

Human Ethology Bulletin

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<u>Contents</u>	
<i>Bulletin Staff & Policies</i>	2
<i>Special announcements</i>	3
BOOK REVIEWS	
Wm. C. McGrew reviews <i>The Bridge of Humanity: How Affect Hunger Trumps the Selfish Gene</i> by Walter Goldschmidt	4
Laura Berk reviews <i>Indivisible by Two: Lives of Extraordinary Twins</i> (2005), by Nancy Segal	5
T. R. Alley reviews <i>The Psychology of Appearance</i> (2005) by N. Rumsey and D. Harcourt	8
NEW BOOKS	11
BRIEF COMMUNICATION	
Human ethology in the French polar bases: Port-aux-Français, Dumont d'Urville and Concordia by Carole Tafforin	13
ISHE06 Conference Photos	16
Announcements	18
Upcoming Conferences	21
Current Literature	22
Forthcoming	26
Address changes	26
Membership Information	27

This issue features three book reviews, a report on human ethology in French polar bases, a welcome to a new member of the editorial staff, as well as the usual listings of upcoming conferences, new books and new articles (Current Literature), membership information, and various other announcements. The additional announcements include a newly developed policy and pricing for ordering back issues of the *Bulletin* (see pg. 8). The previous issue contained reports on the 2006 biennial ISHE conference held in Detroit, as well as 15 photographs; this issue contains some additional photographs from that meeting.



Congress attendees gather on 30 July for the ISHE06 opening jazz reception
(photo by W. Schiefenhövel)

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Bulletin Policies

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.

Disclaimer: The opinions expressed in the *Human Ethology Bulletin*, and any policy implications that might be inferred from them, do not necessarily reflect those of the editorial staff or ISHE. Informed responses offering alternative views are welcome and can be sent directly to the Editor.

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REMINDER

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

New Associate Editor

HEB welcomes **Todd K. Shackelford** as a new Associate Editor. Todd completed his doctoral degree at the University of Texas, Austin in 1997, and is now an Associate Professor in the Department of Psychology at Florida Atlantic University. He is also Chair of the Evolutionary Psychology Area within the department, and the Director of the Evolutionary Psychology Lab.

His main areas of research interest are human sperm competition and sexual conflict, the psychology of jealousy and infidelity, marital relationships, mate preferences and selection, and intimate partner violence and homicide. He has published extensively and has recently co-edited several new books, including *Evolutionary Cognitive Neuroscience* (with Steven Platek and Julian Keenan), *Female Infidelity and Paternal Uncertainty* (with Steven Platek), and *Sperm Competition in Humans* (with Nicholas Pound).

Todd is very involved in the scientific community, as he is the editor *Evolutionary Psychology*, and an associate editor for *Journal of Personality* and *Personality and Individual Differences*. He has served on the editorial boards for 19 different journals, spanning a wide variety of research areas ranging from violence to personality, and currently including *Psychological Science* and *Human Nature*.

Contact information for Todd and Maryanne is shown on the preceding page.

With this final issue of 2006, the Editor would like to thank the other members of the HEB staff, those who have contributed reviews and reports, as well as the following people who have been notably helpful this year: Peter LaFreniere, Frank Salter, Carol Weisfeld, and Glenn Weisfeld.

The complete works of Charles Darwin are now available online!

Darwin-online.org.uk

Exciting news from the site's October 2006 press release:

"This site currently offers more than 50,000 pages of searchable text and 40,000 images of both publications and transcribed manuscripts. Most of the materials are available both as fully formatted electronic text and colour images of the originals. Darwin's works are also available as free machine-read audio mp3 files. The project, designed and directed by Dr. John van Wyhe of Christ's College, Cambridge, is hosted by the Centre for Research in the Arts, Social Sciences, and Humanities at the University of Cambridge.

... The website also includes the largest Darwin bibliography ever produced, based on the work of R. B. Freeman, and the largest catalogue of manuscripts (with over 30,000 entries) ever published. More than 150 supplementary documents are also provided, from secondary reference works to contemporary reviews, obituaries, published descriptions of Darwin's *Beagle* specimens and important related works for studying and understanding Darwin and his work.

... There are also many newly transcribed and never before published manuscripts such as Darwin's *Beagle* field notebooks. One of these, the notebook in which Darwin recorded his immediate thoughts on the Galapagos, was stolen in the early 1980s and is still missing, but the text has been transcribed from microfilm."

(reproduced with permission of Dr John van Wyhe,
Director: The Complete Work of Charles Darwin Online)

BOOK REVIEWS

The Bridge of Humanity: How Affect Hunger Trumps the Selfish Gene

By **Walter Goldschmidt**

New York: Oxford University Press, 2006,
164pp. ISBN:0-19-517966-8 (pbk).

Reviewed by **W.C. McGrew**

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If scholars in their dotage show intellectual slippage, yet continue to pontificate, then it is the sad duty of others to critique their lingering pronouncements. Failure to do so would be patronizing, however great is the temptation to go easy on the venerable. At 92 years of age, Walter Goldschmidt – a distinguished socio-cultural anthropologist, now emeritus professor at the University of California, Los Angeles – has written a troubling, retrograde book. Its subtitle signals its provocativeness, and the issues raised deserve to be addressed.

Goldschmidt offers ambitious aims from the outset, claiming that his “book shows how our hominid ancestors broke the fundamental law of evolution” (p. vii). The key to understanding the human condition is *Homo sapiens*’s unique “inherent attribute of affect hunger” which is a “universal imperative human urge” that is the “motivating force for sociality.” It is a reward system that is a biological/physiological reality, says Goldschmidt. Whatever this phenomenon is (and it is never operationally defined), it is said to set humanity apart, even to the extent of explaining why and how we humans have

souls. It does not take long for the reader to realize, to his dismay, that this is just the resurrection of old-fashioned drive theory, at its most obscure, as effectively and most decisively dismissed by Robert Hinde a half-century ago.

Along the way, various alternative points of view are discussed: “Archaeology is fickle, changing its story with every new find” (p. 38). “We understand no more about the role of genetics [sic] in determining human behavior now than we did [in 1900]” (p. 32). Evolutionary theory is a “compelling cosmology.” Sociobiology was a “bible for the neo-fascists of France” (p. 5). “Scientists turn to God when they run out of explanations” (p. 43).

What is not trashed is obscured: “All animal communication is essentially egocentric” (p. 24). “All the inhabitants of this world are also symbols, and so each person is a symbol to others, and without being aware of it, is a symbol to himself or herself” (p. 145). ... And so on.

Ethology gets no better treatment. E.O. Wilson is vilified. I. Eibl-Eibesfeldt’s and the late Gordon Hewes’s ideas are shamelessly misappropriated but neither is cited. *The Bell Curve* is dismissed as scientific racism. Derek Freeman is said to have “viciously attacked” the innocent Margaret Mead. Chomsky denied cultural differences.

Indivisible by Two: Lives of Extraordinary Twins

By **Nancy Segal**

Harvard University Press,
www.hup.harvard.edu, 2005, 280 pp.
ISBN 0-674-01933-4 [Hdbk, \$24.95]

Reviewed by **Laura E. Berk**

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Having dispensed with alternatives to explaining human nature, one is left with affect hunger. The arguments are outdated and simplistic, stories told largely without evidence or citation. Group selection rules, despite assertions to the contrary. Only humans make tools. Birdsong may perhaps be learned. Darwin did "repeated experimentation" on speciation. Animal communication deals only with emotional states. The list of errors goes on and on.

Yet the book is not without charm. Goldschmidt is at his best when he sticks close to home; to ethnography. His first-hand accounts of field work with northern California foragers or with Ugandan pastoralists are vivid. One suspects that a personal memoir would be engrossing and welcome.

Nonetheless, instead of a career's summing up, we have an uncomfortable synthesis. The book cries out for the insights of Cronk's *That Complex Whole*, or Ridley's *Nature Via Nurture* {reviewed by W. C. McGrew in the *Human Ethology Bulletin*, 2004, 19(3) – ed.}, or Richerson and Boyd's *Not by Genes Alone*.

W. C. McGrew is in the Dept. of Biological Anthropology, and Leverhulme Centre for Human Evolutionary Studies, at the University of Cambridge. His most recent book is *The Cultured Chimpanzee: Reflections on Cultural Primatology* (Cambridge University Press, 2004).

Indivisible by Two: Lives of Extraordinary Twins, by Nancy Segal, chronicles the lives of ten monozygotic twin pairs, a monozygotic triplet set, and a rare quadruplet set consisting of two monozygotic twin pairs. Segal delves into both the mundane, day-to-day events and the life-changing experiences of these multiples. In doing so, she moves beyond the confines of the research laboratory, immersing the reader in the multifaceted uniqueness of living life as a twin. Using compelling illustrations of the twins' entwined lives, Segal shows how the combination of an identical heredity and an unusual psychological closeness sustains lifelong similarities in wide-ranging psychological traits. At the same time, she offers many examples of the power of the non-shared environment to induce profound individual differences between pair members.

An internationally recognized researcher of twin development, a twin herself, and a multitalented scholar, Segal brings to her task immense understanding of human development, extraordinary perceptiveness, and a remarkable literary bent and talent for storytelling. This combination of qualities makes *Indivisible by Two* both an engrossing read and an amazing learning experience—one that demonstrates, over and over, the interdependent and inseparable contributions of nature and nurture to the human life course.

The book is organized into four parts, each of which focuses on twins with an unusual type of life experience that is sometimes shared and at other times not shared. Part I deals with twins separated at birth, reared apart, and reunited in adulthood. This pattern occurs for one pair through a chance encounter in their community, and for another pair through personal efforts to meet, despite having grown up in widely divergent cultural and political contexts (one as a Jew in Trinidad, the other as a Catholic in Nazi Germany). Part II considers the astonishing variations that can occur between identical twins, even those who are reared together. In one instance, twin girls both developed a rare social anxiety disorder called selective mutism, but with symptoms that differed considerably in severity. In two other cases, variations were more extreme: among identical triplet brothers, two were heterosexual and one was gay, and in twin sisters, one felt like a woman, while the other felt like a man and became one, undergoing sex-change surgery. Part III delves into the lives of twins exposed to extraordinary circumstances, from heartrending to inspiring. Segal introduces readers to Jewish twin sisters who, as young adults, had been captured by the Nazis and forced into Josef Mengele's medical experiments at Auschwitz. She also explores the special tragedy of twin loss through a woman whose twin sister died in the terrorist attack on the World Trade Center. Then she turns to twin girls adopted from China, each by a different couple, who, after discovering that the babies were identical twins, transformed their family lives to ensure the girls' contact and closeness. Part IV takes up the intricacies of identical-twin family relationships, extending the book's consideration of twins' unusually intimate bonds. Readers visit a twin pair who married another pair and, in the process, deepened their already strong attachment and compatibility. In another case, a woman served as a surrogate mother for her infertile identical twin sister, handing over a baby as genetically similar to

her adoptive mother as if that mother had borne the child herself. Finally, double-twin quadruplets, estimated to occur in just 1 in 24,000,000 births, illustrate biological risks and parenting challenges of higher-order multiples. For example, at the age of four months, the first-born was diagnosed with severe cerebral palsy.

Segal's nearly quarter century of research on twins granted her access to this broad twin sampling. To explore the twins' experiences, Segal became a true ethnographer, traveling internationally—from her home in California to New Jersey, New York, Canada, Germany, Australia, and elsewhere—to interview participants for many hours, even days. She also lived with some twins and their families, visiting their schools for many hours and taking part in family activities. The result is a masterful inquiry into the "culture of twins," with all its vitality and diversity. The depth of information Segal gathers, the clarity and coherence with which she presents it, and the extraordinary candidness and sense of trust with which participants tell their stories yield vital lessons about development and human character on virtually every page.

Together, the sections of this book highlight the immense array of factors—such as genetic/constitution, prenatal environment, parenting, sibling relationships, community, culture, and historical time period—that contribute to human diversity. At the same time, the stories show over and over how identical twins are more alike than any other human pairings, as a result of sameness of genetic heritage and, oftentimes, an emotional tie that strengthens their commonalities. Indeed, a strong drive to be with their twin, unmatched in typical sibling and friendship bonds, sheds light on why generalizing from twin-based heritability research to the general population has been problematic. "We are two bodies, one soul," twins Stepha and Annetta, who had endured Mengele's horrific abuse,

repeatedly asserted (p. 141). Still, the intimacy of identical twins helps us better understand why individuals who are similar in many traits, including personality, attitudes, intelligence, and physical attractiveness, have more satisfying and longer-lasting friendships and marriages (Blackwell & Lichter, 2004; Hartup & Abecassis, 2004). Although only rarely do people attain the rapport that exists between most identical twins, they do seem to try in their most important relationships to approximate it.

Behavioral genetics research, in which studies of twin resemblance are central, has minimized the contribution of parental socialization to children's behavior and adjustment (Harris, 1998). A wealth of scientific evidence now counters that view (see Berk, 2005; Maccoby, 2000; Steinberg, 2001), and a close look at Segal's perceptive analysis of the everyday lives and upbringing of identical twins joins with that literature to reaffirm the importance of parental and family influence:

- Accidentally separated at birth and reared in different homes, Brent and George met as young adults, liked each other immediately, but soon grew apart, making different life decisions because, in George's words, they had "evolved differently" (p. 48).
- Jack, who had been reared by an abusive Trinidadian Jewish father, and Oskar, who grew up in Nazi Germany with "an absent father, an unavailable mother, and a disapproving grandmother," never connected emotionally because of the great divide between their family and cultural backgrounds and their competitive, controlling, obstreperous personalities—undoubtedly in part hereditary but very likely fueled by maladaptive parenting and stressful home lives.
- Parental warmth, sensitivity, and sacrifice enabled Chinese adoptees Lily and Gillian

to build a close sibling bond, despite being reared in different families. These very parental qualities also predict positive sibling ties among nontwins (Dunn, 2004).

There is much else to be gleaned from reading Segal's book. Among the additional, fascinating issues she covers are the meaning of twin talk; nongenetic, biological contributions to homosexuality; the physical and emotional trials of rearing higher-order multiples, especially when one is born with a severe disability; parents' tendency to exaggerate differences among siblings in an effort to promote each child's uniqueness; and a provocative, concluding discussion of human cloning, given that twins are naturally occurring clones. Segal's scholarly and literary talents make *Indivisible by Two* an informative, accessible, and pleasurable read for diverse audiences, including researchers, teachers, students of human development, and lay audiences—especially parents and, of course, twins who want to better understand themselves.

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Steinberg, L. D. (2001). We know some things: Parent–adolescent relationships in retrospect and prospect. *Journal of Research on Adolescence*, **11**, 1–19.

Laura E. Berk received her Ph.D. in early child development and education from the University of Chicago and is a distinguished professor of psychology at Illinois State University. Her recent empirical work focuses on the development of children's private speech and the role of make-believe play in children's self-regulation. Berk's books include *Awakening Children's Minds: How Parents and Teachers Can Make a Difference*, published by Oxford University Press, and three textbooks in child and human development, published by Allyn and Bacon.

Back Issues

Back issues of the *Bulletin* can be ordered from the Editor **as available**. Pricing (US\$) is as follows:

- ◆ \$2/issue or \$5/year (vol.) for **electronic** copies
- ◆ \$7/issue or \$20/year (vol.) for **printed** copies (U.S. orders)
- ◆ \$8/issue or \$21/year (vol.) for **printed** copies (**international** orders)

Payment can be made to either the Treasurer or the Editor. Be sure to provide a complete address and specify exactly what you are ordering.

The Psychology of Appearance

By **Nichola Rumsey** and **Diana Harcourt**

Berkshire, England: Open University Press, 2005, xvii + 237pp. ISBN: 0335-21276-X [Pbk, US\$14.95].

Reviewed by **Thomas R. Alley**

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We have here a good example of the old cliché, you cannot judge a book by its cover. As one might infer from its title, *The Psychology of Appearance*, the back cover of this volume proclaims that it provides a “comprehensive summary and critical evaluation of research and understanding concerning the psychology of physical appearance”. This would be an impressive feat, particularly in a book whose text only covers 200 pages. In fact, the book would be more accurately titled, *The Psychology of Attractiveness and Disfigurement*.

Upon opening the book, the more limited aspirations of the authors are quickly made clearer (although never as clear as one might hope). This volume is part of a series on health psychology, and the authors explicitly emphasize the issues and research most relevant for this field. Consequently, Rumsey and Harcourt mainly review research and theory concerning facial and bodily attractiveness, with a focus on facial disfigurements. Nonetheless, the limited scope of the book is unfortunate for reasons that go beyond a failure to provide the content one might reasonably expect in a book with this title. For one thing, it is only with a comparative look at several types of variation in physical appearance that we can gauge the relative importance of any one. For instance, obesity is highly stigmatized relative to facial disfigurement and some other physical disabilities (Latner & Stunkard, 2003). Such

studies indicate that the scientific community may have devoted too much attention to facial attractiveness and too little to other aspects of facial and bodily appearance. Secondly, the impact of variations in appearance extends way beyond perceived attractiveness to include judgments of personality and cognitive ability (see below).

The current 'epidemic' of concern with physical appearance should make this book of interest to a wide range of scholars and practitioners. This 'epidemic' is apparent in the boom in cosmetic plastic surgery, the multi-billion dollar cosmetic industry, widespread interest in diets and weight control and, most likely, the rapid rise in anorexia and bulimia nervosa. The book appears to have been written with both health care professionals and students in mind. The authors provide a summary, a recommended reading list, and a set of discussion questions at the end of each chapter, making the book much more suitable for students.

The majority of the material most likely to be of interest to ethologists – including discussions of universal standards of physical attractiveness and the topic of physiognomy – is found in the first three chapters (constituting about 43% of the text), so these will be the main focus of this review. The other five chapters focus on psychosocial aspects of disfigurement and related research issues. Chapters 4 and 5 examine the difficulties of abnormal appearance, and the complex web of factors that might predict vulnerability to negative psychosocial effects and resilience. Additional topics include prenatal diagnosis of visible congenital anomalies, self-concept development, and treatments, with specific sections devoted to a variety of disfiguring conditions ranging from rheumatoid arthritis to tattooing. Chapters 6 and 7 discuss the current and potential support and intervention systems. A final chapter examines current dilemmas and future challenges. Although the authors discuss 'normal' and abnormal

appearance separately, reflecting a true split in the literature, they sometimes urge us to consider thinking of the range of variation as a continuum and at other times warn against combining a range of conditions in a single study (e.g., p. 35).

Chapter 1 presents a sometimes critical and largely historical overview of the psychology of physical appearance. Weaknesses here include somewhat spotty coverage and an over reliance on secondary sources. The chapter does effectively sample the long history of thought on this topic, provide insight into the consequences of normal and abnormal variation in physical (mainly facial) appearance, and critically review a good number of research programs. The chapter also discusses physiognomy: the practice of making personality and cognitive judgments of others based on their facial appearance. While one should be highly skeptical about the validity of such judgments, there appears to be significant reliability. That is, there are consistent social stereotypes. This aspect of physiognomy is likely to be critical for understanding the psychosocial impact of variations in facial appearance, especially for those with certain abnormalities (Alley, 1988). For instance, dental anomalies can make others appear to be less intelligent and more aggressive (Albino et al., 1990; Shaw, 1988). Researchers and clinicians should be highly attentive to such effects, a point *The Psychology of Appearance* unfortunately neglects.

Chapter 2 concerns research challenges and methods, and presents a brief overview of some underlying theories and models. The challenges include issues of cultural bias and recruitment, with a tendency for females and students to be over-represented in appearance research. Other challenges include measurement of severity of disfigurement, selection of appropriate control groups, and the timing of data collection. Only one paragraph is devoted to the complexities of measuring attractiveness;

this is clearly insufficient given the range of possible meanings (e.g., sexual attractiveness versus cuteness versus aesthetic attractiveness). Many studies rely on self reports, and the authors are appropriately critical of the fact that the “majority” of this research “has been retrospective, quantitative, cross-sectional and correlational” (p. 40). [Later, however, they make substantial use of self-reports in Chapters 3 and 4 to illustrate and analyze appearance issues.] Rumsey and Harcourt urge researchers to use a broad range of research methods, and to conduct longitudinal research examining different points across the lifespan.

Chapter 3 deals with appearance and image issues affecting those without abnormalities (“visible differences”). Nonetheless, some of the discussion can also be applied to those with abnormalities, e.g., the conclusion that “appearance related distress can manifest itself emotionally, behaviourally and cognitively” (p. 65). Moreover, at least in western societies, discontent with appearance appears to be normative, particularly in young women. The focus of the chapter is on appearance concerns and lifespan/developmental issues, with little discussion of social effects of physical appearance and with discussion of evolutionary theory limited to about one page.

An unfortunate weakness of this book is due to the level of scholarship used to compose it. The authors rely too heavily on secondary sources and, less often, on popular press books such as the book on faces by psychologist and director Brian Bates and actor John Cleese (2001). Perhaps most bothersome is the substantial and largely uncritical use made of material from sources lacking peer review. For instance, an unpublished thesis (C. Liossi, 2003) is repeatedly used, with citations appearing about a dozen times across three chapters. In contrast, when citing more reliable peer-reviewed sources, Rumsey and Harcourt too often skim over the findings or conclusions, or merely recommend them to readers.

In conclusion, this book provides a good primer for health care professionals and is suitable for use as a textbook. Researchers are likely to find it to be of more limited value, albeit useful enough to recommend purchase by university libraries.

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Thomas R. Alley is Professor of Psychology at Clemson University and the Editor of the *Human Ethology Bulletin*. He completed his M.A. and Ph.D. in Experimental Psychology at the University of Connecticut. He has published extensively on the psychology of physical appearance.

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.

Bekoff, M. The Emotional Lives of Animals: A Leading Scientist Explores Animal Joy, Sorrow, and Empathy - and Why They Matter. New World Library, 2007, 256pp. ISBN: 1-57731-502-2

Box, H. O., & Gibson, K. R. (eds.) Mammalian Social Learning: Comparative and Ecological Perspectives. Cambridge University Press, 2006, 438pp. ISBN: 0-521-03195-8

Burt, A., & Trivers, R. Genes in Conflict: The Biology of Selfish Genetic Elements. Harvard University Press, 2006, 632pp. ISBN: 0-674-01713-7

Dessalles, J-L., & Grieve, J. (translator) Why We Talk. Oxford University Press, 2007, 400pp. ISBN: 0-19-927623-4

deWaal, F. B. M. Our Inner Ape: A leading primatologist explains why we are who we are. Penguin, 2006, 304pp. ISBN: 1-59448-196-2

Di Loreto, A. Comparative Psychotherapy: An Experimental Analysis. Aldine Transaction, 2006, 315pp. ISBN: 0-202-30852-9

Eibl-Eibesfeldt, I. Human Ethology. {now available in paperback} Aldine Transaction, 2007, 848pp. ISBN: 0-202-30970-3

Fowler, T. B., & Kuebler, D. The Evolution Controversy: A Survey of Competing Theories. Baker Academic, 2007, 400pp. ISBN: 0-8010-3174-5

Friedlaender, J. S. Population Genetics, Linguistics, and Culture History in the Southwest Pacific. Oxford University Press, 2007, 288pp. ISBN: 0-19-530030-0

Gangestad, S. W., & Simpson, J. A. (eds.). The Evolution of Mind: Fundamental Questions and Controversies. Guilford Publications, 2007, 452pp. ISBN: 1-59385-408-0

Gomez, J. C. Apes, Monkeys, Children, and the Growth of Mind. Harvard University Press, 2006, 352pp. ISBN: 0-674-02239-4

Gould, C. G., & Gould, J. L. Animal Architects: Building and the Evolution of Intelligence. Basic Books, 2007, 304pp. ISBN: 0-465-02782-2

Hunt, J. H. The Evolution of Social Wasps: History, Dynamics, and Paradigm. Oxford University Press, 2007, 240pp. ISBN: 0-19-530797-6

Hurley, S., & Nudds, M. (eds.) Rational Animals? Oxford University Press, 2006, 568pp. ISBN: 0-19-852826-2

Johanson, D., & Edgar, B. From Lucy to Language: Revised, Updated, and Expanded. Simon & Schuster, 2006, 288pp. ISBN: 0-7432-8064-4

Johansson, S. Origins of Languages. John Benjamins Publishing Company, 2006, 346pp. ISBN: 90-272-3893-6

Kauth, M. R. (ed.) Handbook of the Evolution of Human Sexuality. Haworth Press, 2007, 406pp. ISBN: 0-7890-3507-3

McWhorter, J. H. Language Interrupted: Signs of Non-Native Acquisition in Standard Language Grammars. Oxford University Press, 2007, 415pp. ISBN: 0-19-530980-4

Moore, J., & Moore, R. Evolution 101. Greenwood Publishing Group, 2006, 240pp. ISBN: 0-313-33292-4

- Narby, J. Intelligence in Nature. Penguin Group, 2006, 288pp. ISBN: 1-58542-461-7
- Nedergaard Thomsen, O. Competing Models of Linguistic Change: Evolution and Beyond. John Benjamins Publishing Company, 2006, 344pp. ISBN: 90-272-4794-3
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<http://rint.rechten.rug.nl/rth/ess/books1.htm>

BRIEF COMMUNICATION

Human ethology in the French polar bases: Port-aux-Français, Dumont d'Urville and Concordia

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The French ethological studies on human adaptation in extreme settings (Tafforin, 1999) have progressed from the individual in orbital flight (Tafforin, 1994) to small groups in polar bases (Tafforin, 2002; 2004). Today, space conquest by men and women is farther in distance and longer in time and there are new international projects to explore the universe. Manned planetary exploration is a fascinating challenge when the crew members will have to live and work together for very long-term missions (1 to 3 years) in closed habitats (orbital station, interplanetary flares) and in social isolation (far from Earth). Behavioral adaptation is an important factor for the success of such missions and the physical and mental fitness of the planetary crews are of prime importance.

Researchers in this area have addressed questions of manifestations of expeditioners' maladjustment during summer campaign and winter-over in Antarctica. Their findings, in terms of coping with sensorial and social deprivation issues, are summarized as follows. The American expeditions in Antarctica, at Amundsen-Scott station, have shown a decline in mood and vigor, and an increase in fatigue and tension-anxiety (Palinkas, Johnson, Boster & Houseal, 1998). The Australian expeditions, at Casey, Davis and Mawson stations, have

indicated that most psychological problems were transitory rather than continuous (Wood et al., 2000). The Japanese expeditions, at Asuka station, have underlined subjective and cumulative fatigue symptoms in the older expeditioners (Ikegawa et al., 1998). The Chinese expeditions, at Great Wall station, have shown behavioral disorders in all their subjects, indicating depression, decreased attention capabilities and decreased flexibility of the nervous system (Xue et al., 1997). The mood of the Russian transantarctic expedition, from Pininsula to Mirny station via Vostok station, was quite high when reaching the South Pole but slowly declined afterwards (Ursin et al., 1990). Current studies in the French campaigns emphasize critical periods of coping strategies after the mid-winter with changes in moods and personal reactions and also social and physical reactions (Camps & Rosnet, 2005). The end of the isolation period is also a critical moment with an expression of homesickness and greater negativity in diary descriptions of social relationships (Weiss & Gaud, 2004).

The methodological tools of human ethology are pertinent and convenient for this field of research and in this special environment. They were applied in three French polar bases: Port-aux-Français, Dumont d'Urville and Concordia. The ethological monitoring of the studies mainly consisted of the use of observation maps in the form of a plan of the station's dining room. The observer was asked to draw the position of the tables chosen by the subjects and to check each subject's table position during breakfast, lunch and dinner time. Data processing consisted in measuring the inter-individual distances (according to Hall's classification), the social orientations (number of the team-members in the visual space of the subject) and the subjects' presence.

Port-aux-Français station

The Port-aux-Français station is located at Kerguelen in the Sub Antarctic islands (49°21'S-70°13'E) and has a surface area of 9,000m². The

ethological monitoring was made on a subgroup of 15 winterers. Weekly observations of use of places in the collective area at meal times were conducted during 13 months of the mission. Results showed a fluctuating organization of the team that could be induced by the frequent visits of ships as a factor in the variation of the whole group structure. Nevertheless, after the critical period of mid-winter, the space occupancy of the team members seemed to be reduced. During this second wintering period, proxemics were perceptibly stronger.

Dumont d'Urville station

The Dumont d'Urville station is located in Terre Adélie in the Antarctica continent (66°40'S-140°01'E) and has a surface area of 5,000 m². The same ethological monitoring was made on a subgroup of 13 winterers. After the departure of the last ship, strict isolation conditions produced significant effects on the maintenance of social cohesion over the wintering period. In the first month, a stable concentration of the team members in term of use of places appeared, followed by a decrease of this concentration in the last month. This pointed out an initial phase of closer grouping for team organization and a final phase of the members' dilution which probably reflected the anticipated disorganization induced by the forthcoming end of isolation.

Concordia station

The Concordia station is a new base located at the Dôme C in the Antarctica continent (75°06'S-123°21'E) and has a surface area of 1,500 m². Preliminary observations were made on the very first wintering team during the first week after the winter isolation period. Following the same ethological monitoring, daily data collection on the use of places, inter-individual distances and social orientations was implemented on the 13 winterers. This study is intended to examine hypotheses about the maintenance of team cohesion in a widened

social space, the occurrence of social dispersion with the arrival of a relieving team, and the keeping of privileged relationships within the wintering group which integrates day by day the whole summer personnel. Further investigations will focus on these different analyses: geocentric, allocentric and egocentric.

In the three polar bases, the isolated and confined teams seem to behave as an auto-organized system with periods of organization, disorganization and reorganization. They approximate to such a model through the principles of tensions being exerted on the system but being responsive to disturbing external elements. At Port-aux-Français station, the frequent visits of ships change the size of the group, the sex ratio and cultural characteristics, and the functional basis. The group structure appears disorganized as a result. At Dumont d'Urville station, the summer campaign is an equivalent period of behavioral disorganization whereas during the winter-over, there are phases of stable social behavior. This argues that greater isolation and the confinement factor tend to produce greater social cohesion. This is apparent at the Concordia station, which has the hardest wintering, the farthest location and the smallest surface.

To conclude, special environments such as space modules, confinement chambers, and submarines, strongly influence group relations and behavior (Suedfeld, 2001), as do the polar bases (Tafforin, 2005). Isolation and confinement factors remain to be considered along with the long duration factor in the behavioral processes of individual and social strategies in these environments. Human adaptation is thus influenced by the synergy of the situation variables and the time variable. Applications of such human ethology studies will include the selection of high adaptive capabilities, the preparation for well-adapted behaviors and the detection of mal-adjusted manifestations.

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ISHE06: A Photo Gallery

A selection of photographs from the 2006 biennial ISHE conference held in Detroit.
All photographs by Wulf Schiefenhövel.



Two photographs of the conference banquet. *Below:* Nancy Segal speaking on the late Linda Mealey





Peter LaFreniere, Carol Weisfeld, Frank Salter (from left) and others on the bus on the way to the ISHE06 evening dinner cruise.



Returning to Detroit after the evening cruise



Carol Weisfeld



View of Detroit during the evening cruise

ANNOUNCEMENTS

ISHE 2006 Programs and T-shirts still available!

There are still a few programs available from the ISHE 2006 congress in Detroit. **Programs** contain abstracts of all presentations and posters, and an author index.

Also, the black ISHE06 t-shirt is still available in some sizes. These **shirts** feature an original design listing all major ISHE conferences on the back, 'ISHE' on the sleeve, and show the flag of the country where each congress was held (see figure to the right). We have women's (more tight-fitting) in small and medium, and men's (looser fit) in small, medium and large.

Program: 10 Euros or US\$11. **T-shirt** (specify size, please): 15 Euros or US\$16. **Prices include mailing.**

To order either send cash in Euros or a check for US\$ to Carol Weisfeld, University of Detroit Mercy, Psychology, 4001 West McNichols, Detroit MI 48221-3038.



Front design of ISHE06 t-shirt

Hurry, while supplies last!

Attendees at ISHE06: Did you pay for any Detroit conference outings that didn't happen (city tour and Ford Plant tour)? If so, ISHE Treasurer Dori LeCroy asks that you email her your full mailing address and request a refund.

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 were announced in Detroit at ISHE06
and are listed in the previous issue (Vol. 21, #3).**

ASCAP (Across-Species Comparisons And Psychopathology Society)

Martin Brüne and Andy Thomson, representing ASCAP, have announced the dissolution of **ASCAP**. ISHE's officers and trustees are sorry to see the demise of this society and recognize its many contributions to the study of psychopathology from an evolutionary perspective over the years. We hope to continue to help advance that perspective by providing opportunities for it to be represented at our biennial congresses. Presentations involving cross-species comparisons and psychopathology have represented a significant proportion of the program at each recent biennial ISHE conference, reflecting strong involvement with these areas within our membership.

Members of ASCAP who are not already members of ISHE are invited to join ISHE. As usual, information on ISHE membership, including costs, may be found on the penultimate page of this *Bulletin*. For a limited time, former ASCAP members who are unsure whether they would like to join ISHE may request a free 1-year membership (normally reserved for students and low-income scholars) by contacting the membership Chair, Astrid Juette at astrid.juette@kli.ac.at. This will provide an electronic (PDF) copy of the *Bulletin*.

Electronic Subscriptions

Want to receive the *Bulletin* sooner? ... at least 2 weeks sooner! Wish you had an electronic version to allow easier searching of the *Bulletin's* contents and easier filing of back issues? You can request an electronic (PDF) version. Switching to an electronic version will get you the *Bulletin* faster and with full color photographs and working URLs. Of course, an electronic subscription also reduces the environmental impact of the *Bulletin* and saves ISHE the funds required for printing and mailing. To request an electronic copy in place of the printed version, members should simply send their full name and e-mail address to the Membership Chair (see back cover).

Member News

J. Andy Thompson's work on the motivations of suicide bombers as presented in Detroit at ISHE2006 is covered in *Science*. The report may be seen here:

<http://www.sciencemag.org/content/vol313/issue5794/r-samples.dtl>

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” – so as to make the section 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 ASA cost only \$17. Interested readers may contact Rosemary Hopcroft at: rlhopcro@email.uncc.edu.

HUMAN NATURE – SPECIAL OFFER to members of the International Society for Human Ethology.

Human Nature is now in its 17th year of publication. It is highly rated and now ranks 4th out of 50 Anthropology journals and 4th out of 26 in the Social Sciences, Biomedical category in its citations.

Transaction Publishers is pleased to extend to current and new subscribers a reduced, one-year subscription rate to *Human Nature*. You may select Print, Electronic, or Print and Electronic Combined. The rates are Print or Electronic only: \$55, Print and Electronic Combined: \$75 (Foreign members outside North America please add an additional \$40 for delivery). To order by credit card please call toll free 1-888-999-6778 (outside USA 1-732-445-1245) and mention the order code HUNMEM 2006 to ensure you receive the reduced member rate. You may also mail a check to: Transaction Publishers, 390 Campus Drive, Somerset, NJ 08873. Remember to provide your complete mailing address and your Order Code HUNMEM 2006.

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Upcoming Conferences

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)

FPR-UCLA 3rd Interdisciplinary Conference

Seven Dimensions of Emotion:

Integrating Biological, Clinical, and Cultural

Perspectives on Fear, Disgust, Love, Grief,

Anger, Empathy, and Hope

30 March - 1 April 2007 — UCLA

<http://www.thefpr.org/conference2007/index.php>

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.sheraton.com/burlington/hotel-and-conference-center)

<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 — 14-18 July 2008**

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

CURRENT LITERATURE

Compiled by Johan van der Dennen

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Forthcoming

- 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**
 - A review of *The Talking Ape: How Language Evolved* (Oxford University Press, 2005) by **Robbins Burling** – reviewed by **W. C. Mackey**
 - A review of *Madame Bovary's Ovaries: A Darwinian Look at Literature* (Bantam Dell, 2005) by **David P. Barash** and **Nanelle R. Barash** – reviewed by **Maryanne Fisher**
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