

EAORC Bulletin 300

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PUBLICATIONS:

- New Scientist 14 March 2009
- Science 13 March 2009
- Nature 12 March 2009
- PLOS One 11 March 2009
- PNAS 10 March 2009
- Current Anthropology April 2009

*** NOTICES ***

--- Conference - The Bloomsbury Round Table on Communication, Cognition & Culture ---

4-5 June 2009, Birkbeck College, University of London

The Bloomsbury Round Table on Communication, Cognition & Culture is an annual, international event, jointly hosted by adjacent colleges of the University of London, especially Birkbeck College and the Institute of Education, where researchers at different stages of their career are invited to present the latest work in the broad fields of Language, Communication and Cognition. Each year, the Round Table will have a specific focus, but the general theme will remain on the cultural dimensions of human communication and cognition.

The 2009 Bloomsbury Round Table will take place on 4th and 5th June at the Clore Management Centre of Birkbeck College. The Thematic Focus will be on Language and Social Interaction.

Presentations are invited on the following sub-themes:

- The interactional foundation of human sociality
- The interactional dimension of human cognition
- The interactional architecture of organisations and institutions
- Interactional practices in professional contexts
- The cultural dimension of human cognition
- Cultural variations in language and social interaction
- Intercultural communication

... Abstract Submissions

Researchers who wish to present their work at the 2009 Bloomsbury Round Table should submit an abstract of approximately 300 words, by Monday 6th April 2009. Abstract Submission Form available by clicking on the left hand side link at:

http://www.bbk.ac.uk/llc/subjects/applied_linguistics/act/brt

The abstracts should not be programmatic; they should be based on research that is completed or clearly in progress, with a well-formulated research question, and with a good description of the types of data used

(if the work is empirical) and of the approach. There should be a summary of the key findings and arguments. Each presentation will have a 25-minute slot with at least five minutes for questions and answers. Confirmation of acceptance of abstracts will be announced on 20th April.

... Fees

The registration fee for the 2009 Bloomsbury Round Table is £85 (eighty five pounds) per person. A reduced fee of £55 (fifty five pounds) is charged to students and the unemployed, subject to proof of status. An online registration form will be available soon.

... Additional Information

A Postgraduate Research Training Day will take place on the afternoon of Wednesday 3rd June, with no additional cost. Registration for the Round Table is required in order to attend the training. Further information can be obtained by contacting: roundtable@bbk.ac.uk, Department of Applied Linguistics & Communication, Birkbeck College, University of London.

--- From WorldScience.net - Rock-hurling zoo chimp stocked ammo in advance ---

Researchers have found what they call some of the first clear evidence that a non-human animal can spontaneously plan ahead.

http://www.world-science.net/othernews/090310_chimp

--- From WorldScience.net - Faith found to reduce errors on psychological test ---

Distinct brain activity patterns in believers may dovetail with performance differences, scientists say.

http://www.world-science.net/othernews/090306_god

--- From WorldScience.net - Doodling gets its due: tiny artworks may help recall ---

Drawing while listening doesn't necessarily imply a wandering mind, a study suggests.

http://www.world-science.net/othernews/090302_doodle

*** 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.

--- New Scientist 14 March 2009 ---

*** NEWS

... I'm planning to throw rocks at you [rock-throwing chimp seems to calmly collect his ammunition some time in advance of his agitated throwing bouts - planning for the future? {planning for 'a' future, yes; but planning for 'my' future I think is unproven}]

... Why only minds like ours could think up religion [believers use Theory of Mind areas of the brain to interpret God's intentions {I bet they do the same for the Grinch's intentions, whether they believe in the Grinch or not; it may say more about the god we believe in than our belief in god}]

... Wired for intelligence [the quality of the brain's connections is related to intelligence, and a product of genetic factors]

*** ARTICLES

... GRAHAM LAWTON - That freaky feeling [it's surprisingly easy for your body to fool your brain]

--- Science 13 March 2009 ---

*** NEWS

... Ice Age No Barrier to 'Peking Man' [Chinese and American researchers have re-dated bones and tools from the richest Homo erectus site in the world with a new radiometric method. They date the oldest human fossils to about 770,000 years ago, showing that H. erectus was able to survive mild glacial conditions at a northern site]

*** ARTICLES

... TOM BOHMAN - Emergence of Connectivity in Networks [Can the evolution of real-world networks be accurately modelled?]

*** PAPERS

... KAREEM A ZAGHLOUL et al - Human Substantia Nigra Neurons Encode Unexpected Financial Rewards [Dopamine neurons in the human mid-brain are activated by unexpected rewards and differentiate positive and negative feedback]

--- Nature 12 March 2009 ---

*** NEWS

... Web usage data outline map of knowledge ["usage data tell us where the net was cast; citation data tell us where the fish were caught" - and traditionalists don't like the fact that social sciences are more popular on the web than physical sciences]

*** ARTICLES

... RUSSELL L CIOCHON & E ARTHUR BETTIS III - Asian Homo erectus converges in time ["Re-evaluation of the age of Zhoukoudian, a prominent site of Homo erectus occupation in China, prompts a rethink of the species' distribution in both the temperate north and the equatorial south of east Asia"]

... ANDREW P HENDRY - Speciation ["On the Origin of Species ... the title of Charles Darwin's great work of 1859 seemed to promise a solution to this "mystery of mysteries". Although we now know vastly more about speciation than we did 150 years ago, the one mystery has become many — and the possible solutions have multiplied"]

*** PAPERS

... GUANJUN SHEN et al - Age of Zhoukoudian Homo erectus determined with $^{26}\text{Al}/^{10}\text{Be}$ burial dating ["This study uses the relatively new aluminium/beryllium method to date the fossiliferous sediments of Zhoukoudian ('dragon-bone cave', which yielded specimens of Homo erectus) to around 750,000 years old, some 200,000 years older than usually thought. This implies that hominins lived at the site during some rather chilly periods, causing us to revise our ideas about the migration of early hominins northwards only in clement, interglacial times"]

--- PLOS One 11 March 2009 ---

*** PAPERS

... ANNA ABRAHAM & D YVES VON CRAMON - Reality = Relevance? Insights from Spontaneous Modulations of the Brain's Default Network when Telling Apart Reality from Fiction ["The results of the study have several important implications. Firstly, they provide informed grounds for characterizing the dynamics of reality-fiction distinction. Secondly, they provide further insights into the functions of the amPFC and the PCC. Thirdly, in view of the current debate related to the functional relevance and specificity of brain's default network, they reveal a novel approach by which the functions of this network can be further explored"]

... RUPESH KOTTECHA et al - Modeling the Developmental Patterns of Auditory Evoked Magnetic Fields in Children ["The latency of M70 in the right hemisphere highly correlated to the age of the child. The amplitudes of the M70 responses increased with age and reached their peaks in children 12–14 years of age, after which they decreased with age. The source estimates for the M50 and M70 responses indicated that they were generated in different subareas in the Heschl's gyrus in children, while not localizable in adults. Furthermore, gender also affected developmental patterns"]

... NOBUO MASATAKA et al - Free-Ranging Macaque Mothers Exaggerate Tool-Using Behavior when Observed by Offspring ["the pattern of the tool-using action of long-tailed adult female macaques under our observation changed in the presence of the infant as compared with that in the absence of the infant so that the stream of tool-using action was punctuated by more pauses, repeated more often, and performed for a longer period during each bout in the presence of the infant"]

... CHRISTIAN AGRILLO et al - Use of Number by Fish ["Mosquitofish can learn to discriminate small quantities, even when non-numerical indicators of quantity are unavailable, hence providing the first evidence that fish, like primates, can use numbers. As in humans and non-human primates, genuine counting appears to be a 'last resort' strategy in fish, when no other perceptual mechanism may suggest the quantity of the elements"]

... IVAN NORSCIA et al - Mating First, Mating More: Biological Market Fluctuation in a Wild Prosimian ["we studied a scent-oriented and gregarious lemur, Propithecus verreauxi (sifaka), showing female dominance, promiscuous mating, and seasonal breeding ... Male mating priority rank correlated with the frequency of male countermarking over female scents but not with the proportion of fights won by males over females. Thus, males competed in an olfactory tournament more than in an arena of aggressive encounters. The copulation frequency correlated neither with the proportion of fights won by males nor with the frequency of male countermarking on female scents. Male-to-female grooming correlated with female-to-male grooming only during premating. Instead, in the mating period male-to-female grooming correlated with the copulation frequency"]

--- PNAS 10 March 2009 ---

*** PAPERS

... CAMILO J CELA-CONDE et al - Sex-related similarities and differences in the neural correlates of beauty ["Our results reveal significantly different activity between the sexes in parietal regions when participants judged the stimuli as beautiful. Activity in this region was bilateral in women, whereas it was lateralized to the right hemisphere in men"]

... DIRK HELBING & WENJIAN YU - The outbreak of cooperation among success-driven individuals under noisy conditions ["Here, we report the sudden outbreak of predominant cooperation in a noisy world dominated by selfishness and defection, when individuals imitate superior strategies and show success-driven migration. In our model, individuals are unrelated, and do not inherit behavioral traits. They defect or cooperate selfishly when the opportunity arises, and they do not know how often they will interact or have interacted with someone else. Moreover, our individuals have no reputation mechanism to form friendship networks, nor do they have the option of voluntary interaction or costly punishment. Therefore, the outbreak of prevailing cooperation, when directed motion is integrated in a game-theoretical model, is remarkable, particularly when random strategy mutations and random relocations challenge the formation and survival of cooperative clusters"]

--- Current Anthropology April 2009 ---

*** PAPERS

... CLIFFORD J JOLLY - Fifty Years of Looking at Human Evolution: Backward, Forward, and Sideways ["This article has attempted to convey two themes. The first is the idea that the pathway to modern humanity can be understood as a sequence of phases. Each shift from one phase to the next represents a change in the direction of evolution, starting of course from the foundation provided by the phase before and often corresponding to a branch point in the phylogenetic tree. Each phase shift has a simple trigger but immensely complex and far-reaching consequences. The second theme is that the rest of nature, represented by the cercopithecine monkeys, only because this is the group with which I am most familiar, provides analogies that, I think, can help to clarify the processes involved with each of the phase shifts."]

... LINDA VIGILANT - Elucidating Population Histories Using Genomic DNA Sequences ["In 1993, Cliff Jolly suggested that rather than debating species definitions and classifications, energy would be better spent investigating multidimensional patterns of variation and gene flow among populations"]

... KAREN B STRIER - Seeing the Forest through the Seeds: Mechanisms of Primate Behavioral Diversity from Individuals to Populations and Beyond ["Multilevel studies across populations and over time provide insights into the range of behavioral variation that particular species can express and are necessary for distinguishing the species-specific behavior patterns on which evolutionary comparisons are based. These studies therefore provide the insights necessary to incorporate intraspecific variation into comparative models"]

... ALAN WALKER - The Strength of Great Apes and the Speed of Humans ["More than 50 years ago, Maynard Smith and Savage (1956) showed that the musculoskeletal systems of mammals can be adapted for strength at one extreme and speed at the other but not both. Great apes are adapted for strength—chimpanzees have been shown to be about four times as strong as fit young humans when normalized for body size. The corresponding speed that human limb systems gain at the expense of power is critical for effective human activities such as running, throwing, and manipulation, including tool making"]

... KENNETH M WEISS - Having a Jolly Good Time—Together! Evolution by Cooperative Interaction ["How cooperative viability is maintained while complex adaptive traits evolve and populations diverge is a question we can begin to answer more definitively than has been possible before. A careful look leads us to challenge the nature of the Darwinian explanations that have been the standard for more than a century"]

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Martin Edwardes

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