



Social Behaviour: Genes, Ecology and Evolution

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Humans live in large and extensive societies and spend much of their time interacting socially. Likewise, most other animals also interact socially. Social behaviour is of constant fascination to biologists and psychologists of many disciplines, from behavioural ecology to comparative biology and sociobiology. The two major approaches used to study social behaviour involve either the mechanism of behaviour - where it has come from and how it has evolved, or the function of the behaviour studied. With guest articles from leaders in the field, theoretical foundations along with recent advances are presented to give a truly multidisciplinary overview of social behaviour, for advanced undergraduate and graduate students. Topics include aggression, communication, group living, sexual behaviour and co-operative breeding. With examples ranging from bacteria to social mammals and humans, a variety of research tools are used, including candidate gene approaches, quantitative genetics, neuro-endocrine studies, cost-benefit and phylogenetic analyses and evolutionary game theory.

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Editorial Review

Review

"Szekely, Komdeur and Moore have assembled a hugely successful edited collection on the biology of social behavior. The coverage is up-to-date and complete, dealing with the full range of proximate and ultimate causes of social behavior as well as a broad range of social organisms from bacteria to humans. The chapter authors are leaders in their fields. Interspersed among the sophisticated but accessible review chapters are short, lively essays written by prominent sociobiologists. An indispensable book for all behavioral biologists and their students."

John Alcock, Arizona State University

"Social Behaviour: Genes, Ecology and Evolution provides the first extensive synthesis of research on animal social behaviour since the publication of E O Wilson's *Sociobiology* in 1974. The book brings together important reviews of the ecology, genetics and evolution of social behaviour by over sixty research leaders in this field to describe the past accomplishments of the field, outline current problems and suggest future objectives. It will be necessary reading for anyone involved in research in this area."

Tim Clutton-Brock, University of Cambridge

"This is an excellent book, that I thoroughly recommend! Social Behaviour shows that not only does everybody have a social life, but that it is the social aspects of life that are the most interesting. Sociality splices things up, leading to conflicts, but also the chance for cooperation. Whilst this has led to cool natural history, it also results in questions that cut to the core of how natural selection works. In Social Behaviour, some of the world's leading researchers do an excellent job of synthesising the huge progress that has been made over especially the last 50 years. The remit is broad, moving from the fruiting bodies of slime moulds to wealth inheritance in humans, but this done almost seamlessly, demonstrating the power of evolutionary theory. By showing the excitement of the field, the great success stories, and the outstanding mysteries, this book is sure to stimulate the next generation of researchers and refresh the older generation."

Stuart West, University of Oxford

"The editors have managed to bring together a true all-star team of scientists, and the volume demonstrates the key difference between an all-star Hollywood movie and an all-star scientific book: only the latter will improve the quality of the script."

Redouan Bshary, The Quarterly Review of Biology

About the Author

Tamás Székely is an evolutionary biologist with a main research interest in breeding system evolution. Most of his work uses birds as model organisms studied mostly through fieldwork, although also with the use of mathematical modelling and phylogenetic analyses to dissect behaviour. He has co-edited four books, including one on sex, size and gender roles. He is a professional Chair in Biodiversity at the University of Bath and was recently awarded a Research Fellowship by The Leverhulme Trust, and was also a Visiting Fellow at Harvard University. Please see more details on his website <http://www.bath.ac.uk/bio-sci/biodiversity-lab/szekely.html>.

Jan Komdeur has a strong reputation in experimental evolutionary ecology. He established the Seychelles warbler as a model system. He has many long-standing international collaborations with leading biologists which connect aspects of behavioural ecology, population genetics, and theoretical modelling. Komdeur has

an excellent publication record, most papers being published in top journals of their field. His reputation is evidenced by memberships of editorial boards, frequent invitations for keynote lectures, prestigious (inter)national awards and grants, and several lecturer of the year awards. His group received the highest qualification ('international excellence') by an international peer review committee in the last assessment of research quality.

Allen Moore is an evolutionary biologist, with research interests in behaviour genetics, quantitative genetic studies of behaviour and morphology, development of behaviour, theoretical investigations of evolution, and behavioural ecology. He is currently Professor of Evolutionary Genetics at the University of Exeter, as well as Head of Department and Director of the Centre for Ecology and Conservation, University of Exeter Cornwall Campus. He served as the elected Secretary of the Society for the Study of Evolution (2003-2006) and is currently the Editor-in-Chief of the Journal of Evolutionary Biology for the European Society for Evolutionary Biology.

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