

Evolution and human behavioural diversity

Compiled and edited by Gillian R Brown, Thomas E Dickins, Rebecca Sear and Kevin N Laland

Published February 2011

Special offer price for print issue: £47.50 (usual price: £59.50)



Human beings exhibit enormous behavioural diversity within and between populations and have succeeded in populating most of the globe. People vary in their social, mating and parenting behaviour and have diverse and elaborate cultural traits, traditions, norms and institutions. This issue asks whether - and how - evolutionary theory can help us to understand this behavioural diversity.

The introductory article starts by examining how diversity has been viewed by the main sub-disciplines within the human evolutionary behavioural sciences, namely: human behavioural ecology, evolutionary psychology and cultural evolution.

Other articles attempt to cross these traditional boundaries or provide novel perspectives on human behaviour, whilst philosophers of science also evaluate the concept of innateness and examine how social institutions can be incorporated into the evolutionary analysis of human behaviour.

An overarching theme is that the rigorous application of recent advances in evolutionary theory can help us to understand diversity in human behaviour, but that a satisfactory evolutionary framework requires greater integration between sub-disciplines.

Access online at:

rstb.royalsocietypublishing.org/site/2011/evolution-human-behavioural.xhtml

The print issue is available at the specially reduced price shown above. To place an order at this price, please send payment by cheque (made payable to Portland Customer Services) or by Visa or MasterCard (quoting reference **TB 1563**) to:

Portland Customer Services, Commerce Way, Colchester CO2 8HP, UK
Tel: +44 (0)1206 796351 Email: sales@portland-services.com

For information on related issues of *Philosophical Transactions B*, please visit:
rstb.royalsocietypublishing.org/info/environment-evolution

Contents

Introduction: evolutionary accounts of human behavioural diversity

Gillian R Brown, Thomas E Dickins, Rebecca Sear and Kevin N Laland

Endless forms: human behavioural diversity and evolved universals

Eric Alden Smith

Parental investment and the optimization of human family size

David W Lawson and Ruth Mace

Understanding the nature of wealth and its effects on human fitness

Monique Borgerhoff Mulder and Bret A Beheim

Flexibility in reproductive timing in human females: integrating ultimate and proximate explanations

Daniel Nettle

Social learning and human mate preferences: a potential mechanism for generating and maintaining between-population diversity in attraction

Anthony C Little, Benedict C Jones, Lisa M DeBruine and Christine A Caldwell

Unity and diversity in human language

W Tecumseh Fitch

 **Disgust as an adaptive system for disease avoidance behaviour**

Valerie Curtis, Mícheál de Barra and Robert Aunger

Macro-evolutionary studies of cultural diversity: a review of empirical studies of cultural transmission and cultural adaptation

Ruth Mace and Fiona M Jordan

Modelling the evolution and diversity of cumulative culture

Magnus Enquist, Stefano Ghirlanda and Kimmo Eriksson

On the number of independent cultural traits carried by individuals and populations

Laurent Lehmann, Kenichi Aoki and Marcus W Feldman

An evaluation of the concept of innateness


Matteo Mameli and Patrick Bateson

Exploring the folkbiological conception of human nature

Stefan Linquist, Edouard Machery, Paul E Griffiths and Karola Stotz

Human nature, cultural diversity and evolutionary theory

Henry Plotkin

 **EXIS Open Choice** denotes articles that are free to access via the Royal Society's open access route to publishing, EXIS Open choice.