

EAORC - Bulletin 200

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- PNAS 10 April 2007
- New Scientist 14 April 2007
- Nature 12 April 2007
- Science 6 April 2007
- Anthropology Today April 2007

*** NOTICES ***

--- Conference: Göttinger Freilandtage: Primate Behavior and Human Universals ---

Göttinger Freilandtage: Primate Behavior and Human Universals Deutsches Primatenzentrum (DPZ),
Göttingen, Germany
11 – 14 December 2007

This conference aims to bring together primatologists, evolutionary anthropologists and psychologists to summarise our current state of knowledge concerning behavioural variation and its determinants within the order Primates, including humans. Specifically, it will focus on three aspects:

- (1) comparative studies of behavioural adaptations across (human and non-human) primates that examine evolutionary principles,
- (2) the ability and failures of evolutionary theory to explain human behavioural traits that affect survival and reproduction, and
- (3) to identify and explain human behavioural universals.

Confirmed Speakers:

Laura Betzig, David Bjorklund, Monique Borgerhoff-Mulder, Robert Boyd, Dorothy Cheney, Robin Dunbar, Azar Gat, Michael Gurven, Chris Knight, Ryne Palombit, Joan Silk, Michael Tomasello, Robert Trivers, Carel van Schaik, Andrew Whiten and Richard Wrangham We cordially invite you to submit abstracts for relevant oral (15 min) and poster contributions. The conference is also open to guests without presentations.

Deadline for registration and submission of abstracts is September 30, 2007.

Additional details: Prof. Dr. Peter Kappeler (gft@gwdg.de) Conference homepage:

<http://www.soziobio.uni-goettingen.de/welcome.html>

--- Conference: Evolution of Language ---

Evolution of Language: 7th International Conference, Barcelona, 11-15 March
2008

Workshops will take place March 11 (Tuesday). The regular conference will start the 12th (Wednesday) and end the 15th (Saturday). The conference is organized by the Grup de Biolingüística and will be held at CosmoCaixa (Museum of Science), Teodor Roviralta 47-51, map.

- PLENARY SPEAKERS

Derek Bickerton (University of Hawaii)

Steven Pinker (Harvard University)

Francesco d'Errico (University of Bordeaux) Friedman Pulvermüller (MRC Cognition and Brain Sciences Unit, Cambridge) Susan Goldin-Meadow (University of Chicago) Rudolf Botha (Stellenbosch University and Utrecht University) Simon Kirby (University of Edinburgh) Gary Marcus (New York University) Juan Uriagereka (University of Maryland) Camilo José Cela Conde (Universitat de les Illes Balears)

<http://complex.ffn.ub.es/~evolang2008/>

*** PUBLICATIONS ***

If you have problems getting copies let me know.

--- KEY:

*** NEWS: items that cannot stand as an independent source.

*** REVIEWS: items that review a book or publication.

*** ARTICLES: items that are quotable, but which count as secondary sources.

*** PAPERS: quotable primary source items.

--- PNAS 10 April 2007 ---

*** ARTICLES

... CHRISTOPHER DEAN - Growing up slowly 160,000 years ago [a 160kyo Homo Sapiens child fossil has been examined to estimate childhood length; it seems it was much the same length as ours]

*** PAPERS

... RAISSA M D'SOUZA et al - Emergence of tempered preferential attachment from optimisation [if you are using optimality theory to study language, you need to read this]

... TANYA M SMITH et al - Earliest evidence of modern human life history in North African early Homo sapiens [a 160kyo Homo Sapiens child fossil has been examined to estimate childhood length; it seems it was much the same length as ours]

... T W MCDADE et al - Ethnobotanical knowledge is associated with indices of child health in the Bolivian Amazon [the more cultural ethnobotanical knowledge your parents have, the better your survival chances; so presumably the willingness to teach and learn this knowledge is a natural selector]

... THOMAS SERRE et al - A feedforward architecture accounts for rapid categorization [primates are remarkably good at recognizing objects; a specific implementation of a class of feedforward theories of object recognition can help explain why]

... KOLE ROYBAL et al - Mania-like behavior induced by disruption of CLOCK [mice with disrupted circadian rhythms help to explain bipolar disorder]

... ROLAND ZAHN et al - Social concepts are represented in the superior anterior temporal cortex [the superior anterior temporal cortex plays a key role in social cognition by providing abstract conceptual knowledge of social behaviors]

--- New Scientist 14 April 2007 ---

*** ARTICLES

... MICHAEL BOND - They made me do it [recognition of our role in a group allows us to abrogate free will and personal responsibility, allowing us to do what the group wants; almost everyone is capable of evil acts if placed in the wrong social context]

--- Nature 12 April 2007 ---

*** REVIEWS

... TORE SLAGSVOLD - Builders with little brains [review of 'Animal Architects: building and the evolution of intelligence' by James L Gould & Carol Grant Gould]

*** PAPERS

... CHRISTOPHER T DAWES et al - Egalitarian motives in humans [it's not just that humans are willing to altruistically punish to enforce co-operation, we punish inequality, too; Quentin Crisp was right: don't try to keep up with the Joneses, drag them down to your own level]

--- Science 6 April 2007 ---

*** NEWS

... Hobbit's status as a new species gets a hand up [Matthew Tocheri's PhD is on the wrist bones of the H. floresiensis specimen; he shows that the bone formation is closer to H.habilis than H.sapiens, reinforcing the view that it is a different species]

... The World through a chimp's eyes [report of 'The Mind of the Chimpanzee' conference]

... Rapid consolidation [we may be able to learn and remember new things very quickly if there are related representations already in our minds to call upon]

*** PAPERS

... DOROTHY TSE et al - Schemas and memory consolidation [we may be able to learn and remember new things very quickly if there are related representations already in our minds to call upon]

--- Anthropology Today April 2007 ---

*** ARTICLES

... TIM INGOLD - The Trouble with evolutionary biology [Tim Ingold tries to show that anthropology can be inoculated against nasty Darwinism, and Alex Mesoudi, Andrew Whiten & Kevin Laland tell us why he's wrong, wrong, wrong]

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