

Human Ethology Bulletin

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A Tribute to Glenn Weisfeld President of ISHE 2006-2010

Glenn has supported ISHE for more than two decades with great energy and hard work. He was *Bulletin* editor between 1991 and 1998, Vice President, from 2002 to 2006, and then President from 2006 up to 2010. When he was editor of the *Human Ethology Bulletin*, Glenn gave an interview in July 1992 to Frans Roes at the ISHE meeting in Amsterdam. It was published in the *European Sociobiological Society Newsletter*. At the end he was asked about whether sociobiological ideas could be used to justify racism or sexism, he replied, "No... if it turns out that there are some aspects of human nature that are inconsistent with some ideological conception or some social ideal, I would say we have to be realistic. We can't erect a social system that is based on a misunderstanding of human nature. Any good social system is realistic. The more we know about human nature, the better our social systems will be. In other words, I don't think that ideology ought to dictate the facts, the facts have to dictate the appropriate social policy."

Glenn's attachment to the facts and the scientific method is well illustrated here, but also his sense of the social implications and value of this work, and underneath that, a strong moral stance. All these qualities have helped him steer ISHE through some fractious times. When Owen Aldis generously bequeathed the Society a large sum of money it allowed many new projects to be undertaken, but, inevitably, it created tensions. It now looks as if we are through that period, thanks in no small measure to Glenn's hard work, done with courtesy and honesty, at times necessary firmness, and the objectivity and courage to see when he needed to change his mind if the facts and logic dictated. Glenn is owed a large debt of gratitude from the Society for this stewardship.

These same qualities have influenced his scientific work. As he says on his website, his "early research was on peer relations among adolescents and employed observational, questionnaire, and cross-cultural methods to discover correlates of popularity and dominance." Unlike many human ethologists, Glenn first trained in the more solid ground of Zoology, before moving to the scientifically shakier ground of psychology. To Robert Hinde the term "Human Ethology" was an oxymoron, since the comparative approach was essential: one could not have an ethology of one species. However, one can retain the comparative approach while studying one species.

Glenn's early training helped him do just that. But he was also aware that studying humans, ourselves, required special methods, so he combined observational work with cross cultural studies and with asking questions of subjects. His first chosen group, adolescents, was one where, some people might have expected, grunts and snorts would have greeted his questions! But eventually, and with the help of the evolutionary framework within which all behavioural needs to be set, this work culminated in the 1999 book "*Evolutionary principles of human adolescence*". Subsequently his work has branched out into cross cultural studies of marital relations, humor (a necessary ingredient of lasting marital relations?), and olfaction in kin recognition. He continued his interest in peer relations and social dominance, including studies of the emotions of pride and shame. His interest in linking animal and human studies was shown in the book edited with his wife Carol and with Nancy Segal: "*Uniting Psychology and Biology: Integrative Perspective on Human Development*", which was a Festschrift to Dan Freedman.

Glenn has been a frequent contributor to ISHE meetings. A few examples: *Research on Emotions and Future Developments in Human Ethology*

(Vienna 1996), *Sibling and Offspring Recognition by Olfaction* (Vancouver 1998), *Marriage and Emotional Wellbeing in Three Cultures* (Salamanca 2000), *What's Important -Marital Satisfaction or Reproductive Success?* (with Carol Weisfeld, Montreal 2002).

No tribute to Glenn can pass without a tribute to his wife Carol, a distinguished scholar in her own right, who has worked with Glenn in many research projects and in supporting ISHE, including being co-organiser with Glenn of the Detroit meeting in 2006.

Now that ISHE's presidency makes its quadrennial journey back and forth across the pond, I should like most warmly to thank Glenn, and Carol, for their magnificent work for ISHE, and for their good friendship.

John Richer
Oxford
Chair, ISHE Board of Trustees

John Richer heads the Department of Paediatric Psychology at the John Radcliffe Hospital in Oxford. He has worked with autistic children for over 30 years, and is today known internationally for his work in this field. He was an early advocate of the connection between diet and autism. He has published a number of papers, and presented at gatherings around the world, on the subject of autism and other topics including attachment issues, hyperactivity, nutrition and behavior, behavior problems, the rise of psychosocial problems in modern societies and ethological approaches to children's behavior.

BOOK REVIEWS

Men: Evolutionary and Life History

By **Richard G. Bribiescas**
Cambridge, MA: Harvard University Press,
2006, 306pp. ISBN: 978-0-674-03034-3
[Pbk, \$28.95 USD].

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Every so often, a good book remains relatively unnoticed by the academic community. One such book is *Men: Evolutionary and Life History*, which was released in paperback in 2006, and authored by Richard Bribiescas, a professor of anthropology and director of the Yale Reproductive Ecology Laboratory. This was not a book that I was keen to read, mostly because the back cover summary advertised it in terms of men's dominance in risk taking and violence. The summary sounded like a few lines from the summary of Daly and Wilson's (1988) infamous book *Homicide*. However, I casually flipped through the first few pages and was immediately struck by the quality of the writing and the variety of topics. The book is not centered on the topics of violence or male risk-taking, but rather it deals with exploring all issues related to male reproductive success.

In the final pages of the book, Bribiescas writes, "evolutionary and life history theory propose that all organisms, including humans, are subject to selection pressures that favor optimal lifetime reproductive success –the passing of one's genetic makeup to future generations- not

longevity" (p224). Thus, the book encompasses a large assortment of issues, including sex differentiation in the womb, sexual dimorphism, sex ratios, brain development, mortality rates, immune system maintenance, sperm generation and quality, aging, the pros and cons of fatherhood and grandfatherhood, and testosterone's impact on the body. In spite of the assortment of issues, Bribiescas does a superb job at structuring the book so that one idea naturally flows into the next.

The first chapter is one that most members of ISHE will find rather dry, as it covers the basics of natural selection and evolutionary theory. However, it is an important addition to the text, as it allows those external to this subject area to understand the book more fully. The chapter, like the rest of the book, is extremely well written and very well supported with references. Due to the intuitive way he introduces ideas, I used various parts of this chapter in my fourth year human ethology course as a review for students who may not have clearly understood the issues of "nonrandom elimination" (pps 14-15) or macroevolutionary vs. microevolutionary processes (pps 13-14). The students were very positive in their comments about these pages, and a few have even asked to borrow the book to read over their holidays! Due to their response, as well as the variety of topics covered, I will definitely contemplate using this book as one of the required texts when I teach this course in the future.

The second chapter focuses on introducing life history theory, and addresses topics such as how an organism decides to allocate its time versus energy, and why organisms die. Chapter three reviews human evolution, explaining why men exist. The short fourth chapter covers sex ratios, and how males are favored culturally. This is followed by a chapter outlining male fetal development, including brain growth and the role of hormones.

Chapter six pertains to childhood and adolescence, with issues such as growth spurts, hormonal development, and risk-taking mentioned. The seventh chapter deals with sexual functioning and sperm quality vs. quantity, and then turns to paternity uncertainty and paternal investment. Chapter eight reviews energy expenditure, body fat, muscle growth and testosterone, while chapter nine reviews the interaction of the immune system and testosterone, as well as prostate cancer. The tenth chapter is devoted to aging and senescence.

The final short chapter is the most speculative in the book, and pertains to men's involvement in war. After discussing paternity uncertainty, the author argues, "without the inhibitions that result from not wanting to harm their offspring or kin, men might well be less restrained than women in their actions, at a personal and global level" (p. 223).

One aspect of the book that I found truly refreshing was that Bribiescas is skeptical. He often presents the findings from an academic paper, but then questions its veracity using other sources. For example, when reviewing the literature on testosterone, he writes, "Most of the information we have on testosterone comes from clinical data collected in developed areas of the world. Despite the value of these data, there is ample reason to believe that men living sedentary lives in industrialized societies do not represent the total range or the most common pattern of human variation" (pp 167). This tone of skepticism is consistent throughout the book, and it leads the reader to be more thoughtful about the presented material.

In other parts of the book, multiple explanations are presented, and Bribiescas discusses each logically until the reader is left with one, seemingly correct, conclusion. One excellent example of this process occurs when he writes of senescence. He presents various

possibilities, including the idea that one does not want to overburden the environment and subsequent generations (related to group selection), that organisms simply burn themselves out (based on George Williams' work in the 1950s), and that genetic defects accumulate. The final hypothesis is the disposable soma theory (from Tom Kirkwood) and it seems the most logical in part because it is congruent with life history theory. This theory posits "allocating energy to processes such as growth and reproduction limited the resources that could be used to keep up with accumulating genetic and somatic defects" (p. 198).

In general, I thoroughly enjoyed reading this book and highly recommend it to my students and colleagues. This is not to say that I agreed with the presentation of all the material. For example, when reviewing why men will not use oral contraceptives, he claims that it is part because of the loss of libido men will face (p. 190). He inadvertently leads the reader to believe that women's use of oral contraceptives has no impact on their sex drives, when in fact, this remains a controversial topic. Recently, a review of the scientific literature revealed that when examined in randomized, placebo trials, oral contraceptives most likely result in a loss of women's libido (Davis & Castaño, 2004).

In closing, it is important to note that Bribiescas also incorporates cross-cultural data, data based on hunter-gatherer populations, and comparative data from various animal species. The result is a very convincing book that represents an outstanding introduction to integrating evolutionary and life history approaches to the study of human behavior. At the very least, this book would be superb for an upper-year undergraduate course, but in my opinion, anyone will find this text to be highly interesting and informative.

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Emotion Science

By **Elaine Fox**

Palgrave Macmillan, 2008, 480 pp. ISBN:
0230005187 [Pbk, \$54.95,] / 0230005179
[Hdbk, \$102.00]

Reviewed by **Candace J. Black** and **W. Jake
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For those of us inclined towards a selectionist perspective, *Emotion Science* is just as instructive for what it omits versus what it covers. Let us explain.

Emotion Science offers a panoramic view of a vast literature taken from the perspective of a cognitive neuroscientist. This approach is particularly informative for researchers in need of a concise summary of the extant emotion literature. The descriptions of most of the research topics are brief, almost encyclopedic, and hence permit the reader to survey large research areas without investing substantial time in reading the original literature. This format directs the reader to the relevant primary sources that fill in the details. The benefits of having this tool are clear: A researcher interested in a cognitive neuroscience approach to emotion will use *Emotion Science* as a reference to identify critical ideas, findings, and papers in specific parts of the literature. One must weigh this benefit against the limits of the strategy. Competent readers will forge through a dense thicket of

information, exercising the caution always associated with using secondary sources.

Each chapter uses a different perspective to discuss emotion research. The method leads to repetitive descriptions of the same or similar topics, a drawback indicative not of the author's ability to organize such an expansive amount of information, but rather of the chimerical nature of emotion research itself. Nuanced – often conflicting – distinctions among research endeavors make it difficult to find solid scaffolding upon which we can build a coherent science. As so often happens in science, the failure to assimilate specific findings with other approaches or levels of analysis often overshadows the achievements of a research project. For example, studies employing advanced brain imaging techniques rarely address the adaptive function or developmental pathways leading to brain activity. The method itself limits a researcher's ability to conduct externally valid studies or to measure actual behavior beyond that permitted by the imaging technology (see e.g., Harmon-Jones & Peterson, 2009). Moreover, there is little discussion of or concern about how physiology translates into phenomenological experience or behavior.

Emotion Science attempts to provide a comprehensive overview of cognitive and neuroscientific research on emotion. Consequently, the lack of depth imprints little of the subject matter on the reader. This is caused, in part, by the methods highlighted by the book: neuroscientific data often seem piecemeal because they are products of the numerous limitations of this type of research. For example, we have only a general idea of the involvement of brain areas in behavior because of the coarse resolution of our imaging techniques; moreover, we have no solid data that support a direct relation among specific brain activities, thoughts, and actions. *Emotion*

Science clearly reflects these flaws in the imaging literature.

The publishers declare *Emotion Science* a useful introductory textbook for undergraduates, graduates, and as a reference for researchers. This is true in the sense that the book discusses an array of research on emotion but the coverage oscillates unpredictably between the simple and the complex, making it difficult to discern the primary audience. The challenge in synthesizing material from more advanced levels of training may intimidate introductory level students while the basic coverage of some topics may bore the more sophisticated. For example, the author assumes a considerable background in neural anatomy and physiology, imaging techniques such as fMRI, and genetics. *Emotion Science* provides only a cursory overview of the structure of the brain and then refers the reader to neuroscience textbooks to learn the rest on their own. Similarly, the descriptions of brain imaging technology and genetics are brief and basic.

The author offers cautious evaluations of the literature cited, permitting summarized findings without biased appraisals of the claims. Although the advanced researcher may favor these objective evaluations, they provide little guidance for relatively naïve undergraduates. Where there is a clear role for critical thinking, the reader finds none and must turn to the primary literature to check the details.

In contrast to her descriptive caution, the author uses elemental terms that make intuitive sense, such as “opposite emotion”. Terms such as this, however, suffer from two problems: excess surplus meaning and no solid taxonomic grounding. One must ask how an “opposite emotion” (p. 89) can be defined with any certainty. The author also describes research in a way that implicitly assumes appraisal requires explicit awareness or consciousness

(e.g., p. 114) – a claim comparative research easily refutes (see e.g., LeDoux, 1996 for a carefully nuanced argument). Indeed, the idea that ‘cognitive’ processes need not be explicit is not emphasized enough. Finally, the author notes that people are limited to describing emotions in terms of valence and arousal, and suggests this might reflect real emotional experiences (p. 122); this is a limitation of language, however, not of emotional experience.

Evolutionary Psychologists will find central concepts missing from this book. The author provides a brief nod to an evolutionary perspective of emotions. Early in the text, the author discusses evolution as only relevant to biological adaptations in the ancestral past. It is possible that this sidestepping of the role of evolution in emotion is a strategic one to avoid criticism often directed toward ultimate models of behavior. It is unfortunate that a potentially unifying selectionist theory is neither considered nor discussed.

Similarly, Ethologists may find the book lacking because it prioritizes laboratory-based research. While laboratory-based studies have their scientific merits, the question of external validity lurks in the background. Moreover, for a topic that certainly plays a significant role in intra- and interspecies communication, one wonders how informative a study can be when the participant is immobile, alone, and passively watching images on a computer screen. Ethologists be warned: You will not find Tinbergen’s four questions considered here.

The lack of naturalistic studies will disappoint both Evolutionary Psychologists and Ethologists. We have few adequate descriptions of the basic characteristics of emotions, the role emotions might play in the daily lives of humans or other animals, or methods/research that might permit us to distinguish emotions

that are natural kinds (Latent Constructs) from cultural artifacts (Emergent Constructs) (see Tracy, Robins, & Schriber, 2009) for an example of this ongoing process). *Emotion Science* describes a host of theoretical approaches (e.g., the information-processing model) to these under-characterized Latent or Emergent Constructs – but does not consider an equally robust selectionist approach (see, e.g., Bolles & Beecher, 1988; Campbell, 1960, 1974; Darwin, 1859; Edelman, 1984, 2006, 2007; Fleischer et al., 2007; Skinner, 1981) to the same constructs. This failure to consider selectionist models at this level prevents us from understanding the *function* of emotions, and curtails our efforts toward integrating emotion research both vertically (with neurobiological and evolutionary approaches) and horizontally (with ethological and naturalistic approaches).

The relevance of emotion research to clinical research is clear; as a book marketed as an introduction to the study of emotion, however, *Emotion Science* lacks alternative hypotheses to explain what clinicians consider “aberrant” emotional behavior. More often than not, the misguided assumption that only ‘normal’ people flourish underpins the arguments. This perspective ignores the possibility that individuals classified as ‘abnormal’ may use *strategic* approaches appropriate to their environment (Figueredo & Jacobs, in press). For example, the use of aggression (and its related emotions) may reflect tactics appropriate for the perceived affordances in an individual’s social ecology.

In sum, Elaine Fox has produced a compendium of emotion research in cognitive neuroscience. The sheer amount of literature discussed in this book is indicative of the painstaking work that surely must have been involved in the writing the book. *Emotion Science* offers a glimpse of current emotion research conducted in the laboratory; in so doing its contents highlight an enormous – and

intellectually unsettling – gap in the science of emotion.

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(ARG). ARG uses approaches anchored in
evolutionary psychology and clinical science to
examine a self-regulation, rule governance and a
model of specific phobia, panic attacks, and post-
traumatic stress disorder.

Sensation Seeking and Risky Behavior

By **Marvin Zuckerman**

American Psychological Association, 2007,
xix + 309pp. ISBN: 1-59147-738-7 [Hbk,
US\$59.95].

Reviewed by **Thomas R. Alley**

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Ethologists may be most obviously interested in
invariant behaviors that appear across
boundaries of time and geography. There is
nonetheless, a critical need to know about
individual differences. For one, otherwise
invariant behavior and motivations typically
must be seen through the veil of individual
differences in expression, such as those caused
by cultural or environmental variation. For
another, many individual differences have a
biological basis and can reflect alternative
adaptive strategies. Such appears to be the case
with the personality trait of sensation seeking
and its behavioral consequences.

Sensation seeking (SS) is a trait involving a
tendency to seek novel, varied, complex, and
intense sensations and experiences and the
willingness to take risks (e.g., physical and
social) in order to have such experiences. It is
important to note that SS can occur without risk
taking, as when selecting a familiar and safe
but spicy food to eat rather than a bland one.
High levels of SS, nonetheless, will make
people more likely to take the risk of eating
unfamiliar foods (Alley & Potter, in press).
That is, high levels of SS promote risk taking,
but risk taking is not a reliable indicator of SS.

Sensation Seeking and Risky Behavior (SSARB) is the most recent book by the most important SS researcher and theorist, Marvin Zuckerman. To some extent, this book is an updated version of his earlier books, *Sensation seeking: Beyond the optimal level of arousal* (1979) and *Behavioral expressions and biosocial bases of sensation seeking* (1994), which also covered the origins of the SS concept and the development of scales used to measure it. Research on SS has continued to expand and multiply, a point amply illustrated by the 45 pages of references in *SSARB*, so there is much to be gained from an updated review. This is particularly true in the area of biological aspects of SS where genetic and biochemical studies have revealed important findings (e.g., relatively high heritability of SS; connections between SS and the neurotransmitter-regulating enzyme, MAO) and led to new models. In addition to updated coverage of the literature, Zuckerman's most recent book also has a different emphasis, risky behavior, as captured in the title. In contrast, the 1994 book devoted only one chapter to this topic. These earlier books (1979; 1994), however, provide broader coverage of SS and related topics such as art preferences, humor and creativity. The focus on associations between SS and risk taking allows Zuckerman to extensively review a multitude of risky behaviors, all of which have been linked to SS; and SS appears to a more important factor in risky behavior than is either impulsivity or aggression.

Zuckerman is to be commended for being open to constructive criticism and new ideas (e.g., Arnett, 1994), and for being duly responsive to data whether or not it fit his expectations at the time. This openness and responsiveness surely has contributed to the lasting recognition of SS as an important individual difference and worthy topic of research. This also enhances the value of *SSARB* as a scholarly resource for those interested in SS, any form of risk taking, and individual differences.

SSARB provides some insightful historical review of changes in concepts, beliefs and measurements, but the majority of the book's content is concerned with reviewing the evidence for links between SS and a wide variety of risky behaviors. In addition, the final chapter deals with the "Prevention and Treatment of Unhealthy Risk-Taking Behavior" such as substance abuse and unsafe sexual activities. Coverage of historical matters is largely restricted to Chapter 1, including the origins of the SS concept in sensory deprivation research and its ties to Optimal Level of Arousal theories. This chapter also reviews research results that are pertinent to SS as a concept and SS as a biologically based trait, and briefly reviews the development of the Sensation Seeking Scales (SSS) used to measure it.

Theories and models of risk and risk appraisal are the focus of Chapter 2, with the question "Why do they do it (or not do it)?" at the heart of the discussion. The central chapters tackle various kinds of risky behavior: driving, sports and vocations (Chap. 3); substance use and abuse (Chap. 4); sex (Chap. 5); and crime, antisocial behavior and delinquency (Chap. 6). By the time Zuckerman gets to prevention and treatment issues in the final chapter (7), it is clear that SS plays a major role in unhealthy risk taking, and that attempts to prevent or reduce these risky behaviors need to consider the trait of SS. For instance, public health campaigns that emphasize the risky elements of drug use may be effective for those with low SS tendencies, but not for high those high on SS. Yet the sensation seekers are far more likely to become drug abusers and, therefore, to be the appropriate targets of such campaigns.

SSARB covers a huge amount of material in less than 250 pages of text. Often, this is an admirable virtue of a book that favors terse text and makes effective use of numerous tables (19) and figures (24). Zuckerman has a knack for

short and clear summary statements, like “most high sensation seekers are not psychopathic, but most psychopaths are high sensation seekers” (p. 187). On the down side, some may find the text, although very efficient, to be uncomfortably dense and too reliant on acronyms. The author appears to be very fond of acronyms, making the text compact but difficult to read in places. For instance: “HR, unlike SCR, had the advantage of being able to detect DRs and SRs as well as ORs” (p.15). The book has no list of abbreviations, amplifying the difficulty such heavy use of abbreviations poses for many readers. The subject index, however, does include most (all?) acronyms, sometimes with dual (and redundant) listings, as is the case for the listings of “*NSES*” and “*Nonsexual Experience Seeking Scale*”.

Scholars who are especially interested in evolutionary aspects of SS or risk taking may be somewhat disappointed with *SSARB*, for this book has little explicit discussion of evolution or about the adaptive significance of SS. The entry for “evolution” in the index only lists four pages. Even the chapter on sexual behavior (Chapter 5), which ends with a brief section on the “Evolutionary significance” of sexual SS, devotes less than one page to this topic. Those seeking insights on SS within an evolutionary theory may need to look elsewhere (e.g., Jones et al., 2007; MacDonald, 1998). Nonetheless, *SSARB* is full of material with obvious relevance to those interested in evolutionary perspectives on behavior. Two good examples are a section on assortative mating and a longer discussion of the heritability of the SS trait. In the former, Zuckerman, after noting that “personality trait correlations between spouses are usually low or close to zero” (p. 36), lists a good number of studies from four countries that reveal correlations in the SS scores of spouses as well as in unmarried couples in long-term relationships. The ensuing discussion is disappointing, being both brief and making an unsubstantiated connection

between SS and the “exciting personality” attribute that was found to be consistently favored in a report (Buss et al., 1990) from the well known study of mate selection across 37 cultures. While the very limited discussion of evolutionary issues is typical for *SSARB*, dubious speculation is not, as seen in Zuckerman’s careful and qualified discussion of the heritability of the SS trait. Here, Zuckerman reviews the existing studies on heritability, concluding that SS appears to have relatively high heritability (.5 - .6) for a personality trait, and seems remarkably uninfluenced by environmental variation. His discussion includes cautions about using comparison between identical and fraternal twins raised together, careful use of parent-child correlations, and an insightful analysis of some empirical results indicating a powerful effect of religious (vs. non-religious) upbringing on SS.

Having taken pains to point out some weaknesses and limitations of *SSARB*, I must be clear that this is an important and impressive book. The comprehensive and painstaking nature of Zuckerman’s approach – incorporating work in genetics, biochemistry, criminology, psychophysiology, public health, sociology, motivation, cognition, clinical psychology and more – gives this treatise a remarkable depth and richness, and should give it broad appeal. Altogether, this is a book that can be recommended to a wide spectrum of psychologists and others, and that is essential for researchers interested in SS, personality, public health, or risky behavior.

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Children and Play

By **Peter K. Smith**

Hoboken, NJ: Wiley-Blackwell, 2010, 256 pp.
ISBN 978-0-631-23522-4 ISBN 9:
780631235224 [Hdbk US \$ 99.95]

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Play means different things to different people, and in *Children and Play*, Professor Peter Smith does well in clearly defining what it is and what it is not from the outset, with reference to various theoretical perspectives. This rigorous approach adds significantly to the clarity of the work, but perhaps contributes to a lack of accessibility by a casual or general readership. The book has a clear and well organized structure, and following the introduction to the construct of play, Smith outlines a history of theories of play including usual suspects such as Piaget and Vygotsky. There is also reference to the psychologist Smilansky and discussion of where her theory overlaps and departs from Piaget.

Professor Smith has conducted research in the area of children's play for around 40 years and is in a good position to over-view the history of research into play, the current situation, and future directions. The author adopts a tone which is both informative and reassuring. I enjoyed reading it. The statements were usually qualified and referenced to the evidence base, some of which are Smith's own studies in the area. Generally, it gave the sense of being a comprehensive overview from which I could then draw conclusions for myself. This is not to say that Smith does not provide commentary and opinion; he does this frequently, though it

is in a way that is well considered and not dogmatic. There were a number of tables and figures to support the text, especially early in the book when terms were being defined. Usually I find this distracting, but the tables were not overly complicated and were accessible.

Professor Smith covers what is known about animal play and play behavior from a cross-cultural perspective. I was surprised to see that play behavior had been identified in invertebrates, less surprised about birds and more familiar with the concept of mammalian play. The mammalian section was by far the largest, with specific detail presented on the play behavior of the meerkat, fur seal and domestic cat. In a later chapter, pretend play is given particular consideration with regard to its evolution. Smith describes that what is observed as pretend play in non-human species such as great apes, may simply be by-products of symbolic intelligence and more related to imitation, matching abilities, and so on. From this position, Smith briefly discusses that this would date the development of pretend play to an emergence during hominid evolution, and refers to Carruthers' (2002) suggestion that pretend play emerged in the 50 – 60,000 years following the emergence of *Homo sapiens* as a species, perhaps out of a pre-disposition for rough and tumble play. Smith also describes an alternative hypothesis which is that pretend play has been around for millions of years, one possibility being that it emerged in parallel with language.

The remainder of this chapter is spent reviewing the empirical evidence for the function of pretend play from cross-cultural studies, and experimental studies. The main focus is on reviewing the evidence in the context of three models, "pretend play as a by-product of development", "pretend play as one facilitator of development among a number", and "pretend play as essential to

development". Smith comments that he believes the evidence indicates support for pretend play as one facilitator of development amongst others, but clarifies that the evidence is not conclusive. Consideration is briefly given as to how the evidence base fits with Carruthers' theory of more recent emergence of pretend play. I did wonder whether this coverage would be enough to hold the interest of a reader with in-depth knowledge of evolutionary psychology and I think it is perhaps likely to be of more interest to say a developmental or educational psychologist who wants to know how familiar concepts and theories might fit into an evolutionary framework.

The evolutionary perspective of play (in general) is considered in a chapter of some 18 pages, and though it is not a major part of the book in terms of volume, it conceptually links several sections, namely animal play (and the justification for looking at this), and the cross cultural perspective. The life history perspective (which involves reviewing the costs and benefits of a behavior across the lifespan) was used as a guiding framework in relation to evolution and play. I felt that there was enough detail for those only briefly acquainted with evolutionary theory to follow. For example, there was clear description of how a "K strategy" (Stearns, 1976; i.e., high parental investment in child rearing) is more associated with a high level of encephalization. In relation to play, a life span perspective might indicate that the balance toward the usefulness for play is high for K selected species. This analysis was interesting. However, I did wonder whether there was enough to hold the interest of someone with a significant grounding in evolutionary psychology. There was discussion of how play relates to individual fitness and inclusive fitness (Hamilton, 1964), as well as Gould and Lewontin's (1979) concept of the spandrel. The concepts were presented first, followed by a review of what is known from

the research, and then again a discussion about this from the evolutionary perspective.

Before reading *Children and Play*, I thought that it was a given that play was essential for children's development (both cognitive and social), serving the vital function of allowing children to rehearse skills needed for adulthood without real world consequences. After reading this book, my perspective was that the evidence for play being considered a necessity for development was not as definitive as I had believed. In fact, cross cultural studies indicate that the emphasis on play varies considerably by culture, with some cultures (e.g., Yucatan Maya people of Mexico) believing that children should acquire skills primarily through observation and imitation, with play not being given any special status beyond that of a sign of health. Animal observations further indicate that play behavior serves the needs of adults as well as the child (think distraction of a hungry infant). Could play simply be one of a number of routes through which successful cognitive and social development occurs?

Perhaps I had been falling into line with the largely Western construct, described in the literature as the "play ethos" (Smith, 1988). The play ethos is the term given to what has been identified as a general theme running through play research in the west, namely that play is without question, a necessary part of child development. The play ethos may thus refer to an over-idealization of the need and importance of play. It then got me thinking about the commodification of play and how structured children's play can sometimes be. To some extent, this captures what I liked about the book. It had me thinking about play from a number of different perspectives, and with reference to the evidence base. As a practitioner of clinical psychology in the child and adolescent area, as well as a research student, I was interested in this topic both from an applied perspective, and also how it was

handled conceptually from the evolutionary perspective. Smith's perspective seemed to be that while the animal studies and cross cultural studies provide evidence for the use of play across species and across culture, a strict adherence to the play ethos overstates the role and importance of play in development, based on the evidence as it stands. This is particularly the case with certain types of play, such as parent-child interactions, which in some cultures are not seen as developmentally important or even relevant.

Given the perception of the prevalence of children being linked into technology at increasingly younger ages, I was interested in whether this would be covered in an overview of children's play. In particular, I was interested in whether the topic of social networking, gaming and other semi-structured interactions of the on-line era would be dealt with. I think that the research on the impact (on development) of computer interactions, and play being undertaken in on-line environment may be a bit thin at present, and it may be an interesting addition for future editions. I was pleasantly surprised to see a chapter on the role of play in helping children under stress or disability. Equally, I was surprised to see that attachment theory received only a brief mention, given that conceptually a secure attachment facilitates cognitive resources being applied to play and exploration. I also wondered about the role of play in facilitating child and adult attachment/bonding and thought that this warranted further discussion and review.

In general, the strength of the book lies in the fact that it gives a good general overview of the play area and brings together a number of perspectives. This may also be a weakness. It was interesting reading and I enjoyed the book, but at various points I wondered who the target audience was and/or who it would be suitable for, given that the information was perhaps not

practical enough for use as a guide to an applied psychology practitioner or teacher (although there was a well considered section at the end which dealt with war play, the role of recess breaks and an extensive discussion of play therapy). Furthermore, while the information was general, it was sufficiently detailed to disqualify it from light general reading. I am not sure that there was anything specific that I could take away from this that I could use in my clinical work with children, or as a parent. Despite this, for people involved in the lives of young children, and wanting to gain knowledge about the role and function of play, it is helpful in considering what sometimes is taken for granted. From a research perspective, it gave me the sense of being a very good general overview of the area and may be helpful in identifying avenues for future research. For example, at a practical level, research regarding the impact of recess breaks of varying lengths was identified as a future direction. There was a call for more research from the evolutionary perspective to aid understanding of the role, function and likely history of play. In particular, pretend play stands out from Smith's overview as warranting further attention. Smith sums it up by saying, "we need to work toward more differentiated models for different kinds of play, at different ages, and with different developmental outcomes in mind." (p.217) The suggested readings at the end of each chapter gave it a text-book type feel and for such a purpose it would serve fantastically.

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Registration is now open on-line at:

<http://conferencing.uwex.edu/conferences/ishe/registration.cfm>

There are several payment methods. Student first authors are to register only after learning whether or not their abstract has been accepted. If their abstract is accepted, they are entitled to free registration, housing, and banquet fee. Student authors may apply for the **Linda Mealey Award** (\$2000 plus travel to the next congress) for best student talks.

Accommodations

Lodging will be within easy walking distance from the meeting place (the Pyle Center). Transportation will be provided to tour locations and the banquet. Madison may be reached by connecting airlines or by bus from airports in Milwaukee (77 miles, or 124 km, away) and Chicago (122 miles, or 196 km, away).

Single and double rooms are available in a nearby student dormitory. You must sign up and pay for the student dorm rooms during the registration process. Rooms are also being held at three even closer hotels. Two hotels offer free taxi service to and from the airport.

The Campus Inn

608-257-4391; 800-589-6285
reservations@thecampusinn.com

Please alert the operator that you are with the ISHE room block. Room block will only be available until July 1, 2010.

The Edgewater Hotel

608-256-9071; 800-922-5512
reservations@theedgewater.com

Please alert the operator that you are with the ISHE room block (group code MT0000). Room block will only be available until July 1, 2010.

Lowell Inn and Conference Center

608-256-2621; 866-301-1753
lowell@ecc.uwex.edu

Student Dorm Rooms

<https://charge.wisc.edu/extension/ishe.asp>

Transportation

Two international airports serve the area: Milwaukee (MKE) and Chicago (ORD). Milwaukee is closer but has fewer connections. Chicago O'Hare (ORD) has many direct connections to international locations, and lies 2-3 hours from Madison by bus or rental car. There are frequent shuttle buses from O'Hare and Milwaukee airports (and also from downtown Chicago and downtown Milwaukee, respectively). The Madison (MSN) airport is a short taxi ride from the university and has connecting flights from Chicago.

Keynote Speakers

- **David M. Buss**, University of Texas, USA
- **Heidi Keller**, University of Osnabrück, Germany
- **Patricia McConnell**, University of Wisconsin, USA
- **Toni Ziegler**, University of Wisconsin, USA

Congress Organizers

Russell Gardner, Jr., rgj999@yahoo.com
 Glenn Weisfeld, ad4297@wayne.edu

Advisor of Students

Carol Weisfeld, weisfecc@udmercy.edu

Program Committee

Wulf Schiefenhövel, Chair
 (schiefen@orn.mpg.de)
 Astrid Jütte
 John Richer
 Russell Gardner, Jr.

Additional information, maps and photos are available on the conference website:
<http://conferencing.uwex.edu/conferences/ishe/index.cfm>

Back Issues

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

- ◆ \$2/issue or \$4/year for **electronic** copies
- ◆ \$5/issue or \$16/year for **printed** copies (U.S. orders)
- ◆ \$7/issue or \$22/year for **printed** copies **mailed outside the U.S.A.**

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.

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 Jütte, at astrid.juette@kli.ac.at, or use the Chair's postal address as shown on the back cover of this issue.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

ISHE members seeking graduate students or postdoctoral appointees 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).

New ISHE Facebook Page

In an effort to promote communication among members and provide information about current events, ISHE is now on the social networking site **Facebook**. Anyone can create an account for free, and once created, one can simply search for the "International Society for Human Ethology" group. We encourage ISHE members to join. Please note that the Facebook group may be moderated. Photos from the 2009 Summer Institute on Human Ethology in Maine have been posted on the site. The group already has over 110 members, including many ISHE members.

EvoS Journal Call for Papers

EvoS Journal is planning a special issue on Evolutionary Theory in the Humanities. If you have a manuscript in mind about an educational experience, the importance of evolutionary theory for teaching in your field, or a pedagogical technique, please submit your manuscript using the guidelines at (<http://evostudies.org/submissions.html>). If you have an idea for a book review related to Evolution in the Humanities, please email Rose at (evostudies@gmail.com).

And for students and faculty – if you have a project that incorporates evolutionary theory with one of the Humanities, please consider submitting it to *EvoS Journal* at (<http://evostudies.org/submissions.html>). Fiction, poetry, and other relevant works are welcome too.

Rosemarie Sokol Chang, PhD, Editor, *EvoS Journal*: The Journal of the Evolutionary Studies Consortium
<http://evostudies.org/journal.html> [Check out our *EvoS* Blogs at: <http://evostudies.org/blog>]

Special subscription rate on *Human Nature* to ISHE members

Human Nature is now published by Springer. Springer offers a special subscription rate of 50.00 USD (including postage) for a 1-year print subscription to *Human Nature* 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.

Springer also offers special rates to members of the following societies:

- Evolution, Biology, and Society Section of the American Sociological Association (ASA)
- Evolutionary Anthropology Section of the American Anthropological Association (AAA)

Human Behavior and Evolution Society (HBES)
European Human Behavior and Evolution Association (EHBE)

For more information and ordering please contact:

Springer New York, Journal Fulfillment, P.O. Box 2485, Secaucus, NJ 07096, USA
Tel. +1-201-348-4033; Fax +1-201-348-4505

2010 Annual Meeting of the NorthEastern Evolutionary Psychology Society (NEEPS)

The 4th Annual NEEPS Meeting will be held Friday, March 26th, through Sunday, March 28th, 2010. The meeting will be hosted by Dr. Glenn Geher and his students at the State University of New York at New Paltz. The keynote speakers will be Dr. Marlene Zuk of the Department of Biology at the University of California (Riverside), and Dr. Richard Wrangham of the Museum of Comparative Zoology at Harvard University. The deadline for abstract submission is January 5th, 2010. Please encourage your friends, students, and colleagues to participate. Should you have questions, please feel free to contact us.

Conference Host: Glenn Geher, PhD, SUNY New Paltz (geherg@newpaltz.edu)

Programming Committee Chair: Maryanne Fisher, PhD, St. Mary's University (mlfisher@smu.ca)

For more information, see the NEEPS website: <http://neepsociety.com>

22nd Annual Conference of the Human Behavior and Evolution Society (HBES): Call for Papers

The program committee invites paper, poster, and symposia proposals for the 22nd Annual HBES Conference to be held at the University of Oregon, Eugene from June 16 -20, 2010. Located on the banks of the Willamette River, Eugene sits in a lush forest- and farm-dotted valley, framed by the nearby Coast Range to the west and the Cascades to the east. The Willamette Valley is renowned for its microbreweries, wineries, and fly-fishing: both the world-famous McKenzie River and an assortment of wineries are within 20 minutes of campus, and there are several microbreweries in the university and downtown areas.

For submission and guidelines, see HBES 2010 conference website (www.uoregon.edu/~hbes2010).
The abstract submission deadline is March 15, 2010.

This year's Keynote Address will be presented by David Haig of Harvard University, and that Plenary Speakers include Carl Bergstrom (UW), Susan Carey (Harvard), Kim Hill (ASU), Mark Pagel (U of Reading), Susan Perry (UCLA), as well as a Plenary Session in honor of Margo Wilson's contributions to the field and to the Society.

Conference Hosts: *Larry Sugiyama and Michelle Scalise Sugiyama*

www.ISHE.org

The ISHE website has undergone some additional minor redesign, making it easier to find the archived issues from the home page, and now displaying our new logo. More past issues of ISHE *Newsletters* and *Bulletins* have been 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>

Suggestions for content or design can be sent to the Webmaster at: karl.grammer@univie.ac.at

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). Subscribers wishing a sample copy can ask for one from the Editor. 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. At present, members now receiving the *Bulletin* in printed form will continue to do so until they renew or request otherwise.

FORTHCOMING in the *Human Ethology Bulletin*

Book Reviews

- ***Evolution and the Social Mind: Evolutionary Psychology and Social Cognition*** (Psychology Press, 2007) by **Forgas, Haselton & von Hippel (Eds.)** – reviewed by **Maryanne Fisher**
 - ***Textbook of Evolutionary Psychiatry: The Origins of Psychopathology*** (Oxford University Press, 2008) by **Martin Brune** – reviewed by **W. Jake Jacobs**
 - ***The Evolution of God*** (Little, Brown and Co., 2009) by **Robert Wright** – reviewed by **Aurelio José Figueredo**
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-

Upcoming Conferences and Meetings

Compiled by Aaron T. Goetz

Northeastern Evolutionary Psychology Society (NEEPS)

26-28 March 2009 – State University of New York at New Paltz (USA) – [See Announcements above]
<http://neepsociety.org/>

8th International Conference on the Evolution of Language (Evolang8)

14-17 April 2010 – Utrecht (Netherlands)
<http://evolang2010.nl/>

Society for Biological Psychiatry

20-22 May 2010 – New Orleans, LA, USA
<http://www.sobp.org>

Association for Psychological Science (APS)

27-30 May 2010 – Boston, MA (USA)
26-29 May 2011 – Washington, DC (USA)
24-27 May 2012 – Chicago, IL (USA)
<http://www.psychologicalscience.org/convention/schedule.cfm>

Canadian Psychological Association (CPA) Annual Convention

3-5 June 2010 – Winnipeg, Manitoba (Canada)
<http://www.cpa.ca/convention/>

Biennial Meeting of the International Society for the Study of Behavioural Development

18-22 July 2010 – Lusaka (Zambia)
<http://www.issbd.org/>

Human Behavior and Evolution Society (HBES) 22nd Annual Conference

16 -20 June 2010 – University of Oregon, Eugene, Oregon (USA)
<http://www.uoregon.edu/~hb2010>

CIM10 Nature versus Culture

21-24 July 2010 – Sheffield (UK)
<http://www.sheffield.ac.uk/cim10/>

47th Annual Meeting of the Animal Behavior Society (ABS)

25-29 July 2010 – Williamsburg, Virginia (USA)
<http://www.animalbehavior.org/>

International Society for Human Ethology (ISHE) 20th Biennial Congress

1-5 August 2010 – Madison, Wisconsin (USA)
 [See this *HEB* issue and: <http://www.ISHE.org>]

American Psychological Association (APA)

12-15 August 2010 – San Diego, California
4-7 August 2011 – Washington, DC (USA)
2-3 August 2012 – Orlando, Florida (USA)
31 July - 4 August 2013 – Honolulu, Hawaii (USA)
<http://www.apa.org/convention09/exhibitors/whyexhibit/future.html>

Membership and Subscriptions

Regular dues (tax-deductible in the US) are US\$20 per year, \$50 for 3 years, or \$75 for 5 years. **Library subscriptions** cost the same as regular annual dues. **Students, retired** and **low income scholars** may join with the reduced rates of \$10/yr. or \$25 for 3 years. Membership includes the quarterly *Human Ethology Bulletin* sent via email in PDF format unless a printed version has been requested. Any member may request an electronic subscription to the *Bulletin* by contacting the Editor or Membership Chair.

Students, retired and low income scholars may request free 1-year memberships by contacting the Membership Chair. **These memberships must be renewed annually.** A free membership only entitles the member to an electronic version of the *Bulletin* sent by e-mail; members must pay the reduced or regular dues to receive a printed version by postal mail and to have a vote in ISHE elections.

You can now subscribe and renew online using PayPal or major credit cards on the ISHE website: www.ishe.org. Payments also can be made by check in U.S. funds made out to ISHE, or by credit card (VISA or Mastercard or Eurocard), sent to:

Dori LeCroy, ISHE
175 King St.
Charleston, SC 29401 U.S.A.
Fax: 1-843-577-9645

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Type of credit card _____ Credit card number _____

Expiration date ___/20___ Amount of payment _____ Signature _____

From: Aurelio José Figueredo, Editor
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INTERNATIONAL SOCIETY FOR HUMAN ETHOLOGY

The International Society for Human Ethology (ISHE) is a not-for-profit scientific society. Founded in 1972, ISHE aims at promoting ethological perspectives in the scientific study of humans worldwide. It encourages empirical research in all fields of the study of human behavior using the full range of methods developed in the biological and behavioral sciences and operating within a conceptual framework provided by evolutionary theory. ISHE fosters the exchange of knowledge and opinions concerning human ethology with all other empirical sciences of human behavior, and maintains a website at www.ISHE.org.

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