

PASSING ON THE CHAIR

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Editor in Chief

When I took over as editor in chief five years ago, the Human Ethology Bulletin had just undergone its metamorphosis from a newsletter of the International Society for Human Ethology into a peer reviewed online journal.

The possibilities of electronic communication and the Internet allowed for a transfer of society-related information to e-mails and a cost efficient production of an open access journal. This transition started with Aurelio Jose Figueredo as editor in chief and the help of a motivated team of associate editors, who were united from the beginning in the desire to create an outlet for ethological research that was barrier free, coming at no costs to author and reader. The strong belief in open access has been made possible through the financial support of ISHE, who covers the costs for editing and online hosting.

It is a long way from the decision to have a regular publication to the actual establishment of a journal. As in many scientific areas, there is no way for a butterfly to emerge from the cocoon without the help of countless dedicated scientists, whose vision fuels them in their pursuit of an idealistic goal. First and foremost the editorial team who not only handle the review process in order to ensure the scientific quality of the publication, but play a central role in publicising it through word of mouth, are the backbone of any scientific journal. Glenn E. Weisfeld, T. Joel Wade, Ian Stephen, Nancy L. Segal, Susanne F. Schmehl, Craig Roberts, John Richer, Iris J. Holzleitner, Colin Hendrie, Jan Havlicek, Glenn Geher, Maryanne Fisher, Aurelio Jose Figueredo, Martin Brüne, Louise Barrett and Thomas Alley (in reverse alphabetic order) with their diverse scientific backgrounds and interests represent what HEB is about: A scientific journal with high standards focussed on human behaviour.

The large number of anonymous reviewers whose expertise and careful evaluation of the submissions guarantee that we are able to fairly assess the scientific quality of the submissions. The combined expertise of the entirety of the editorial board and the body of reviewers is important for any journal, but even more so for a journal that publishes in a cross-disciplinary field like HEB. Maybe most important is the role of the authors who have honoured HEB with their trust in the early days, enabling us to establish a continuous flow of publications.

In the course of the last five years, I worked with four different book review editors, whose contributions were invaluable for HEB: I want to express my thanks to (in order of appearance) Iris Holzleitner, Maryanne Fisher, Craig Shattuck and our current book review editor, Amanda Hahn.

HEB does not only publish its regular issues, but also special issues of two kinds: Themed special issues are constituted of a number of contributions around a specific theme. Craig Roberts served as editor for the special issue on Tinbergen celebrating the 50th anniversary of the publication of the seminal paper “On aims and methods in ethology”.

Beginning with 2014 HEB publishes a special issue on the proceedings of ISHE’s annual scientific meetings. Daniel Kruger served as editor for the proceedings of the 2013 summer institute in Ann Arbor that were published mid-2014. The 2014 conference in Belem, Brazil resulted in an excellent special issue co-edited by the ISHE couple Marco Antonio Correa Varela & Jaroslava Varella Valentova that was published mid-2015. Susanne Schmehl served as editor for the proceedings of the 2015 Athens summer institute that were published early 2016. Finally, Caroline Allen edited the proceedings of the 2016 conference in Stirling that were published early in 2017. The proceedings issues are a beautiful documentation of what happens at the meetings, and serve to attract scholars to attend meetings for the first time (references).

Once a manuscript is accepted, the production team ensures that the scientific content is presented in an appropriate way. Thanks to Alexandra Mühlhauser, Susanne Schmehl and Kathrin Masuch, who have contributed at different stages to the conversion of manuscripts into proper articles.

The technical procedures behind the scenes kept us busy throughout the years. After encountering issues with our initial platform, we moved on to a different submission system and integrated the journal website more closely into the society website. As of now, all articles have a DOI and the references adhere to the cross-ref guidelines. Please use the DOIs to link to your articles rather than sharing the PDFs of your papers, this ensures the most sustainable access to your publication, as the DOI allows for individual identification of documents, irrespective of the location.

The metamorphosis of HEB from being a beautiful caterpillar mainly used for the internal communication of society-relevant news within the International Society for Human Ethology and launching the flight of the butterfly in form of an open access peer reviewed journal has been facilitated through many individuals, serving as enzymes, hormones and

nutrition. Now that the wings of the butterfly are fully expanded and the flight movements have stabilised, it is time for me to pass the helm on to a new captain. Colin Hendrie has agreed to take over as editor in chief of the Human Ethology Bulletin and I am sure he will steer the journal towards excellent waters.

I look back at five years full of hard work and great joy and a grateful for the opportunity granted to me by ISHE. Thank you all for your substantial investments in the cooperative breeding effort!

Now, I pass the ball to Colin.

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