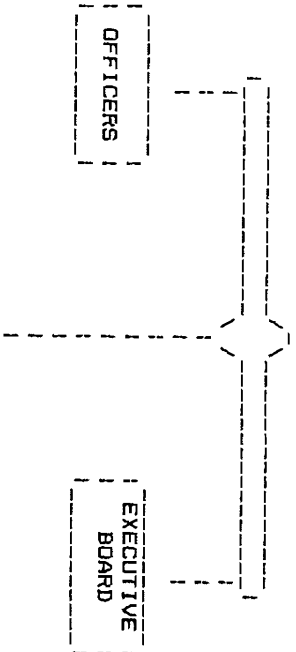


A MORE STRUCTURED SOCIETY: 1985?



HUMAN ETHOLOGY NEWSLETTER

JOAN S. LOCKARD, EDITOR VOLUME 3 UNIVERSITY OF WASHINGTON
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FALL FORUM: OFFICERS?

This is the first of several discussions we will hold on the question as to whether our growth as a Society dictates a governing body of elected officers or whether the Executive Board is sufficient. Below is a statement from Michael McGuire, Chair of the Long-Term Planning Committee, on the possibility of ISHE officers in the not too distant future:

"I strongly favor the election of officers. Being an officer carries with it more responsibility than being a director. A president is more likely to work harder for the Society than a director. A tradition of contribution is developed and passed on. As a result, ethologists in general, and their insights and contributions in particular, stand to gain.

Early on, say the first six years, officers might be

selected for two rather than the usual one year term. As the society gains definition and purpose, a one year term might be sufficient.

I also think that principle functions of the first officers should be to set very specific directions for the Society, and to set into operation the steps that follow. Given past experience (at least in my view), there is little hope that the Society will do more than elect directors and publish a newsletter UNLESS we elect officers. There is a need to do more. We need more workshops, more multidisciplinary studies, improved communication with other disciplines, a forum in which to discuss critical issues, and a bank account with some cash.

Finally, I doubt that there will be many negative consequences from the election of officers. It's doubtful that the officers will do anything strange or embarrassing, and the Society is not likely to be so all powerful that there will be persons who are "in" while others are "out".

SEND YOUR REACTIONS AND COMMENTS TO THE EDITOR!

NOMINATIONS FOR ISHE BOARD

The Executive Board of ISHE is composed of eight elected members who serve staggered two year terms. Each year four new members are elected. In order to insure a variety of viewpoints, theoretical perspectives, and methodological strategies, the board is composed of people from several disciplines including animal behavior, anthropology, political science, primatology, psychology and sociology. This, of course, is not an exhaustive list of related disciplines.

Members of the Executive Board elected for the 1983-84 term are Nicholas Blurton-Jones, Susan Essock-Vitale, Alan Fogel and Albert Somit. Members whose terms will expire at the end of 1983 are Michael McGuire, Esther Thelen, Ian Vine and Ronald Weigel.

Please recruit and nominate members (from a variety of disciplines) for election to the Executive Board. Self-nominations are entirely appropriate. The ballot will appear

approaches are used, e.g. in the amount of play between older and younger sibs. Consistency over development is high, from shortly after birth to later sets of data collected when the new baby is 8 months and 14 months old. By and large, the results are unremarkable, in that most are predictable from common sense, but there are enough notable exceptions to keep things interesting: sex differences emerge, in that brothers get on better than sisters. Contrary to popular belief, breast-feeding the baby in front of the older sib is not especially disturbing. Playing with the baby is more so. Oddly, mothers who have the best relations with their first-born daughters have the most difficulty when the next infant arrives. If the relationship between sibs could be described in one word, it would probably be ambivalence.

This will come as no surprise to anyone familiar with Trivers' (1974) brilliant paper on parent-offspring conflict, and all that has developed from it. Unfortunately, this literature is completely missing from the book, which is disappointing for research coming from the Sub-Department of Animal Behaviour at Cambridge. Instead, the authors' approach is much more ad hoc and descriptive and geared to child psychology. It is long on details, e.g. charming quotations of conversations, but short on generalisable ideas. To be fair, the authors are aware of the limitations of their material, and they have written a cautious and cogent report of research, but instead of a book, it might have made a better volume in the monographs of the Society for Research in Child Development.

Two points of terminology in closing: First, the authors thoughtfully provide translations from English to American throughout the book, e.g. *climbing frame* = *jungle gym*. Second, although the authors never point it out, *sib* is not an abbreviation of *sibling*. The former dates back to Old English, while the latter is formed by adding the redundant suffix-*ling*.

References

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MINI COMMUNICATIONS

Gender and Culture as Determinants of the 'Ideal Voice'
Carol Ann Valentine
Arizona State University

It is generally believed that gender and culture tend to affect our notions of the "ideal voice," but that these variables are relatively insignificant in comparison to three characteristics of ideal voice typically associated with "good speech": (1) that it be easily understood, (2) unobtrusive, and (3) appropriate (Fisher, 1975). This study explored the universality of widely accepted descriptors of the ideal voice in cross-gender and cross-cultural perspective. The study probed the intersubjective typification of the ideal speaker's voice, the ideal male, and the ideal female voice, in Mexico and the United States. The purpose was to construct and contrast the ideal voice types within and across these two cultures. The research questions which guided the study were: What are the collectively perceived "ideal voice types" in Mexico and the United States? Then, to what degree do the ideal male and ideal female voice types correspond to the ideal voice type within each culture?

To respond to these research questions, the ideal, ideal male, and ideal female voice typifications were constructed in Mexico and the United States, and contrasted within and across cultures. Through a combination of research methods involving content and semantic differential analysis, the ideal voice types were constructed. Through the use of Hofman's Transformation of Osgood's D Matrix, the six constructed voice typifications were contrasted within and across cultures.

Intrasocietal findings regarding the ideal, ideal male and ideal female voice types in Mexico revealed that while neither the male nor the female voice conformed completely to the ideal, the ideal male voice conformed more closely to the cultural ideal.

Intersocietal comparison revealed that the ideal speaker's voice in Mexico and the United States shares the qualities of clear enunciation and cheerfulness, while being well-modulated and free of regional accent. The ideal male vocal delivery in both cultures was expected to be somewhat low in pitch and somewhat slow. However, the ideal Mexican male was expected to use greater volume and take more care with diction than the United States male. The ideal female voice types in Mexico and the United States were similarly described as soft in volume, medium to somewhat slow in rate of delivery, and careful in enunciation. However, the ideal Mexican female voice was additionally expected to be delicate and sensual.

The United States findings were most striking. They reveal that, by conforming to the ideal female voice type, the United States female automatically dissociates herself from her cultural ideal. This implies that women in the United States cannot simultaneously approximate their cultural and gender-determined ideal voice prescriptions without experiencing role conflict, stress, and possible rejection. Unlike his female counterpart, the United States male can approach both the cultural and the male ideal communication patterns with little, if any conflict, due to the almost identical voice descriptors associated with both.

NEW POLICY ON SUBMISSIONS

The editor-designate, Bob Adams (see address below), requests that submitted materials for HEN beginning January 1, 1984 (of more than a half page or so) be of suitable quality for photocopying. Standard type face styles are encouraged.

RECENT LITERATURE

Readers are invited to send literature that they would like included in RECENT LITERATURE to: Robert M. Adams, Dept. of Psychology, 145 Cammack Bldg., Eastern Kentucky University, Richmond, KY 40475.

Articles:

Albury, W.R. The politics of truth: A social interpretation of scientific knowledge, with an application to the case of sociobiology. *Nature Annotated*, 1983, 21, 115-132.

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- Laser, P.S. and Mathie, V.A. Face facts: An unbidden role for features in communication. *Journal of Nonverbal Behavior*, 1982, 7, 3-19.
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Willner, D. Definition and violation: Incest and the incest taboos. *Man*, 1983, 18, 134-159.

Books and Book Chapters:

Calvin, W.H. *The Throwing Madonna: Essays on the Brain*. New Jersey: McGraw-Hill, 1983.

Charlesworth, W.R. An ethological approach to cognitive development. In C.J. Brainerd (Ed.), *Recent Advances in Developmental Theory: Progress in Cognitive Development Research*. New York: Springer-Verlag, 1983.

Colomb, E.J.A. *Limitation chez le nouveau-né*. M.D. Thesis, University of Lausanne, Switzerland, 1983.

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Fuller, J.L. and Simmel, E.C. *Behavior Genetics: Principles and Applications*. Hillsdale: Lawrence Erlbaum Associates, 1983. (Includes papers by Fuller on ethology and behavior genetics, sociobiology and behavior genetics.)

Sayers, Janet. *Biological Politics: Feminist and Anti-feminist Perspectives*. London: Tavistock, 1982.

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 ! BULLETIN BOARD !
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Science Software Newsletter: The Center for Environmental Studies at Arizona State University is interested in publishing a newsletter dedicated to computer (particularly microcomputer) software and applications for the natural sciences. The newsletter would be published quarterly and would contain 1) a listing and short review of recent scientific software, with availability and compatibility specifications; 2) one or more articles on microcomputer techniques -- how to download software for different systems, how to choose between a minicomputer and a network of micros, etc.; 3) a forum for advertising "custom" software -- a place where scientists who have written software for specialized modeling or applications (for microcomputers, minis, or mainframe) can list and describe programs for free use, exchange or sale. We are currently assessing the level of interest in such a publication among the scientific community, as an aid to obtaining necessary funding. If you are interested in seeing such a publication, would like further information regarding it, or would be willing to serve as a reviewer for new software and documentation, please contact: Diana J. Gabaldon, Ph.D., Center for Environmental Studies, Arizona State University, Tempe, AZ, 85287/(602)945-3051.

The Science division of the Book-of-the-Month Club list is currently being distributed to general readers. Among those on the list are two ISHE members: Melvin Kanter's *The Tangled Web: Biological Constraints on the Human Spirit* (1982, Holt, Rinehart, Winston) and William H. Calvin's *The Throwing Machine: Essays on the Brain* (1983, McGraw-Hill).

UPCOMING MEETINGS

The Semiotic Society of America will hold their 8th Annual Meeting at Snowbird, Utah October 6-9, 1983. Agenda topics include "Strategic deployment of speech and action: A sociosemiotic analysis", "Telling about lying: Oral narratives about the (mis-)management of information"; "Violence as order"; and "Semiotic differences between the sexes and the differential rendition of altruism". Contact Margot Lenhart, Executive Director, for further information at (812) 335-6193.

The Washington State Psychological Association Fall Meeting and Workshops are currently scheduled for October 14-16 at the Sea-Tac Marriott Hotel in Seattle, Washington. Pre-registration fees for members is \$10.00; \$20.00 for non-members. Contact the Washington State Psychological Association at 13500 Lake City Way NE/#208, Seattle, WA 98125; phone (206) 362-4905 for materials.

13th Annual Meeting of the Society for Neuroscience is scheduled to be held in Boston November 6-11. According to the recent issue of the *Neuroscience Newsletter*, the central office has received an unexpected 22% increase in the number of volunteer papers which "promises to fill the Boston facilities to capacity."

Future meetings:

Workshops, paper and poster sessions and field trips are planned for the Xth Congress of the International Primatological Society which will be held at the National Museums of Kenya in Nairobi July 22-27, 1984. The Congress Chair is James G. Elise and he can be contacted at the Institute of Primate Research, National Museums of Kenya, P.O. Box 34505, Nairobi, Kenya.

The joint ABS-ISHE meeting is scheduled to be held August 13-17, 1984 at Eastern Washington University in Cheney. Contact Steven B. Christopher (host) at Eastern Washington University, Cheney, WA, 99004 to plan sessions and symposia.

The Semiotic Society of America is very interested in holding a joint meeting with ISHE. Professor Sebeok, Vice President, had suggested meeting October 11-14, 1984 (during the annual convention) when an international conference on the state of

the art of semiotics will be held at society headquarter's in Bloomington, Indiana. However, the invitation was too late to be considered. At our 1984 Annual Meeting with ABS in Cheney, Washington, we will discuss the possibility of a joint meeting in the more distant future.