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

In this issue:
- Evolution, Biology & Society Bibliography
- List of authors for Handbook of Neurosociology
- Why do human babies not walk earlier like animal babies? by Mahmoud Dhaouadi
- 2011 ASA Sessions
- New Publications of Section Members
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 online. 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
Introduction
Programmatic Statements and Review Pieces
  General Biosocial
  Emotions and Social Behavior
  Neurosociology
  Evolution and Social Behavior
  Genes and Social Behavior
  Hormones and Social Behavior
Textbooks
Journals
Emotions and Social Behavior
Neurosociology
Evolution and Social Behavior
  Family Processes and Fertility
  Sex Differences
  Sociological Theory
  Religion
  Crime
  Ethnic Behavior
Genes and Social Behavior
  Crime and Delinquency
  Substance Dependence
  Status Attainment
  Family Processes and Fertility
  Health
  Attitudes
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

General Biosocial


Emotions and Social Behavior


Neurosociology


Evolution and Social Behavior


Genes and Social Behavior


Guo, Guang; Jessica Halliday Hardie; Craig Owen; Jonathan K. Daw; Yilan Fu, Hedwig Lee; Amy Lucas; Emily McKendry-Smith and Greg Duncan. 2009. “DNA collection in a randomized social science study of college peer effects." Sociological Methodology 39: 1-29.


Hormones and Social Behavior


TEXTBOOKS


JOURNALS

*Demography
[http://www.springer.com/social+sciences/population+studies/journal/13524]*

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


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

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

EMOTIONS AND SOCIAL BEHAVIOR


NEUROSOCIOLOGY


EVOLUTION AND BEHAVIOR

Family Processes and Fertility


Sex Differences


Sociological Theory


Blute, Marion. 2010. Darwinian Sociocultural Evolution: Evolutionary Solutions to Dilemmas in Cultural and Social Theory. Cambridge University Press.


Evolution, Biology and Society, Vol. 8, No. 1, Spring 2011 - 6 –

the 21st-Century Sociology.” Teaching Sociology 38, 1:35-45.


Religion


Crime


Ethnic Behavior


GENES AND SOCIAL BEHAVIOR

Crime and Delinquency


Vaugn, Michael G; Matt Delisi, Matt; Kevin M. Beaver and John Paul Wright. 2009b. “DAT1 and 5HTT Are Associated With Pathological Criminal Behavior in a Nationally Representative Sample of Youth.” Criminal Justice and Behavior 36, 11: 1103-1114.

Substance Dependence


Status Attainment


Family Processes and Fertility


Health


Attitudes


HORMONES AND SOCIAL BEHAVIOR


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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


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


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

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


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. Tsvetovat, Maxim & Dopamine-Mediated Social Rewards and Emergence of Early Sociality -- a Computational Approach*.
Why do human babies not walk earlier like animal babies?

Professor Mahmoud Dhaouadi

University of Tunis, Tunisia.
E-M:m.thawad@yahoo.ca, t:0021697812315

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


**Presentations of Section Members**


**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)

**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.

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)
Recently, neuroscientists have presented new research which has a direct impact on many areas of social psychology. These include the evolution of the social brain and the human "self", the social nature of mind, socialization and language acquisition, role-taking (theory of mind), consciousness, intersubjectivity, a balanced social constructionism, human agency and the necessity of emotion for rational decision making. This book integrates glossed-over areas of George Herbert Mead's social behaviorism with current neuroscience and demonstrates how current work on mirror neurons supports the basic tenets of the American pragmatists' focus on the priority of motor behavior and their metatheory of transactional analysis.
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New 11th Edition

_Human Societies_
_An Introduction to Macrosociology_

Patrick Nolan and Gerhard Lenski

This classic text has been fully revised, updated with new data, and refreshed in design for student-friendly reading.

_On the Origins of Gender Inequality_

Joan Huber

Joan Huber challenges feminists toward a richer understanding of biological origins of inequality—knowledge that can help women achieve greater equality today.

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_Sociology: A Biosocial Introduction_

Rosemary L. Hopcroft

In an era of human genome research, environmental challenges, new reproductive technologies, and more, students can benefit from an introductory sociology text that is a biologically informed. This innovative text integrates mainstream sociological research in all areas of sociology with a scientifically-informed model of an evolved, biological human actor. This grounding of sociology in a biosocial conception of the individual actor is coupled with a comparative approach, as human biology is universal and often reveals itself as variations on themes across human cultures. Tables, Figures, Photos, and the author’s concise and remarkably lively style make this a truly enjoyable book to read and teach. Makes a good companion book to Nolan and Lenski’s _Human Societies_.

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