

Human Ethology Bulletin

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ELECTION RESULTS

The ISHE Nominations & Elections Committee is pleased to announce the winners of the 2008 ISHE officer election.

Secretary: Maryanne Fisher

Assistant Professor, Department of Psychology, Saint Mary's University, Halifax, Canada

Membership Chair: Astrid Juette

Executive Manager of the Konrad Lorenz Institute for Evolution and Cognition Research, Austria

The new Secretary began work immediately, taking notes at the ISHE General Assembly in Italy.

The XIX biennial ISHE congress [ISHE08] was held this past July at the University of Bologna. This issue contains three items related to this recent meeting: a report on the congress that includes photos, announcement of the Linda Mealey and ISHE08 poster awards winners, and the minutes of the General Assembly. This issue also includes two book reviews and the preliminary announcement of an ISHE sponsored human ethology summer institute to be held next July at the University of Maine (USA).

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Back Issues of the *Bulletin* may be ordered following the policy and pricing available in the most recent issue.

Bulletin Policies

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

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 CD-R (preferably in Microsoft Word format). All submissions, including invited contributions, are subject to editorial review. Some submissions are rejected, but political censorship is avoided so as to foster free and creative exchange of ideas among scholars. Submissions are usually reviewed only by members of the editorial staff, although outside reviewers are used occasionally. All submissions should be original, and are not to be published elsewhere, either prior to or after publication in the *Bulletin*, without permission from the Editor.

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BOOK REVIEWS

Evolution and the Social Mind: Evolutionary Psychology and Social Cognition

Edited by **Joseph P. Forgas, Martie G.**

Haselton, and William von Hippel

Psychology Press, New York, NY, USA. 2007,
324pp. ISBN 978-1-84169-458-0 [Hdbk, \$75]

Reviewed by **Rick O’Gorman**

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Evolutionary psychology (EP) has now been around for a good 20 years, a bit longer or a little shorter depending on your exact metric. In that time, it has spread outwards from a set of core classic areas of research to encompass a healthy range of topics. Despite this, EP has failed to engage successfully with much of what I’ll term ‘traditional psychology’, with a few notable exceptions. In particular, social and evolutionary psychology continue to lack much interaction. I have found this both disappointing and a bit of a challenge, as I try to work in the overlap between the two. Pondering how an evolutionary approach might be brought to bear on topics such as implicit and explicit attitudes, stereotyping, social categorization, goals, inferences, and attributions has occasionally preoccupied me. I have been particularly concerned with how the findings from social cognition might integrate with an evolutionary framework.

So it was with some delight that I stumbled across *Evolution and the Social Mind* in the “New

Books” section of this *Bulletin*. Perhaps here was a tome that would lay the groundwork for a merging of the two fields. However, having now read through it, my delight has been muted. This is not to say that the quality of the work, drawn from the 9th Sydney Symposium of Social Psychology, is below par — it is certainly not. Furthermore, the range of contributors, to the extent I know their work, is top notch. Nonetheless, the contributions, with some exceptions, do not strongly advance an integration of EP and social cognition, contrary to what is implied by the subtitle. This is not to say that the reader will not encounter novel work, or that the exercise of reading this volume will not broaden one’s knowledge of an evolutionary understanding of social behavior; it’s just that, to invert a popular expression in the UK, it doesn’t do what it says on the tin—the product doesn’t quite deliver on its promise.

The volume consists of 18 chapters, the first an introductory chapter and the remaining 17 subdivided into four parts: I. foundations, II. the evolutionary psychology of affect and cognition, III. the evolutionary psychology of mate selection, and IV. the evolutionary psychology of interpersonal processes. The three chapters in Part I cover Dunbar’s Social Brain hypothesis, the evolution of social inference processes, and an evolutionary perspective on cognitive disjunctions—situations where there is a non-linear relationship between two cognitive processes that both contribute to a task, such as visual attention to and encoding of a stimulus. Those familiar with Dunbar’s work on the social brain hypothesis will not glean much that is new here, though it’s a fine up-to-date summary of the topic and should be useful to those not familiar with EP in setting the appropriate evolutionary context for the remaining chapters. (Unfortunately, one of the drawbacks of this volume is that authors don’t always build on what has come before. Instead, each chapter stands alone, which can be useful if you

wish to sample, but gets repetitive when for the umpteenth time an author explains the basics of an evolutionary approach.) The discussion by Gangestad and Thornhill of social inferences focuses on explaining the basics of a signaling system, with the standard issues such as origins of signals, functions, errors, and deception. Again, this chapter will not be informative to an EP audience but could provide a new angle on social inference for others, though anyone versed in communication should not be surprised by anything here except, perhaps, the issue of honesty through costliness. The discourse by Doug Kenrick et al. on cognitive processing disjunctions provides a valuable lesson – not so much the fact that cognitive adaptations are finely tuned, but in highlighting how examining the proximate mechanisms thoroughly can uncover surprising aspects of a process. For example, individuals, when tested for recognition of previously viewed faces, overestimate the number of previously viewed threatening faces versus non-threatening faces, suggesting high attention to the threatening faces, even though they viewed those faces less than the non-threatening stimuli. There are lessons here for both sides of the EP/non-EP divide.

Part II consists of chapters on theories of emotions, social and moral emotions, the advantages of not being too happy, and non-clinical depression. The first three chapters in this section, contributed by Phoebe Ellsworth, Ross Buck, and Joseph Forgas, are light on an integration of EP into their respective topics, while being detailed and informative in their own right. The fourth one, on depression, by Paul Badcock and Nicholas Allen, was more successful, perhaps because there is a longer history of evolutionary thinking on depression.

Part III contains work on heuristics for mate choice, mate preferences across the ovulatory cycle, inbreeding avoidance, and the role of the self in attaining and maintaining relationships. Peter Todd's application of heuristics to mate

choice can probably serve as fertile ground for non-EP decision-making researchers looking to move into a classic EP topic. As an EPer, I found the actual application rather superficial, if tantalizing: Todd examines a narrow portion of mate choice behavior, but because much of the mate choice literature is more focused on cues than cognition for choice and competition, this adds another dimension to that literature. The chapter by Simpson and Lapaglia on mate choices across the ovulatory cycle was particularly lacking in a social cognitive angle and a missed opportunity to stress that humans operate contingently on ecological and life history factors. Lieberman's chapter on inbreeding avoidance does try to relate her work to issues in social cognition, such as categorization. Finally, the chapter by Fletcher and Overall on the self in intimate relationships probably goes furthest of the chapters in this section toward merging the EP and social cognition literatures.

Finally Part IV covers jealousy (Buunk et al.), leadership (van Vugt and Kurzban), prototypicality in faces (Halberstadt), strategies related to predictability in self-behavior (Ybarra et al.), ostracism (Spoor and Williams), and behavioral mechanisms of disease avoidance (Schaller and Duncan). I found the chapters in this section the most interesting, combining as they did both specific topics with either a good marrying of the two literatures, or at least the literature of one with the methodology of the other. An exception was the review by Spoor and Williams of ostracism, which seemed to tack on EP to the start and end of the chapter, but this contribution was also one of the most interesting for me, given my research focus. So an important caveat applies to what I say about this volume: if any of the work relates to your own interests, then the relevant chapter(s) should serve as useful reading, just don't expect it to offer a platform to easily step from EP to social cognition, or vice versa.

I can only commend the editors and contributors for laying down a sound beginning for integrating EP and social cognition. A volume such as this advances us toward a fuller integration of evolutionary psychology with traditional psychology. The primary drawback with this collection is that much of the work either remains firmly ensconced in EP, thus not relating the EP approach to the corresponding material in the social cognition literature, or else consists of a good review of findings on a topic as studied within social cognition, but with an evolutionary framing tacked on to the chapter rather than integrated.

A contributory factor that leads to this shortcoming is that the chapters almost all focus on some particular body of relevant empirical work, inevitably conducted through the particular lens of EP or social cognition, making it difficult to usefully reinterpret the work in a thorough fashion. In contrast, chapters that adopted a more review-only approach tended, if not all successfully, to meld more effectively the two fields in a way that provided a level of integration. I suppose what I was hoping for was an effort that takes the existing social cognition field and frames it with an evolutionary approach. Efforts such as this volume at least bring together practitioners of both disciplines under one roof and move us toward better integration.

Another drawback of the volume is that there are too many chapters related to mate choice. This is an important topic that has been fruitful for an evolutionary approach, and is one of the areas where EP has revolutionized the field. Nonetheless, it is just one topic of many in the social arena, and yet 8 of the 18 chapters (17 if we exclude the introduction) focus on mate choice either totally or substantially. It reinforces an impression that the volume lacks sufficient breadth to meet either its supposed goal of marrying EP and social cognition, or the

goal of impressing those who are not yet within the evolutionary flock.

I do think that the book could prove a useful basis for an advanced or seminar course on evolution and social cognition, although it might need to be complemented with additional readings to compensate for the insufficient number of integrative papers. I cannot particularly recommend the volume for general reading to an EP scholar because a well informed EP scholar will be well-enough up on the areas covered that the return on cost and effort will be relatively low. Specific chapters that appeal may best be acquired from your library's copy.

Rick O'Gorman is a lecturer in psychology at Sheffield Hallam University in the UK, having received his PhD in evolutionary biology from the State University of New York at Binghamton in 2003. His research interests focus on social norms, cooperation, altruism, culture, multilevel selection, computer modeling, and figuring out why only some people like to read on the john.

The Omnivore's Dilemma: A Natural History of Four Meals

By **Michael Pollan**

Penguin Press, New York, NY. 2006, 450pp.
ISBN 1-59420-082-3 [Hdbk., \$26.95]

Reviewed by **William F. McKibbin** and **Todd K. Shackelford**

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The Omnivore's Dilemma is the latest book by Michael Pollan, best known for his previous best-selling work, *The Botany of Desire*. Here, Pollan has crafted a well-written and enjoyable exploration of humans' relationship to food. The book is written for a lay audience, but is appreciable by all.

Pollan begins by focusing on a seemingly simple question, "What should we have for dinner?" The answer, it seems, is not so simple for omnivores like us. Pollan guides the reader by examining the three major types of food production and divides the book into these three areas: Industrial (focusing on the modern food industry's reliance on corn), Pastoral (focusing on organic food production, both "big" and "small" scale), and Personal (focusing on personally hunting and gathering one's food).

The first, Industrial, section of the book demonstrates that nearly everything we consume in Western society, particularly in America, is in some way derived from corn. The processed foods that seem a staple of modern living are derived largely (if not wholly) from corn. Even foods such as eggs, chicken, fish, and beef are essentially derived from corn: cows, chickens, and fish are coerced to consume a food that to them is highly

unnatural. If we are what we eat, as Pollan says, we are mostly corn.

Pollan describes the modern industrial food chain by tracing the path of corn from farmer to feedlot to finished product. Along the way, he explains how the modern food chain has come to be dominated by corn. He explains how corn has evolved from a simple grass to the dominant crop that it is today. Particularly interesting is his argument that corn exploits us as much as we it. Humans exploit corn by using it in everything from whiskey to sweetener. Corn exploits humans by becoming a seemingly indispensable part of the modern food chain. Certainly, corn is a wildly successful species, and has become so by evolving into such an attractive food crop.

Not surprisingly, Pollan is critical of the industrial food chain. He argues that the virtue of cheap food, particularly food derived from cheap corn, hides its cost. The true cost is instead borne by us all in the form of taxes and corn subsidies, environmental damage, and health problems. Pollan describes striking similarities between the modern obesity epidemic and the rampant alcoholism of 19th century America. Both are explicable by the need to use up an ever-growing surplus of cheap corn. Further, he argues that we are participating in an unsustainable system of food production, and that our dependence on a single crop is a glaring weakness that may have serious consequences for our health and for the environment. Next, Pollan examines the modern "alternative" to the industrial food chain.

The Pastoral section of *The Omnivore's Dilemma* makes a distinction between large-scale organic production ("big organic" in Pollan's words) and smaller, local organic producers ("small organic") Big organic is characterized by corporations such as Whole Foods. Here Pollan illustrates how the well-intentioned organic food movement has grown into a slightly

modified version of industrial food production. Striking examples are provided, such as the "free-range" chicken farm where chickens live in nearly identical conditions to their non-organic counterparts. They are afforded access to the outdoors only after spending weeks confined indoors. As a result, the chickens are too afraid to ever leave the sheds in which they spend their entire lives. Furthermore, because organic food production precludes the use of antibiotics, the chickens are so prone to disease that workers must wear sterile clothing and masks to prevent mass infection and death. Other flaws in "big" organic are discussed, painting a picture of a feel-good movement that provides few benefits. Pollan's final position on "big" organic is somewhat unclear. He clearly perceives substantial flaws in the system, such as the fact that it is as non-sustainable as typical industrial food production, but at the same time he seems to argue that it is at least a step in the right direction.

Pollan's position on "small" organic is much less equivocal. He spends a substantial section of the book detailing his visit to a small organic "grass" farm. Although Pollan does his best to maintain a journalistic, neutral view throughout the book, it is clear that he was captivated by the work being done by the grass farmers. Pollan shows that the most important crop to these farmers is in fact the numerous varieties of grass, which form the foundation of the life cycle on the farm. These farmers work to farm in a sustainable, natural way that closely resembles the symbiosis of nature. In this section, Pollan provides a fascinating look at the evolved relationships between different species of plants and animals, and how these relationships can be utilized to create a sustainable farming system. Although Pollan is clearly enamored with such "small" grass-based farming, he also recognizes the near impossibility of implementing such farming on a large scale. For example, the higher costs associated with this production method make it

unlikely to be adopted by the population as a whole.

Finally, Pollan examines our most ancient food production method: hunting and gathering. Of course he recognizes that such a system is no longer a viable one for many humans. But he argues that it is important to participate in and appreciate the shortest food-chain possible, by eating food hunted or gathered personally. In this way the true costs of food, such as substantial time and energy investments, as well as the loss of another living being, may be better appreciated. Here Pollan demonstrates just how difficult hunting and gathering is, even equipped with modern tools such as rifles or GPS. Passages detailing the author's shift into a hunter's mindset were particularly interesting. Even having never hunted before, Pollan quickly and automatically found himself attuned to the environment, aware of sights and sounds that normally go unnoticed. He writes "my attention to everything around me, and deafness to everything else, is complete... everything is amplified" (pp.334-335). Pollan's hunting guide refers to this phenomenon as "hunter's eye."

Scholars interested in the evolution of human behavior may be somewhat disappointed by the relative lack of attention Pollan gives to the field. It is clear that Pollan understands the importance of evolution, yet his discussion of evolved human psychology and behavior is minimal at best. Notably, Pollan devotes considerable time discussing the work of Paul Rozin, particularly his research on food selection behavior. Rozin postulated that the "omnivorous problem" would explain much about human nature, and this seems to have formed the basis of Pollan's thinking and writing. Little other empirical research is discussed. However, passages such as those mentioned above, detailing the emotions and experiences of hunting and gathering, seem to describe the operation of evolved mechanisms.

In summary, *The Omnivore's Dilemma* is an outstanding book aimed at a wide audience. Pollan provides a fascinating look at how we choose what we eat. Scholars may be disappointed by the little attention devoted to evolved human psychology and behavior. However, Pollan still provides a superbly written book offering a complex answer to a deceptively simple and increasingly important question.

William F. McKibbin is a Ph.D. student in the Evolutionary Psychology Lab at Florida Atlantic University. His current research interests include conflict between the sexes, particularly with regard to sexual behavior.

Todd K. Shackelford received his Ph.D. in Psychology from The University of Texas at Austin in 1997. He is Professor of Psychology, Chair of the Evolutionary Psychology Graduate Program, and Director of the Evolutionary Psychology Lab (www.ToddKShackelford.com) at Florida Atlantic University.

Back Issues

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

- ◆ \$2/issue or \$5/year for **electronic** copies
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Payment can be made to either the Treasurer or the Editor. Be sure to provide a complete mailing address and specify exactly which issues you are ordering.

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 or an Associate Editor. Publishers, authors, and others may call attention to recently published or forthcoming books by sending information to the Editor.

Arp, R. Scenario Visualization: An Evolutionary Account of Creative Problem Solving. MIT Press, 2008, 208 pp. ISBN: 0262012448

Barber, N. The Myth of Culture: Why We Need a Genuine Natural Science of Societies. Cambridge Scholars Publishing, 2008, 315 pp. ISBN: 184718619X

Cartwright, J. Evolution and Human Behavior, 2nd Edition: Darwinian Perspectives on Human Nature. MIT Press, 2008, 448 pp. ISBN: 0262533049

Duntley, J., & Shackelford, T. K. Evolutionary Forensic Psychology. Oxford University Press, 2008, 328 pp. ISBN: 0195325184

Frith, C. Making up the Mind: How the Brain Creates Our Mental World. Wiley-Blackwell, 2007, 248 pp. ISBN: 1405160225

Gottschall, J. Literature, Science, and a New Humanities. Palgrave Macmillan, 2008, 224 pp. ISBN: 0230609031

Gottschall, J. The Rape of Troy: Evolution, Violence, and the World of Homer. Cambridge University Press, 2008, 236 pp. ISBN: 0521690471

Grant, P. R., & Grant, B. R. How and Why Species Multiply: The Radiation of Darwin's Finches. Princeton University Press, 2007, 272 pp. ISBN: 0691133603

Innis, N. K. Reflections on Adaptive Behavior: Essays in Honor of J.E.R. Staddon. MIT Press, 2008, 394 pp. ISBN: 0262590266

Keedwell, P. How Sadness Survived: The Evolutionary Basis of Depression. Radcliffe Publishing, 2008, 176 pp. ISBN: 1846190134

McIntyre, L. C. Dark Ages: The Case for a Science of Human Behavior. MIT Press, 2006, 176 pp. ISBN: 0262134691

Prothero, D. R., & Buell, C. Evolution: What the Fossils Say and Why It Matters. Columbia University Press, 2007, 408 pp. ISBN: 0231139624

Richardson, R. C. Evolutionary Psychology as Maladapted Psychology. MIT Press, 2007, 213 pp. ISBN: 0262182607

Smith, D. L. The Most Dangerous Animal: Human Nature and the Origins of War. St. Martin's Press, 2007, 288 pp. ISBN: 031234189X

Wexler, B. E. Brain and Culture: Neurobiology, Ideology, and Social Change. MIT Press, 2008, 320 pp. ISBN: 0262731932

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>

Report on the XIX Biennial Congress of the International Society for Human Ethology (ISHE08)

by Thomas R. Alley

Entering central Bologna, one cannot help noticing the porticos. I knew from photographs of the city that porticos were a prominent architectural feature of Bologna, but one must actually visit Bologna to comprehend the astounding quantity of covered walkways and the many variations of this feature that can be found there.

ISHE08 began on an unusually warm July evening with researchers from around the globe gathering under the porticos and in the courtyard of a former monastery. The courtyard and buildings are now part of the University of Bologna and served as part of the venue for the congress. Here, the attendees completed their conference registration, and chatted with old friends and new acquaintances.



A gathering – including the **Weisfelds** (on left); **Peter Lafreniere** and **I. Eibl-Eibesfeldt** (center); and **Martin Brüne** (right) – in front of one of the conference hotels just prior to the opening of ISHE08.

[photo by J. van der Dennen]

Many of the poster presentations were put on display under the porticos at this time, where

they would remain for the duration of the conference.

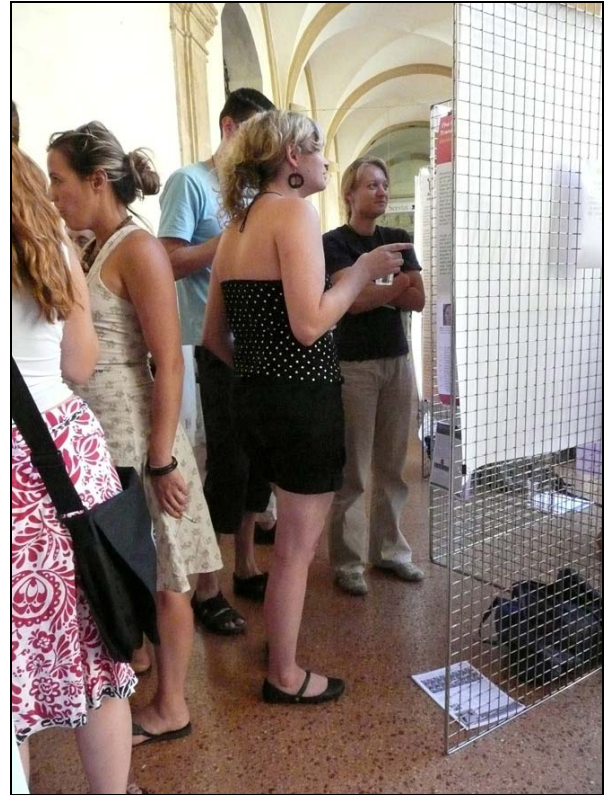


Courtyard with ISHE08 poster displays under the porticos. [photo by T. R. Alley]

Following welcomes from Italian hosts and ISHE President **Glenn Weisfeld**, the main part of the evening's program commenced. This "Tribute to the Founding Fathers" included a clever and humorous virtual (video) presentation by **Bill Charlesworth** (who was unfortunately unable to attend) playing the role of Charles Darwin. **Irenaeus Eibl-Eibesfeldt**, happily in attendance and in good health, reminisced about his career and its roots. Recently deceased ISHE founder **Dan Freedman** was fondly remembered by former students, and then **Carol Weisfeld** read the address Dan had prepared for the meeting. After the formal program, people gathered in the courtyard for refreshments, conversation, and some viewing of posters.

The first full day of the conference got under way with a strong, but early start with the polished and stimulating plenary address of **Vittorio Gallese**. He challenged some traditional thinking in arguing that motor cognition is the primary basis of intentional understanding, with motor neurons allowing for embodied simulation. As on the remaining days, the conference was then split into two sets of parallel sessions, with three sessions on

attractiveness and mating, symposia on attachment and on genetics and human ethology, a session on personality and attachment, and two sessions on non-verbal behavior. Unique to this day, a mid-day concert featuring voice and harpsichord preceded the afternoon sessions.



Reading and discussing posters. [photo by P. Abend]

Day 3 started with a plenary address by **Claudio Cantalupo** on "Brain Asymmetry in Chimpanzees (*Pan troglodytes*)" that included a look at the possible evolution of hemispheric asymmetry in higher primates and its relationship to the emergence of language. The talk was followed by a symposium on *Evolutionary aspects of lateralization*: one of the many reflections of the careful planning by the conference organizers. The day also included sessions on development, on human ethology and pathology, and on interpersonal relationships. The late afternoon was devoted to the poster presentations in the picturesque courtyard.

That evening, several dozen participants returned to the larger of our two lecture halls (Apsidal) to hear an inspired concert of duo piano, and piano and accordion music.



The concert in Apsidal Hall by Chiti and Milani.
[photo by T. R. Alley]

Cultural anthropologist **Polly Wiessner** led off on Day 4 with her plenary “Rambos” address on parent-offspring conflict, male hierarchies and coalitional violence in the Enga of Papua New Guinea. Using both words and video, she painted a dismal picture of what can happen when young males are able to disrupt the power hierarchy and, using firearms, attempt to take control themselves. The other papers that day were presented within three sessions on attractiveness and mating, sessions on punishment and nonverbal behavior, and a varied session consisting of two papers on music, one on spatial cognition, and one on human universals as evidenced in virtual environments. The program ended early this day, allowing for participants to join one of three guided walking tours of central Bologna or to have some free time before the conference banquet.

The banquet, traditionally a festive and joyous affair with fine food, probably exceeded even the high expectations of long-time ISHE attendees. Well attended, the banquet was held

in a good sized subterranean room of a jazz-themed restaurant, Cantina Bentivoglio (<http://www.cantinabentivoglio.it/home.php>). The banquet featured three sets of inspired jazz, fine food, and excellent service. The banquet also



Prof. I. Eibl-Eibesfeldt addresses the banquet audience.
[photo by P. Abend]

served as an occasion to celebrate the 80th year of Prof. **Eibl-Eibesfeldt**, who briefly addressed the guests after dinner. At the end of the banquet, the conference organizers were given a well-deserved ovation and gift boxes of fine Italian (what else?) wines.

On the final day, ISHE08 took a more philosophical bent, starting with philosopher **Eckart Voland**'s plenary talk on the evolution of morality that emphasized the influence of parents on the development of conscience. In one lecture hall, the entire (but short) day's program was filled by a symposium on religion from the perspective of human ethology, organized and chaired by **Jay R. Feerman**. The other hall hosted sessions on “Theory of Mind”, and the 8th and final session on attractiveness and mating.



Following some American baseball training, **Silviu "Lefty" Apostol** (Team Romania) gets his first infield hit. The ISHE posters are seen in the background.
[photo by C. Weisfeld]

As usual, the congress ended with an ISHE business session, the General Assembly (see minutes elsewhere in this issue). The session was characterized by some tension and acrimony instigated by comments of outgoing



ISHE Trustee **John Richer** (on left) with ISHE officers **Dori LeCroy**, **Glenn Weisfeld** and **Karl Grammar** and other ISHE members. [photo by P. LaFreniere]

ISHE Secretary **Frank Salter**, which provoked an immediate response by President **Glenn Weisfeld**. Overall, however, the presentations

by officers and by the chair of the ISHE Board of Trustees, **John Richer**, revealed that the society is doing well. The atmosphere was brightened considerably by the joy of several award recipients who were present at the assembly as the awards were announced, and who came to the stage to receive award certificates.



Poster award winner **Dagmar Kohoutova** receives her award certificate from ISHE President Glenn Weisfeld.
[photo by T. R. Alley]

Attendance probably set an all time high; the number of contributors and the number of presentations certainly set record highs. The large number of presentations submitted and accepted for the conferences led to dual sessions throughout most of the meeting. On the positive side, this gives attendees a choice of presentations. On the other hand, many attendees at ISHE08 found occasions on which they wanted to hear papers presented in different venues at the same time. Moreover, some attendees felt that dual sessions reduced the camaraderie and unity that has been a hallmark of ISHE meetings. Another issue is the acceptance criteria for submissions; these may have to be considerably more restrictive if simultaneous sessions are to be avoided. More restrictive acceptance standards seem likely to have the greatest impact on student proposals. Perhaps a compromise solution would work well in the future, with just one or two

simultaneous sessions scheduled, and with those sessions selected to be scheduled simultaneously devoted to relatively specialized topics.



Three ISHE award winners – **Tamsin Saxton**, **Piotr Sorokowski**, and **Shelly Kemp** – and others celebrate the conclusion of a fine conference.

[photo by unidentified waitress]

ISHE08 was unquestionably a very successful and fruitful meeting, and I think I can speak for all attendees in expressing sincere gratitude to the hard-working and conscientious organizers: **Marco Costa**, **Pio Enrico Ricci Bitti** and **Luca Tommasi**. The Program Committee – **Wulf Schiefenhövel**, **Martin Brüne** and **Astrid Jütte** – and the student workers, as well as the benefactors at the University of Bologna, also deserve our heartfelt thanks.

Minutes: General Assembly

Thursday, July 17, 2008
University of Bologna, Italy

Present: Approximately 53 members

Officers: Glenn Weisfeld (President), Wolf Schiefenhövel (Vice President), Tom Alley (Bulletin Editor), Karl Grammer (Webmaster), Astrid Jütte (Membership Chair), Dori LeCroy (Treasurer), and Frank Salter (outgoing Secretary).

Trustees: John Richer (President), Irenäus Eibl-Eibesfeldt, Peter LaFreniere, Michael McGuire, and Johan van der Dennen.

Absent with notice: Bill McGrew

President Glenn Weisfeld called to order the General Assembly at 5pm. Minutes from the past meeting (August 3, 2006) were distributed, as was the treasurers' report. Frank Salter confirmed that a quorum (10% of active members present) was achieved. The minutes were approved by a majority vote.

Reports of Officers

The President, Glenn Weisfeld, reported that there were 99 talks and 56 posters at the Bologna conference, with 27 countries represented. He announced that the papers for the biology of religious behaviour symposium will be published by Praeger. Students who were first author on their contribution received complimentary registration, housing, and banquet fees. A poster competition was added this year. The President mentioned the Internet listserve for human ethology, inviting participation. The President also stated that ISHE had provided funding for the Darwinian Sesquicentennial at Cambridge University, and for a human ethology summer school in Novosibirsk, Russia, organized by ISHE member, Zhanna Reznikova

The Vice President, Wolf Schiefenhövel, talked about the success of the summer school program and stated that there had been 60 participants

from several countries, most of the participants being students. He expressed his positive opinions about the increasing interest of students in human ethology. He also encouraged the members of the assembly to think about the location for the upcoming summer school in 2009, as well as the location of the next conference in 2010.

The Secretary, Frank Salter, announced the ending of his term as Secretary. He announced that the Aldis scholarship was competitive and awarded \$8000 (USD) to students to do research, and that the trustees reviewed the applications. In 2003 there were 5 winners, 6 in 2004, 4 in 2005, 5 in 2006, and 5 in 2007. He also stated the Linda Mealey award, which is given every 2 years, with a \$2000 (USD) prize, has been given out such that there were 3 winners in 2004 and 4 in 2006.

The *Bulletin* Editor, Tom Alley, noted that an Associate Editor, Todd Shackelford, had stepped down due to other editorial duties, and that A.J. Figueredo and Aaron Goetz had joined the *Bulletin* Staff. He thanked Maryanne Fisher and Johan van der Dennen for their ongoing assistance with the *Bulletin*. He asked members of the assembly to consider receiving the *Bulletin* by e-mail rather than by regular post. As well, he has been working with the Webmaster, Karl Grammer, to put back issues of the *Bulletin* online. Finally, he raised the possibility of the *Bulletin* being converted into an online journal.

The Treasurer, Dori LeCroy, presented an annual financial report. She discussed the TIAA-CREF Report for 2006, 2007, and for the first 6 months of 2008, as well as the Linda Mealey Award Fund. In general, there is a decrease in the assets of ISHE due to general market trends. She announced that there is a new company for processing credit card transactions. After a conditional period, ISHE has been granted tax-exempt status by the US tax authorities.

The Membership Chair, Astrid Jütte, reported that as of July 1, there were 256 members, of which whom 222 were paid and 43 were student (free). 124 of members are from the USA or Canada, 112 are from Europe, and 20 are from other countries,

including Brazil and Australia. She asked attendees to encourage students to become members. She reported as well that she is still working to improve the database of members. New members are now listed in HEB, and she is working with the editor, Tom Dickens, of *The Journal of Evolutionary Psychology*, to see if a subscription discount for ISHE members can be offered, such as the agreement in place with *Human Nature*.

The Webmaster, Karl Grammer, noted that ISHE now has a new web server and software for the website, and he is working to integrate the membership database with other services. He is also working with the Editor, Tom Alley, to put *Bulletin* back issues, as well as current ones, online. He plans to continue to put job offers on the website in the future, and asked members of the assembly to forward any material they wish to see on the site to him.

It was moved to approve the offers' reports, and they were approved by the assembly.

Report of Trustees

The chairman, John Richer, emphasized that ISHE has always been a friendly Society, tolerant of eccentric ideas and as a result a forum also for the best and intellectually most disciplined and creative in our science. He commented on all of the positive changes seen in the past two years, such as the increased funding to students, summer school development, and enriched website, and thanked the board of officers for all of their efforts. He touched on the matter of revising the constitution. He announced the winners of the new poster contest (\$500 USD), as well as the 4 winners of the Linda Mealey Award. Those recipients who were present received certificates confirming their award. [see list of winners in this issue – Ed.]

Old Business

Election

Dori LeCroy announced Astrid Jütte had been re-elected as Membership Chair, and Maryanne Fisher as the incoming Secretary.

Approval of investment firm

President Glenn Weisfeld moved that ISHE adopt TIAA-CREF as the investment firm for ISHE. Peter LaFreniere and John Richer provided positive comments about the firm, commenting on their lower charge for handling a trust fund, the success of the fund, and the diversity of portfolios. The vote was in favour of adopting TIAA-CREF.

Dues structure

The assembly was asked to approve the existing dues structure of \$20 for one year, \$50 for 3 years, and \$75 for 5 years, with reduced fees of \$10 a year or \$25 for 3 years for students, retirees, low-income scholars, or, if requested, free membership to be reviewed yearly. This dues structure was approved by the assembly.

New Business**Call for proposal of summer school in 2009**

Peter LaFreniere proposed the University of Maine, Orono (near Bangor). The proposal was discussed.

Call for proposal of conference venue in 2010

Two sites were proposed and discussed:

1. Maria Lucia Seidl de Moura proposed Natal, Brazil.
2. Patrick Stewart proposed the University of Arkansas.

Online journal

The *HEB* Editor, Tom Alley, raised the issue of converting *HEB* into an online journal. *HEB* started as a newsletter, and expanded in length and diversity of content over time. An online journal would be cheaper than a paper version of *HEB*, it would also increase the impact of *HEB* on a global audience, and it could expand the scope of content. He discussed whether *HEB* would remain as it is and an online journal would be created, or whether *HEB* would change into an online journal. Discussion by the assembly followed.

Constitution

The President, Glenn Weisfeld, noted that the constitution of ISHE is undergoing some proposed changes that will need to be voted upon by the membership at the next congress. He commented that the constitution demands that members be provided with 30 days to review any proposed changes to the constitution, and hence, that the proposed changes could not be dealt with at the current meeting. However, he will provide members with a copy of the proposed revisions in ample time.

The General Assembly adjourned at 6:45pm.

Maryanne Fisher, Secretary

2008 Linda Mealey Awards Winners

Sebastian Kohl (Max Planck Institute, Andechs, Germany) – *Morning Sickness as an evolutionary mechanism of complex adaptation to pregnancy* – [with Wulf Schiefenhövel]

Laura Fortunato (University College London) – *Evolution of human social monogamy by maximization of inclusive fitness* – [with Marco Archetti]

Kristin Klingaman (Durham University, UK) – *An evolutionary perspective on breastfeeding after non-labour caesarean section delivery* – [with Helen Ball]

Tamsin Saxton (University of Liverpool, UK) – *Changes in attractiveness across the menstrual cycle are detectable in multiple modalities* – [with Ting Gao, Robert Burriss, Hannah Rowland, Jan Havlíček, & S. Craig Roberts]

ISHE08 Poster Award Winners

Shelly Kemp (University of Liverpool, UK) – *Are family special? An fMRI study into human kin recognition*

Dagmar Kohoutova (Charles University, Prague, Czech Republic) – *The effect of axillary hair shaving on odor pleasantness* – [with Jan Havlicek]

Piotr Sorokowski (University of Wrolow, Poland) – *Adaptive preferences for leg length in a potential partner: Report from 27 nations* – [with Boguslaw Pawlowski]

Dan Freedman (1927 – 2008)

Dan passed away this June of pancreatic cancer and leukemia. He had to cancel his summer class at the University of Chicago, but he continued to attract students to the end. A Festschrift was held in his honor there in 1997. He wrote two books himself: *Human Infancy: An evolutionary perspective* (1974, Erlbaum) and *Human Sociobiology: A holistic approach* (1979, Free Press). He also co-edited (with D. R. Omark & F. F. Strayer) *Dominance Relations: An ethological view of human conflict and social interaction* (1980, Garland Press). He was one of the founders of ISHE and was scheduled to present a paper in Bologna. Carol Weisfeld read the paper in his place. Jay Feerman has posted an obituary on our listserv (Human-Ethology@yahoogroups.com), and Nancy Segal released one to the press that appears in this *Bulletin*. Many of us grateful students were in touch with him at the end. He leaves two sons and his wife Jane Gorman.

Glenn Weisfeld

OBITUARY: Daniel G. Freedman

Dr. Daniel G. Freedman was a distinguished psychologist whose contributions to child development, behavioral genetics, human ethology and evolutionary psychology inspired colleagues and students, both in the United States and abroad. He was, according to one colleague, “ahead of his time in research and thinking about genes and behavior.” His articles and books anticipated many current scholarly themes in the behavioral sciences. Specifically, Dr. Freedman recognized that biological and evolutionary viewpoints were required for full understanding of the complex diversity of human behavior. These multiple perspectives are now being increasingly embraced by researchers in psychology and related fields.

Freedman’s academic career took him to many places. They include the University of California, Berkeley (BA, 1949), the University of Colorado (MA, 1953), and Brandeis University (Ph.D., 1957). He held a U.S. Public Health Service Fellowship at the Langley Porter Neuropsychiatric Institute, in San Francisco (1957-1959). He received an NIMH Special Fellowship for study at the Institute for

Medical Genetics, in Uppsala, Sweden (1963-1964), after which time he joined the Biology faculty at the University of Chicago (1964-1968). Next, he co-led (with Gregory Bateson) an observational study of different cultures, in conjunction with the International School of America (1971-1972). He then rejoined the University of Chicago as a Professor of Human Development (1977-present). During this time he visited the Australian National University, in Canberra (1979), the Hebrew University of Jerusalem (1986), and the Institute for Juvenile Research, in Chicago (1989). He was also associated with the Center for Family Studies, at Chicago's Northwestern University (1985-1986). Most recently, he was a visiting scholar at Nankai University, in Tianjin, China (1995). These intellectual excursions were opportunities to study cross-cultural consistencies in behavior, as well as cultural and individual variability (what Freedman referred to as "variations on the hominid theme").

Freedman's publications are memorable for always targeting the "big picture." His studies of behavioral variations in different dog breeds, personality development in infant twins and male-female differences in behavior were not only groundbreaking at the time, but are relevant to current intellectual questions. Upon his retirement, colleagues gathered for a festschrift in his honor, at the University of Chicago in October, 1995, funded by the American Psychological Association. This event culminated in a volume, *Uniting Psychology and Biology: Integrative Perspectives on Human Development*.

In his later years, as Professor Emeritus of Psychology at the University of Chicago, Dan moved to Ribera, New Mexico, where he pursued a number of interests. He was very concerned with issues of non-duality, especially the unity of biology and culture. He was scheduled to read a paper on this topic at the 2008 meeting of the International Society for Human Ethology, where he was also to be honored as one of the founders of the field.

Dan Freedman was much beloved by his graduate students. He was unique in that he was both an academic advisor and a personal mentor. He maintained close ties with many of his former

students over the years, more so than do most professors. All of them know this from personal experience, having been among those lucky students.

Nancy Segal

ADDRESS CHANGES: Members wishing to make address changes or other changes in their membership information should send their requests to the ISHE Membership Chair, Astrid Juetten, at astrid.juetten@kli.ac.at, or use the Chair's postal address as shown on the back cover of this issue.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

HEB to be Transformed into an On-Line Journal?

As announced at ISHE08, the *Bulletin* staff and ISHE officers are considering transforming the *Human Ethology Bulletin* into an on-line publication **with additional content consisting of peer-reviewed articles**. At this time, no decisions have been made and the input and advice of members is being sought. The benefits foreseen include [1] establishing a new publication outlet dedicated to human ethology, [2] increasing the availability, subscriber base, and global impact of the *Bulletin* and, probably, [3] a reduction in costs for ISHE. In any case, we plan to maintain *HEB* as a quarterly publication, retain the existing content (e.g., book reviews and announcement of new books and papers), and retain the ability for members to create a printed copy of each issue by simply printing an electronic (probably PDF) document.

Members are encouraged to submit any questions, concerns, advice or suggestions they may have on this matter. All responses from members can be sent to the *Bulletin* Editor at Alley@Clemson.edu.

2009 Maine Summer Institute in Human Ethology

Plans are under way for a **Summer Institute in Human Ethology** to be held 5-9 July 2009 on the campus of the University of Maine in Orono (USA). This will be the 2nd of what is anticipated to be a series of biennial ISHE summer institutes aimed at bringing students and young researchers together with established experts in human ethology and closely related fields. (The first was held in 2007 at the Max Planck Institute in Andechs Germany.) The University of Maine campus (see photos below) is composed of 161 buildings on 660 acres on the Stillwater River. Founded in 1865, it is located just 7 miles from the Bangor International Airport and near the picturesque [Acadia National Park](#). Details will be provided in future issues and on the ISHE website.



The University of Maine campus

ISHE members seeking graduate students or postdoc's are invited to submit material to inform and attract potential applicants for inclusion on the ISHE web site. Research interests, recent publications, etc. may be included, along with links to the person's department and personal or lab web pages. Such material can be sent to the ISHE Webmaster, Karl Grammer (see back cover).

The **National Evolutionary Synthesis Center (NESCent)** is now accepting proposals for sabbatical scholars, working groups and catalysis meetings. Proposals for postdoctoral fellowships are accepted at the December 1 deadline only. Proposals for sabbatical scholars (one semester to a full year), working groups and catalysis meetings are accepted twice a year, with June 15 and December 1 deadlines. Proposals for short-term visitors (2 weeks to 3 months) are considered four times a year, with deadlines on January 1, April 1, July 1 and September 1. For more information, please see our website at <https://www.nescent.org/science/proposals.php>.

www.ISHE.org

More past issues of ISHE *Newsletters* and *Bulletins* continue to be posted on the ISHE website. These **searchable** issues are in PDF format and can be found at:

<http://evolution.anthro.univie.ac.at/ishe/about%20us/bulletin%20contents/index.html>

The ISHE website has also undergone some minor redesign, including making it easier to find the archived issues from the home page.

Electronic Subscriptions

Would you like to receive the *Bulletin* sooner? ... up to 4 weeks sooner! Wish you had an electronic version to allow easier searching of the *Bulletin's* contents and easier filing of back issues? Want to see full color, higher resolution photographs in the *Bulletin*? ... You can easily make these wishes come true by requesting an electronic (PDF) subscription. Switching to an electronic version will get you the *Bulletin* faster and with full color photographs and working URLs. You can also feel good about this choice because an electronic subscription 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 (astrid.juette@kli.ac.at). The default for new and renewed *Bulletin* subscriptions is now an electronic subscription, although members who pay dues can still receive the printed version by requesting it at the time of renewal. Most members now receiving the *Bulletin* in printed form will continue to do so until they renew or request otherwise.

A new MIT Press journal, *Evolutionary Applications*, welcomes papers about evolution and medicine. The editors welcome queries about possible contributions. Articles in the first volume are available for free download. More information is available on the [Evolution and Medicine Network](#).

Longtime ISHE member **Lionel Tiger** reports that Transaction Publishers will issue books in a series called *ANTHROPOLOGY AND HUMAN NATURE*. Transaction is widely considered the publisher of record in the social sciences and it will be clear from this initiative that it sees biosocial research and thought part of its broad mandate. Prof. Tiger is the Series Editor and will be happy to respond to queries about the press and specific potential projects. He can be reached at ltiger@anthropology.rutgers.edu.

[The Evolution & Medicine Review](#) is a new open-access online publication created by and for the community of scientists, scholars, clinicians and teachers working at the interface of evolution and medicine. It is affiliated with [The Evolution and Medicine Network](#) and will provide many additional resources.

Scientists who have volunteered to serve as Senior Correspondents write the main articles. Most are brief commentaries on recent papers or meetings; some are ideas or reviews that would not fit well in a traditional journal. The larger aim of [The Evolution & Medicine Review](#) (EMR) is to help build the evolution and medicine community by providing a central information resource that everyone can use and contribute to. The EMR makes it easy to share information about meetings, courses, jobs and more.

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Human Nature is now published by Springer. Springer offers a discounted subscription for 2008 to ISHE members. You can phone Springer at 1-800-SPRINGER, e-mail service-ny@springer.com, or go to the website [www.springer.com] to place a subscription order. Please identify yourself as an ISHE member. It is best to phone or email Springer to identify your affiliation with ISHE.

The *Journal of Developmental Processes (JDP)* focuses on the complex and dynamic biological, social, and cultural aspects of developmental systems in humans and other animals. The journal is interdisciplinary, and includes all the disciplines that contribute to our understanding of developmental processes, the factors that influence them, the mechanisms through which they work, and the enormous variations observed throughout the course of life.

Dr. Gail Melson, *JDP*'s new Editor (after Dr. Barbara King), cordially invites you to submit your work to the *JDP* for possible publication. The journal is peer reviewed and focuses on a broad range of studies and narratives that are necessary for a full understanding of developmental processes. It embraces quantitative work underpinned with statistics, as well as qualitative studies (incl. clinical studies and case descriptions)

and book reviews. All submissions should be in electronic format (preferably Microsoft Word) and adhere to APA guidelines for publications (see <http://www.apastyle.org>). For full guidelines and to see previous issues of the *JDP*, please visit: <http://www.icdl.com/bookstore/journal/index.shtml>

Please send submissions to Gail Melson at melsong@purdue.edu with a cc to jdpstaff@gmail.com

CURRENT LITERATURE

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Upcoming Conferences

Evolution: The Experience

February 8-13, 2009 – Melbourne, Australia

<http://www.evolution09.com.au/>

Darwin's Reach: Celebrating Darwin's Legacy Across the Disciplines

March 12-14, 2009 – Hofstra University (USA)

http://www.hofstra.edu/Community/culctr/culctr_events_darwin.html

Society for Biological Psychiatry

14-16 May 2009 – Vancouver, Canada

<http://www.sobp.org>

Association for Psychological Science (APS)

22-25 May 2009 – San Francisco, California

<http://www.psychologicalscience.org/convention/schedule.cfm>

ISHE Maine Summer Institute in Human Ethology

5-9 July 2009 – University of Maine, Orono (USA)

(see Announcements above)

Northeastern Evolutionary Psychology Society (NEEPS)

July 9–12, 2009 – State University of New York at Oswego (USA)

<http://neepsociety.org/>

American Psychological Association (APA)

6-9(?) August 2009 – Toronto, Ontario, Canada

12-15(?) August 2010 – San Diego, California

Forthcoming in the *Human Ethology Bulletin*

Book Reviews

- ***Necessary Knowledge*** (Oxford University Press, 2007) by **Henry Plotkin** – reviewed by Shawn A. Collier
 - ***Oxford Handbook of Evolutionary Psychology*** (Oxford University Press, 2007) edited by R.I.M. Dunbar & Louise Barrett – reviewed by Glenn Weisfeld
 - ***Who's Afraid of Charles Darwin? Debating Feminism and Evolutionary Theory*** (Rowman & Littlefield Publishers, 2005) by **Griet Vandermassen** – reviewed by Maryanne Fisher
 - ***Why Beautiful People Have More Daughters*** (Penguin Press, 2007) by **Alan S. Miller & Satoshi Kanazawa** – reviewed by Daniel P. Howrigan and Farnaz Kaighobadi
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