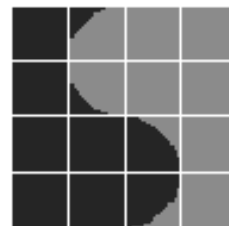




# Evolution, Biology & Society



Spring 2011 Newsletter of the ASA Section on Evolution, Biology & Society Volume 8, No. 1

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Jeremy Freese, Northwestern University

## **Past-Chair 2009-2010**

Stephen Sanderson, UC-Riverside

## **Chair-Elect 2011-2012**

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## **Newsletter editor and Webperson**

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[www2.asanet.org/sectionevol/](http://www2.asanet.org/sectionevol/)

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## **Message from the Chair**

Jeremy Freese  
Northwestern University

I'm teaching a graduate course on "Genetics and Society" this quarter at Northwestern. It's part of an interdisciplinary cluster we have on society, biology, and health, as part of my university's Cells To Society initiative. In addition to my course, students in the cluster take courses on topics including the psychophysiology of stress, biomarker research in integrative health science, and the evolutionary life history perspective on human development.

About half the students in my seminar are sociologists, and the others are from anthropology, psychology, and human development. I'm trying an experiment with the readings in the course, which is that I've included an almost maniacal diversity of current human science engagement with developments in genomic science. Along with

all the aforementioned readings, we will also be covering material from economics, political science, medicine, law, and philosophy, in addition to some straight-up genetics. The sociology we are covering includes sociologists working with actual genetic data and sociologists engaging genetics as a social phenomenon, through public opinion surveys or interviews with those suffering from a genetic disease. My hope is that this breadth will allow students, regardless of their specific interest in genetic research, to see the many ways that major scientific innovations reverberate across the academy, as well as to appreciate the sheer variety of scholars who are, in way or another, wrestling with genetics.

We are still early in the quarter, but it's clear the challenges of interdisciplinary work will also feature prominently in the seminar's discussion. For social scientists interested in working with genetic data, a simple question arises about what makes one adequately trained to work with such data. A typical response is "collaboration," and one can point to some great fruits of collaboration between social scientists and "real" geneticists, but collaborations have their own challenges and, through inattention and miscommunication, can end up less than the sum of their parts. With genetic data for sociology, extreme challenges also arise in terms of price of entry: it is not like some interested graduate student can go download data integrating molecular and survey data the way they might the General Social Survey. A major problem in candidate gene studies in sociology right now is the overreliance on the Add Health data, which can hardly be blamed on the pioneering data collection and efforts toward openness of Add Health.

Leading-edge genetic work is conducted at a modest number of centers, and it seems apparent that anyone interested in working at that level needs training, connections, or data access (and ideally all three) associated with these centers. If sociological interest in genetic data continues to grow, a question for our enterprise is whether we can work together toward a shared infrastructure that will help interested researchers build those connections.

In doing so, we need to consider what we bring to the table as sociologists. Even when behavioral or medical genetics considers interactions with environments, their conception of environment is very close to the body. Broader social dynamics, and the importance of thinking in population terms, have yet to be well integrated. This is important, for instance, in considering the logic of gene-environment correlation, as sociologists have a large set of conceptual tools to help understand how environments may function to accentuate initial genetic differences. What is evident when you teach an interdisciplinary seminar is that sociologists do have a distinct and useful way of thinking about things, and we need to keep bringing that perspective even as we come to gain training and empathy with other fields.

What makes the future of genetics in social science so exciting for me is precisely that it is so unsettled. There are real puzzles about which extraordinarily smart people have opposing opinions, and these puzzles are on their way to being figured out. While the "structure-agency" problem in social theory will outlive us all, the "missing heritability" problem in genetics probably won't. We have much to bring to the understanding of how environments moderate, amplify, and attenuate the influence of genetic differences in populations. We also have much to contribute to understanding better the sociology of genetic science. I am honored to be part of these efforts, and I hope that our section can contribute to bringing sociologists into the kinds of inter- and intra-disciplinary conversations as those I am having this quarter in our seminar.

**Note from the Editor: It has been a lean semester for contributions to the newsletter. As a result, I have decided to include the following bibliography I prepared for Oxford University Press on-line. I reproduce an abbreviated version for the benefit of section members. Apologies in advance for any omissions. Please refer to the forthcoming <http://oxfordbibliographiesonline.com/> for the full version.**

## **Biosociology**

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### Programmatic Statements and Review Pieces

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Evolution and Social Behavior

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Hormones and Social Behavior

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### Hormones and Social Behavior

## **INTRODUCTION**

The name biosociology covers a wide range of topics, from microsociological to macrosociological, with the unifying feature being an acknowledgement of the role of biology in human social life. In what follows

## **PROGRAMMATIC STATEMENTS AND REVIEW PIECES**

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\*Demography  
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\*Evolution and Human Behavior  
[<http://www.hbes.com/about/journal.php>]\*

\*Human Nature[<http://www.springer.com/social+sciences/archaeology+%26+anthropology/journal/12110>]\*

\*The Newsletter of the Evolution, Behavior and Society Section of the American Sociological Association[<http://www2.asanet.org/sectionevol/newletter/>]\*

\*Social Biology [<http://www.soc.duke.edu/~socbio/>]\*

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## List of Authors for The Handbook of Neurosociology

11-24-2010  
Springer Press

Eds. David D. Franks and Jonathan H. Turner  
(Asterisks are for sociologists)

Preface by Douglas Massey,  
Past ASA President

Summary of Chapters by eds. Part One

Theory: Part Two

3. Lakoff, George\* What Neuroscience Can Do for Sociology

4. Franks, David\* Units of analysis and the Distinction between Neurosociology & Social Neuroscience

5. Turner, Jon & Richard Niemeyer\* The Neurology of G.H. Mead, Shutz, Weber and other Grand Theorists

6. Kaplan, Charles\* Emergence

7. TenHouten, Warren\* Neuroscience of Rationality

8. Wentworth, William \* Consciousness

9. Seeberger, Frank Philosophy and Neurosociology with David Franks

The Neurosociology of Self, Part Three

10. Davis, Jeffery \* The Social Nature of the Brain

11. Hopcroft, Rosemary\* Theory of Mind (ToM)

12. Uddin, Lucina Brain Supports for Self and Others

13. Maryanski, Alexandria \* Primates. Brains and Sociality

14. Azziz Zadeh, Lisa Mirror Neurons and Social Control

Applications, Part Four

15. Norman, Gregg, Sociality and Health  
Cacioppo, Bernston & Hawkley

16. Eisenberg, Anne \* Mental Health

17. Franks, David \* Emotions with Jon Turner.

18. Franks, David\* Toward a Neurosociology of Ethics.

19. Mazur, Allan\* Dominance

20. Mc Phail, Clark (?) \* Symbolic Interaction

21. Nelson, Todd Stereotyping and Prejudice

22. Shanahan, Michael \* Genetics

23. Wentworth, William\* Creativity and the Brain

24. Smith, Thomas \* Strong Attachments and Conformity Pressures.

25. Hammond, Michael\* Neurophysiology of Rewards: Implications for Sociology

Computational Approaches, Part Five

26. Montague, Read Hyperscanning and a computational model of Decision-making

27. Arbibi, Michael Evolution and Language

28. Tsvetov, Maxim\* & Dopamine-Mediated Social Kennedy, William Rewards and Emergence of Early Sociality -- a Computational Approach".

\*\*\*\*\*



## Why do human babies not walk earlier like animal babies?

Professor Mahmoud Dhaouadi

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Such a question is hardly asked by social scientists as well as by biologists and physiologists let alone common people. Many of them would say: this is rather a philosophical or a banal question. But, it is neither. It is strongly a factual question: human babies can, on average, walk when they reach one year of age while animal babies (of large or small size animals) can walk at birth or few hours or days after it. So, the proposed question has the spirit of modern scientific ethics of behavioral and natural sciences. It raises a question about very tangible phenomena in the worlds of humans and animals (why animal babies walk earlier and why human babies do not: that is the question?). After all, the kind of question asked here belongs rather to Basic Research in doing science. In order to present a fair or a hypothetical reply, at least, to this question I explore the possible presence of a correlation between two unique human traits: the late walk of human babies and what I call Cultural Symbols/CS (language, thought, religion, knowledge/science, myths, cultural values and norms). The CS set is clearly a human unique characteristic which human babies are well disposed with before birth and develop them in full as they grow older and become greatly exposed to the appropriate stimuli. My research exploration of CS has the evidence that CS has a massive global impact on the making of the human identity including the late ability to walk by human babies. That is, the correlation between these two unique human traits is found to be a strong one. The credibility of this correlation is described, analyzed and discussed at length in light of a theoretical framework as well as field work examples in my new article.

## New Publications of Section Members

Blute, Marion. "Evolution's First Law?" Review Essay on Daniel W. McShea and Robert N. Brandon, *Biology's First Law: The Tendency for Diversity & Complexity to Increase in Evolutionary Systems*, 2010. The University of Chicago Press. Biological Theory 5(2) Spring 2010: 194-197.

Hall, Thomas D. The Silk Road: A Review Essay on *Empires of the Silk Road: A History of Central Eurasia from the Bronze Age to the Present*, by Christopher I. Beckwith (Princeton University Press, 2009). *Cliodynamics: the Journal of Theoretical and Mathematical History* 1(2010):1:103-115. on line at: <http://escholarship.org/uc/item/67z5m9d3>

Hall, Thomas D. and Nagel, Joane. 2011. "Indigenous Peoples." Pp. 156-160 *Routledge Companion to Race & Ethnicity* edited by Stephen M. Caliendo and Charlton D. McIlwain. London: Routledge.

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Hall, Thomas D., P. Nick Kardulias, and Christopher Chase-Dunn. "World-Systems Analysis and Archaeology: Continuing the Dialogue." *Journal of Archaeological Research*. On line @ <http://www.springerlink.com/content/104889/?Content+Status=Accepted> (Dec. 17, 2010), Print Sept. 2011.

Kuecker, Glen D. and Thomas D. Hall. 2011. "Resilience and Community in the Age of World-System Collapse." *Nature and Culture* 6:1(Spring):18-40.

Lewis, J. Scott. and Marissa Harrison. "Online delivery as a course adjunct promotes active learning and student success" with

Marissa Harrison. Forthcoming in *Teaching of Psychology* (date still to be determined) .

Lewis, J. Scott and Jeffrey Houser. "A biosocial approach to resource theory." This will appear in an upcoming book *titled A Handbook for Resource Theory* edited by Kjell Tornblom and Ali Kazemi to be published in the spring by Springer Press.

## **Presentations of Section Members**

Hall, Thomas. Invited Lecture:  
"Why the Study of Indigenous Peoples and Frontiers Are Important Topics in a Globalizing World." Sweet Briar College  
October 11, 2010

## **Section Sessions at the 2011 Meetings of the American Sociological Association August 20-23, Las Vegas, Nevada**

### **Mon, Aug 22 - 2:30pm - 4:10pm**

Section on Evolution, Biology, and Society  
Paper Session. Getting Sociology Under the Skin: Social Forces and their Biological Pathways

Session Organizer: Michael J. Shanahan (Univ of North Carolina-Chapel Hill)

Presider: Michael J. Shanahan (Univ of North Carolina-Chapel Hill)

How does race get "under the skin"?:  
Inflammation, obesity, and the Metabolic Syndrome in late life  
\*Aniruddha Das (NORC at the University of Chicago)

Long – Term Effects of Childhood Abuse on Immune – Related Disorders in Adulthood through Hypocortisolism  
\*Chioun Lee (Rutgers University)

Social Environmental Variation, Plasticity Genes, and Antisocial Behavior: Evidence for the Differential Susceptibility Hypothesis  
\*Ronald L. Simons (University of Georgia),  
Man Kit Lei (University of Georgia)

The Effect of the Great Recession and Dopamine Receptor Gene DRD2 on Maternal Harsh Parenting  
\*Dohoon Lee (New York University), Sara S. McLanahan (Princeton University), Jeanne Brooks-Gunn (Teachers College), Irwin Garfinkel (Columbia University), Daniel Notterman (Pennsylvania State University)

Discussant: Yang Yang (University of North Carolina-Chapel Hill)

### **Mon, Aug 22 - 4:30pm - 5:30pm**

Section on Evolution, Biology, and Society  
Invited Session. The Future of Genetic Data in the Social Sciences (one-hour)

### **Mon, Aug 22 - 5:30pm - 6:10pm**

Section on Evolution, Biology, and Society  
Business Meeting

## **People**

Seth Abrutyn has taken a position in the Department of Sociology at the University of Memphis.

*Find the Complete Works of Charles Darwin  
on-line at*

<http://darwin-online.org.uk/>

*Neurosociology: the nexus between  
neuroscience and social psychology*

David D. Franks  
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