

BACKLASH

Alan S. Parkes



A biologist looks at problems of
population and the environment

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Backlash: A Biologist Looks at Problems of Population and the Environment

By Professor Sir Alan Parkes, CBE, ScD, FRS
with the assistance of Mrs Frances Dennis

'With his mind full of mice and elephants', the distinguished biologist Sir Alan Parkes takes a unique perspective on the human problems of our time. Refusing to build a wall of professional jargon around population issues, he prefers to simplify them and relate them to a wide range of global events that threaten the future of the earth and its people.

After four chapters covering the essential elements of demography, he moves on to identify and describe a catalogue of disasters from which it is remarkable that so many have survived. He describes the widespread degradation of the natural environment as consequences of man's increasing numbers and technology. There is always a **BACKLASH**, not least, the backlash of sophistication as we foul our nest and our air and add man-made disasters to the natural hazards that affect human numbers.

Sir Alan Parkes died in July 1990 after a long and distinguished career, having continued to the very last to work on the present book which he wished to be published after his death.

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23–24 September 1993

at the Meeting Rooms of the Zoological Society, Regent's Park, London

The Symposium aims to explore the common interests in human fertility shared by reproductive endocrinologists, evolutionary biologists, demographers and social anthropologists. There will be four main sections: mechanisms that control fertility; evolutionary aspects of the decision to reproduce; historical demography of English and other populations; contemporary aspects of fertility in the UK and elsewhere.

Speakers include: Dr Peter Ellison (Harvard), Dr Lyliane Rosetta (Paris), Dr Alan Rogers (Utah), Dr Monique Borgerhof Mulder (Davis), Dr Hillyard Kaplan and Dr Jane Lancaster (Albuquerque), Dr John Landers (Oxford), Professor John Cleland and Dr Sara Randall (London), Dr Maire Ni Bhrolchain and Dr Andrew Hinde (Southampton) and Dr Jeanette Edwards (Salford).

The Galton Lecture, entitled 'Breastfeeding and the Baby: Natural Contraception', will be given by Professor Alan McNeilly.

For further details, contact the organiser: Professor Robin Dunbar, Anthropology Department, University College London, Gower Street, London WC1E 6BT. Admission is by ticket only, available free of charge from: The General Secretary, Galton Institute, 19 Northfields Prospect, Northfields, London SW18 1PE (Tel. 081 874 7257).

Population Studies

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