

EAORC Bulletin 400

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- Proceedings of the Royal Society B - 22 March 2011
- Philosophical Transactions of the Royal Society B - No issue this week
- New Scientist - 12 February 2011
- Science - 11 February 2011
- Nature - 10 February 2011
- PLOS One - 9 February 2011
- PNAS - 8 February 2011

*** NOTICES ***

--- LECTURE - LONDON - Ronnie Cann: Events, pseudoarguments and cognate objects ---

Speaker : Ronnie Cann, University of Edinburgh

When : Thu 17th February 2011 at 13:00

Where : ITL Building- Top floor meeting room, Queen Mary University of London

Title : Events, pseudoarguments and cognate objects.

In case you don't know where the room is (or do not have a card to enter the building), let me know or give me a ring (077 22 783 721) or Ruth (0781 754 4164) on the day.

--- SCIENCENOW - Lucy Had a Spring in Her Step ---

New foot bone suggests human ancestor spent more time walking than in the trees

<http://news.sciencemag.org/sciencenow/2011/02/lucy-had-a-spring-in-her-step.html?etoc>

--- SCIAM NEWS - Monkey See, Monkey Don't: Learning from Others' Mistakes ---

We learn from our competitors' failures by not repeating them By Nikhil Swaminathan

http://www.scientificamerican.com/article.cfm?id=monkey-see-monkey-dont&WT.mc_id=SA_CAT_MB_20110209

--- EAORC - Newsletter put on website ---

As an experiment, this newsletter is being made available at

<http://martinedwardes.webplus.net/eaorc.html>. Let me know whether this a Good Thing or a Bad Thing.

*** PUBLICATIONS ***

--- 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.

--- Proceedings of the Royal Society B - 22 March 2011 ---

*** PAPERS

... ZOLTÁN BARTA et al - Cooperation among non-relatives evolves by state-dependent generalized reciprocity ["we show that cooperation can evolve by generalized reciprocity (help anyone, if helped by someone) even in large groups, if individuals base their decision to cooperate on a state variable updated by the outcome of the last interaction with an anonymous partner. We demonstrate that this alternative mechanism emerges through small evolutionary steps under a wide range of conditions"] [<http://rspsb.royalsocietypublishing.org/content/278/1707/843.abstract>]

... ELSA ADESSI & SABRINA ROSSI - Tokens improve capuchin performance in the reverse–reward contingency task ["Eight capuchins chose between: (i) two food quantities, (ii) two quantities of ‘low-symbolic distance tokens’ (each corresponding to one unit of food), and (iii) two ‘high-symbolic distance tokens’ (each corresponding to a different amount of food). In all conditions, subjects had to select the smaller quantity to obtain the larger reward. No procedural modifications were employed. Tokens did improve performance: five subjects succeeded with high-symbolic distance tokens, though only one succeeded with food, and none succeeded with low-symbolic distance tokens. Moreover, two of the five subjects transferred the rule to novel token combinations" {pretty stunning conclusion: it's easier to use symbols than indexes?}] [<http://rspsb.royalsocietypublishing.org/content/278/1707/849.abstract>]

--- Philosophical Transactions of the Royal Society B - No issue this week ---

--- New Scientist - 12 February 2011 ---

*** NEWS

... Without language, numbers make no sense [The discovery that people need language to understand larger numbers may shed light on the way children acquire their number sense] [<http://www.newscientist.com/article/mg20927994.200-without-language-numbers-make-no-sense.html>]

... Humans cheat chimps by knowing the rules [Take away the rulebook and humans aren't much better than chimps at strategic games] [<http://www.newscientist.com/article/mg20927994.900-humans-cheat-chimps-by-knowing-the-rules.html>]

*** ARTICLES

... BOB HOLMES - Evolution's X factor: Shuffling up new species [Darwin described the creation of new species as the "mystery of mysteries". Could the solution be found in a single gene?] [<http://www.newscientist.com/article/mg20927991.500-evolutions-x-factor-shuffling-up-new-species.html>]

... JESSICA MARSHALL - Mind reading: The science of storytelling [You may think you can tell fact from fiction, but your brain doesn't know the difference] [<http://www.newscientist.com/article/mg20927991.800-mind-reading-the-science-of-storytelling.html>]

--- Science - 11 February 2011 ---

*** PAPERS

... C V WARD et al - Complete Fourth Metatarsal and Arches in the Foot of Australopithecus afarensis [A long bone of the foot of an early human indicates that its foot was stiff and arched, as in modern humans] [<http://www.sciencemag.org/cgi/content/abstract/331/6018/750>]

... J D KARPICKE & J R BLUNT - Retrieval Practice Produces More Learning than Elaborative Studying with Concept Mapping [Two different ways of thinking through texts are compared for learning value] [<http://www.sciencemag.org/cgi/content/abstract/331/6018/772>]

--- Nature - 10 February 2011 ---

*** ARTICLES

... ADAM KUPER & JONATHAN MARKS - Anthropologists unite! [Anthropology isn't in the crisis that parts of the media would have you believe, but it must do better] [http://www.nature.com/nature/journal/v470/n7333/full/470166a.html?WT.ec_id=NATURE-20110210]

--- PLOS One - 9 February 2011 ---

*** PAPERS

... MARK E LAIDRE - Meaningful Gesture in Monkeys? Investigating whether Mandrills Create Social Culture ["Here I report a striking gesture unique to a single community of mandrills (*Mandrillus sphinx*) among nineteen studied across North America, Africa, and Europe. The gesture was found within a community of 23 mandrills where individuals old and young, female and male covered their eyes with their hands for periods which could exceed 30 min, often while simultaneously raising their elbow prominently into the air. This 'Eye covering' gesture has been performed within the community for a decade, enduring deaths, removals, and births, and it persists into the present. Differential responses to Eye covering versus controls suggested that the gesture might have a locally-respected meaning, potentially functioning over a distance to inhibit interruptions as a 'do not disturb' sign operates"] [<http://www.plosone.org/article/info%3Adoi%2F10.1371%2Fjournal.pone.0014610>]

... GEORG HAGEMANN et al - Changes in Brain Size during the Menstrual Cycle ["We used MR-volumetry to investigate short-term brain volume changes across the menstrual cycle in women or a parallel 4 week period in men, respectively. We found a significant grey matter volume peak and CSF [Cerebrospinal fluid] loss at the time of ovulation in females. This volume peak did not correlate with estradiol or progesterone hormone levels. Men did not show any significant brain volume alterations"] [<http://www.plosone.org/article/info%3Adoi%2F10.1371%2Fjournal.pone.0014655>]

--- PNAS - 8 February 2011 ---

*** PAPERS

... MHAIRI A GIBSON & ESHETU GURMU - Land inheritance establishes sibling competition for marriage and reproduction in rural Ethiopia [where there is inheritance, sibling rivalry reduces cooperation and increases family size; where there is reduced inheritance, siblings can become an asset instead of a challenge and family sizes fall] [<http://www.pnas.org/content/108/6/2200.abstract>]

... CORINA E TARNITA et al - Multiple strategies in structured populations ["We show that for certain parameter values both repetition and space are needed to promote evolution of cooperation"] [<http://www.pnas.org/content/108/6/2334.abstract>]

... CHRISTOPHE PALLIER et al - Cortical representation of the constituent structure of sentences ["We therefore searched for brain regions where activation increased parametrically with the size of linguistic constituents, in response to a visual stream always comprising 12 written words or pseudowords. The results isolated a network of left-hemispheric regions that could be dissociated into two major subsets. Inferior frontal and posterior temporal regions showed constituent size effects regardless of whether actual content words were present or were replaced by pseudowords (jabberwocky stimuli). This observation suggests that these areas operate autonomously of other language areas and can extract abstract syntactic frames based on function words and morphological information alone. On the other hand, regions in the temporal pole, anterior superior temporal sulcus and temporo-parietal junction showed constituent size effect only in the presence of lexico-semantic information, suggesting that they may encode semantic constituents"] [<http://www.pnas.org/content/108/6/2522.abstract>]

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