Human Ethology Newsletter

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Newsletter Submissions

Anything which might be of interest to ISHE members is welcome: society matters, suggestions for Forum topics, Growing Points, Mini Communications, Current literature and films, and material for the Bulletin Board such as announcements of meetings, sabbatical oportunities, employment opportunities, etc., should be sent to the Editor.

Suggestions for books to review, or reviews, should be sent to the nearest Book Review Editor dealing with the language concerned. A list of the book review editors is printed in the collumn inside the backpage.

Submissions in any legible format are acceptable as long as these are in English. Floppy disks containing Wordperfect files produced on an IBM-PC (compatible), or ASCII files can be processed as well and are in fact preferred, because they lower the production costs.

Submission deadlines are as follows: the material should have reached the editor in Amsterdam before February 15, May 15, August 15, or November 15 for inclusion in the next issue of March, June, September, or December, respectively.

SOCIETY MATTERS

Call for volunteers as Editor (Vice-President for Information)

Many people may think that producing a newsletter demands many institutional resources. It does not! One simple personal computer (i.e. IBM PC/XT compatible) with for instance Wordperfect 4.2 and Wordperfect Library Notebook did the trick for me. The rest of the work was given out by contract: the typing, the desktoppublishing, the photocopying (from a laser printer original) plus folding plus stapling, and the address-labelling.

The editorial work itself takes time, of course. But it is fun to do. For me it was a great learning experience. It will be even more attractive, now that it is decided to give a stipend to the Newsletter editor in the form of pay for annual fare and expenses to ethological meetings.

Why then, one may ask, do I stop? I think it is important for the Society that there is new blood every three years, to keep things lively. With over 400 active members that should not be impossible.

Anyone who is interested, please contact the Membership Chair, Jay Feierman. Frans Plooij.

Society Elections

Nominations for Vice President and Vice President for Information (Newsletter Editor) for ISHE are being sought. Interested persons should send their names to the Membership Chair. Only the Vice President needs to be voted on. The slate of nominees for Vice President will appear in the March, 1990 Newsletter and the results of the vote will be published in the September, 1990 Newsletter. The President of ISHE will appoint the Newsletter Editor from the slate of interested nominees.

The 1990 ISHE Meeting

We expect to be meeting with ABS in 1990. Final announcements will be made in the December issue. The date and location of the 1990 ABS meeting are: June 10-15, at the State University of New York (SUNY) at Binghamton, New York. A call for papers is printed in the Bulletin Board in this newsletter.

The 1991 ISHE Meeting

The 1991 ISHE meeting will be held jointly with the new Human Behavior and Evolution Society. It will take place August 23-25 at MacMaster University in Ontario, Canada.

The 11th International Congress of Human Ethology

The next free-standing International Congress of Human Ethology will be held in the summer of 1992 in Amsterdam, the Netherlands, and will be hosted by Frans X. Plooij. The exact dates will be announced as soon as possible.

A Call for hospitality: North America in 1994

Now that we have decided to alternate sides of the Atlantic for biennial free-standing International Congresses of ISHE and have been invited to Amsterdam for 1992, we need a North American host for 1994.

The host should expect 50-75 attenders, 3 to 4 meeting days spread over 4 to 5 days, and should be able to respond to the registrants with registration acceptances, location information and preliminary programs. Help with the program and with on site logistics can be requested from Board and other interested members. If the program is formulated a year in advance, there is likelihood of financial help, at least with travel expenses, from US and other governments.

The two previous European Congresses have been wonderfully stimulating for the intellect and for warm social exchange. Let us now give more North Americans the opportunity to experience this and to return the hospitality to our International colleagues.

Brief report on the Tenth International Congress, July 31—August 4, 1989

The 10th International Congress on Human Ethology at Edinburgh (July 31 to August 4, 1989) focussed on a few powerful issues, with submitted papers pertaining to them and intense discussions of those issues at the ends of sessions. Those issues were (a) the nature of arguments and evidence for claims of evolutionary bases of human behavior, (b) evidence and models for evolutionary bases of aspects of adult mind, (c) evidence for and conceptualizations of preprogrammed aspects of children's social, emotional, and intellectual development, (d) evidence and models for evolutionary aspects of psychiatric disorders and of psychiatric/psychoanalytic constructs, (e) social-political consequences of the communication of ethologically relevant research and the question of social responsibility of researchers for the communications and their consequences. The program and the abstracts have been published in Ethology and Sociobiology, 10 (5+6).

Unique highlights included (a) discussion issues of evidence, media distortion, left and right ideological biases and researcher responsibility issues with Professors P. Rushton, J. Feierman, H. Eysenck, I. Eibl-Eibesfeldt, and I. Silverman; (b) discussion of the evidence around the Tasaday controversy, aided by an excellent, balanced BBC documentary of the controversy; (c) discussion of the process and mechanisms of the controversial psychotherapeutic "holding technique" (used for treating autistic children's parent-child relations and for many other angry, problematic parent-child relations), led by Dr. J. Richer who uses the technique and provided an illustrative videotape.

The congress was held in a single residence hall containing

living and meeting activities that was next door to the dining hall (with surprisingly good institutional food including fresh salmon fillets). This self-contained atmosphere was wonderfully conducive to continued discussion, getting a much deeper sense of our colleagues, and warm companionship. These last were nicely aided by being across the road from late pubs, near to climbing Arthur's Seat, and a short bus-ride from the heart of Prefestival Edinburgh.

The Minutes of the General Assembly of the ISHE at the 10th International Congress in Edinburgh, August 1989

- 1. Welcome by President Irenäus Eibl-Eibesfeldt, and statements of formal appreciation:
- To Tom Pitcairn, Ian Vine, and Sean Neill for organizing this fine Conference.
- To Frans Plooij, for his excellent work as Vice President for Information (Newsletter Editor).
- 2. Report from Membership Chair, Jay Feierman: there currently are more than 400 paid members. Non-paying members (of more than 1 year) have been gradually dropped from the rolls through the system of reminders for dues on the mailing label.

 3. Frans Plooij will send free sample Newsletters to University libraries, to be considered as a journal.
- 4. Report from the Treasurer, Herman Dienske:

At the start of 1988 the balance was f 2,867.-. During 1988 f 11,292,- was received and f 6,900,- expended. So the balance at the end of 1988 was f 7,259.-. This seems a fair amount of money. However, the income will be much lower in 1989 (about half) and in the years to follow, because most members paid for 3 years in advance. Moreover, costs of mailing the newsletter were generously paid for by Eibl-Eibesfeldt's Max-Planck Institute and this cannot be continued. This year we will lose money already and this will be more in the next two years. So a raise in membership dues is necessary.

- 5. Decisions for additional expenditures:
- a. According to the provision of the Constitution, a stipend will be given to the Newsletter Editor. It will be in form of pay for annual travel fare and expenses to ethological meetings, beginning 1989.
- b. the postage and labeling costs for the Newsletter will now be paid by the society. Until now these costs have been born by the Max-Planck Institute, with the delay and danger of loss caused by mailing the printed Newsletters from the Editor to Max-Planck.

6. Need/decision to raise Society dues:

The need is to cover new expenses of stipend and postage without soon exhausting recently acquired positive balance. THE NEW DUES RATE will be \$20 per year or \$50 per 3 years. 7. The vote through the Newsletter by a majority of 90% changes the position of Newsletter Editor (Vice President for Information) from an elected to an Officer-Board nominated position. This allows flexible adjustment of potential Editor's capacity to assume the position and old Editor's flexibility in

maintaining the responsibility until replaced. 8. Discussion of succession of officers.

The current (and first) set of officers was elected 3 years ago (excepting the 1 year later election of Vice President, Robert

Adams). The term for all officers, stated in the Constitution, is 3 years. Thus the nomination procedure for the first rotation of officers should have begun. A lack of initiation points up that the responsibility for initiating nominations was not specified in the Constitution. This will now be remedied by assigning the initiation responsibility to the Membership Chair, who is already assigned by the Constitution to assemble the nomination slate.

The first officers to rotate out, as specified by the constitution, are the Vice-President for Information (Newsletter Editor) and the Vice-President. THIS YEAR WE WILL START OFFICER ELECTIONS ON A YEARLY SCHEDULE THAT WILL CONTINUE ANNUALLY:

- a. THE WINTER (DECEMBER) NEWSLETTER WILL CALL FOR NOMINATIONS. December, 1989, will call for nominations for VICE-PRESIDENT and volunteers for NEWSLETTER EDITOR (VICE-PRES. FOR INFO.).
- THE SPRING (MARCH) NEWSLETTER WILL SUPPLY SLATE AND BALLOTS.
- THE FALL (SEPTEMBER) NEWSLETTER WILL AN-NOUNCE THE NEWLY ELECTED OFFICERS.
- d. This yearly schedule will continue with the 1990 nominations' call for Secretary and Membership Chair, the 1991 nominations' call for President and Treasurer, the 1992 nominations' call again for Vice-President and Newsletter Editor (vice-Pres. for Info.).

PLEASE NOTE: MEMBERS ARE THUS ENCOURAGED TO CONSIDER BECOMING NEWSLETTER EDITOR. FRANS PLOOIJ WILL PROVIDE A BRIEF DESCRIPTION (IN THIS NEWSLETTER) OF HOW TO BE EDITOR WITH NO MORE RESOURCES THAN A PERSONAL COMPUTER

9. A society response to the public uproar that followed Newsletter publication of Philip Rushton's Mini-Communication. The December Newsletter will carry responses to Rushton's presentation at the Congress and Rushton's response to the responses. This will be a presentation of balanced arguments and of statements about relations between intellectual output and political awareness of potential consequences. It is hoped that this single-volume presentation will convey that the Society in no way endorses any particular position nor method of intellectual work, but supports vigorous intellectual exploration and critiques.

10. By mandate of the General Assembly, Bill McGrew will explore with the other editors possibilities of a closer relationship between ISHE and *Ethology and Sociobiology*.

11. Plans for future Society Meetings:

To consolidate the Society's international function, THE MEETING STRUCTURE WILL CHANGE. The current schedule is of a free-standing International Congress every three years with small meetings on the 2 off-years being joint meetings with large U.S. Societies (such as ABS, AAA, and Am. Primatological Society). The NEW SCHEDULE WILL BE A FREE-STANDING INTERNATIONAL CONGRESS EVERY-OTHER YEAR, WITH VARIABLE FORMS OF SMALL LOCAL MEETINGS IN SINGLE OFF-YEARS. Annual meetings are intended to occur, allowing added variety of off-year types (the addition of small topic symposia, meeting with other societies) being facilitated. Members with suggestions for types of off-year meetings are urged to write to the

President. This schedule requires that hosts for International Congresses become identified at the Congress held 4 years before their own Congress.

THE NEW SCHEDULE WILL START IN 1992 WITH OUR NEXT INTERNATIONAL CONGRESS: IN AMSTERDAM, hosted by Frans Plooij.

Respectfully submitted, Gail Zivin, Secretary.

OBITUARY OF KONRAD LORENZ

by: Irenäus Eibl-Eibesfeldt

On January 22, 1989, my wife and I visited Konrad for the last time in Altenberg near Vienna. We spoke about Niko Tinbergen who had died one month before. Konrad characterized Niko as the superb poser of simple questions and as the dearest person he knew. He went on to say that without him, he would never have gotten the Nobel Prize, since he himself had always shied away from experimenting. And it is true, both cooperated in the most fortunate way, bonded by a lifelong friendship which had survived war. Both had seen each other for the last time at our house in Söcking in 1982 where the two elders with young minds enthusiastically exchanged memories and ideas.

A vivid and inquiring spirit characterized Konrad until his last days. Even though he was confined to his wheel chair and fully aware that the machinery of his body was failing to serve his mind, he was still planning ahead. He said to us: "I am about to die but I am not afraid any more." Immediately thereafter he told that he was going to write a book of episodes about the animals he had kept. He showed us the watercolour illustrations he had just made from memory.

Konrad Lorenz's scientific contributions are familiar to most of us. He initiated the "objectivistic study of instinct," to borrow a famous quote from Tinbergen. His approach was a comparative one. Following the lead of Darwin, Heinroth and Whitman, he treated movement patterns as stable characteristics of organisms and made them the subject of his studies. He stressed the need to look at things from a broad perspective and thus consider behavior as a functional whole in an evolutionary framework. He did not focus solely on movement patterns, but also on triggering stimuli. He developed the concept of the innate template, which was reformulated by Tinbergen and specified to be those mechanisms through which certain behaviors are triggered by incoming "key stimuli." Recently the template concept was revived by Peter Marler. It is reserved for central reference patterns ("Sollmuster") against which incoming stimuli are checked.

Lorenz was puzzled by the spontaneity of instinctive behavior. He discussed this matter in his 1935 paper and attributed it to "chain reflexes," until he met Erich von Holst and learned about his studies on central automatisms. He integrated von Holst's ideas into his theoretical framework and in 1939 he presented what can be considered to be the theoretical layout of the new field ("vergleichende Verhaltensforschung"). In the same year his joint paper with Niko Tinbergen on the eggrolling response on the grayleg goose was published.

By discovering the phenomenon of imprinting, Lorenz contributed to learning theory. Imprinting provided the first experimental evidence for an innate learning disposition, in other words, learning channeled by phylogenetical adaptations. The long debate over whether he indeed had identified a specific

phenomenon was recently resolved by the studies of Wallhäuser and Scheich who showed that imprinting experiences cause lasting change at the neuronal level. The two authors imprinted newly hatched chicks on auditory stimuli. Before imprinting, the dendrites of the neurons processing the auditory input had many spines, that is, synaptical contacts prepared to receive input. After imprinting to a pure tone, only a small fraction of these spines remained and most of the spines or "ears" of the neurons were reabsorbed. Thus the neurons were evidently tuned to perceive one specific quality of auditory stimuli only. It may be added that by now all of the concepts introduced by Lorenz and his colleagues have been verified down to the neuronal level, including the concepts of automatism (central generator system) and IRM. This is also true for the process of maturation or in Sperry's words, "how a brain gets wired for its function."

Closely linked to the question of adaptedness is the question, to what extent adaptations, including the human mind, mirror the "reality" of an outer world. Here Konrad Lorenz's and Sir Karl Popper's trains of thought met in a common pathway, that is to say, they both interpreted adaptations as hypotheses formed by organisms about the external world tested during phylogeny. Konrad Lorenz elaborated these ideas first in a paper published in 1941, when he was holding the chair for philosophy at the University of Königsberg once held by Immanuel Kant.

I first met Konrad Lorenz immediately after his return from Russia in 1948. I had already read his papers, "The Companion in the Bird's World," and some of his other papers, since I was interested in the study of animal behavior. I was twenty years old and full of expectations. Konrad had arrived with a tame starling in a makeshift cage and a thick manuscript written on pages torn from cement bags. That he was permitted to take these out of a prisoner of war camp was a small miracle, which Lorenz described in detail in his contribution to Dewsbury's collection of autobiographies. Konrad Lorenz gave his first lectures from these notes, which also contained the ideas that he later developed in his book, Behind the Mirror. Ever since my wife and I have been closely attached to him. He called us his "adopted children" because we both had lost our fathers early — and for forty years we considered him as our fatherly friend and teacher. Konrad was an authority by nature. He did not need to be authoritarian for he was friendly, genial and those around him listened to him by free choice. He suggested, but never demanded. He allowed us to go our ways and always emphasized that nothing would be more dangerous for him, than to have pupils who would uncritically accept what he said ("zu gläubige Schüler").

"Throw a cherished hypothesis over board at every breakfast," he used to say. Another of his favorite themes concerned methodology. Observe and describe the behavior of the animals of your choice before you start any experimentation. And always keep a logbook. In one of his books he gave to me he drew a number of animals and wrote: "May you never describe your animals in the way your old teacher draws them, namely from memory." He knew about the merits and pitfalls of Gestalt perception, of how our brain processes information in a way biased by phylogenetic and individual experience, creating templates that act as reference structures against which incoming information is checked. He was hospitable, accepting everyone genuinely interested in animal behavior as an equal, be it a student or a well-established authority in the field. He was basically friendly though his temperament from time to time carried him away. If a lecture held in our institute by a guest

failed to meet our expectations, he still found something positive to say and summarized the interesting ideas "hidden" in the presentation, which of course were mainly his. His interest in animal behavior was an obsession. Whenever he was on his way back from a lecture at the University of Munich, he went to a pet shop to see whether a new cichlid or any other animal had turned up.

Much of what he discovered was based on observations, "anecdotal evidence" as some used to say in derogation. However, as Hassenstein made clear, "anecdotal evidence" can be more appropriately termed "key observations" that lead to the formulation of hypotheses which can be tested experimentally. Testing, however, is a final step as aptly described in the German term "Nachweis."

With Lorenz and Tinbergen the founding generation of ethology died. The spiritual heritage they left behind provides us with the ultimate aim of understanding ourselves and thus the ability to achieve the self-control that we need in order to survive. Lorenz once said that he considers the most important task to be investigating whether the ethological hypotheses, as derived from the study of animal behavior, are indeed of value for the understanding of human conduct. So far they have proven to be.

MINI COMMUNICATIONS

Publishing Policy

No material in the Newsletter is selected by critical peer review and thus material is printed only to foster free and creative exchange of (even outrageous) ideas between researchers. The fact that material appears in the Newsletter never implies the thruth of those ideas, ISHE's support of them, nor any support for any policy implications that one might be able to draw from them.

The objective of this section is short empirical or theoretical papers which inform and would benefit from the input of peers. If readers wish to comment, write directly to the author(s).

The Theory of Logical Typing: Context and Paradox

by: Daniel G. Freedman, Committee on Human Development, The University of Chicago, Dept. of Psychology, 5730 South Woodlawn Av., Chicago, Illinois 60637, U.S.A.

Note: Presented at meetings of the American Family Therapy Association, Colorado Springs, June, 1989.

The theory of logical types (Whitehead & Russell, 1910) states that any category must contain members other than the category itself, and to do otherwise generates paradox. This logic constituted a major tool for Gregory Bateson's thinking, and the present paper seeks to expand these ideas into a theory of context. Higher levels (e.g., family) serves as explanatory context for the next lower level (in this case, the individual), and a scheme of levels and contexts is developed that ranges from DNA base pairs through speciation and ending in Jung's notion of pleroma (Table 1).

The scheme seems to make it clear that reductionism invol-

Table 1: Logical Typing for the Behavioral Sciences (Condensed version)

Level	Contextual level for	Examples of paradox/ problems solved by next higher contextual level
gene (consists of)	base-pairs	non-selfish cooperating genes
individual organism (is coded by)	genes	ego dystonic behavior; dis-association
family (consists of)	individuals	enmeshment vs. individuation
kin group (is extended)	family	tribal ethnocentrism vs. exogamy
culture	kin groups	rationality vs. irrationality
(is collection of) subspecies (is collection of)	kin groups	racial harmony/disharmony
species (are collections of)	sub-species	niche, symbiosis, mutualism
eco-system (relates)	species	origin of life
cosmology (posits - conditions for)	origin of life	infinity of time/space; dualism
Pleroma	Creatura (all the above)	[all distinctions disappear]

ves causal explanation from below, while holism involves contextual explanation from above, but neither is seen as more powerful. The first is the preferred method for scientific prediction, the second for a sense of understanding. Only in Pleroma, do such distinctions disappear.

Gregory Bateson frequently invoked Russell's theory of logical typing, most particularly in his brilliant discussion of levels of learning (1964). Russell's theory states that any category must contain members other than itself, for to do otherwise generates paradox. With this deceptively simple logical guide, I developed the schema in your packet, and I'd like to say a few words about it, pointing out where I've found it useful.

To start with, note that this schema makes a decided distinction between reductionistic determinism and its complement (rather than its mortal enemy), contextual explanation. It has often been said that what the social sciences need is a theory of context, since that term is so often invoked as explanatory. Clifford Geertz (1973), for example, provides many rich instances of culture as contextual understanding. However, he rejects reductionism/determinism and biological explanation of any cultural difference (or cultural universal) is explicitly and vehementally denied. Our present schema holds that his position is as problematic as is the rejection of context.

1. Let us go through the chart, starting at the level of the gene. What sort of paradox, or problematic, appears there that achieves resolution at its contextual level, the individual organism? A major theoretical problem for modern biology, for example, involves the issue of, how did a number of competing DNA strands ever evolve into a cooperating genome? Certainly to the naive non-professional one could not imagine a non-cooperating assemblage of genes in an efficiently functioning organism. The problem is that today's biology starts with the assumption that competition between DNA bits is the rule of

life, and that all organismic life involves descent via such a process. This is wholesale reductionism, and amazingly, it has been enormously fruitful and it has led to important discoveries. However, reductionism invariably leads to the chicken-egg paradox, and biologists have taken the shaky position, one that involves as much faith as does belief in God, that the egg came first. A truly sophisticated biology would go both ways, but most of us have difficulty in keeping reductionism and contextualism simultaneously in mind. Like the reversible figure-ground effect, you are either looking at one or the other, never at both simultaneously.

2. At the level of the individual, an example of paradox in our field is the felt sense that what I am doing is ego-dystonic perhaps to the point of depersonalization. Judged at the level of the felt emotion, one is helpless, feeling perhaps that "I must be crazy." One of the great advances of dynamic psychology (and psychiatry) is to systematically relate such depersonalization to one's familial history, and through such a process of contextualization to relieve the accompanying anxiety. Similarly, in his analysis of why Alcoholics Anonymous works, Bateson (1972) pointed out that in replacing a primary 'me' with a primary 'we' one experiences, perhaps for the first time, the self in larger context; thus, ironically, as one gives up ego one gains a superior epistemology and thereby the strength that yields sobriety.

Once again, I should not like to lose sight of the "upward" influence of lower levels, something to which we, as therapists, are prone — for example, our reluctance to acknowledge the enormous literature on the biology of Schizophrenia in our devotion to the double bind. Let me add that I deem all levels in this scheme to be operating simultaneously and in both directions.

3. The family, too, has its context, and that is most usually the ethnic group. McGoldrick's book, Ethnicity and Family

Therapy, makes the point with example after example. In a personal communication, made during a discussion of this issue, McGoldrick termed Bowen's vision of 'individuation as mental health' a more or less Southern Baptist notion, and one quite outside possibility, for example, with a normally enmeshed Southern Italian family. Thus, awareness of ethnic context may help the family therapist understand better what he is up against, and that includes the ethnic context of his theory.

With regard to causal influences from below, there is evidence that some ethnic differences may be temperamental, that is, bio-social in nature; a case in point is the demonstration of temperamental differences in Chinese and Caucasian newborns (Freedman and Freedman, 1969).

4. As for problematics at the level of ethnicity, there is the persistent issue of ethnocentrism. "If only Arabs and Jews" we bemoan, "could see their commonalities instead of stressing their differences." Why has such ethnocentric rivalry characterized mankind, apparently from its inception, and why does it crop up again and again in all culture areas? Considerable understanding is obtained, I believe, at the next contextual level, that of species and speciation.

Neel and Ward (1970) have demonstrated that the fissioning of a single village into two antagonistically opposed, ethnocentric units among the Yanomamo Indians of Northern Brazil are evolutionary events. The fact that such fissioning occurs along lines of kinship (lineal fissioning), so that after fissioning each segment is highly homozygous, serves to speed rates of change as judged by shifts in blood group frequencies. In this most important work these human geneticists proposed that the evolutionary success of man, including his rapid occupation of all continents, has been in large part due to this tendency for human kin groups to fission when kinship becomes too dilute. The upshot of their work is that ethnocentrism is perhaps the best example of evolutionary selection at the group level. However, since most biologists are wed to approaching such issues from below, reductionism, this work has been largely ignored. Perhaps we, as social scientists, because we are more open to contextual understanding, will give it the recognition it deser-

- 5. This is the idea, and the remaining categories can be treated in a similar manner. An expanded work is underway in which each level, problematics within it, etc. are discussed in detail.
- 6. As one works at and thinks about the simultaneous operation of determinism and contextualism, the essential circularity of knowledge becomes evermore apparent, and one may then be drawn to Jung's mystic solution, the Pleroma. Pleroma was misperceived by Bateson as the nonliving complement of Creatura, a sort of class of all that is not Creatura. It becomes totally clear in the Seven Sermons to the Dead (where Gregory got the notion), that Jung's Pleroma is an irreal place, envisioned by mystics of both East and West, in which all distinctions disappear, in which dualities find union, and in which, to say the least, science as we know it is no longer applicable.

I like positing the Pleroma on purely aesthetic grounds. It proposes a place that is outside measurement, outside the finite limits to which even cosmology must adhere. We need such a place to direct our sense that time and space are infinite, and that the big bang 13 billion years ago is just not good enough to appease this intuition of forever-ness.

Finally, in an extension of the present schema, cosmology is also reached by going more molecular in an underarchy that runs through biochemistry, physical chemistry and particle physics. Since particle physics and cosmology are for all practical purposes identical, our hierarchy becomes a mandala-like circle, which in turn implies Pleroma (Figure 1).

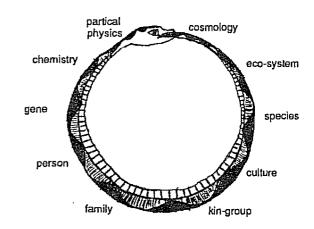


Figure 1: The name of the snake, which is the whole, which is less than the whole, which is more than the whole, which makes no distinctions and which is indistinguishable, is Pleroma.

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Sociobiology and the Definition of Altruism: A Comment

by Christopher Badcock, the London School of Economics, London WC2 2AE, England.

Whilst I have much sympathy with Ian Vine's suggestion that the concept of altruism in evolutionary biology needs careful definition and fully endorse his judgement that 'discussion of the bases of human altruism within the sociobiological framework has often been naive', I doubt very much if a new coinage—bio-altruism—will solve the problems (Vine, 1989). On the contrary, I can readily imagine that many will interpret this as

meaning that biological insights into the evolution of cooperation are simply not relevant to "real", human altruism.

In reality, the problem hinges on the definition of the latter, not the former. In animal behaviour we have every justification for ignoring motives and defining altruism purely in terms of its objective consequences, and here I prefer to follow Trivers and see it as any act which enhances the reproductive success of the recipient at a cost to that of the altruist. If we interpret 'reproductive success' here to be personal, we can go on to say that there are three — and almost certainly only three-types of altruistic behaviour: kin altruism, where the sacrifice of the actor benefits copies of the gene for altruism in the recipient to an extent greater than the cost of itself (Hamilton, 1964); reciprocal altruism, where the actor's sacrifice for the benefit of the recipient is reciprocated by the recipient making a sacrifice which benefits the original actor (Trivers, 1971); and, finally, induced altruism, where an actor performs an altruistic act through error, deceit or coercion. Examples of the latter would be the behaviour of birds who raise the offspring of cuckoos, believing them to be their own. On our objective definition of altruism above, they must be seen as acting altruistically because they have incurred a considerable cost to their own reproductive success and enhanced that of the cuckoo (Trivers, 1985; Badcock, 1986).

What makes 'real', human altruism controversial is the belief that it is not motivated by any kind of self-interest. Of course, neither is it in the case of the apparently odd, residual category of induced altruism. The birds who raise cuckoos have absolutely no self-interest in doing so. Nevertheless, they have been deceived, and so we seem to have to conclude that it is our consciousness of acting without self-interest which defines 'true', human altruism. But the fact that politicians routinely claim to act in the public interest, rather than in their own self-interest, is not a reason why voters should be expected to believe them. On the contrary, the most exhaustive modern psychological insight into the motives of altruism concluded that 'It remains an open question whether there is such a thing as a genuinely altruistic relation to one's fellow men, in which the gratification of one's own instinct plays no part at all. . . ' (A. Freud, 1968). To separate off 'bio-altruism' from human altruism would really make it too easy for the politicians, and my guess is that if behavioral scientists were not human beings themselves they would have long since realized that attempts to defend subjective definitions of human altruism are completely futile. Perhaps this is because there is a little of the politician in all of us ...

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Hypothesis

by: Vera V. Demény, psychologue, Budapest, Rózsa Ferenc 72, H-1064, Hungary.

In 1987 an essay entitled "A hitherto undiscovered psycho-physiological phenomenon related to changes in personality" was presented by me to the Psychological Congress held at the Hungarian Academy of Science. The essay was then accepted and published.

Essentially the study deals with the "instinct of acquisition." By the hypothesis of this instinct I did not merely mean that of acquiring material goods. I thought that after the accumulation of material goods and even during this process there was always present the acquisition of knowledge, too. And the acquisition of immortality is certainly not necessary for race- or self- preservation.

I described the "instinct of acquisition" as being a specifically human instinct. Thus I came to the conclusion that this instinct had its part in the evolution of man also.

Over the past two years I omitted the term "instinct" to use instead the word: "anisus."

The reason why I did so is that today ethologists consider the terms "instinct" and "inborn" inappropriate to the solution of problems, moreover these words may even be misleading (Lehrman, 1953, 1970; Tinbergen, 1963). They suggest namely that behaviour rests on solid grounds, and its manifestations are independent of environmental conditions (Passingham, 1982). Therefore I think the notion "acquisition-anisus" is the decisive factor in the evolution of man.

CURRENT LITERATURE

Material for this section of the newsletter should be sent directly to the editor. A sentence or two of summary would increase the value to readers.

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- Mascie-Taylor, C.G.N., & Boyce, A.J. (1988). (Eds.) Human Mating Patterns. New York: Cambridge University Press (ISBN 0-521-33432-2). Contains 14 chapters from multidisciplinary but broadly evolutionary perspectives.
- Masters, R.D. (1989). The Nature of Politics. New Haven, CT: Yale University Press. This important and original book examines the nature of politics from a perspective cutting across conventional academic disciplines. Returning to the traditional emphasis on human nature as the foundation of politics, Roger D. Masters links major issues in Western political philosophy with contemporary research in the life sciences. By relating evolutionary biology, social psychology, linguistics, and game theory to politics, Masters proposes a framework for the emerging field of biopolitics.
 - Masters shows how selfishness and altruism, participation in social groups, languages and cultures, and politics can be illuminated by empirical evidence from the life sciences. To explore the nature of the human individual, for example, he presents experimental evidence indicating that the psychology of Plato is more exact than the traditions of Hobbes, Locke, and modern behaviorism. Cultural evolution is viewed as a process based on the emergence of human language as a system of information coding and transmission having properties akin to the genetic system but not reducible to genetic determinism. Analyzing the origin of the centralized state, Masters relates contemporary theories of natural selection to the study of social cooperation in political philosophy, game theory, and history. This ambitious work offers a reasonable basis for judging political institutions or ethical standards. Challenging the nihilism and relativism that have predominated in the West over the past century, Masters indicates why an evolutionary approach to human nature provides reasons for preferring a constitutional regime to autocratic or tyrannical governments. By viewing politics in terms of the kinds of social participation typical within our species for millions of years, this "new naturalism" can help us to formulate decent and humane standards of social life while providing a scientific foundation for the study of political behavior.
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The question of language origin has fascinated many people for many years. Traditionally, humanists like linguists and philosophers have attempted to solve it with limited success. In the last decades, however, the sciences have begun to study the same question - seemingly with more success. This book is the result of the activities of a group of scholars, members of the Language Origins Society, who have approached the problem not only from the viewpoint of linguistics, but also from that of anatomy, physiology, social sciences, physical anthropology, paleoanthropology, paleontology, comparative zoology, general biology, ethology, evolutionary biology, psychology, etc. The volume thus clearly reflects the interdisciplinary approach the Language Origins Society is advocating. Since this book is the first of a series meant for the general scholar, it attempts to avoid specialist jargon. Hence it is equally useful for student courses in linguistics, social sciences, communication science, ethology, evolutionary biology and speech therapy.

Contributions by Robin Allott; Eric de Grolier; Jan Wind; Yau Shunchi; Gordon W. Hewes; Leonard H. Rolfe; Bernard H. Bichakjian; F.J. Irsigler; J. Goudsblom; Mary Ritchi Key; Robert P. Creed; André A. Dhondt, Marcel Lambrechts and Luc Bijnens; Edwin G. Pulleyblank; Hal J. Daniel; Elaine Morgan; and Nira Reiss.

BULLETIN BOARD

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For a fee and reimbursement of expenses, Susan Weiss, a professional technical editor, will edit translated articles by members of the ISHE or their colleagues to improve the use of English in these texts. Address questions about this service to P.O. box 1192, Corrales, NM 87048-1192, USA.

Call for Papers for expected 1990 ISHE Meeting with ABS

It is important that ISHE have an intellectual rallying point and make a true contribution to the ABS meeting. The ABS Program Chair, Lynn Houck, is probably going to invite us to present a half-day of coordinated papers (the formal permission of the ABS Board is expected to arrive the end of September). This is particularly pleasant, as our contribution is expected to be of sufficient interest to over-ride the general ABS program guideline against a session on one species.

So members are urged to do one or both of the following: (1) Propose a topical SESSION of 6-8 twenty minute papers plus a 5 minute topic introduction and a 5-10 minute summary or discussion (all of whose authors have agreed to participate)

on a topic that will be of interest to ethologists who do not study humans; or (2) submit a SINGLE PAPER that may be included in a half-day of related human papers or that may be placed in relevant topic session with other species, depending on its topic, the topic of other single papers, and the number of proposed single papers.

The ISHE Secretary will work with the ABS Program Chair to coordinate our submissions with the ABS program. In the event that there are too many proposals, some selection among them will have to be made. The Secretary and the Program Chair will attempt to place papers that do not fit the half-day organization among other ABS paper sessions on relevant topics.

A SESSION proposal must include TWO COPIES of each of these items:

- Cover statement: stating the main issue to be addressed and why that issue is important.
- Name, affiliation, and address and phone of organizer.
- A listing of the names and paper titles of each presenter, including a 5-min topic introduction and 5-10 min summary or discussion.
- A set of typed abstracts, one per 20 minute paper, with each abstract following the ABS guidelines for the format of meeting paper abstracts and include the specified additional information, e.g. about audio-visual aids, indicated in the ABS guidelines. These guidelines appear in the next ISHE and ABS Newsletters.

A SINGLE PAPER proposal must include TWO COPIES of:

 An abstract typed according to the ABS guidelines for the format of meeting paper abstracts and include the additional specified information, e.g. about audio-visual aids, indicated in the ABS guidelines. These guidelines appear in the next ISHE and ABS Newsletters.

The DEADLINE for mailing the two copies of the session proposal or single paper abstract to the ISHE Secretary is JANUARY 20, 1990.

Send the two copies to:
Gail Zivin, ISHE Secretary
Dept. of Psychiatry and Human Behavior
3 Curtis Building
Jefferson Medical College
Philadelphia, PA 19107, USA.

Announcements

The 7th International Conference on Infant Studies (ICIS) will be held in Montréal, Canada, April 19-22, 1990 in the Hôtel Méridien. The topics covered are: Biological Processes / Motor development, Perception / Motor development, Perception / Attention, Cognition / Intelligence, Language / Communication / Play, Temperament / Social-emotional development, Parentchild interaction, Peer-sibling interaction, Early environment / Day Care, High risk / Pediatrics, Psychopathology / Developmental delay, Social policy.

Deadline for receipt of abstracts: October 2, 1989. Notification of acceptance / rejection: January 22, 1990 Contact: ISIS Conference Office, Attn.: Philip R. Zelazo, Ph.D., Programme Chairman, c/o GEMS Conference & Consulting Services, P.O. box 1016, Snowdon Station, Montréal, Québec, Canada H3X 3Y1, Tel.: (514) 485—0855, Fax: (514) 487—6725.

The 5th World Congress of Biological Psychiatry will be held in Florence (Firenze), Italy, June 9-14, 1991. The congress will include: Plenary lectures, Symposia, Workshops, Round-tables, Oral free communications, and Poster presentations.

Call for Symposia: Suggestions for symposia, workshops and round tables will be examined by the scientific program committee on the basis of a detailed description of topics.

Please, contact Prof. G. Racagni, Scientific secretariat Biological Psychiatry '91, Centre of neuropharmacology, Inst. of Pharmacological Sciences, Via Balzaretti 9, 20133 Milano, Italy. Tel.: 39-2-29404672 or 29409993. Fax: 39-2-29404961.

Deadline for the submission of proposals: October 31, 1989.

New Anthropological Reference resource:

The Museum of Mankind Library Catalogue

The British Museum Department of Ethnography — The Museum of Mankind — has one of the world's most important anthropological collections. The Departmental Library also provides an unprecedented source of reference for scholars of ethnography; the Library catalogue, together with its uniquely comprehensive finding aids, is now published as a valuable bibliographical resource.

The Library Catalogue of the Museum of Mankind is published on microfiche by Mindata Ltd., making this large resource simply accessible to Libraries and users anywhere, and at a price less than half that of other comparable bibliographies.

Detailed Subject References

Because of the often detailed nature of researches into aspects of anthropology, more important than the title of a work is a comprehensive subject reference. The Museum of Mankind has responded to this need with a finely detailed subject index, with an average of over 8 cross-references for each title. A unique Tribal Index also makes searching for particular material a straightforward matter, An Author Index is also provided on the fiche.

Periodicals Index

Also published on microfiche, and available separately, is the Anthropological index to Periodicals in the Museum Library. This is compiled by the Royal Anthropological Society, and comprises over 170,000 references, in author sequence to articles published since 1963.

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For more information contact: Mindata Ltd., Bathwick Hill, Bath, BA2 6LA, England, Telephone: +225 66447.

APSA Meeting

The following panel was held at the 1989 American Political Science Association meeting in Atlanta Georgia: Panel 9-7 (Friday, September 1, 1989 — 3:30 PM): Roundtable on Primate Politics.

Co-Chairs: Glendon Schubert and Roger Masters.

Participants:

Denise Baer, Northeastern University.
Sarah Gouzoules, Emory University.
Mel Konner, Emory University.
Roger Masters, Dartmouth College
Thelma Rowell, University of California, Berkeley.
Glendon Schubert, University of Hawaii.

This roundtable focussed on the relevance of recent research in primatology for the understanding of human politics and vice versa. In recent years, each of the participants has contributed important work to the exploration of primate social behavior from the perspective of evolutionary biology. While the resulting reexamination of human nature is best known to popular audiences from Konner's The Tangled Wing (not to mention his frequent pieces in the New York Times Magazine), both Rowell and Gouzoules are among those ethologically trained researchers whose analysis of social behavior is transforming our understanding of the foundations of cooperation, competition, leadership, group dynamics, and coalition formation. Each of the two political scientists on the panel is publishing a major work in 1989 (Schubert's Evolutionary Politics; Masters' The Nature of Politics), showing how studies of nonhuman primates and the evolutionary process can be related to political science; Masters and Schubert are coediting a volume entitled Primate Politics (including an important essay by Rowell as well as chapters by Jane Goodall, Frans de Waal, and others). Much of the theory discussed at the panel on "Primate Politics" revealed how contemporary primatology is providing the basis for analyzing sociopolitical interactions among human and nonhuman primates. This panel was therefore a timely opportunity to show how the study of "primate politics" can enrich the theoretical and empirical foundations of the discipline of political science.

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Newsletters of the following members are returned to sender, although they paid their membership dues recently. Would anyone who knows any of them be so kind to contact them and advise them to send me their new address.

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If the date on your mailing label is earlier than the current year, it is time to renew your membership. Renewal notices are not sent for economic reasons. No more than two warnings are given on the mailing label. Thereafter you are removed from the membership list.

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Directions for payment are given on the last page of this newsletter. Payment reaching the treasurer before February 1, May 1, August 1 or November 1, will be processed in time for indication on the mailing label of the next newsletter issue.

Please, report any errors, changes of address, etc. to the editor.

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William T. Bailey, American Dept. of Psychology, Eastern Illinois University, Charleston, IL 61920, U.S.A.

Ian Vine, English Interdisciplinary Human Studies, Un. of Bradford, Bradford BD7 1DP, England.

Eduardo Gudynas and Fernando G. Costa, Spanish/Portuguese c/o ASMER's Regional Office, Casilla Correo 13125, Montevideo, Uruguay.

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