



european human behaviour
and evolution association

EHBEA 2014 Newsletter

Dear EHBEA members, As I get older, I find myself becoming less interested in sex, and more interested in food. I am far from alone in this of course, and I do wonder if something similar will happen to our field. The preponderance within the human evolutionary behavioural science community of topics to do with sex – mate choice, attractiveness, jealousy and so forth – has been very marked for the last twenty years. Of course, these *are* evolutionarily important topics, but they are certainly not the only topics where evolutionists have a lot to contribute.

In contrast to the effort devoted to questions of sex, our community does strikingly little about food. How many diet-related talks have you heard at EHBEA conferences? Yet, finding appropriate and sufficient food is probably the most important fitness imperative there is. Every one of your ancestors managed to mate at least once, but to become your ancestor they had to eat appropriately every single day for many thousands of days; they found and ingested enough to keep a high-demand human body going, and managed not to poison themselves in the process. If there is any domain in which there ought to be psychological mechanisms showing evidence of evolutionary design, complex social learning, and interesting variations in behaviour across current ecologies, then that domain is surely food.

As well as being of fundamental interest, food is of urgent applied importance. The world faces a 'double burden' related to food: many millions are under-nourished, and at the same time, often within the same populations, there is an epidemic of obesity. Understanding how this has arisen and what its consequences are requires the integration of human biology, ecology, psychology and social science – exactly the kind of interdisciplinary endeavour likely to appeal to evolutionarily-minded researchers. And we have plenty of theoretical resources to draw on, notably optimal foraging theory and life-history models, as well as exquisite empirical work in non-human animals.

EHBEA continues to run smoothly, and thanks are due to all the committee members for their hard work. In particular, I should thank Gillian Brown, Sandra Virgo and Jeremy Kendal, whose

terms as officers are coming to an end. Their positions are open (see elsewhere in this newsletter), so please consider putting yourselves forward for them. I am greatly looking forward to the next conference, 29th March – 1st April 2015 in Helsinki. Abstract submission is now open. There's a stellar cast of plenary speakers, and no doubt the contributed talks will match the excellent standard of recent years. And I am really hoping I am going to learn something about food!

Daniel Nettle, EHBEA President

November 2014

1. News and Announcements

1.1 EHBEA Committee

The following changes have been made to the EHBEA committee:

Treasurer – Dr. Michael Stirrat, University of Stirling (*replacing Dr. Alex Mesoudi, University of Durham*)

Student Representative – Sakshi Sharda, University College London (*new post*)

Many thanks to outgoing committee members for their substantial contributions to EHBEA and a warm welcome to the new committee members.

1.2 Membership Renewal reminder

The membership year runs until September each year. If you are unsure when your membership term expires, you can check by logging in to the EHBEA website, and then looking at the 'membership expires' date displayed in the right-hand column, under your log-in name. Please remember that you must be a current member in order to apply for Student Research Grants, Student Travel Grants, Workshop Grants and to be nominated (or nominate) for the New Investigator Award or a Committee position, so don't forget to renew if you are applying for one of these.

1.3 Student Research Grant

EHBEA supports research by its student members through a bi-annual Student Research Grant competition. The next deadline for submitting a funding proposal is **5pm GMT on 1st March**

2015. Applicants must be pursuing postgraduate research degrees and be members of EHBEA in order to apply. Up to two grants will be awarded each year. The maximum award per grant is 500 Euros. Funds could be requested for participant payments, travel to field sites, or other research costs. Grant applications will be assessed on the basis of scientific quality, feasibility and quality of the applicant. More information, and application forms, are available on the EHBEA website, and attached to this newsletter. Please contact the EHBEA Secretary Tamsin Saxton (ehbea.secretary@googlemail.com) if you have any questions.

1.4 Workshop grants

EHBEA supports occasional workshops and meetings to promote understanding of evolution and human behaviour, facilitate research collaborations, and further research. The EHBEA committee considers applications for workshop funding twice yearly on 1st March and 1st August, with funding available up to a maximum of 1000 Euros per workshop. The next deadline for submitting a funding proposal is **5pm GMT on 1st March 2015**. Students organising workshops are also encouraged to apply. More information, and application forms, are available on the EHBEA website, and attached to this newsletter. Please contact the EHBEA Secretary Tamsin Saxton (ehbea.secretary@googlemail.com) if you have any questions.

2. EHBEA 2015 Conference

We are pleased to announce the **11th European Human Behaviour and Evolution Association Conference** which will be held in Helsinki, Finland from **29th March to 1st April 2015**.

The conference website is now live [here](#). There you will find links for **abstract submission** (deadline **31st December 2014**) and **conference registration** (opening shortly). A conference flyer is attached to this newsletter.

Confirmed plenary speakers:

[Melissa Hines](#) (Cambridge University, UK)

[Chris Kuzawa](#) (Northwestern University, USA)

[Wil Roebroeks](#) (Leiden University, Netherlands)

[Oliver Schülke](#) (Göttingen University, Germany)

[Beverly Strassmann](#) (University of Michigan, USA)

New Investigator Award winner

Main contacts for the Organizing Committee:

[Anna Rotkirch](#)

[Markus Jokela](#)

EHBEA 2015

European Human Behaviour and Evolution Association
ANNUAL CONFERENCE

PLENARY SPEAKERS

Melissa Hines
University of Cambridge, UK

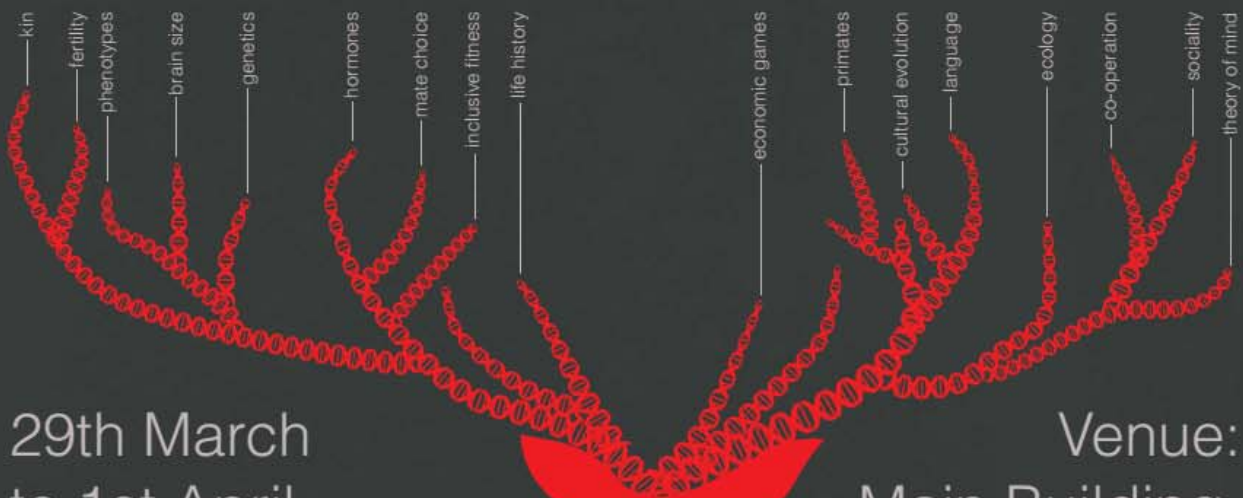
Chris Kuzawa
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Oliver Schülke
Göttingen University, Germany

Beverly Strassmann
University of Michigan, USA

and the 2015
New Investigator



29th March
to 1st April
Helsinki
Finland

Venue:
Main Building,
University
of Helsinki



slidemanship.com
— the best out of presentation and poster design —



Väestöliitto



UNIVERSITY OF HELSINKI

www.ehbea2015.org

3. EHBEA 2015 New Investigator Award

The EHBEA Steering Committee is calling for nominations for the 2015 EHBEA New Investigator Award.

The prize will be an expenses-paid plenary slot at the EHBEA 2015 annual conference in Helsinki from 29th March to 1st April. All EHBEA members are invited to nominate one or more candidates. A nomination form including further details is attached to this newsletter. The deadline for nominations is **5pm GMT on Wednesday 31st December 2014**.

4. EHBEA 2015-2018 Committee Elections

The EHBEA Steering Committee is calling for nominations for the following committee positions for the spring 2015-spring 2018 period (responsibilities to be taken up immediately following the 2015 conference):

1. **Vice-President** * (currently Gillian Brown, University of St. Andrews)
2. **Publicity & Website Officer** (currently Sandra Virgo, London School of Hygiene & Tropical Medicine)
3. **Early Career Officer** (currently Jeremy Kendal, Durham University)

* *Steering Committee Position*

Please find attached a nomination form (which also includes further details on eligibility and the responsibilities of each position). Current holders of open positions may be re-elected. The deadline for nominations is **5pm GMT on Wednesday 31st December 2014**.

Shortly after nominations have been received, all members will be provided with information on the candidates and the opportunity to vote. Other committee positions are not open for nomination this year to ensure consistency in the management of EHBEA.

5. EHBEA Book Series

EHBEA publishes a book series with Springer, titled 'Advances in the Evolutionary Analysis of Human Behaviour'. The aim of this book series is to promote EHBEA's tenets of rigour, integration and pluralism by producing a series of methodologically rigorous books with a pluralistic theme. Examples might include integrative books on a single topic in the human behavioural sciences but including a range of viewpoints from the different sub-fields; and pluralistic books with a broad theme but also drawing in examples from the different sub-fields.

Books focussing on methodological issues and developments of relevance to the field; and teaching resources are also encouraged. The first book in the series was published this year on 'Applied Evolutionary Anthropology: Darwinian Approaches to Contemporary World Issues' edited by Mhairi Gibson and David Lawson. Please contact the series editor Rebecca Sear (rebecca.sear@lshtm.ac.uk) if you would like to propose a book for the series.

6. EHBEA 2014 New Investigator Award Winner

Willem Frankenhuis (Radboud University)



Willem is an Assistant Professor in Developmental Psychology at the Behavioural Science Institute of the Radboud University Nijmegen. He received his PhD in Biological Anthropology in 2012 from UCLA. Willem works at the interface between evolutionary biology and developmental psychology. His research centres on developmental plasticity, the ability to adjust development based on experience.

Willem's theoretical work uses mathematical modeling to examine how natural selection shapes mechanisms of plasticity—across generations—depending on environmental conditions. His empirical work examines how these mechanisms—within generations—process information and tailor cognition and behaviour to local environmental conditions.

In his empirical work, Willem studies cognitive adaptations to harsh environments. People from harsh environments typically score lower on assessments of cognitive abilities. The predominant view in psychology is thus that chronic exposure to harsh conditions impairs cognition.

Willem's work challenges this consensus by proposing that harsh environments do not generally impair cognition; rather, people's minds become developmentally adapted for solving problems that are ecologically relevant in such environments. These problems require different mental skills from those that are assessed on conventional tests.

This hypothesis makes a novel prediction: harsh-adapted people will show enhanced performance on tasks that match recurrent problems in their environments, compared with safe-adapted people. The central goal of his research is to test this prediction.

Selected Publications

Frankenhuis, W. E., & de Weerth, C. (2013). Does early-life exposure to stress shape or impair cognition? *Current Directions in Psychological Science*, 22, 407–412.

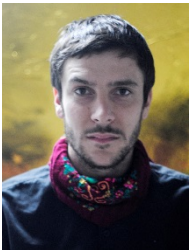
Frankenhuis, W. E., Panchanathan, K., & Barrett, H. C. (2013). Bridging developmental systems theory and evolutionary psychology using dynamic optimization. *Developmental Science*, 16, 584–598.

Frankenhuis, W. E., & Panchanathan, K. (2011). Balancing sampling and specialization: An adaptationist model of incremental development. *Proceedings of the Royal Society B*, 278, 3558-3565.

7. EHBEA 2014 Best Student Presentation

Julien Barthes (University of Montpellier/Institute of Evolutionary Sciences of Montpellier)

Julien Barthes, Pierre-André Crochet, Michel Raymond ‘Male homosexual preference: Where, when, why?’



Since I realised that human behaviours cannot be understood without taking evolution into account, I developed a broad interest in human evolution. I am especially interested in the fields of (homo)sexuality, mate choice, social stratification and leadership. I thus entered the team of Michel Raymond to first work on the evolution of mate choice. I then switched to the study of same-sex sexual preferences in humans. I am now ending my PhD course on this topic, during which we developed a new hypothesis to explain the evolution of male homosexual preferences (the hypergyny hypothesis), using different approaches such as modelling, cross cultural studies, morphometrics, etc. We aim to explore various aspects of these sexual preferences, from anthropology, archaeology, and biology in order to improve our understanding of the evolution of male homosexual preferences.

Publications:

Barthes, J. Godelle, B. Raymond, M. 2013. Human social stratification and hypergyny: toward an understanding of male homosexual preference. *Evolution and Human Behavior*, 34, 155-163.

Barthes, J. Godelle, B. Raymond, M. 2014. Response to comment on 'Human social stratification and hypergyny: toward an understanding of male homosexual preference'. *Evolution and Human Behavior*, 35, 448-450

Bovet, J. Barthes, J. Durand, V. Raymond, M. Alvergne, A. 2012. Men's preference for women's facial features: testing homogamy and the paternity uncertainty hypothesis. *PlosOne*, 7, e49791

Website: <http://evolutionhumaine.fr/chercheur.php?nom=Barthes>

8. EHBEA 2014 Best Student Poster Award



Jeanne Bovet (University of Montpellier 2 – Institute of Evolutionary Sciences of Montpellier, France)

Jeanne Bovet, Melissa Barkat-Defradas, Valerie Durand, Charlotte Faurie, Michel Raymond 'Men prefer women with late expected age at menopause'

Human beauty has always been a central theme for philosophers, artists, writers, and the ordinary man and woman "in the street". I am interested in the evolutionary basis of human -and especially women's- attractiveness. I used an experimental approach to identify the physical traits influencing women's attractiveness. In addition to the well known cues of current fertility, I investigated the influence of residual fertility on men's preferences. Furthermore, I studied the issue of whether attractiveness standards are universal. I conducted my research under the supervision of Michel Raymond, and my PhD thesis defence will be held this year.

Webpage: www.evolutionhumaine.fr/chercheur.php?nom=Bovet

9. Student Research Grant Awardees

The awardees of this year's student research grants are:

[Hannah Ryder](#) from the University of Leicester for the project *The effect of fertility status on detection of and attention towards fitness-related stimuli.*

Research suggests females may have evolved an adaptation to avoid sexual assault at peak fertility due to the large costs to reproductive fitness. However, such research only alludes to the

possibility of rape (e.g. avoidance of alleyways) rather than referring to rape explicitly. Females may simply become more risk-averse in general when their behaviour has the highest reproductive relevance. If females have evolved a mechanism to avoid rape specifically at peak fertility, it is likely to involve rapid evaluation of mate-quality and enhanced threat detection to enable efficient response. This project aims to assess whether females show variation in attention to fitness-related stimuli over the menstrual cycle. A dot-probe task and eye-tracking equipment will be used with a within-subjects design to determine whether females have enhanced detection of threats (e.g. snakes, spiders; untrustworthy, angry males) and mate-quality (e.g. varying trustworthiness, dominance and attractiveness) when they have the most reproductive relevance (i.e. during ovulation). It is hypothesised that females will show an attentional bias towards fitness-relevant stimuli in fertile compared to nonfertile phases of their menstrual cycle. Attentional bias will also be assessed with regards to faster detection of stimuli associated with rape (e.g. threatening males) compared to general threats (e.g. threatening animals) to assess whether the mechanism is rape-specific. Furthermore, due to the differences in reproductive quality, it is expected that eye-tracking data will show fertile compared to nonfertile females to fixate faster and for longer on highly attractive (mate-seeking) and unattractive (mate-avoidance) males.

[Yong Zhi Foo](#) from the University of Western Australia for *The effects of dietary supplementation on facial appearance and health*.

Human facial attractiveness plays an important role in affecting mate choice. Evolutionary theory suggests that certain individuals are attractive in part because their appearance signals to the opposite sex that they are healthy. Recent work suggests that healthy appearance is linked to one's diet. The aim of this research is to investigate the effects of dietary supplements on human facial appearance and health. Carotenoids have been associated with enhanced facial attractiveness and health. However, because they cannot be generated *de novo* (thus limited in supply) and cannot fulfil both ornamentation and health functions at the same time, trade-offs have to be made between the two functions, resulting in a positive relationship between appearance and health: a healthier person will be able to devote more carotenoids to enhancing appearance compared to someone less healthy. To test the assumption that dietary supplements affect appearance and health, this study will give the participants a 12-week dose of dietary supplements. Photos of the participants will be taken pre- and post-supplementation for measuring appearance changes, and biological samples such as saliva, urine, and semen will be taken pre- and post- supplementation for measuring physiological health changes. It is

hypothesized that participants will show improvements in appearance and health after taking the supplement.

[Elena Zwirner](#) from University College London for *The effects of city living and upbringing on prosocial behaviour*.

City-dwellers are reportedly less cooperative than their rural-dwelling counterparts, revealing important impacts of urbanicity as an environmental factor on cooperative behaviour. City-life is associated with higher amygdala activity, which increases anxiety levels, mood disorders, and incidence of mental illnesses such as schizophrenia. With higher amygdala activity the propensity to trust others is reduced. This can inhibit cooperation, as individuals may fear that other people will exploit them rather than cooperating in return. Recent studies have found that city-living during childhood also affects amygdala activity and stress levels via the anterior cingulate cortex. Altogether, these findings raise the exciting possibility that differences in pro-social tendencies may be affected not only by the current environment, but also by the environmental conditions experienced during childhood. With this study, I aim to investigate this exciting possibility directly.

I will use a Dictator Game to assess generosity combined with responses to a questionnaire for self-reported measurements of helping behaviour. Through the Dictator Game I will be able to determine whether differences in pro-sociality are present between city-dwellers and rural-dwellers, and whether these differences are linked to the current or the childhood environment. Moreover, I will be able to assess the relationship between actual generosity and self-reported generosity by matching the results from the Dictator Game to the standardized questionnaire responses. This study will thereby help us to elucidate the behavioural consequences of current living versus upbringing in urban environments, as well as to determine the real-world validity of results from laboratory games.

[Charlotte Brand](#) from the University of St. Andrews for *Sex differences in confidence and conformity on a novel mental rotation task*.

We aim to manipulate sex differences in confidence in a novel mental rotation task. We predict that increasing women's confidence in a task will decrease their levels of conformity, and that decreasing their confidence will lead to increased conformity. The results will suggest that greater conformity in women than in men is due to a "copy-when-uncertain" social learning

strategy which can be flexibly manipulated via cultural information. A previous study (Cross et al., in review) showed that women have lower confidence than men in a standard (Shepard & Metzler 1971) mental rotation task, and that their lower confidence levels predict their higher levels of conformity on that task. Crucially, women's confidence was lower than expected for their performance, demonstrating that their confidence was not lower simply because they were worse at the task. Previous studies have shown that women perform worse in tasks in which they are told men perform better, a phenomenon known as stereotype threat (e.g. Sharps, Price & Williams 1994; Rothberger & Wolsiefer 2014). We will therefore use a stereotype-threat paradigm to manipulate confidence, and assess the consequent effects on conformity. The task uses images of 3D human figures rather than arrangements of cubes, allowing us to manipulate expectations about the task. Flexibly altering levels of conformity through socially transmitted information using a stereotype threat paradigm will shed light on how cultural expectations about the relative abilities of different groups of individuals can impact upon the levels of conformity within a population.

[Simon Tobias Lüdtke](#) from the Universities of Amsterdam and Vienna for *Post-conflict yawning and stress behaviour in captive bonobos (*pan paniscus*)*.

Contagious yawning has been observed in humans (Norscia & Palagi, 2011), chimpanzees (Campbell & de Waal, 2009; Massen, Vermunt & Streck, 2012), bonobos (Demuru & Palagi, 2012) and gelada baboons (Palagi, Leone, Manici & Ferrari, 2009). More controversial findings suggest contagious yawning in stump-tail macaques (Paukner & Anderson, 2006), domesticated dogs (e.g. Harr, Gilbert, Phillips, 2009) and budgerigars (Miller, Gallup, Vogel, Vicario & Clark, 2012). According to the thermoregulatory theory of yawning (Gallup & Eldakar, 2013), yawning cools down the brain by removing hypothermic while introducing cooler blood, directly affecting the blood transported through the brain, and stretching of the jaw. Hence, it is hypothesised that, as a consequence of experiencing stress, brain temperature increases and yawning either helps cope with overheating thereby restoring homeostasis once the stressor has passed or reduces the brain's blood temperature to promote vigilance in expectation of the stressor's return. Behavioural data will be collected during four months of observation on a group of bonobos (*Pan paniscus*) housed at the Apenheul Primate Park (Apeldoorn, The Netherlands). Using a post-conflict matched control design (see e.g. De Waal & Yoshihara, 1983; Clay & de Waal, 2013; Palagi, Paoli & Tarli, 2004) will allow us to compare yawning and stress behaviour (self-scratching/self-grooming) frequencies in response to a fight between conspecifics to behaviour baselines. Results are expected to depend on the occurrence of bystander

consolation and aggressor-victim re-conciliation. Knowing about the relationship between yawning and stress in a close relative may shed light on this ancient automatism ubiquitous in humans.

10. EHBEA WORKSHOP REPORTS

[Markus Rantala](#) won an award for **The Nordic Evolutionary Psychology Meeting 2014**, which was held from 12th-14th September 2014 at Lammi Biological Station, Finland. This is his report:

The purpose of the Nordic Evolutionary Psychology Meetings is to bring together researchers and students from Northern Europe who are interested in studying animal and human behaviour in the light of evolution. To make it affordable for all interested participants, there was no congress fee for the meeting and accommodation was inexpensive. To make it easier for teachers and students to participate in the meeting, it was held on the weekend. The venue was Lammi Biological Station, located 125 km north of Helsinki on the shore of Lake Pääjärvi. Despite its remote location, the meeting had over 90 registered participants. Participants were from nine different countries representing the fields of psychology, anthropology, biology and philosophy.

The event program, abstract book and list of participants can be found here:

http://www.helsinki.fi/lammi/NEPMabstract_and_program2014.pdf

The program got underway on Friday evening with two related talks by Prof. Jan Havlíček, (Czech Republic) and Prof. Grazyna Jasienska (Poland) that gave a very thorough introduction to the considerations and potential pitfalls that researchers must be aware of when female menstrual cycles are studied. To end the evening Prof. Arcady Putilov (Russia) discussed how sleep cycles differ between the sexes and he placed this in its evolutionary context.

The theme of Saturday morning and early afternoon centred on sexual selection, which was approached from many different angles. This included Dr. Patrick Jern's research on premature ejaculation in males, and Dr. Urszula Marcinkowska's (Poland) discussion of how male preference for female faces differs between cultures. Reader Anthony Little (UK) then continued with a very thorough introduction to the study of facial morphology, and the sexual theme was wrapped up with presentations by Dr. Jan Antfolk (Finland), Prof. Debra Lieberman (USA) on incest, inbreeding avoidance and kin selection. An interesting historical background to the idea

of kin detection was given by Dr. Olli Lagerspetz (Finland) who discussed Westermarck's approach to his research and this subject.

The remainder of Saturday's presentations focused on the theme of conflict, cooperation and group formation. This theme was explored by Dr. Mikael Puurtinen and his graduate student Jaakko Junikka from the perspective of game theory and computer based experiments on how humans make decisions about whether to cooperate with group members or not. Prof. Anna Rotkirch (Finland) then talked about gender differences in friendship and group formation. Prof. Rebecca Sear (England) told about cooperation and conflict within families and whether kin help or hinder reproductive success. Finally Jenni Pettay used historical data to show trends of cooperation and conflict in pre-industrial Finns.

Sunday morning's program was organized to demonstrate how researchers can benefit from the study of non human animals to help gain insight into human evolution. Examples of social learning in insects (Prof. Johanna Mappes, Finland) and chimpanzees (Dr. Thibaud Gruber, Switzerland), demonstrated how these organisms are capable of learning in a way similar to humans. Prof. Daniel Nettle (England) demonstrated through his research how experimentation with starlings can allow us to find answers to questions that are not possible to research with humans. Dr. Mirikka Lahdenperä (Finland) showed how the comparisons of life histories of humans and elephants can help us to understand the evolutionary origins of menopause. In the final session of the meeting Dr. Samuli Helle (Finland) reported on his research dealing with sex ratios in humans, Prof. Josh Tybur (USA) gave insight into pathogen avoidance and political conservatism and Dr. Markus Rantala discussed female preferences for males based on appearance and immune system function.

A poster session was also held with six presenters getting a great deal of attention from the attendees at the meeting. The meeting was also an important opportunity for Finnish students to be introduced to the field. Over 50 students attended the meeting, and many of them were able to gain credits from writing a report about the meeting. The Station was an ideal environment for researchers and students to interact with one another because everyone had meals, accommodation and the social program (including a banquet on Saturday) together. Probably one of the most memorable social events for most of the guests was the traditional Finnish Sauna at the lakeside which participants were able to enjoy every evening.

Altogether the meeting was considered by attendees and organizers to be a great success. The scientific quality of the meeting received lots of positive feedback, and during the three days lots

of new ideas and opportunities for collaboration were also discussed. The high scientific quality of the meeting would not have been possible without financial support from EHBEA for which we are very grateful.

[Carmen Lefevre](#) and [Gary Lewis](#) were awarded an EHBEA Workshop Grant for '**From DNA to Social Minds**', held from 30th June to 1st July at the University of York, UK. This is their report:

Over June 30th and July 1st the Department of Psychology at the University of York hosted the EHBEA-sponsored event*, From DNA to Social Minds. The role of genetics and neuroscience in human social behaviour has become a topic of considerable interest and importance in recent years. However, biological scientists and social scientists are rarely in the same room discussing the issues that arise at the nexus of their respective fields. The goal of the event was to attempt to bridge this gap by drawing together academics from each of these research traditions, and to this end the organising committee managed to attract a stellar set of keynote speakers from the fields of molecular and behavioural genetics, personality neuroscience, and experimental social psychology. The conference delegates also represented a broad range of disciplines, including evolutionary psychology, behavioural genetics, personality, social psychology, social neuroscience, and anthropology.

David Skuse (UCL) provided an excellent opening keynote on the role of oxytocin in human social behaviour (with a focus on face emotion recognition). Philip Corr (City University) followed up with a tour de force overview of personality neuroscience research, and also highlighted a number of the challenges that behavioural scientists will face if they wish to successfully integrate biological and personality data. Essi Viding (UCL) got us off to a lively start on Day 2 with an inspiring keynote on the darker side of human social behaviour: the genetics of psychopathy and conduct disorder. The final key note of the conference was delivered by Constantine Sedikidis (University of Southampton) who provided an outstanding talk on the topic of self-knowledge and self-enhancement (as well as a crash-course lesson on Ancient Greek philosophy!). In addition to their key note presentation, our speakers also engaged in a lively and thoughtful panel session at the end of Day 1 discussing: "Where next for biosocial sciences?".

We also saw 10 high-quality oral presentations from delegates over the two days on topics including affective neuroscience, hormones and behaviour, face perception, the evolution of

cooperation, and gene-environment interplay on human intelligence, as well as 18 posters of similar breadth and interest.

All in all, the event fuelled a large amount of thought in how to approach questions relating to social behaviour and an insight into fields that are closely related to each other. The event provided a forum for discussion that often doesn't find its place in more traditional academic conferences.

*with additional thanks to the Galton Institute for financial support.

11. FORTHCOMING EHBEA-FUNDED WORKSHOPS

[Dr. Nichola Raihani](#) and [Professor Ruth Mace](#) have been awarded an EHBEA workshop grant for **Perspectives on Cooperative Behaviour in Humans**.

When? January 9th 2015; 0900-1800

Where? UCL Dept. of Anthropology, Taviton St, London, WC1H 0BW, United Kingdom.

Following on from the success of last year, we are delighted to host UCL's second workshop on human cooperation. This year, we will host a broad panel of experts from a diverse range of backgrounds to explore their perspectives on human cooperation.

Keynote speaker: [Rory Sutherland](#), Ogilvy & Mather UK

Additional speakers: [Professor Sarah Smith](#) (Economics, University of Bristol), [Dr Rebecca Sear](#) (LSHTM), [Dr Daniel Richardson](#) (Psychology, UCL), [Dr Louise Barrett](#) (Psychology, Lethbridge), [Dr Mary Hilson](#) (Social & Political Studies, UCL), [Professor Ruth Mace](#) (Anthropology, UCL), [Dr Nichola Raihani](#) (Genetics, Evolution and Environment, UCL).

More speakers TBC: check back soon for updates.

Tickets are free. However, since places are very limited and we anticipate high demand for the event, participants will be asked to RSVP shortly before the event to confirm their attendance.

This event is generously sponsored by [EHBEA](#), [ERC](#) and [UCL Grand Challenge of Human Wellbeing](#).

[Professor Clark Barrett](#), [Professor Tom Dickins](#), and [Dr. Willem Frankenhuis](#) have been awarded an EHBEA workshop grant for **Evolutionary Developmental Biology: Current Debates**.

When? Saturday 28 March 2015 (from 9:00-16:00). This date is one day before the annual conference of the European Human Behaviour & Evolution Association (EHBEA).

Where? Finland, University of Helsinki (Fabianinkatu 33, 2. krs.)

In recent years there has been much discussion about how to conceptualize the relationships between development and evolution: are developmental trajectories selected for, and how and to what extent does development influence evolution?

In this one-day conference we will excoriate the fundamental assumptions at work in existing arguments, to look at the view of development within the modern synthesis, and to look at criticisms of this synthesis.

Topics include the historical background to evolutionary developmental biology; theories of variation; the heuristic status of life-history theory within this debate; and the role of ecological theories. We aim to emphasize data-driven work.

We have invited speakers from evolutionary biology, behavioural biology and philosophy, representing diverse opinions and different research traditions. Our hope is to then produce a publication as a result that will outline core questions and future directions, as well as current knowledge. For more information, contact [Clark Barrett](#), [Tom Dickins](#), or [Willem Frankenhuis](#).

12. EHBEA CONFERENCE 2014 REPORT

Report by Dr. Kate Cross, School of Psychology & Neuroscience, University of St. Andrews

2014 saw Bristol hosting the 2014 EHBEA conference from 6th-9th April. The venue, At-Bristol, was a fantastic springboard and the organisers received well-deserved thanks (and flowers).

As always, what stood out was the wide range of approaches represented: Evolutionary psychologists, cultural evolutionists, human behavioural ecologists, evolutionary biologists, developmental psychologists, and an array of scientists who simply seek to understand human behaviour using evolutionary principles. EHBEA is a wonderful illustration of the benefits of bringing together different approaches – beautifully illustrated by Young Investigator Prize

winner **Willem Frankenhuis**' plenary, which showed us how combining developmental and evolutionary sciences can lead to fascinating new insights.

The keynotes were equally diverse: **Russell Gray** started us off with the centrality of language to understanding human history, cognition and culture; **Annette Karmiloff-Smith** led us towards rapprochement in the great 'domain specific' vs 'domain general' debate; **Martie Haselton** gave us the latest on the lively debate surrounding changes in women's mate preferences across the ovulatory cycle; **Daniel Hruschka** asked the question – what proximate cues tells us to engage in costly giving?; while **Samir Okasha** tackled a more 'ultimate' question – how does kin selection versus multi-level selection help us understand the evolution of social behaviour?

Discussions - in the post-talk Q&As, during the breaks, and on Twitter - were lively. Much of the focus was on classic evolutionary questions: how humans choose partners; why they cooperate; how childhood learning shapes us; how we ended up with language. There were sessions with a practical focus too – the 'Brainjuicer' talk on how scientific understanding can inform business will have been of interest to researchers contemplating their 'pathways to impact'. And there were broader questions about how we should be (evolutionary) scientists: from the scourge of 'p-hacking' (and when it is or isn't cricket to suggest another scientist has done it), to the use of Amazon Mechanical Turk (and whether we've jumped from frying pan to fire in an effort to get more 'representative' samples than the standard WEIRD undergraduate) - both of these are issues we can expect to hear much more about.

We had some fantastic contributions from our student presenters: Congratulations were due to **Julien Barthes** for winning the student presentation competition with his talk "Male homosexual preference: Where, when, why?" and to **Jeanne Bovet** for the best student poster entitled 'Men prefer women with late expected age at menopause'.

As always EHBEA was a fun and fascinating four days. We can't wait for EHBEA in Helsinki in 2015.

Newsletter compiled by Sandra Virgo, EHBEA Publicity Officer.

EHBEA Student Grant 2015 Application Form

Please submit this application form by e-mail to the EHBEA Secretary (ehbea.secretary@googlemail.com).

Deadline: 5pm (GMT), 1st March 2015.

EHBEA is pleased to announce that its Student Research Grant competition will now run bi-annually. The aim is to provide student members of the Association with funds to conduct a specific research project that falls within the remit of the Association. The maximum award per grant is 500 Euros. Funds could be requested for participant payments, travel to field sites, or other research costs. Funds cannot be requested for university fees, normal living expenses or costs associated with writing up theses or publications. Grant applications will be assessed on the basis of scientific quality and feasibility of the research project and on quality of the applicant. In addition to completing the application form, applicants must ask a suitable referee to provide a Letter of Support before the application deadline.

Grant deadlines are 5pm (GMT) on 1st March and 1st August each year.

To apply for the grant, a completed Application Form and Letter of Support should be emailed to the EHBEA Early Career Officer by 5pm (GMT) on the relevant date. Applicants must be pursuing a post-graduate research degree (e.g., MSc, MPhil, PhD) and be members of EHBEA in order to be eligible to apply.

Please contact the EHBEA Early Career Officer if you have any questions.

1. Name of applicant:
2. Institutional address of applicant:
3. E-mail address:
4. Current position or programme of study:
5. Name and address of supervisor:
6. Relevant experience and/or qualifications (please paste a short CV below, maximum 300 words):

BRIEF CV (INCLUDING DEGREES)

7. Are you a member of EHBEA? Yes/no (only EHBEA members are eligible to apply for a Student Research Grant)
8. Project title:
9. Project dates:

Note that earliest that EHBEA can supply funds is 1 April 2015, so the EHBEA funded research must occur after this date.

10. DETAILS OF PROJECT

Please paste a project proposal (maximum 1,000 words) below. The proposal should include:

EHBEA Student Grant 2015 Application Form

i) the aims and objectives, ii) methodology and expected outcomes, iii) budget (in Euros), including amount sought from EHBEA (maximum of 500 Euros), and how the funding will be used, iv) details of support from other funding sources (including other applications - please specify amount and whether received or pending).

PASTE YOUR PROPOSAL HERE

LETTER OF SUPPORT

You are required to ask a suitable referee (research supervisor or Principal Investigator) to provide a letter of support by the application deadline. The letter must be emailed to the EHBEA Secretary (ehbea.secretary@googlemail.com) from an institutional email address and should provide confirmation of the feasibility of the project and suitability of the applicant to undertake the research. The applicant is solely responsible for ensuring that the reference is submitted.

Please also provide the referee's name and contact details below:

Name:

Address:

Email:

Obligations of awardee

If awarded an EHBEA Student Research Grant,

- i) I undertake to use the EHBEA research grant funds solely for the purposes for which the grant was awarded,
- ii) I agree to submit a 250 word abstract describing the planned project immediately upon receiving the reward (for the EHBEA website, newsletter, publicity, etc),
- iii) I agree to submit a 750 word short report of the project within 3 months of end date as specified above (for the EHBEA website, newsletter, publicity, etc),
- iv) I agree to acknowledge EHBEA in any scientific papers resulting from the funded research,
- v) I agree to submit a statement of accounts, including receipts where possible, for spent EHBEA research grant funds at the stated project period, and
- vi) I agree to return any unspent funds at the end of the stated project period.

Signed Date

EHBEA 2015 New Investigator Award nomination form

The EHBEA Steering Committee is calling for nominations for the **2015 EHBEA New Investigator's Award**. The prize will be an expenses paid plenary slot at the EHBEA 2015 annual conference in Helsinki, Finland (29th March – 1st April 2015). You are invited to nominate one or more candidates. Please use a separate copy of this form for each person you wish to nominate.

Eligibility: The basis for the award is an outstanding contribution to research within EHBEA's remit by someone near the beginning of their research career. Candidates should *(i)* be a current member of EHBEA, *(ii)* have a degree and PhD in a relevant topic, *(iii)* have fewer than 5 years' postdoctoral experience, and *(iv)* have an exceptional track record of high-quality research in the field of evolution and human behaviour.

Nomination procedure: Candidates must be nominated and seconded by EHBEA members. Permission should be gained from candidates before nomination. By the closing date, the nominator should send to the EHBEA secretary *(i)* a completed nomination form, *(ii)* a supporting statement (<300 words), *(iii)* the candidate's CV (restricted to 2 pages), and *(iv)* copies of the candidate's two best publications. All submissions will be sent for expert review and the EHBEA Steering Committee will select the winner on the basis of this material. Please submit your nominations by e-mail to the EHBEA Secretary (ehbea.secretary@googlemail.com) using the form overleaf (please send as an attachment).

Nomination Deadline: 5pm GMT, Wednesday 31st December 2014

EHBEA 2015 New Investigator Award nomination form

I wish to nominate the following person for the EHBEA New Investigator Award:

A. Name: Position:

Institutional address:

E-mail:

Current EHBEA Member?: Yes / No

(Note only EHBEA members are eligible to be nominated)

B. Nominator's name: Position:

Institutional address:

E-mail:

Current EHBEA Member?: Yes / No

(Note only EHBEA members are eligible to nominate)

C. Do you have details of a second nominator? Yes / No

EHBEA 2015 New Investigator Award nomination form

(Note at least two nominations are required to validate a nomination. Please enter information on a second nominator if possible.)

Seconder's name:

Position:

Institutional address:

E-mail:

Current EHBEA Member?:

Yes / No

(Note only EHBEA members are eligible to second)

Nominator's signature **Date**

A typewritten name will be sufficient as signature. If you have entered the name of a seconder for this nomination, please 'cc' your email to that seconder for confirmation. Please also 'cc' in the nominated individual if possible.

Nomination Deadline: 5pm GMT, Wednesday 31st December 2014

EHBEA Committee 2015-2018: Nomination Form

The EHBEA Steering Committee is calling for nominations for the following open committee positions for 2015-2018. You are invited to nominate one or more candidates. Please use a separate copy of this form for each person you wish to nominate. Once nominations are collated all members will be given the opportunity to vote. Elected candidates will take up their duties immediately following the 2015 EHBEA conference. ***Please note – it is expected that all posts will involve significant investment of time and effort.***

A. VICE PRESIDENT (steering committee)

The VP is a core member of the Steering Committee, along with the President, Secretary and Treasurer, and thus plays a key role in the strategic operations of the Association.

Responsibilities:

As a member of the Steering Committee, the Vice President contributes to EHBEA activities at every level ranging from input into strategic direction of the Association, through to creation of official aims and regulations. One of the key roles for Vice-President is to act as primary liaison between the EHBEA Committee and the local organisers for each annual conference. The Vice President monitors progress of conference preparations, advises on conference planning and decisions, and acts as one of the reviewers of submitted conference abstracts. In addition to Steering Group activities, the Vice President supports the President in his/her activities and will take over such activities in the President's absence. The Vice President attends the twice-yearly EHBEA Committee meetings and is reimbursed for associated costs. The time commitment of the role varies over the year, but averages around one to two hours per week.

Eligibility:

Must be a relatively senior academic who is known for their contribution to the human evolutionary behavioural sciences and whose research agenda matches the stated aims of the EHBEA project (i.e. they are committed to a broad, pluralistic and interdisciplinary perspective on human behaviour). Candidates must be affiliated to a European research institution and be a full EHBEA member at time of nomination.

B. PUBLICITY & WEBSITE OFFICER (non-steering committee)

Responsibilities:

EHBEA Committee 2015-2018: Nomination Form

The Publicity & Website Officer's role is to promote EHBEA through online, printed and social media routes. This Officer is a full member of the EHBEA Committee and attends the spring Committee Meeting, which is usually held on the first day of the EHBEA conference.

Reasonable expenses for attending the Committee Meeting are reimbursed. In addition to contributing to Committee decisions, the Publicity & Website Officer collates material for the annual EHBEA Newsletter, which is circulated in autumn, and updates EHBEA's online presence, supported by the EHBEA Secretary and external web manager.

Eligibility:

Must be affiliated to a European research institution and a full/student EHBEA member at the time of nomination.

C. EARLY CAREER OFFICER (non-steering committee)

Responsibilities:

The Early Career Officer represents the interests of early career researchers within the EHBEA membership. This Officer is a full member of the EHBEA Committee and attends the spring Committee Meeting, which is usually held on the first day of the EHBEA conference. Reasonable expenses for attending the Committee Meeting are reimbursed.. As well as contributing to Committee decisions, the Early Career Officer organises the biannual Student Research Grant competition, including collating grant applications, and commissioning and collating reviewers' comments.

Eligibility:

Must be a current early career post-doctoral researcher or lecturer (defined as within 8 working years of gaining a PhD). Must be affiliated to a European research institution and a full EHBEA member at the time of nomination.

Nomination procedure: Candidates must be nominated and seconded by EHBEA members. Permission should be gained from candidates before nomination. Please submit your nominations by e-mail to the EHBEA Secretary (ehbea.secretary@googlemail.com) using the form overleaf (please send as an attachment). **Nomination Deadline: 5pm, Wednesday 31st December 2014.**

EHBEA Committee 2015-2018: Nomination Form

EHBEA Committee Elections 2015-2018

Nomination Form

I wish to nominate the following person for the following EHBEA committee position for 2015-2018:

(enter a 'X' for your selection).

1. Vice President _____
2. Publicity & Website Officer _____
3. Early Career Officer _____

D. Nominee name: _____ Position: _____

Institutional address:

E-mail:

Current EHBEA Member?: _____ Yes / No

(Note only EHBEA members are eligible to be nominated)

E. Nominator's name: _____ Position: _____

Institutional address:

EHBEA Committee 2015-2018: Nomination Form

E-mail:

Current EHBEA Member?:

Yes / No

(Note only EHBEA members are eligible to nominate)

E. Do you have details of a second nominator?

Yes /

No

(Note at least two nominations are required to validate a nomination. Please enter information on a second nominator if possible.)

Seconder's name:

Position:

Institutional address:

E-mail:

Current EHBEA Member?:

Yes / No

(Note only EHBEA members are eligible to second)

Nominator's signature **Date**

A typewritten name will be sufficient as signature. If you have entered the name of a seconder for this nomination, please 'cc' your email to that seconder for confirmation. Please also 'cc' in the nominated individual if possible.

Nomination Deadline: 5pm, Wednesday 31st December 2014.

EHBEA workshop grant application form

European Human Behaviour and Evolution Association: Proposal for a Workshop/Event

EHBEA is keen to support events organised by its membership that promote discussion of topics within its remit, and offers grants of up to €1000 to fund or part-fund such meetings. EHBEA is committed to rigorous, pluralistic and integrative science, and meetings which request EHBEA funding should demonstrate how they promote these aims.

The goal of the funding is to allow meetings that would not be able to take place without EHBEA's support. Accordingly, funding will not normally be given to support sessions or symposiums within existing conferences, and the proposed event must be held a minimum of three months after the application deadline.

The funding will be subject to the following conditions:

1. EHBEA's sponsorship of the event will be mentioned on all event literature, including any web page relating to the event (which should provide a link to EHBEA's web site).
2. A representative of EHBEA will be entitled to attend the event and be given a five-minute slot to say a few words about EHBEA's work (we may not always take up this entitlement).
3. A brief report of the event (500 to 1000 words) will be provided for EHBEA's Newsletter and website within one month of the event taking place.
4. Funding will be limited to reimbursement of actual expenditure on items such as room hire, travelling expenses, promotion, printing of conference materials, light refreshments etc.

Proposals for events or joint events should be made by giving the following information, which will be considered by the EHBEA Committee:

Organiser(s) name, affiliation and contact details

Draft title of proposed event

Date

Venue

EHBEA is a registered charity in England and Wales, no. 1154585

EHBEA workshop grant application form

Description of event (maximum 500 words)

Audience expected (estimated number and background)

Suggested speakers (please indicate whether these have already been approached)

Draft budget (to include both estimated expenditure and income)

Benefit to, or promotion of, EHBEA (an explanation of how the workshop/event will provide specific, tangible benefits to the EHBEA membership, and/or promote EHBEA in an international context)

Confirmation that the event organiser(s) is a current member of EHBEA

Please also attach a brief (2-page) CV for each organiser.

Please return the completed proposal by email to the EHBEA Secretary (ehbea.secretary@googlemail.com) by 5pm GMT on 1st March 2015.