

*Commentary***Human behaviour evolution**

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OVERVIEW

Reconstructing human evolution is a notoriously challenging and perilous task. While it is well-established that our phylogenetic legacy exists in primates, especially anthropoids, and among anthropoids, the great apes, we are extremely derived in numerous parts of our biology. Consequently, reconstructing the pathway of how human behaviour evolved is fraught with trouble.

Reconstructing the evolution of behaviour from paleontology and archeology is limited and, at best, dependent upon connections among surviving primate taxa and/or extrapolations from the behaviour of modern humans to special circumstances previously. Nevertheless, humans want to know how they came to be and trying to explain our odd existence is probably among one of our longstanding characteristics.

Koenig and Borries concur that the socioecological model could utilize improvement and that many of the points raised by Thierry, like the need to incorporate phylogeny, are significant. Nevertheless, they argue that inconsistencies point the way to making improvements to the model and should be inspected intently. They note that efforts to test socioecological theory quantitatively are uncommon, and that prior to abandoning a working model, we need to really evaluate its worth. Finally, they emphasize that models provide a guideline for framing hypotheses and designing research, and it is unwise to abandon a working model without an alternative to replace it.

In “Cooperative Breeding and Human Cognitive Evolution,” Judith Burkart, Sarah Hrdy, and Carelvan Schaik analyse the mental, motivational and cognitive outcomes of cooperative breeding and its role in the evolution of numerous parts of human cognition and behaviour, including the evolution of language. They argue that human social knowledge varies from that of other great apes due to the cognitive consequences of cooperative breeding added to an ape-like cognitive system.

In doing as such, they create a plethora of new ideas and hypotheses ripe for testing.

In “The Emergence of Human Uniqueness: Characters Underlying Behavioural Modernity,” Kim Hill, Michael Barton, and Magdalena Hurtado recognize two characteristics that are unique to modern human behaviour. One is our extensive reliance on social learning, which has led to our use of a huge repertoire of extra somatically stored common knowledge, which we call ‘culture’. The other is our outstanding level of cooperation among unrelated individuals, including specializations in work, exchange of goods and services among people and gatherings, and complex social networks.

They provide a detailed discussion of these distinctive features along with the behavioural, cognitive, and emotional aspects of humans that underlie them. They then ask why particular features evolved in humans and no other animals and attempt to reconstruct when they appeared in human evolution and under what circumstances. In doing so, they survey the whole extent of human evolution and provide a large set of working hypotheses for future testing. Monique Borgerhoff-Mulder and Kristen Rauch survey the huge and developing writing on sexual theory in “Sexual Conflict in Humans: Variations and Solutions,” in which they describe examples of sexual conflict in a wide range of other organisms, from insects to non-human primates, and talk about how models of sexual conflict may be beneficially used to research and better understand human behaviour.

In “Cooperation and Competition in Chimpanzees: Current Understanding and Future Challenges,” John Mitani reviews aspects of chimpanzee behaviour that have long been in the forefront of efforts to understanding the evolutionary basis of primate behaviour. He then talks about how these prominent aspects of chimpanzee behaviour relate to the behaviour of modern humans and its evolution, highlighting gaps in our knowledge with the goal of providing a road map for future research. This issue finishes up with two Essay Reviews. Finally, in “The Evolution of Language and the relevance of

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Primate Communication” Drew Rendall reviews two recent volumes that, together, provide both a review of recent and current research on primate communication and an argument that human language is so dramatically different from that of primates that primate communication has little to offer in the way of insights into the evolution of human language.

CONCLUSION

Finally, Researchers have identified that heredity is an internal factor for human personality, having a phylogenic feature, interfering in the process of human personality’s development with the psychosocial, educational and personal experiences processes. Human behaviour alludes to the variety of each physical activity and perceptible feeling related with people and as well as the human being. While specific attributes of one’s personality and activities may be steadier, different behaviours will change as one move from birth through adulthood.