

Human Ethology Bulletin

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International Society for Human Ethology Congress (ISHE06) held in Detroit

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On 31 July to 3 August, ISHE held its biennial conference at Wayne State University during a record-breaking heat wave. Despite the heat, those in attendance seemed pleased with the program, which featured four keynote speakers, a poster session and a wide variety of thematic sessions, and with the other activities, including an opening jazz reception, a banquet dinner, and an evening dinner/boat tour. This issue contains reports on the conference (page 3) and the General Assembly (page 8), which was held at the end of the conference, followed by a report of an officers' meeting in which several notable decisions were made.



ISHE06 attendees gather outside of the
McGregor Conference Center during a break
(photo by T. R. Alley)

Bulletin Staff

EDITOR

Thomas R. Alley

Department of Psychology
Clemson University
418 Brackett Hall
Clemson, SC 29634-1355 USA
tel. 1-864-656-4974
Fax 1-864-656-0358
E-mail: Alley@Clemson.edu

ASSOCIATE EDITOR

Maryanne Fisher

Department of Psychology
St. Mary's University
923 Robie Street
Halifax, Nova Scotia, B3H 3C3 Canada
E-mail: MLFisher@HUSKY1.SMU.CA

CURRENT LITERATURE EDITOR

Johan van der Dennen

Dept. of Legal Theory, Faculty of Law
University of Groningen
Oude Kijk in 't Jatstraat 5/9
9712 EA Groningen, The Netherlands
tel. 31-50-3635649
fax: 31-50-3635635
E-mail: J.M.G.van.der.dennen@rechten.rug.nl

REMINDER

The new, easy-to-remember ISHE web
address is: www.ISHE.org

ADDRESS CHANGES: Subscribers wishing to make address changes or other changes in their membership information should send their requests to the ISHE Membership Chair, Astrid Juette, at: astrid.juette@kli.ac.at

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Submissions: All items of interest to ISHE members are welcome, including news about ISHE members; announcements of meetings, journals or professional societies; articles (Brief Communications); responses to articles; etc. Brief Communications may cover such topics as teaching ethology, ethological methodology, human evolution, and evolutionary theory. These sorts of submission should be sent to the Editor. Book reviews and review inquiries may be sent to an Associate Editor. Guidelines for book reviews are available from any staff member and on the ISHE web site.

All submissions must be in English, and sent to the appropriate editor via email, preferably as an attachment. If email is impossible, hard copies will be accepted, as long as they are accompanied by the same text on diskette or CD-R (preferably in Microsoft Word format). Submissions are usually reviewed only by members of the editorial staff, although outside reviewers are used occasionally. Some submissions are rejected, but political censorship is avoided so as to foster free and creative exchange of ideas among scholars.

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ISHE06: A Report from Detroit

By Thomas R. Alley

Detroit, "it's not as bad as you think". Perhaps, but it certainly was hotter than expected, as was much of the Northern hemisphere around the time of the biennial ISHE conference.

In many respects, Detroit is a city in decline, with an economy that remains heavily dependent on the struggling American automotive industry and a population that has gone from a peak of near 2 million in the 1950's to fewer than 1 million in 2005. But, as attendees discovered, Detroit has many pockets of interest, art and even beauty. Perhaps most obvious of these to those attending were the quite pleasant WSU campus where the conference was held, the restored historic houses that comprise the Inn on Ferry Street, the nearby Detroit Institute of Arts (which served as both a cultural attraction and unofficial lunch venue), and the riverfront area. This riverfront was seen by many conference attendees during Monday evening's dinner cruise on the Detroit River, and at Wednesday night's conference banquet on Belle Isle.

Sunday evening, with most conferences attendees having recently arrived, the biennial meeting got off to a great start with a reception held under a tent erected behind the host Inn at Ferry Street. The reception featured some fine jazz by a local trio, ample drink and food, and numerous reunions of old friends and introductions to strangers who may well become friends before the conference ends. Stimulating conversations lasted until midnight or later; that is, until 'morning' for those still biologically on European time.



renäus Eibl-Eibesfeldt and Ullica Segerstrale at the Sunday evening welcoming jazz reception
(photo by Val Martin)

Morning in Detroit actually began many hours later. The formal proceedings of the conference were set in motion by ISHE President and ISHE06 host, Glenn Weisfeld, who introduced ISHE trustees and oversaw brief statements by each of the society's officers and by ISHE06 co-host, Carol Weisfeld.



Registration and reception in McGregor Conference Center atrium on Monday, 31 July
(photo by Val Martin)

After these preliminaries, the conference got off to a great start with the first keynote address. Ullica Segerstrale spoke based on her current project, a book on Wm. Hamilton, giving a

fascinating talk with academic achievements and problems interspersed with biographical events. Rather than a straightforward chronological review, Segerstrale presented Hamilton as a rebel, giving numerous examples from his both his scientific and personal life, and as a man who ably switched back and forth between theoretical and expeditionary/observational modes. Hamilton is well-known for his development of concepts of kin selection and inclusive fitness: his 1964 paper is one of the most cited in science. But Segerstrale went beyond this to paint a much richer and more complex picture of the man, his influences and career path, and his legacy. For instance, Hamilton hated totalitarianism and group selection, which he connected with totalitarianism.

The presentation on this giant of evolutionary theory was followed by a session on Evolution and Evolutionary Theory that consisted of talks by D.G. Freedman, J.P. Rushton, P. LaFreniere and T. Shellberg. Attendees then dispersed for lunch, with many staying on campus for lunch in the WSU Towers cafeteria. The first session after lunch contained papers that targeted Conflict and Violence. The official program for this opening day of the conference concluded with a session on Child Birth, Development and Parenting, followed by presentations from F. Salter and L.M. Gant.



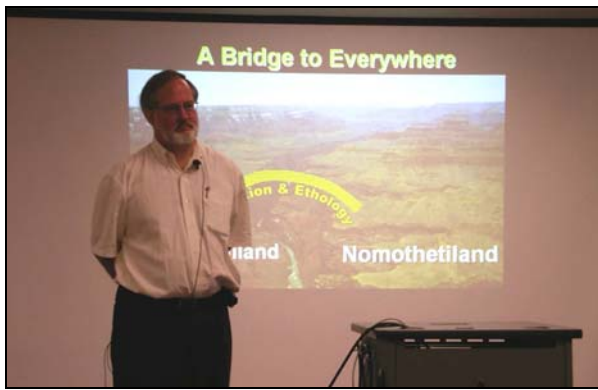
Andrew Oldenquist, Tom Alley and Dan Freedman attend to a presentation (photo by Val Martin)

That evening, many of us enjoyed a scenic, if rather warm and occasionally windy, dinner cruise on the Detroit River. The route up the U.S. side, around Belle Isle, then south along the Canadian side and under the Ambassador Bridge, provided fine views of both Detroit and Windsor, Canada. Our cruise took us past a surprisingly wide variation in scenery, which included a variety of structures ranging from modern skyscrapers to old warehouses and numerous unique waterfront homes, but also took us within view of lighthouses, a good variety of sculptures along the Windsor riverfront, parks, a large casino, a powerplant and a steel mill.



View of Ambassador Bridge and Detroit from the boat deck during the ISHE06 evening cruise. (photo by T. R. Alley)

Tuesday proved to be another hot day, with many businesses in Detroit closing to prevent over-demand on electricity or due to the heat itself. Fortunately, the conference proceeded in comfort and without interruption, beginning with a well-received keynote talk by Randy Nesse. Dr. Nesse addressed the problem of bridging the gap between qualitative idiographic accounts (e.g., studying many variables in one person; a case study) and quantitative nomothetic analysis. Some samples of idiographic reports were presented that seemed quite useful for understanding the origins of depression in these specific cases,



Randy Nesse delivering his keynote address
(photo by Val Martin)

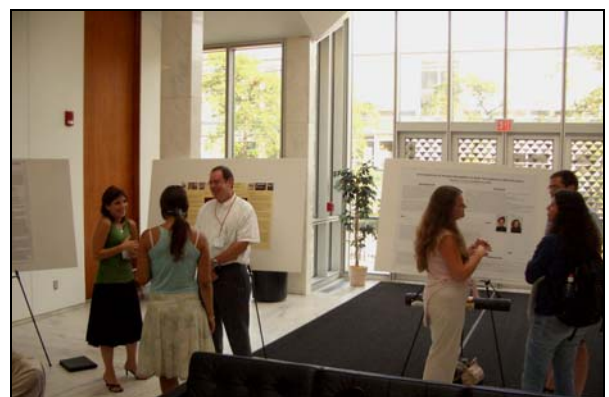
and he returned to these later, this time diagrammed in a revealing way. The talk provided convincing demonstrations of the usefulness of both approaches, and suggested that evolution and ethology might provide a bridge between them.

Like Nesse’s presentation, a number of papers later in the day concerned psychopathology – with a special symposium examining nonverbal behavior in psychiatric populations – and the idiographic/nomothetic distinction reappeared a number of times. This day’s program also included papers on foraging (Wilke), resource allocation (Fisher; Jackson), and a symposium on political ethology dedicated to the late Jim Schubert. The day’s meeting ended with the poster session held in the atrium of the McGregor Conference Center. Posters representing a wide variety of topics lined the walls of this well-lit and spacious room.

The keynote address by Stephen Suomi on Wednesday morning was a highlight of the conference for many people. Covering a tremendous amount of information in his well organized and well illustrated talk, Dr. Suomi examined individual and cross-species differences in macaques from a variety of angles ranging from species-typical social and developmental patterns to gene-based variations in serotonin levels. His convincing



The ISHE06 Poster Session
(photos courtesy Barbara Husarova)



[below] Mirjam Complojer with her ISHE06 poster on postpartum dysphoria (photo by Val Martin)



conclusion that good mothering can protect genetically at-risk offspring from psychopathology left many of us wondering about the likelihood of similar mechanisms in humans. The remainder of the regular talks on Wednesday concerned social behavior, sex-typical behavior and sex differences. In the day's final session, six papers were presented by young researchers vying for a 2006 Linda Mealey Award. Despite the youthfulness of these contributors, all of the papers were worthy of serious consideration; the judges later reported that it was indeed difficult to select just some of these papers for awards.

The ISHE06 banquet on Wednesday evening featured fine food and beverages and great conversation, with two sets of pleasing music provided by a local jazz quartet. The Detroit Yacht Club (www.dyc.com), which served as the banquet site, is a beautifully restored 1920s Mediterranean-style villa on Belle Isle.



The Detroit Yacht Club (photo courtesy DYC)

The club provided an attractive ballroom for the dinner and afforded nice views of the Detroit metropolitan area across the Detroit River. During the evening, several people briefly addressed the gathering: The winners of the 2006 Linda Mealey Awards were announced (see Announcements, this issue) and, on two occasions, the Weisfelds were enthusiastically thanked for hosting the conference.



Peter LaFreniere toasts the Weisfelds during the ISHE06 banquet (photo by Val Martin)

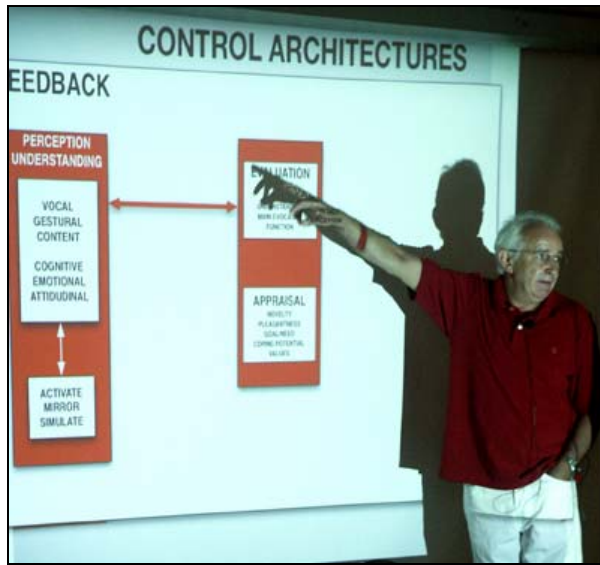
As the time approached to return to our temporary homes in midtown Detroit, thunderstorms could be seen in the distance that created dramatic lighting effects over the Detroit skyline. Eventually, cooling rain arrived in Detroit, finally ending the heat spell.



Two winners of Linda Mealey Awards, Marc Mehu and Ines Blantar (*on left*), enjoy the banquet with Lisa Oberzaucher and Karl Grammer (*on right*) (photo by T. R. Alley)

Thursday was the final day of ISHE06. The half-day program started with the introduction of the fourth and final keynote speaker, Karl Grammer, by his one-time student, Astrid Juette. Prof. Grammer's presentation on "Embodied communication systems" outlined a dynamic model of communication grounded in an evolutionary perspective. He showed that understanding natural intelligence can be

informed by the hurdles and issues faced when building a human machine interface.



Prof. Karl Grammer during his keynote address
(photo courtesy of Peter LaFreniere)

Examining actual human communication, Grammer noted the importance of detecting true (honest) signals in others, given our ability to produce false signals (e.g., a fake smile) and the advantage of doing so under many circumstances. One trick may be to impose a cognition load that can lead to some loss of control of verbal or nonverbal behavior resulting in "leaks". Prof. Grammer also argued that motion quality is hard to falsify. His presentation provided several intriguing video demonstrations of both actual and simulated human behavior.

The meeting closed with one final paper session anchored by Marina Butovskaya, followed by the General Assembly (see report elsewhere in this issue). Although a number of attendees had to leave prior to this business meeting, others remained in Detroit for more than a day longer, some lured by the prospect of seeing a professional baseball game.



Marina Butovskaya delivers the final presentation
(photo by Val Martin)

The next evening, a number of conference attendees, mostly European, were still in town and went to see a Detroit Tigers baseball game and fireworks display at their new stadium, Comerica Park. Built in the heart of downtown Detroit, this large stadium is generously decorated with concrete tigers, has a huge scoreboard, and contains a merry-go-round featuring tigers rather than horses. I suspect those attending will still have some vivid memories of this post-conference trip in two years when we meet (in Italy?) for our 2008 congress.



Comerica Park
with the Detroit skyline in the background

Minutes: General Assembly

3 August 2006

Wayne State University — Detroit

Prepared by Frank Salter, ISHE Secretary

Present: 30 in all

Officers: Glenn Weisfeld (President), Tom Alley (Bulletin Editor), Astrid Jütte (Membership Chair), Frank Salter (Secretary and minute-taker); Wulf Schiefenhövel (Vice President).

Absent: Hiram Caton (Information Officer) and Dori LeCroy (Treasurer).

Trustees: John Richer (President), Peter LaFreniere, Bill McGrew.

Absent: Irenaeus Eibl-Eibesfeldt, Michael McGuire, Johan van der Dennen.

President Glenn Weisfeld opened the meeting at 11:30.

Glenn announced the election of John Richer as president of the Board of Trustees.

Amending the constitution

Glenn stated that the constitution needs amendment and outlined the intended procedure. Changes should be discussed over the next year and the new constitution should be ratified at the 2008 general assembly in accordance with the present constitution.

2008 ISHE meeting

Wulf Schiefenhövel introduced presenters for each of three candidate sites:

- Astrid Jütte presented the University of Bologna (Italy)
- Frank Salter presented Charles University, Prague
- Carmen Strungaru presented the University of Bucharest (Romania)

Wulf conducted a (non-binding) straw poll of preferences.

Results: Bologna 12, Prague 13, Bucharest 4.

Officers' Reports

Tom Alley reported on the Bulletin. Feedback and contributions were solicited. Tom encouraged members to elect to receive the Bulletin on line when they renew to reduce our printing and mailing costs and for faster delivery. The recently revised dues structure received unanimous support from those present.

Tom Alley presented the Treasurer's report in the absence of the Treasurer.

Frank Salter presented the Secretary's report on the procedures for administering the Linda Mealey and Owen Aldis awards, and announced the Board's decision to increase the Mealey award to US\$2000 (from \$500) and the Aldis Award maximum to US\$8000 (from \$5000). Aldis winners are to be followed-up to ensure compliance with grant conditions.

Astrid Jütte described progress in developing a computerized membership database. It is expected to be ready in about two months.

Karl Grammer reported that a revised website is being programmed using new software.

Glenn asked for any questions or comments.

Bill McGrew expressed concern at the absence of a written financial report. Tom replied that the Treasurer submits a written report that is published in the Bulletin each calendar year. It is also relevant to note that the treasurer is not privy to all ISHE accounts (e.g. the European account) and that ISHE is in very good financial standing.

Frank Salter asked whether the trustees' proposed procedure for amending the constitution corresponds to the procedure announced by Glenn with respect to the date of the ratification vote. John Richer indicated that the two procedures are compatible.

Glenn adjourned the meeting c. 13:00 o'clock.

Highlights of ISHE Officers Meeting

3 August 2006

Inn On Ferry Street, Detroit

Prepared by Frank Salter & Tom Alley

Officers present:

Tom Alley (Bulletin Editor)
 Hiram Caton (Information Officer)
 Karl Grammer (Webmaster)
 Astrid Jütte (Membership Chair)
 Frank Salter (Secretary, minute-taker)
 Wulf Schiefenhövel (Vice President)
 Glenn Weisfeld (President)

Absent: Dori LeCroy (Treasurer)

Trustees present:

J. Richer; P. LaFreniere.

Constitution

Following considerable discussion, the Officers approved a timetable for revision of the ISHE Constitution. The Officers and Trustees will aim for agreement on a final draft by 30 January 2007, at which time the draft will be sent to the ISHE membership for comments and suggestions. All revisions will be presented to the membership for ratification at the 2008 ISHE Congress.

ASCAP 'merger'

The officers and trustees were joined by Dr. Martin Brüne, representing ASCAP [Across-Species Comparisons and Psychopathology Society], for a discussion of a possible merger of ASCAP with ISHE. It was agreed to offer a warm welcome to ASCAP members and make other arrangements short of a formal merger.

ISHE 2008

Following discussion of the two top contenders for hosting ISHE08, Bologna and Prague, the officers selected Bologna by a vote of 4 to 2. This

choice is contingent upon the Bologna organizers making a commitment to the meeting and providing an acceptable budget. It was further agreed that Prague would serve as a backup to Bologna.

It was agreed that beginning in 2008 only one student author, the first author, of each presentation is to receive free housing, registration and banquet fee.

The following motion was passed creating **poster awards** at the ISHE biennial congresses:

That ISHE conduct a poster competition with three equal prizes of US\$500 going to first authors of the best posters, to be decided by the secret balloting of attending members. [Subsequently, it was agreed that the prize would include free economy travel (US\$1000 maximum) to the next ISHE Congress upon successful submission of a presentation for that congress.]

Congress organizer honorarium

The following motion of Weisfeld was carried:

"Beginning with the 2008 congress, the chief organizer of a congress may receive free transport, registration, accommodation and banquet for the next congress. The organizers of each meeting are to nominate the chief organizer."

Membership

All recent and in-hand membership applications were ratified.

Non-paying members' voting rights

Jütte proposed "That voting rights be delayed for a period of one year from the time of joining for those who do not pay membership dues. This restriction shall apply only to those who have never been paying members." - carried.

ISHE Awards

Motion that “research conducted under ISHE sponsorship may not be submitted substantially unchanged as an application for another ISHE award” was carried.

Salter agreed to provide feedback to those Mealey contestants who did not receive a prize.

Officers noted that talks submitted for Mealey awards must be approved by the Program Committee in the same manner as other presenters.

Other matters

Possible awards and “summer schools”, to be funded in whole or in part by ISHE, were discussed.

Voting procedures and timetables were discussed, and the need to address these in the revised constitution was noted.

Glenn Weisfeld closed the meeting at 5:20.

All four of the following presenters received **Linda Mealey Awards** for their papers at the 2006 ISHE Congress. Each will receive a US\$2000 reward and, upon successful submission of a presentation for the next ISHE Congress, substantial travel support for that meeting.

Ines Blantar (with Elisabeth Oberzaucher and Karl Grammer)
 Ludwig Boltzmann Institute for Urban Ethology, Vienna, Austria
VISIBLE AND OLFACTORY CUES OF OVULATION IN WOMEN

- - - - -

Jessica Jenkins
 University of Detroit Mercy, MI, USA
**AN INVESTIGATION OF MARITAL SATISFACTION:
 ASSORTATIVE MATING AND PERSONALITY SIMILARITY**

- - - - -

Marc Mehu (with Anthony C. Little & Robin I. M. Dunbar)
 University of Liverpool, School of Biological Sciences, Liverpool, UK
TRAIT PERCEPTION AND SMILING BEHAVIOUR

- - - - -

Niruban Balachandran
 London School of Economics, London, UK
**REPRODUCTIVE THREATS INDUCE REPRODUCTIVE STRATEGIES:
 AN EVOLUTIONARY RE-INTERPRETATION OF TERROR MANAGEMENT THEORY**

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BOOK REVIEWS

The Murderer Next Door: Why the Mind is Designed to Kill

By **David M. Buss**

Penguin Press (375 Hudson Street, New York, NY 10014, USA), 2005, 278pp. ISBN 1-59420-043-2.

Reviewed by **Johan M.G. van der Dennen**

Dept. Legal Theory, Section Political Science,
University of Groningen.

[E-mail: j.m.g.van.der.dennen@rug.nl]

David M. Buss is a professor of psychology at the University of Texas, and well-known among evolutionary psychologists and human ethologists for his books such as *The Evolution of Desire: Strategies of Human Mating* (rev. ed. 2003), *The Dangerous Passion: Why Jealousy is as Necessary as Love and Sex* (2000), and *Evolutionary Psychology: The New Science of the Mind* (2nd ed. 2004), as well as numerous articles.

In his latest book, *The Murderer Next Door*, Buss's main thesis is that, "there is a fundamental logic to murder - ruthless but rational - and that it resides not only in the minds of people who actually become murderers, but in the minds of all of us" (p. 5). "[T]he human mind has developed adaptations for killing - deeply ingrained patterns of thought, often accompanied by internal dialogue, anchored in powerful emotions - that motivate us to murder... Sometimes *hate* motivates murder; sometimes *envy*; sometimes *greed*; sometimes *fear*; sometimes *jealousy*; sometimes *spite*. And sometimes, a complex combination of emotions motivates murder" (p.

8). "Murder is a product of the evolutionary pressures our species confronted and adapted to" (p. 9).

Buss starts by critically reviewing the main theories of violence and criminality, including social-environment theories, pathology theories, and sociological theories. Not unexpectedly, he finds them hopelessly inadequate because murder is viewed as merely an extreme manifestation on a continuum of violence or criminality, while, according to Buss, "murder is qualitatively different from all other forms of violence" (p. 24). He states, "the patterns that I discovered in the triggers of homicidal fantasies support a radical new theory of murder - that all of us have in our large brain specific specialized psychological circuits that lead us to contemplate murder as a solution to specific adaptive problems" (p. 30). Elsewhere in the book these specialized psychological circuits are called, "psychological circuits for homicide" and the "killing module" or "homicide module." This homicidal ideation, like sexual fantasy, allows us to fashion alternative scenarios and evaluate the extended costs, benefits, and consequences of each. Though homicidal thoughts usually precede murder, they do not invariably, or even very often, lead to murder. In fact, most fantasies help to put the brakes on murderous impulses, inhibiting the intent to kill, because we usually appraise the costs as too high and choose more effective, less risky solutions (p. 31). That is not to say, however, that they are 'real' expressions of murderous intent, although homicidal ideation almost invariably precedes carried-out kills (p. 32). Do the killing fantasies play any causal role? In other words, do these killing fantasies predispose individuals to kill? Apparently not, just as sexual fantasies do not predispose individuals to rape or indiscriminate promiscuity. When we find, in retrospect, that all killers had killing fantasies, does that point to a causal role of these fantasies? Many people

who had murderous fantasies never killed, as Buss himself admits several times. The significance of the killing fantasies remains obscure.

On pages 36-44 Buss presents his arguments why murder, in the intensely competitive game of reproductive competition through the eons, has been a remarkable effective method of achieving evolutionary success. It is useful for: (1) preventing injury, rape, or death to oneself, spouse, or kin, (2) eliminating a crucial antagonist or an entire lineage of reproductive competitors, (3) acquiring a rival's resources or territory, (4) securing sexual access to a competitor's mate, (5) preventing an interloper from appropriating one's own mate, (6) cultivating a fierce reputation to deter the encroachment of enemies, (6) avoiding investment in genetically unrelated children (stepchildren), and (7) protecting resources. Although there are obvious benefits of committing murder, of course, as Buss asserts, many of us never come close to killing someone. There are several reasons why we do not kill, including legal systems and other cultural deterrents to murder, and also evolved antihomicide defenses that give rise to a co-evolutionary arms race.

In Chapter 3, Buss explains the logic and heated competition of sexual selection and the sex differences in mating preferences, including "mate guarding," and the accompanying sexually dimorphic patterns of mate killing. One might think that men who kill would have difficulty in acquiring a mate, but apparently that is not the case. Buss quotes Gore Vidal as noting: "Women are always attracted to power. I do not think that there ever could be a conqueror so bloody that most women would not willingly lie with him in the hope of bearing a son who would be every bit as ferocious as the father." Amazingly, even today convicted murderers remain highly appealing to some women (p. 64). In Chapter 4, Buss discusses mate killing and the *prima vista*

paradoxical finding that the majority of women are killed by men who love them deeply. Women frequently kill to defend themselves against men who are enraged by the woman's (putative) infidelity or defection. He then presents his idea about the evolution of love as a solution of the problem of commitment. This chapter is the pivot of the book in which Buss goes to great length to defend his idea that mate killing may have been adaptive in the environment of evolutionary adaptedness.

In Chapter 5, Buss expounds his findings about mate killing by women. Women are far less murderous than men. But when women do turn murderous, there are specific adaptive reasons, and these differ markedly from those that motivate men. The main motives for murder committed by women are self-defense and a desperate desire to escape a dangerous, abusive marriage. Abuse of her children provides an additional trigger. Interestingly, women's homicidal thoughts also reveal a fundamental sex difference - women are far more likely than men simply to want the partner dead, and often not wishing to do the killing themselves.

Chapter 6 discusses the motives, tactics, and dangers of mate poaching. Killing a rival who has sexually trespassed is so common across cultures that it is often recognized as a legitimate means of dealing with mate poachers. This is the famous *crime passionnel*.

In Chapter 7, Buss explains why and in what circumstances parents sometimes murder their children. Subsequently, he explains why stepfathers are such a hazard for stepchildren. This is a well-known phenomenon ever since Daly and Wilson's (1988) pioneering research. The contrary case, when kids kill their parents (parricide), is presented next. Fathers fall victim twice as often as mothers, and most children who kill their parents are male teenagers. In many of these cases, the father was abusive to the mother, and the child acted to defend her.

Siblicides are statistically rare, and when they occur, they almost invariably involve brothers killing brothers and the motives often revolve around the parental resources that are ultimately critical in attracting women.

In Chapter 8, Buss explains the evolutionary logic of status competition and hierarchy negotiation among males. Public affronts to a male's status (i.e., "losing face"), exacerbated by additional humiliation in front of peers, are very risky, as indicated by the prevalence of homicidal fantasies prompted by threats to status. Both men and women perceive public insults directed towards a man as challenges to his masculinity and virility, his strength, his worth as an ally, and his ability to protect his woman from sexual trespass. In a nutshell, this is why "trivial altercations" or arguments are potentially so dangerous: they involve loss of face, and the attendant plunge in status carries disastrous consequences for men in the mating game. For women the type of threat to reputation that tends to trigger homicidal thoughts is her sexual reputation.

In the last chapter Buss gives some examples of raiding in tribal societies like the Yanomamö. Finally, Buss exhorts: "Our moral abhorrence of homicides should not cause us to reject the compelling evidence that a deep psychology of killing has been and is an essential component of human nature" (p. 231). The book then ends with notes, a brief bibliography, and a composite index.

Clearly this book is written for a lay audience, and not for the scientific community. That said, what immediately struck me was Buss' "male intellectual proprietariness." What he presents as the outcome of his own research has actually been presented previously by other researchers; notably Martin Daly and Margo Wilson, Michael Ghiglieri, Ann Campbell, and Sarah Hrdy, to name a few. Sometimes this intellectual heritage is not even acknowledged: the paragraphs about women as sexual

reputation defenders is clearly based on Ann Campbell's work, though any reference to this literature is lacking. Furthermore, while reading I was struck with a curious kind of *déjà vu*, in that I felt as though I was reading a weak derivative of Daly and Wilson's (1988) classic *Homicide*, and Buss' book frequently reads like a kind of "Daly & Wilson for Dummies."

I also noticed the careless way manslaughter, killing, murder, and homicide are conflated into one overall concept. Moreover, it is often unclear whether Buss conceives one general "deep psychology of killing" or whether he envisages several specific adaptive "neural circuits" or "modules," as may be deduced from the following quote: "we have proposed a theory that appears to be radical in this context - that humans have evolved not one, but many adaptations whose proper function is to produce the death of other humans" (Buss & Duntley, 2003, p. 121).

This book is a popularized version of a theory/hypothesis developed elsewhere in Buss (2000), Buss and Duntley (2003) and Duntley and Buss (2005). Although it is (somewhat) understandable that Buss does not bother to present alternative theories, other than the social learning theory he criticizes, he fails to address serious competitive theories. He fails to take into account: (1) Daly and Wilson's theory of killing as byproduct or 'slip-ups' of ever more desperate mate guarding tactics; (2) that murderous propensities, like many other human anatomical and behavioral traits, may be normally distributed, such that a minority is ready to use lethal violence even without provocation, a minority refuses to kill even under extreme provocation, with the majority somewhere in between (c.f., Rowe, 1996), or that extreme competitiveness is illegal (cf., status-striving theory, Ellis, 1998:89); or (3) that murderers *are* a special group (or taxon), as Buss suggests, but not for the reasons he proposes. Buss assures us that murder is qualitatively quite different from all other

forms of violence. Indeed, viewing murder as merely an extreme manifestation on a continuum of violence and criminality, he maintains, is the main reason for the inadequacy of other theories proposed to explain violence and criminality in general. Buss virtually ignores the avalanche of studies on neuropsychological defects, brain dysfunction (especially in the limbic system and prefrontal cortex) and other neuropathology (e.g., hormones, neurotransmitters) in murderers and habitually violent offenders. For example, Raine, Buchsbaum and LaCasse (1997) concluded that convicted murderers had a network of abnormal cortical and subcortical brain processes that predisposed them to violence. Quantitative electroencephalographic research by Lindberg et al. (2005) and the study of paraphilias in sexual murderers with brain abnormalities (Briken, Habermann, Berner & Hill, 2005) provide further support to the growing evidence of brain dysfunction in severely violent and lethal behavior.

He also does not consider (4) Bailey's "phylogenetic regression theory". Phylogenetic regression implies "that atavistic *predatory tendencies* lie in the deep recesses of the reptilian brain, which can erupt into overt patterns of stalking, brutal killing, and cannibalism" (Bailey, 2002, p.11). For me, the most horrifying accounts of murder are those that profess the murderers were absolutely ignorant of their motives or did it "just for kicks" or because they "just felt like it" (see Nash, 1992). Such senseless violence provides evidence for Bailey's (1987, 2002) phylogenetic regression theory and the continued existence of a reptilian brain inside the neomammalian cortical brain.

Finally, Buss overlooks (5) "overcontrol theory." Many of the cases of killing described by Buss reminded me of the simple typology of under- versus over-controllers, which was delineated in the early 1960s by Megargee (e.g.,

1966). The chronically over-controlled person, when exposed to extreme or recurrent frustration or provocation, is prevented from expressing their anger by the excessive inhibitions of mild-mannered and unassertive people. As a result, instigation accumulates to a point where their inhibitions are overcome, so they explode into an uncharacteristic outburst of extreme violence. This characterization dovetails excellently with all other criminological, neuropathological and psychopathological research. Most killings occur in the context of paroxysmal, impulsive, apparently uncontrollable, sudden (i.e., without previous warning) temper outbursts. In the clinical literature these cases were diagnosed formerly as "episodic behavioral disorders" or "dyscontrol syndrome."

One aspect that Buss elaborates upon is mate killing. As Daly and Wilson make abundantly clear, it is not difficult to accept that infanticide, rival killing, and so on, were adaptive under specific circumstances. However, the adaptiveness of mate killing stretches credulity. Mate killing is not a strategy of mate guarding, it is the ultimate negation, or failure of mate guarding. Wife killing (uxoricide) ensures that a husband will not have any future offspring with his dead former mate. So, why would behavior so deleterious to reproductive success be spawned by interests in maintaining that success? Daly and Wilson argued that uxoricide is the extreme, nonadaptive by-product (slip) of selection for males to use various forms of coercive mate guarding. Consider a male mutant who would not kill his adulterous mate but instead would just punish her, all the while continuing to breed and sire progeny with her. He would outbreed all mate killers and have an enormous reproductive success; obviously, the non-mate-killer would prevail in the evolutionary long-run.

Buss maintains that virtually all killings are premeditated acts. In order to make his point, and to refute Daly and Wilson's 'slip-up'

theory, Buss *has* to establish that most or all killings are premeditated, but the evidence seems to flatly contradict this contention. Many criminologists have commented on the lack of premeditation they have observed in their material. A criminology classic even states that, "Probably less than 5 per cent of all known killings are premeditated, planned and intentional" (Wolfgang & Ferracuti, 1969, p.189). Moreover, many statements can be found in the criminological literature from which one may deduce that the killing was an accident, *despite* premeditation. Some cases of wife killing that Buss himself presents (e.g., statements like "I love her... I didn't mean to kill her" on p. 91) illustrate this phenomenon.

In conclusion, Buss's theory can **not**, *any more than* the other criminological theories, explain why, in response to a troubling situation, one person commits murder while another commits suicide and yet another just gets intoxicated. Buss is aware of this limitation (p. 8), but his theory is far from explaining why this is so, except by invoking personality and temperament variables, and situational variables including opportunity, provocation, and probably a huge component of sheer bad luck. The nagging question remains: what is the use of postulating a module that does not seem to work properly most of the time?

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Johan M.G. van der Dennen (Ph.D.) is the author of *The Origin of War: the evolution of a male-coalitional reproductive strategy*, co-editor (with V.S.E. Falger) of *Sociobiology and Conflict: evolutionary perspectives on competition, cooperation, violence and warfare*. (London: Chapman & Hall, 1990),

and co-editor (with D. Smillie and D.R. Wilson) of *The Darwinian Heritage and Sociobiology* (Westport CT: Greenwood Press, 1999). He has published and edited more than 200 books and articles on war and violence in general.

NEW BOOKS

Any qualified individual interested in writing a review of one of the following books, or any other recent and relevant book, should contact the Editor. Publishers, authors, and others may call attention to recently published or forthcoming books by sending information to the Editor.

Burling, R. The Talking Ape: How language evolved. Oxford Univ. Press, 2005, 286pp. ISBN: 019-9279403.

Carter, C. S., Ahnert, L., Grossmann, K. E., Hrdy, S. B., Lamb, M. E., Porges, S. W., & Sachser, N. (eds.) Attachment and Bonding: A new synthesis. MIT/Dahlem University Press, 2006, 512pp. ISBN: 0262-03348-8.

Dreger, A. D. One of us: Conjoined twins and the future of normal. Harvard Univ. Press, 2005, 208pp. ISBN: 0674018257.

Grafen, A., & Ridley, M. Richard Dawkins. How A Scientist Changed The Way We Think. Oxford Univ. Press, 2006, 304pp. ISBN: 0199291160. (*under review*)

Levinson, S.C., & Jaisson, P. (eds.) Evolution and Culture. MIT Press, 2006, 304pp. ISBN: 0262-62197-5.

Pape, M. Persönlichkeit, Geschlecht und politische Einstellung: Eine empirische Überprüfung evolutionärer Hypothesen. Frankfurt: Peter Lang, 2006. ISBN: 3-631-55366-8.

Sarris, V. Relational Psychophysics in Humans and Animals: A Comparative-Developmental Approach. Psychology Press, 2006, 144pp. ISBN: 1841695696.

Wolpert, L. Six Impossible Things Before Breakfast: The Evolutionary Origins of Belief. W. W. Norton, 2007, 256pp. ISBN: 0393064492.

For a list of books (in all European languages) on human ethology, sociobiology, evolutionary psychology, Darwinian psychiatry, biopolitics, hominid evolution and related disciplines visit:

<http://rint.rechten.rug.nl/rth/ess/books1.htm>

BRIEF COMMUNICATION

Limits of the Primate Homologue: A Suggested Employment of a Canid Analogue

by Wade C. Mackey

[E-mail: WADDMAC@aol.com]

For decades, the behavioral sciences have been successfully mirroring human behaviors with parallels in the primates in general, in the Old World primates in the particular, and in the great apes — bonobos, chimpanzees, gorillas, and the more distantly related orangutan — in the very particular. Frans de Waal is a good example of such a primatologist and his new book, *Our Inner Ape* (2005), clearly outlines the proffered over-lap between humans and great apes. To wit, de Waal writes: “My goal is to make the same comparisons with regard to social life and to show that there is not a single tendency that we do not share with these hairy characters (*chimpanzees and bonobos*) we love to make fun of” (p. 39). However, there are two important bonds that humans universally manifest but that have not yet been reported to be shared with the great apes. The two bonds are the man-woman bond and the man-child bond. That is, knowledge of primates, including great apes, would not predict (a) the man-woman or husband-wife template or (b) the father-child template. De Waal does make note of this lack of predictability from the primates to humans.

The husband-wife template

De Waal writes: “Every human society has nuclear families, whereas apes have none” (p. 90). Framed a little differently, the sexual restrictions of the cultural over-layer of marriage upon the pair-bond are clearly distinct from the sexual tactics of the apes. The cultural over-layer

of marriage can be usefully viewed as an extended phenotype (Dawkins, 1989; cf. Geertz, 1973) rather than as a thin veneer. As the nest is to the bird, and as the web is to the spider, and as the hive is to the bee, and as the herd is to the gnu, and the dam is to the beaver, such is culture to the human. Men and women are certainly expected components in each other’s life-space and have been so for a very, very long time. The Chinese parallel this expectation with their yin and yang.

Inherent in the generic marriage template is the notion that the husband is mandated to provision his wife. Whereas the entire tribe may benefit from a successful hunt, the husband/father has clearly delineated responsibilities and duties toward sharing his provisions with his wife. That is, the husband routinely gathers resources (e.g. food) outside of the perimeter of the camp/village and returns to his wife to share those resources with her. Helen Fisher (1983) had clearly and parsimoniously articulated this human pattern in her book, *The Sex Contract*. No apes do this. No other primates do this. Knowledge of non-human primates does not predict this universal human pattern.

The father-child bond

De Waal writes: “Fatherly assistance allows earlier weaning, which explains why we, and not the apes, colonized the planet.” (p. 110). Later he writes; “By increasing the certainty of paternity, we paved the way for ever greater male involvement in child care” (p. 124). Again, as a universal, the father gathers resources outside the domicile and returns to the domicile to share those resources with his children. Whereas the husband may receive sexual favors from the wife in a reciprocal exchange for those resources, the father’s children offer no such incentive to him. Here virtue or altruism is its own reward. Ethnographers around the globe have routinely noted that the fathers are fond of their children and willingly share time, energy, and treasure

with their children. Fathers routinely “play” with their children. The sharing and playing is commonplace, regular, and ordinary. No apes do this. No other primates do this. Knowledge of primates would not predict this universal human pattern.

Efficacy of a canid analogue

The two behavior tendencies (i) of facultative monogamy and (ii) the return to a centralized hearth to share resources are found in canids, e.g., fox, coyote, wolf, jackal, hunting dog. A third example of suggested convergence, not further explored here, is that the sexual dimorphism of the canids is low, not unlike humans. For a large, terrestrial primate, the sexual dimorphism of humans is surprisingly low.

The wolf serves as a good prototype. De Waal is aware of this pattern and writes: “Wolves survive by bring down prey larger than themselves, such as caribou or moose, which they do through teamwork. Upon return from the hunt, they regurgitate meat for nursing mothers, the young, and sometimes the sick and old who stayed behind” (p. 216). Adult male wolves “play” with the pups in the pack. De Waal cites Mech (1970; 1992) who has extensively studied and written about feral wolf behavior. Adult males in other social carnivores (e.g., lions and hyenas) do not feed the young of the group nor do they “play” with them. Researchers write of the danger that such adult males present to the young and of the tendency of the females to protect their young from such males.

The notion of convergent evolution seems relevant to these analogous behaviors of some canids and humans. Over time, our female ancestors selected mates who would form relatively long-term affiliative bonds both with themselves and with (the men’s) children. This

pattern is better reflected in a canid analogue rather than a primate/great ape homologue. In addition, while the mother-child bond may be reflected in neuro-hormonal structure/function similar to the mammalian or primate template, (a) the husband-wife neuro-hormonal structure/function would be expected to be demonstrably different from the non-human primate sexual template and (b) the father(to)child neuro-hormonal structure and function would be expected to be distinct from the mammalian or non-human primate adult-male(to)young template. Fisher (2002, 2004) provides further analysis and discussion of this perspective.

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ANNOUNCEMENTS

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Linda Mealey Award for Young Investigators

The International Society for Human Ethology has established a fund to maintain the **Linda Mealey Award for Young Investigators** in perpetuity. This award honors Linda, a past president and *HEB* book review editor, for her tireless work for ISHE, her outstanding scholarship, and her devoted mentoring of students. The Society seeded the fund with \$40,000 and Linda's father, George Mealey,

matched that amount. The award is given to outstanding researchers at the graduate school level in Linda's field, human ethology. Awards are provided by fund earnings over the two year period between congresses; these consist of a cash award and coverage of some of the recipients' travel expenses to the subsequent congress. Further details are available on the ISHE web site.

ISHE is soliciting additional contributions to the fund to make the award more substantial and thereby further encourage and reward young researchers in human ethology. Mr. Mealey has kindly offered to match additional contributions by individuals, up to \$10,000, and has already matched over \$1000. Donations should be sent to ISHE treasurer, Dori LeCroy (see back cover for her address and payment information), made out to ISHE and designated for the Linda Mealey Fund.

**Winners of the 2006 competition, as announced at ISHE06 in Detroit,
are listed elsewhere in this issue (pg. 10).**

The **Evolution and Sociology Section of the American Sociological Association** needs members now! Rosemary Hopcroft, the editor of the *Evolution and Social Behavior* newsletter, reports that: "We have until the end of 2006 to obtain 300 members – we currently have over half that signed up. When we obtain 300 members, the section will be permanent. The creation of this section is important for sociology as a discipline, as it is an institutionalized means for sociology to become reconnected to the life sciences. Thus, supporting the section means supporting a biologically-grounded, scientific sociology – a great development for the 21st century."

You must be a member of the American Sociological Association to join the section, which then costs only \$5 additional. Student memberships in the association cost only \$17. Interested readers may contact Rosemary Hopcroft at: rhhopcro@email.uncc.edu.

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PROGRAM

Vendredi 27 octobre - Friday October 27

14.30 Welcome: Jean-Marie Delwart *and* Georges Thinès

14.35 Introduction: Jean-Marie Gauthier *and* Véronique Servais

14.45 **Véronique Servais (Liège)** - The articulation of biological and cultural explanations: from animal analogy to evolved relational abilities

15.35 **Georges Thinès (Louvain)** - Ethologie et Psychologie – Les limites du réductionnisme [Ethology and psychology: the limits of reductionism]

16.35 **Andreas de Block (Leuven–Nijmegen)** - Are mental disorders failures of naturally selected functions? The case of depression.

17.25 **Daniel R. Wilson (Creighton)** - Evolutionary Epidemiology: A Bridge from Ethology to Genomics.

Samedi 28 octobre - Saturday October 28

09.30 **John Price (East Sussex, UK)** - Territory, rank and mental health

10.20 **Albert Demaret (Liège)** Ethologically inspired psychotherapy in bipolar disorders: The choice of words

11.20 **Leon Sloman (Toronto)** - The interactive functioning of anxiety and depression in competitive defeat

- 14.15 Benoist Schaal (Dijon)** - Depression and the senses: Reciprocal links highlighted by olfaction
- 15.05 Boris Cyrulnik (Toulon)** - La dépression modélisée par la biologie de l'attachement [Modelling depression through the biology of attachment]
- 16.05 Frans X. Plooiij (Arnhem)** - Regression periods in human infancy
- 16.55 Blaise Pierre-Humbert (Lausanne)** - Lien, rupture et dépression [Bond, breaking off and depression]

Dimanche 29 octobre - Sunday October 29

- 09.30 Daniel Paquette (Montréal)** - Depression and the intergenerational transmission of externalized behavioural problems
- 10.20 Rolf Schäppi (Genève)** - Ethologie et psychiatrie: les avatars d'une promesse de mariage. [Ethology and psychiatry: the vicissitudes of a promised marriage]
- 11.20 Jean-Marie Gauthier (Liège)** - Pair groups, territory and depression in adolescents
- 12.50 Closing Remarks by Jean-Marie Delwart**

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

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

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

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

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

NorthEastern Evolutionary Psychology Society (NEEPS)
13 April 2007 — SUNY New Paltz

<http://www.newpaltz.edu/~geherg/needs/>

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

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

Behavior Genetics Association
3-6 June 2007, Amsterdam, The Netherlands
<http://www.bga.org/pages/1/Home.html>

Animal Behavior Society
21-26 July 2007 — Burlington, Vermont 05403
[Sheraton Burlington Hotel and Conference Center](http://www.animalbehavior.org/Conference)
<http://www.animalbehavior.org/Conference>

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

Preliminary & tentative announcement

2008 biennial congress of the International Society for Human Ethology (ISHE08)
Bologna, Italy — July 2008

University of Bologna (details to be posted when available at www.ISHE.org)

CURRENT LITERATURE

Compiled by Johan van der Dennen

Barclay, P. & Lalumiere, M.L. (2006) Do people differentially remember cheaters? *Human Nature*, **17**, 1, 98-113 (Cornell Univ., Dept. Neurobiol. & Behav., W313 Mudd Hall, Ithaca, NY 14853, USA)

Benazzi, F. (2006) Various forms of depression. *Dialogues in Clinical Neuroscience*, **8**, 2, 151-161 (Via Pozzetto 17, 48015 Castiglione Cervia RA, Italy).

Bernard, L.C., Mills, M., Swenson, L. & Walsh, R.P. (2005) An evolutionary theory of human motivation. *Genetic Social and General Psychology Monographs*, **131**, 2, 129-184 (Loyola Marymount Univ., Dept. Psychol., 1 LMU Dr., Los Angeles, CA 90045, USA)

Burriss, R.P. & A.C. Little (2006) Effects of partner conception risk phase on male perception of dominance in faces. *Evolution and Human Behavior*, **27**, 4, 297-305 (Univ. Liverpool, School Biol. Sci., L69 7ZB, England)

Campbell, A. (2006) Sex differences in direct aggression: What are the psychological mediators? *Aggression and Violent Behavior*, **11**, 3, 237-264 (Univ. Durham, Dept. Psychol., South Rd., Durham DH1 3LE, England)

Danel, D. & Pawlowski, B. (2006) Attractiveness of men's faces in relation to women's phase of menstrual cycle. *Collegium Antropologicum*, **30**, 2, 285-289 (Univ. Wroclaw, Dept. Anthropol., Ul Kuznicza 35, PL-50138 Wroclaw, Poland)

De Cruz, H. (2006) Why are some numerical concepts more successful than others? An evolutionary perspective on the history of number concepts. *Evolution and Human Behavior*, **27**, 4, 306-323 (Free Univ. Brussels, Ctr. Log. & Philosophy Sci., Pleinlaan 2, B-1050 Brussels, Belgium)

De Souza, A.A.L., Verderane, M.P., Taira, J.T. & Otta, E. (2006) Emotional and sexual jealousy as a function of sex and sexual orientation in a Brazilian sample. *Psychological Reports*, **98**, 529-535 (Otta, E.: Univ. Sao Paulo, Inst. Psicol., Dept. Psicol. Expt., Av Prof Mello Moraes 1721, Cidade Univ, BR-05508900 Sao Paulo, Brazil)

Despret, V. (2006) Anthro-ethology of non-human policies. *Social Science Information sur les Sciences Sociales*, **45**, 2, 209-226 (Univ. Liege, Dept. Philosophie, Pl 20 Aout 9, B-4000 Liege, Belgium)

Eisenman, R. & Dantzker, M.L. (2006). Gender and ethnic differences in sexual attitudes at a Hispanic-serving university. *Journal of General Psychology*, **133**, 153-162 (Univ. Texas-Pan American, Dept. Psychol., 1201 W. University Dr., Edinburg, TX 78541-2999, USA)

Ellen, R. (2006). Ethnobiology and the science of humankind – Introduction. *Journal of the Royal Anthropological Institute*, special issue, S1-S22 (Univ. Kent, Dept. Anthropol., Ethnobiol. Lab., Marlowe Bldg, Canterbury CT2 7NS, Kent, England)

Figueredo, A.J., Vasquez, G., Brumbach, B.H., Schneider, S.M.R., Sefcek, J.A., Tal, I.R., Hill, D., Wenner, C.J. & Jacobs, W.J. (2006) Consilience and Life History Theory: From genes to brain to reproductive strategy. *Developmental Review*, **26**, 2, 243-275 (Univ. Arizona, Dept. Psychol., Tucson, AZ 85721, USA)

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 - A review of *The Origins and Nature of Sociality*, Edited by **Robert W. Sussman** and **Audrey R. Chapman** (Aldine de Gruyter, 2004) – reviewed by **Alyn R. Brereton**
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Webmaster**Karl Grammer**

Ludwig-Boltzmann-Institute for Urban
Ethology/Human Biology
Althanstrasse 14, A-1090 Vienna, Austria
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E-mail: karl.grammer@univie.ac.at

Information Officer**Hiram Caton**

26 Noreen St., Chapel Hill 4069, Australia
Fax: 61-7-3878-3607
E-mail: hcaton2@bigpond.net.au

From: Thomas R. Alley, Editor
Department of Psychology
Clemson University
Clemson, SC 29634-1355 USA