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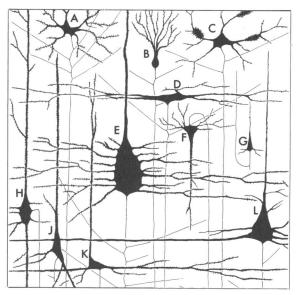
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The Behavioral and Brain Sciences

An International Journal of Current Research and Theory with Open Peer Commentary

ISSN 0140-525X

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Cambridge University Press Cambridge London New York New Rochelle Melbourne Sydney **Published by the Press Syndicate of the University of Cambridge** The Pitt Building, Trumpington Street, Cambridge CB2 1RP 32 East 57th Street, New York, NY 10022 296 Beaconsfield Parade, Middle Park, Melbourne 3206

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Printed in the United States of America by Science Press, Ephrata, Pennsylvania

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The Behavioral and Brain Sciences

To appear in Volume 5, Number 1 (1982)

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Genes, mind, and culture

Charles J. Lumsden and Edward O. Wilson, Harvard University

In Genes, Mind, and Culture (Cambridge: Harvard University Press, 1981), the process of gene-culture coevolution is characterized: Culture is shaped by biological influences whereas biological traits are simultaneously altered by genetic evolution in response to cultural history. A case is made that genetic and cultural evolution are inseverable, and that the human mind has tended to evolve so as to bias individuals toward certain patterns of cognition and choice rather than others. With the aid of mathematical models, the coevolutionary circuit is traced: The genes prescribe structure in endocrine and neural systems, imposing regularities in the development of cognition and behavior; these regularities translate upward into holistic patterns of culture, which can be predicted in the form of probability density distributions; natural selection acts within human history to favor certain developmental rules over others; and the selection alters the frequencies of the underlying genes.

With Commentary from D. P. Barash, A. L. Caplan, R. Fagen, M. T. Ghiselin, H. E. Gruber, C. R. Hallpike, D. L. Hartl, T. D. Johnston, C. R. Loftus, H. Markl, J. Maynard Smith, A. Rosenberg, G. Schubert, L. B. Slobodkin, P. L. van den Berghe, and others.

Neuroleptics and operant behavior: The anhedonia hypothesis

Roy A. Wise, Concordia University

Neuroleptic drugs cause rats to stop lever-pressing and alley-running for a variety of positive reinforcers, including food, water, brain stimulation, and intravenous psychomotor stimulants, opiates, and barbiturates. The characteristics of this response cessation and the fact that neuroleptics also block the acquisition of lever-press habits suggest that the reinforcing impact of these agents and associated environmental stimuli is blunted at neuroleptic doses that do not significantly impair the capacity to respond. Human reports suggest that the pleasure of rewarding events is also blunted by these agents. Thus it is proposed that these agents could be termed "anhedonics" or "dysphories." The anhedonia hypothesis of neuroleptic action has potential implications for understanding the effects of neuroleptic therapy with schizophrenic patients and dopamine cell loss in Parkinson's disease.

With Commentary from H. Anisman, G. W. Arbuthnott, R. J. Beninger, A. Ettenberg, W. J. Freed & R. F. Zec, D. C. German, G. F. Koob, W. Lyons, R. B. Malmo & H. P. Malmo, C. B. Nemeroff & D. Luttinger, J. Panksepp, P. Soubrie, T. N. Tombaugh, and others

Depression: The predisposing influence of stress Hymie Anisman and Robert M. Zacharko, Carleton

The neurochemical concomitants of depression and the neurochemical consequences of stressful experiences suggest that aversive experiences may provoke depression by depleting norepinephrine, dopamine, and serotonin. Aversive experiences give rise to behavioral attempts to cope with stress, coupled with increased amine activity to contend with environmental demands. When behavioral control over aversive experiences is not possible, amine utilization exceeds synthesis, leading to transmitter depletion, which in turn provokes depression. Organismic, experiential, and environmental variables, which may contribute to the amine depletions, could be determinants of

With Commentary from H. S. Akiskal, D. L. Chute, D. de Catanzaro, J. W. Kalat, G. W. Kraemer, A. I. Leshner, D. Lester, W. T. McKinney, Jr., S. T. Mason, R. Murison & H. Ursin, R. Neugebauer, K. M. Noll & J. M. Davis, E. A. Stone, and others.

Does play matter? Functional and evolutionary aspects of animal and human play

Peter K. Smith, University of Sheffield

The adaptive value of animal play is considered in terms of its costs and benefits to inclusive fitness. Play functions primarily to provide juveniles with practice for later skills when such practice would otherwise be unlikely or unsafe. This applies to physical training, social competition, and (for a few species only) tool use. In hominids, the capacity for fantasy may have been an emergent property which, superimposed on an arousal mechanism, increased the complexity of their play. Cultural change and, in particular, organized instruction, have since radically modified the adaptive significance of contemporary human play.

With Commentary from J. D. Baldwin, M. Bekoff, I. S. Bernstein, M. Csikszentmihalyi, I. Eibl-Fibesfeldt, R. Fagen, G. G. Fein, P. A. Ferchmin & V. A. Eterović, M. Lewis, F. E. Poirier, H. B. Schwartzman, B. Sutton-Smith, B. Vandenberg, D. P. Wolf,

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D. P. Peters & S. J. Ceci, "Peer review practices of psychological journals: The fate of published articles, submitted again"

H. L. Roitblat, "The meaning of representation in animal memory

J. Panksepp, "Toward a general psychobiological theory of emotions" R. B. Stein, "What muscle variable or variables does the nervous system control in normal movements?"

P. J. Sheafor, "'Pseudoconditioning' phenomena reflect true Pavlovian conditioning processes: Biological constraints on response indices of 'simple' associative learning'

I. Lieblich & M. A. Arbib, "Multiple representations of space underlying behavior"

Cambridge University Press

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