

EAORC BULLETIN 600 – 14 December 2014

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NOTICES

Publication Alerts

If you have had a paper or book published, or you see something which would be of interest to the group, do please send me a publication alert so that I can include it in the newsletter. Many thanks to those who have already sent in alerts.

If you have any other ideas for extending the “EAORC experience”, do please contact me.

NOTICE – Introducing content sharing on nature.com

Subscribers to 49 journals on nature.com will now be able to share the full-text of articles of interest with colleagues who do not have a subscription. This will be done through a shareable web link on nature.com that will go through to a read-only PDF version of the published research. The functionality is powered by [ReadCube](#), and articles are viewed in the ReadCube PDF viewer. You are not required to download ReadCube to view or share articles, but you will need to be logged in to your nature.com account to share an article link.

Nature Publishing Group has also released a new [beta policy](#) to accompany this one year pilot. It will be adapted and refined based on community feedback. The policy is based on reasonable use. For a list of journals included in this initiative, or for more information, visit our [content sharing webpage](#).

SCIENCE NEWS – Why women’s bodies abort males during tough times

In times of trouble, multiple studies have shown, more girls are born than boys. No one knows why, but men need not worry about being overrun by women. An analysis of old church records in Finland has revealed that the boys that are born in stressful times survive better than those born during less challenging periods. The work helps explain why women may have evolved a tendency to abort certain males and could lead to a better understanding of miscarriages.

http://news.sciencemag.org/biology/2014/12/why-women-s-bodies-abort-males-during-tough-times?utm_campaign=email-news-latest&utm_source=eloqua

SCIENCE NEWS – Wealth may have driven the rise of today's religions

Today's most popular religions all have one thing in common: a focus on morality. But the gods didn't always care whether you are a bad person. Researchers have long puzzled over when and why religions moved away from a singular focus on ritual and began to encourage traits such as self-discipline, restraint, and asceticism. Now, a new study proposes that the key to the rise of so-called moralizing religions was, of all things, more wealth.

http://news.sciencemag.org/biology/2014/12/wealth-may-have-driven-rise-today-s-religions?utm_campaign=email-news-latest&utm_source=eloqua

SCIENCE NEWS – Study of massive preprint archive hints at the geography of plagiarism

New analyses of the hundreds of thousands of technical manuscripts submitted to arXiv, the repository of digital preprint articles, are offering some intriguing insights into the consequences—and geography—of scientific plagiarism. It appears that copying text from other papers is more common in some nations than others, but the outcome is generally the same for authors who copy extensively: Their papers don't get cited much.

http://app.aaas-science.org/e/er?utm_source=eloqua&s=1906&lid=53519&elq=f97eb46279fd4513afee15a830225e36

SCIAM NEWS – World's Oldest Engraving Upends Theory of Homo sapiens Uniqueness

It is getting harder and harder to figure out what distinguished Homo sapiens from other members of the human family and fueled our extraordinary success as a species.

<http://links.email.scientificamerican.com/ctt?kn=37&ms=NDc1Nzc3NDYS1&r=NTY1MTgzOTY4MAS2&b=0&j=NTgxNjI5MDA3S0&mt=1&rt=0>

SCIAM NEWS – Origins of Human Alcohol Consumption Revealed

A single genetic mutation 10 million years ago endowed human ancestors with an enhanced ability to break down ethanol, likely as they shifted to a terrestrial lifestyle

http://www.scientificamerican.com/article/origins-of-human-alcohol-consumption-revealed/?WT.mc_id=SA_EVO_20141208

SCIENCE DAILY – Punishing kids for lying just doesn't work

If you want your child to tell the truth, it's best not to threaten to punish them if they lie. That's what researchers discovered through a simple experiment involving 372 children between the ages of 4 and 8.

http://feedproxy.google.com/~r/sciencedaily/~3/-rilxNsChI0/141208144150.htm?utm_source=feedburner&utm_medium=email

SCIENCE DAILY – Genes tell story of birdsong and human speech

A massive international effort to sequence and compare the entire genomes of 48 species of birds, representing every major order of the bird family tree, reveals that vocal learning evolved twice or maybe three times among songbirds, parrots and hummingbirds. Even more striking, the set of genes employed in each of those song innovations is remarkably similar to the genes involved in human speaking ability.

http://feedproxy.google.com/~r/sciencedaily/~3/3FIEA4xAVvM/141211142429.htm?utm_source=feedburner&utm_medium=email

SCIENCE DAILY – Affluence, not political complexity, explains rise of moralizing world religions

The ascetic and moralizing movements that spawned the world's major religious traditions -- Buddhism, Islam, Judaism, Hinduism, and Christianity -- all arose around the same time in three different regions, and researchers have now devised a statistical model based on history and human psychology that helps to explain why. The emergence of world religions, they say, was triggered by the rising standards of living in the great civilizations of Eurasia.

http://feedproxy.google.com/~r/sciencedaily/~3/tqU2aPgaBUU/141211124528.htm?utm_source=feedburner&utm_medium=email

SCIENCE DAILY – Are you genetically predisposed to antisocial behaviour?

Both positive and negative experiences influence how genetic variants affect the brain and thereby behavior, according to a new study. "Evidence is accumulating to show that the effects of variants of many genes that are common in the population depend on environmental factors. Further, these genetic variants affect each other," explained one researcher.

http://feedproxy.google.com/~r/sciencedaily/~3/MFrBiQqe3tI/141212122428.htm?utm_source=feedburner&utm_medium=email

SCIENCE DAILY – As gay marriage gains voter acceptance, study illuminates a possible reason

Conventional wisdom holds that changing the views of voters on divisive issues is difficult if not impossible -- and that when change does occur, it is almost always temporary. But political scientists have demonstrated that a single conversation can go a long way toward building lasting support for a controversial social issue.

http://feedproxy.google.com/~r/sciencedaily/~3/4T0E5Spw-Y/141211142142.htm?utm_source=feedburner&utm_medium=email

SCIENCE DAILY – Study supports the theory that men are idiots

The theory that men are idiots and often do stupid things is backed up by new evidence. The findings are actually based on an analyses of sex differences in idiotic behavior. Worthy candidates of idiocy include a man stealing a ride home by hitching a shopping trolley to the back of a train, only to be dragged two miles to his death before the train was able to stop; and the terrorist who posted a letter bomb with insufficient postage stamps and who, on its return, unthinkingly opened his own letter.

http://feedproxy.google.com/~r/sciencedaily/~3/ixuMbG7evCE/141211210038.htm?utm_source=feedburner&utm_medium=email

NEW YORK TIMES – Hunting for the Origins of Symbolic Thought

“Researchers had long assumed that Sulawesi’s cave paintings were less than 10,000 years old; anything older, the thinking went, would have eroded in the island’s humid climate. But Brumm and Aubert’s analysis, published in October, revealed that one hand stencil is at least 39,900 years old — the oldest hand stencil on record. A nearby painting of a female pig-deer was estimated to be 35,400 years old, making it one of the most ancient examples of figurative art.”

<http://www.nytimes.com/2014/12/07/magazine/hunting-for-the-origins-of-symbolic-thought.html?smid=li-share&r=1>

EMPLOYMENT – Associate Professor in Cognitive Science, University of Hyderabad

The Center for Neural and Cognitive Science at the University of Hyderabad has advertised for a position of Associate Professor in Cognitive Science. Fields of specialisation are open. Kindly look at the details at this link.

http://www.uohyd.ac.in/images/recruitment/faculty_notification_2014_2_031214.pdf

University of Hyderabad is a top ranking research university in India.

CONFERENCE – International Society for Research on Emotion (ISRE 2015)

The 2015 conference of the International Society for Research on Emotion (ISRE 2015) will take place on July 8-10, 2015 at the University of Geneva. Pre- and post-conference events are also possible on July 7th and 11th, respectively.

Submissions are welcome for symposia (of up to 5 papers), individual oral presentations, and posters from scholars in all relevant disciplines (including psychology, neuroscience, philosophy, sociology, linguistics, affective computing, history, anthropology and the humanities and social sciences generally) working on topics relating to emotion. Symposia including more than one discipline are particularly encouraged to facilitate cross-disciplinary communication in emotion research. Submissions are also possible for pre- and post-conference events.

Talks during the conference will be allocated 15 minutes, plus 5 minutes for questions. Posters will be assigned to dedicated sessions and stay up for a day.

For conference contributions, abstracts should be submitted online at the conference website (<http://www.isre2015.org>).

For pre- and post-conference events, proposals should be sent to ISRE2015@unige.ch. In both cases, please consult the submission guidelines before preparing your submission.

All abstracts will be subject to peer review by an international scientific committee. **The extended deadline for abstract submission is 31st December, 2014.** Notification of acceptance decisions will be communicated in February 2015. Online registration is expected to be available shortly after that.

For further information, please contact the Local Organizing Committee at ISRE2015@unige.ch.

CONFERENCE – 22nd Workshop on Logic, Language, Information and Computation (WoLLIC 2015)

July 20th-23rd, 2015 Bloomington, IN, USA

HOSTED BY

Department of Computer Science, Indiana University, USA

CALL FOR PAPERS

WoLLIC is an annual international forum on inter-disciplinary research involving formal logic, computing and programming theory, and natural language and reasoning. Each meeting includes invited talks and tutorials as well as contributed papers. The twenty-second WoLLIC will be held at the Department of Computer Science Indiana University, from July 20th to 23rd, 2015. It is sponsored by the Association for Symbolic Logic (ASL), the Interest Group in Pure and Applied Logics (IGPL), the The Association for Logic, Language and Information (FoLLI), the European Association for Theoretical Computer Science (EATCS), the European Association for Computer Science Logic (EACSL), the Sociedade Brasileira de Computação (SBC), and the Sociedade Brasileira de Lógica (SBL).

PAPER SUBMISSION

Contributions are invited on all pertinent subjects, with particular interest in cross-disciplinary topics. Typical but not exclusive areas of interest are: foundations of computing and programming; novel computation models and paradigms; broad notions of proof and belief; proof mining, type theory, effective learnability; formal methods in software and hardware development; logical approach to natural language and reasoning; logics of programs, actions and resources; foundational aspects of information organization, search, flow, sharing, and protection; foundations of mathematics; philosophical logic.

Proposed contributions should be in English, and consist of a scholarly exposition accessible to the non-specialist, including motivation, background, and comparison with related works. They must not exceed 10 pages (in font 10 or higher), with up to 5 additional pages for references and technical appendices. The paper's main results must not be published or submitted for publication in refereed venues, including journals and other scientific meetings. It is expected that each accepted paper be presented at the meeting by one of its authors. Papers must be submitted electronically at the WoLLIC 2015 EasyChair website. (Please go to <http://wollic.org/wollic2015/instructions.html> for instructions.) A title and single-paragraph abstract should be submitted by Feb 8, 2015, and the full paper by Feb 15, 2015 (firm date). Notifications are expected by Mar 22, 2015, and final papers for the proceedings will be due by Apr 5, 2015 (firm date).

IMPORTANT DATES

Feb 8, 2015: Paper title and abstract deadline

Feb 15, 2015: Full paper deadline

Mar 22, 2015: Author notification

Apr 5, 2015: Final version deadline (firm)

FURTHER INFORMATION

<http://wollic.org/wollic2015/>

PUBLICATIONS

Proceedings of the Royal Society B – No issue this week

Philosophical Transactions of the Royal Society B – 19 January 2015

PAPERS

HELENA MALMSTRÖM, et al with PONTUS SKOGLUND & ESKE WILLERSLEV – Ancient mitochondrial DNA from the northern fringe of the Neolithic farming expansion in Europe sheds light on the dispersion process [“The European Neolithization process started around 12 000 years ago in the Near East. The introduction of agriculture spread north and west throughout Europe and a key question has been if this was brought about by migrating individuals, by an exchange of ideas or a by a mixture of these. The earliest farming evidence in Scandinavia is found within the Funnel Beaker Culture complex (Trichterbecherkultur, TRB) which represents the northernmost extension of Neolithic farmers in Europe. The TRB coexisted for almost a millennium with hunter–gatherers of the Pitted Ware Cultural complex (PWC). If migration was a substantial part of the Neolithization, even the northerly TRB community would display a closer genetic affinity to other farmer populations than to hunter–gatherer populations. We deep-sequenced the mitochondrial hypervariable region 1 from seven farmers (six TRB and one Battle Axe complex, BAC) and 13 hunter–gatherers (PWC) and authenticated the sequences using postmortem DNA damage patterns. A comparison with 124 previously published sequences from prehistoric Europe shows that the TRB individuals share a close affinity to Central European farmer populations, and that they are distinct from hunter–gatherer groups, including the geographically close and partially contemporary PWC that show a close affinity to the European Mesolithic hunter–gatherers”] <http://rstb.royalsocietypublishing.org/content/370/1660/20130373>

FEDERICO SÁNCHEZ-QUINTO & CARLES LALUEZA-FOX – Almost 20 years of Neanderthal palaeogenetics: adaptation, admixture, diversity, demography and extinction [“Recent advances in next-generation sequencing technologies have allowed the generation of high-coverage genomes from two archaic hominins, a Neanderthal and a Denisovan, as well as a complete mitochondrial genome from remains which probably represent early members of the Neanderthal lineage ... An emerging picture is that Neanderthals had a long-term small population size, lived in small and isolated groups and probably practised inbreeding at times. Deleterious genetic effects associated with these demographic factors could have played a role in their extinction”] <http://rstb.royalsocietypublishing.org/content/370/1660/20130374>

New Scientist – 13 December 2014

ARTICLES

MICHAEL LE PAGE – How to think about... Evolution [Forget natural selection, survival of the fittest or any sense of purpose: evolution is just a random way to make freaks normal] <http://www.newscientist.com/article/mg22429991.500-how-to-think-about-evolution.html>

PHILIPPA BRAKES – Welcome to the club [If some species have culture, should we treat them differently?] <http://www.newscientist.com/article/mg22429992.700-to-save-animals-we-must-work-with-their-culture.html>

Science – 12 December 2014

PAPERS

OSCEOLA WHITNEY et al – Core and region-enriched networks of behaviorally regulated genes and the singing genome [“We found that ~10% of the genes in the avian genome were regulated by singing, and we found a striking regional diversity of both basal and singing-induced programs in the four key song nuclei of the zebra finch, a vocal learning songbird. The region-enriched patterns were a result of distinct combinations of region-enriched transcription factors (TFs), their binding motifs, and presinging acetylation of histone 3 at lysine 27 (H3K27ac) enhancer activity in the regulatory regions of the

associated genes. RNA interference manipulations validated the role of the calcium-response transcription factor (CaRF) in regulating genes preferentially expressed in specific song nuclei in response to singing. Thus, differential combinatorial binding of a small group of activity-regulated TFs and predefined epigenetic enhancer activity influences the anatomical diversity of behaviorally regulated gene networks”]

http://www.sciencemag.org/content/346/6215/1256780.full?utm_source=eloqua

ANDREAS R PFENNING et al – Convergent transcriptional specializations in the brains of humans and song-learning birds

[“Song-learning birds and humans share independently evolved similarities in brain pathways for vocal learning that are essential for song and speech and are not found in most other species. Comparisons of brain transcriptomes of song-learning birds and humans relative to vocal nonlearners identified convergent gene expression specializations in specific song and speech brain regions of avian vocal learners and humans. The strongest shared profiles relate bird motor and striatal song-learning nuclei, respectively, with human laryngeal motor cortex and parts of the striatum that control speech production and learning. Most of the associated genes function in motor control and brain connectivity”]

http://www.sciencemag.org/content/346/6215/1256846.full?utm_source=eloqua

MICHAEL J LACOUR & DONALD P GREEN – When contact changes minds: An experiment on transmission of support for gay equality

[“A randomized placebo-controlled trial assessed whether gay (n = 22) or straight (n = 19) messengers were effective at encouraging voters (n = 972) to support same-sex marriage and whether attitude change persisted and spread to others in voters’ social networks. The results, measured by an unrelated panel survey, show that both gay and straight canvassers produced large effects initially, but only gay canvassers’ effects persisted in 3-week, 6-week, and 9-month follow-ups. We also find strong evidence of within-household transmission of opinion change, but only in the wake of conversations with gay canvassers. Contact with gay canvassers further caused substantial change in the ratings of gay men and lesbians more generally. These large, persistent, and contagious effects were confirmed by a follow-up experiment”]

<http://www.sciencemag.org/content/346/6215/1366.full>

REVIEWS

VIVIANE CALLIER – The animal arms race [Review of ‘Animal Weapons: The Evolution of Battle’ by Douglas J Emlen]

http://app.aaas-science.org/e/er?utm_source=eloqua&s=1906&lid=53442&elq=b349b64e5ca944c98bee917739fa212f

Nature – 11 December 2014

NEWS

Ancient apes digested ethanol [Human ancestors were able to metabolize ethanol 10 million years ago, around the time that they came down from the trees] http://www.nature.com/nature/journal/v516/n7530/full/516146c.html?WT.ec_id=NATURE-20141211

PLoS One – 10 December 2014

PAPERS

CHIARA FINI, MARCELLO COSTANTINI & GIORGIA COMMITTERI – Sharing Space: The Presence of Other Bodies Extends the Space Judged as Near

[“As social animals we share the space with other people. It is known that perceived extension of the peripersonal space (the reaching space) is affected by the implicit representation of our own and other's action potentialities. Our issue concerns whether the co-presence of a body in the scene influences our extrapersonal space (beyond reaching distance) categorization ... Results suggest that the presence of others impacts on our perception of extrapersonal space”]

<http://www.plosone.org/article/info%3Adoi%2F10.1371%2Fjournal.pone.0114719>

SERGIO DA SILVA, BRUNO MOREIRA & NEWTON DA COSTA JR – 2D:4D Digit Ratio Predicts Delay of Gratification in Preschoolers

[“We replicate the Stanford marshmallow experiment with a sample of 141 preschoolers and find a correlation between lack of self-control and 2D:4D digit ratio. Children with low 2D:4D digit ratio are less likely to delay gratification. Low 2D:4D digit ratio may indicate high fetal testosterone. If this hypothesis is true, our finding means high fetal testosterone children are less likely to delay gratification”]

<http://www.plosone.org/article/info%3Adoi%2F10.1371%2Fjournal.pone.0114394>

PNAS – 9 December 2014

PAPERS

DOMNA BANAKOU & MEL SLATER – Body ownership causes illusory self-attribution of speaking and influences subsequent real speaking

[“Under normal circumstances we consciously attribute authorship of our actions to ourselves, the sensation of agency. We describe an experiment where participants observed a virtual human character speak and falsely attributed the speaking to themselves. They later shifted the FF of their own voice toward the stimulus voice. This only occurred when the life-sized VB substituted their own and moved with their own movements. A further contribution to the effect was vibrotactile stimulation on the thyroid cartilage synchronized with the speaking. This suggests that agency can be self-attributed even in the absence of prior intention, feed-forward prediction, priming, and cause preceding effect. A critical contributor is the illusion of ownership over the VB that spoke”] <http://www.pnas.org/content/111/49/17678.abstract>

ALEXANDER J STEWART & JOSHUA B PLOTKIN – Collapse of cooperation in evolving games [“This study offers a new perspective on an age-old question: When does cooperation emerge in populations? Two-player games used to study this question produce an array of counterintuitive results. And yet a consensus has emerged that, in an evolving population, cooperation tends to triumph over cheating—through reciprocity and generosity. But, what happens when players can influence not only their tendencies to cooperate, but also the rewards they reap for cooperation? We analyze coevolution of strategies and payoffs and find that, as individuals maximize the benefits of cooperation, they often pave the way for its collapse. Our analysis provides a framework for studying the coevolution of games and strategies, and suggests that maintaining cooperation may be more difficult than previously thought”]

<http://www.pnas.org/content/111/49/17558.abstract>

CHRISTOPHER OPIE, SUSANNE SHULTZ, QUENTIN D ATKINSON, THOMAS CURRIE & RUTH MACE – Phylogenetic reconstruction of Bantu kinship challenges Main Sequence Theory of human social evolution [“The agricultural revolution had a dramatic effect on all aspects of human society, but piecing together how humans lived as they spread farming practices worldwide remains difficult. In particular, the fundamental structures of human society, namely the way that property is inherited and the rules governing postmarriage residence, do not leave a clear trace in the archaeological record and, therefore, have been largely intractable. However, the recent availability of phylogenetic language trees coupled with new Bayesian statistical techniques makes it possible to reconstruct the ancestral state of Bantu kinship and reveals that inheritance and residence rules coevolved as farming spread throughout sub-Saharan Africa. Our results question current theory suggesting that residence rules are the primary driver of all other human social structures”]

<http://www.pnas.org/content/111/49/17564.abstract>

HAI XIANG et al – Early Holocene chicken domestication in northern China [“Here we obtained ancient mtDNA sequences from the earliest archaeological chicken bones from northern China as early as 10,000 y ago. Combined analyses of our ancient sequences with a large dataset of published modern and ancient chicken mtDNA sequences suggest that northern China was likely one of several regions of chicken domestication and provide further insights into the process of human-mediated spread of chickens across the globe”] <http://www.pnas.org/content/111/49/17564.abstract>

Nature Communications – 10 December 2014

PAPERS

C ALFANO et al – Postmitotic control of sensory area specification during neocortical development [“The mammalian neocortex is subdivided into functional areas whose identity is initially specified by gene expression gradients in progenitor cells. Here the authors show that altered postmitotic expression of the transcription factor COUP-TFI affects sensory areal specification, revealing plastic features of postmitotic corticogenesis”]

<http://links.ealart.nature.com/ctt?kn=127&ms=NDC1OTE5NDQS1&r=MTA5NjM3MTAyODYxS0&b=0&j=NTgxOTcwNTE2S0&mt=1&rt=0>

HIE LIM KIM et al – Khoisan hunter-gatherers have been the largest population throughout most of modern-human demographic history [“The expansion of Bantu agriculturalists 3,800 years ago in sub-Saharan Africa established first contact with Khoisan hunter-gatherers living in parts of Southern Africa. Sequencing the genomes of five Namibian-Khoisan hunter-gatherers and one Bantu individual tells a tale of admixture and isolation in the early history of modern human populations”]

<http://links.ealart.nature.com/ctt?kn=119&ms=NDC1OTE5NDQS1&r=MTA5NjM3MTAyODYxS0&b=0&j=NTgxOTcwNTE2S0&mt=1&rt=0>

Scientific American – January 2015

ARTICLES

EDDY NAHMIAS – Why we have free will [Neurons fire in your head before you become aware that you have made a decision. But this discovery does not mean you are a “biochemical puppet”]

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Send an email to martin.edwardes@btopenworld.com with the subject "EAORC unsubscribe".

EAORC website information is at <http://martinedwardes.webplus.net/eaorc.html>