed by PubMed, MEDLINE, and MEDLARS. We expect to receive our first Thomson journal impact factors in 2011.

If you would like to receive our monthly Table of Contents via e-mail, please see the Journal website (www.epjournal.net) for fast sign-up. We also offer a RSS feed, which will notify you when new articles become available throughout the month. You can sign up for the RSS feed through the Journal website or through http://feeds.feedburner.com/EvolutionaryPsychology. Finally, in addition to joining our Facebook group (www.facebook.com/group. php?gid=52551573343&ref=mf), you can now follow Evolutionary Psychology on Twitter (http://twitter.com/EvoPsych).

# Letters From the Editors

## Letter from the Editor of Human Nature



**VOLUME 21 NUMBER 2**

# HUMAN NATURE
*An Interdisciplinary Biosocial Perspective*

**JUNE 2010**

MIGRATION SALE
GARAGE SALE
FURNITURE, KITCHEN WARE
PLENTY MORE

**Extrinsic Risk**

Springer

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21(2) 99-218 (2010)

Available online
www.springerlink.com

Springer.Science offers a discount subscription to HBES members at the journal website, www.Springer.com/12110, under special rate for society members.  Besides our general issues, we also publish special issues. Forthcoming are: Extrinsic Risk edited by Dawn Neill, Kinship: Quantitative and Evolutionary Approaches edited by Mary Shenk and Siobhan Mattison, and Middle Childhood in Comparative Perspective edited by Benjamin Campbell.

Human Nature's Scimago Journal Rank for 2008 is 20th out of 333 Social Science (miscellaneous) journals. Its SJR rating is 0.072. SJR is a measure of the journal's relative impact on its field, based on the number of citations and number of articles per publication year as well as the ranking of the citing journals.  The Journal Citation Reports ranking for 2009 is 11th out of 67 Anthropology journals and 8th out of 33 Social Science/Biomedical journals. The recently announced 5-year Impact Factor is 1.600.

## 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. 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 additonal content in future newsletters (e.g., illustrations, photographs, poetry, or otherwise), please drop me a line at newsletter@hbesociety.com.

Debra Lieberman, Editor

## Research Requests

Dear Colleagues:

Martie Haselton and I are conducting two different meta-analyses of menstrual cycle effects. The first of these is on fertility cues and the second (in collaboration with two colleagues) is on menstrual cycle effects on mate preferences. We would greatly appreciate your help in locating unpublished data to include in our analyses. The criteria for the two meta-analyses appear in the solicitations below.

We prefer to be over-inclusive in this early stage of our analysis, so please send us any papers or data that might meet the above criteria. This includes papers in press, dissertation or masters thesis work, student projects, conference presentations (abstracts, papers, posters), etc. Please be assured that we will not use your data for any purposes other than inclusion in our meta-analysis.

If you have any questions, please email me (kellygildersleeve@gmail.com) or Martie Haselton (haselton@ucla.edu).

Many thanks for your help.

Kelly Gildersleeve and Martie Haselton

### Meta-analysis of fertility cues: Requesting unpublished papers/data on observable changes in women across the menstrual cycle

Dear Colleagues:

Martie Haselton and I aim to conduct a systematic, quantitative review of the literature to address the question of whether there are observable changes in women around the time of ovulation, compared with less fertile days of the cycle. We would greatly appreciate your help in locating unpublished data to include in our analysis. Please email me (kellygildersleeve@gmail.com) with any unpublished manuscripts or data that meet the following criteria:

1) Study includes a measurement or estimation of menstrual cycle position (e.g., current day in cycle, high/low fertility, follicular/luteal/menstrual) and/or cycle-based conception risk (e.g., probability of conception as estimated from actuarial tables).

2) Study includes 3rd-party ratings, direct measurements, or self-reports of some physical trait or behavior in women that is potentially observable to others. For example, previous research has examined 3rd-party ratings of women's body odor attractiveness, vocal attractiveness, facial attractiveness, gait, clothing sexiness, and clothing revealingness; measurements of vocal pitch, skin exposure, breast asymmetry, digit asymmetry, waist-to-hip ratio, receptiveness to courtship solicitations, and tip-earnings; women's self-reports of grooming and "styling" behavior, interest in socializing with men, risky behavior; etc.

### Meta-analysis: Requesting unpublished manuscripts or data on menstrual cycle effects on women's mate preferences

Dear Colleagues:

Martie Haselton, Wendy Wood, Priyanka Joshi and I are conducting a meta-analysis of menstrual cycle effects on women's mate preferences. We would greatly appreciate your help in locating unpublished data to include in our analysis. Please email me (kellygildersleeve@gmail.com) with any unpublished manuscripts or data that meet the following criteria:

1) Study includes a measurement or estimation of menstrual cycle position (e.g., current day in cycle, high/low fertility, follicular/luteal/menstrual) and/or cycle-based conception risk (e.g., probability of conception as estimated from actuarial tables).

2) Study includes a measurement of women's attraction (broadly defined) to some characteristic(s) of a potential mate (this includes both long-term mates, short-term sex partners, or unspecified). For example, previous studies have examined cycle effects on women's preferences for the following mate characteristics: physical attractiveness, facial masculinity, facial symmetry, facial averageness, body masculinity, body symmetry, apparent health, vocal masculinity, scent of masculine men, scent of dominant men, scent of symmetrical men, behavioral dominance, creativity, intelligence, wealth, warmth, etc.

# Announcements

## NEW JOURNALS!!



**Frontiers in Evolutionary Psychology** is a specialty section of Frontiers in Psychology that publishes theoretical and empirical manuscripts on the study of the mind, brain, and behavior from an evolutionary perspective. The specialty section welcomes contributions to understanding any aspect of human psychology, from low level perception to cultural processes, using the theoretically powerful principles of evolutionary biology and adaptationism. As such, it strives to publish the best works of scholarship that investigate any topic of interest to social scientists informed by these ideas. This includes theoretical contributions about big issues, such as the structure of the mind and the nature of the evolutionary process, to empirical contributions ranging from basic cognitive processes to issues surrounding social life, groups, and institutions. Any methods are welcome, including laboratory experiments, report s from the field, comparative work, simulations, neuroscience, and others. The criteria for publication are the quality of the work and the extent to which work advances understanding of human psychology.

Frontiers in Evolutionary Psychology welcomes the following **tier 1 article types**: Book Review, Editorial, General Commentary, Hypothesis & Theory, Methods, Opinion, Original Research, Perspective, Review and Specialty Grand Challenge.

Please visit the journal's website: http://www.frontiersin.org/evolutionary_psychology
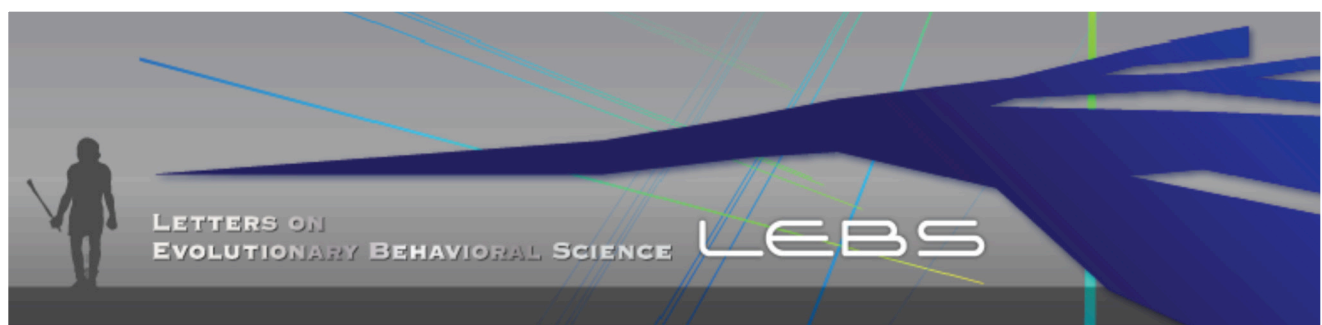


**Letters on Evolutionary Behavioral Science (LEBS)** is an online, open access peer-reviewed journal that publishes brief and interesting articles that deal with evolutionary studies on human behavior. The scope of LEBS is vast: publishing research in any area of human evolutionary behavioral science as well as studies on humanities. Articles reporting findings on other species will be welcomed if their relevance to the human animal is apparent. In particular, LEBS welcomes studies that replicate previous findings and eagerly anticipates submissions from Asian and Oceanian researchers. Website: http://lebs.hbesj.org/

# Announcements

## Members in the News

**Bruce J. Ellis**, Professor and John & Doris Norton Endowed Chair in Fathers, Parenting, and Families in the Department of Family Studies and Human Development at the University of Arizona has once again won the prestigious George A. Miller Award of the Division 1 of the American Psychological Association (Society for the General Psychology) for his paper (with Aurelio José Figueredo, Barbara H. Brumbach, and Gabriel L. Schlomer) "Fundamental Dimensions of Environmental Risk:  The Impact of Harsh Versus Unpredictable Environments on the Evolution and Development of Life History Strategies," published in the June 2009 issue of Human Nature.

This is the second time Bruce has won the George A. Miller Award.  He won it the first time in 2005 for his Psychological Bulletin article.  He is the first person ever to win the George A. Miller Award more than once in the entire history of the award. Congratualtions, Bruce!

## Conferences

**Society for Evolutionary Analysis in Law (S.E.A.L.)**

The 12th annual conference of the Society for Evolutionary Analysis in Law (S.E.A.L.) will be held February 11-12, 2010, at the Loyola University of Los Angeles.  **HBES members** -- faculty and students alike -- are specifically invited to propose talks, or simply to attend. To propose a talk (deadline November 15th) see http://law.vanderbilt.edu/seal/conferences/2011conference/2011conferencetalks.htm.

For general information, and to become a member, see www.sealsite.org.  SEAL is a scholarly association dedicated to fostering interdisciplinary exploration of issues at the intersection of law, biology, and evolutionary theory, improving the models of human behavior relevant to law, and promoting the integration of life science and social science perspectives on law-relevant topics through scholarship, teaching, and empirical research. Relevant disciplines include, among others, evolutionary and behavioral biology, cognitive science, neuroscience, complex adaptive systems, economics, evolutionary psychology, psychiatry, behavioral ecology, behavioral genetics, primatology, memetics, chaos theory, evolutionary anthropology, and gender relations. SEAL welcomes everyone -- professors, students, practitioners, and all others -- with serious interests in evolutionary processes and law.

To post a conference announcement for an upcoming Newsletter, please send information to: newsletter@hbes.com.

# Announcements

## Academic Positions

**The Department of Psychology, Neuroscience & Behaviour at McMaster University** invites applications for a tenure track position in evolutionary psychology at the assistant professor level. The successful applicant will have a PhD in a relevant field, and a research program that uses contemporary evolutionary theory and knowledge to direct the study of human (and perhaps also non-human) psychology and behaviour. An appropriate research program will complement the department's strengths in animal behaviour, cognition, neuroscience, and development, and may entail any combination of laboratory and fieldwork; cognitive, genetic, neuroscientific, and endocrinological methods; and experimental, correlational and archival hypothesis testing.

Each applicant should send a curriculum vitae, a statement of research interests, and copies of three published contributions to: Dr. Martin Daly, Chair, Evolutionary Psychology Search Committee, Department of Psychology, Neuroscience and Behaviour, McMaster University, 1280 Main Street West, Hamilton, Ontario, Canada L8S 4K1

Applicants should also arrange to have three letters of reference sent to the same address. Departmental review of applications will begin immediately, and will continue until the position is filled. The appointment will commence on July 1, 2011. Salary will be commensurate with qualifications and experience.

**The Department of Anthropology, University of Utah**, is seeking two anthropologists for a tenure-track position at the assistant or associate professor level. The successful candidate will have an active research program that uses evidence to evaluate theoretically-motivated hypotheses, and considers the cultural, environmental, and/or historical context of empirical findings. Area of specialization is open, but an interest in health-related issues, broadly construed, is a plus. Please send C.V., description of current and future research, publications and names and addresses of four referees to Chair, Search Committee Department of Anthropology University of Utah 270 S 1400 E RM 102 Salt Lake City, UT 84112-0060. Applications should be received by November 15, 2010, for earliest consideration. The search committee may consider applications received after this time until the position is filled. This position is currently available with the starting date of July 2011. The University of Utah values candidates who have experience working in settings with students from diverse backgrounds, and possess a strong commitment to improving access to higher education for historically underrepresented students.

For more information about available positions, please see the HBES website:

http://www.hbes.com/resources/academic_positions.php

# Announcements: Remembering Dr. Devandra Singh
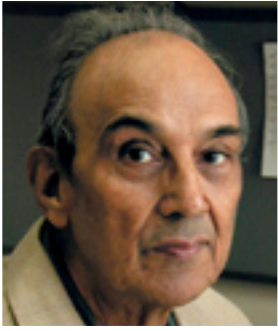
Dr. Devendra Singh, an active researcher and member of HBES for 17 years, passed away on May 18, 2010. He died at his home in Austin, Texas, with his beloved family by his side. He was 72 years old. Dr. Singh was born on January 12, 1938 in Urai, India, the second youngest of six children. As a young man, he acted, wrote plays, and composed short stories. He also developed a love of cooking, and over the years treated many friends and colleagues to fabulous Indian food, accompanied by hours of regaling guests with fascinating stories and great humor. Defying his father's wishes, he left India in 1962 to pursue a Ph.D. at Ohio State University. He began his long and distinguished career as a professor and researcher at North Dakota State University before moving to the University of Texas in 1969.

His research career contained two major phases. In his early career as a physiological psychologist, he made major contributions in the domain of eating behavior and obesity. Singh developed an important theory of obesity—a theory of a deficit in response inhibition (failure to inhibit eating behavior once it had commenced, due in part to unresponsiveness to internal cues of satiety)—that went against the prevailing theory that obesity was caused by being overly bound to external stimuli.

Dr. Singh's second research phase was more explicitly guided by evolutionary theory. His first evolutionary publication came in 1985, "Evolutionary origins of a preference for alcohol." Dr. Singh's most sustained evolutionary research program—and the one for which he is most well known in the scientific community today—focused on waist-to-hip ratio (WHR) as a cue to female attractiveness. From 1993 through 2010, Dr. Singh published 35 scientific papers that focused heavily, but not exclusively, on the role of waist-to-hip ratio in human mating strategies. The participants in his studies ranged widely, and included populations from India; South Africa; Jamaica; Bakossiland, Cameroon, Africa; Komodo Island, Indonesia; Samoa; and New Zealand (as well as the United States). He made contributions to domains such as evolved standards of attractiveness, body scarification, sexual orientation, fluctuating asymmetry, mate value, childhood gender nonconformity, body satisfaction, odor cues to ovulation, gestational diabetes, second to fourth digit ratio, and sexual functioning. His many research collaborators and co-authors included several prominent evolutionists—John Manning, Randy Thornhill, and Robert Trivers. He also has publications with two of his daughters, Dorian Singh and Adrian Singh.

At the University of Texas, Devendra Singh was one of the founders and core members of the Individual Differences and Evolution Psychology Area, which established the University of Texas as one of the major nodes in the country for the study of evolution and human behavior.

In addition to his groundbreaking scientific work, Devendra Singh affected everyone whose lives he touched. A ferociously dedicated teacher, he taught thousands of students over more than four decades. His indefatigable love of teaching influenced generations of students, and he was honored with numerous teaching awards. Singh's lectures were always infused with a delightful and playful sense of humor that made learning a joyful, enchanting, and unforgettable experience.

The indelible imprint of Devendra Singh's intelligence, wit, personality (and, it must be said, his cooking) is felt by his many students, friends, colleagues, and the family he deeply loved—his wife Barbara Singh; his daughter Dorian Sharda Singh and her husband Mat Savelli; his daughter Adrian Sandhya Singh; his daughter Anne Deepak and her husband Daniel Deepak and their sons Arjun and Kashi; his sister Mano and her husband Soni; many beloved relatives in India; and his two cats, Jim Pig and Pinot Noir. Although the loss of Devendra Singh has created a void that can never be filled, all those whose orbit he touched have lasting and cherished memories of this unique and irreplaceable man.

--David M. Buss