

SPEAKER BIOGRAPHICAL SKETCHES

Impact of Tool Use and Technology on the Evolution of the Human Mind

Friday, October 12, 2018



Marcus Feldman is a Professor of Biology and Director of the Morrison Institute for Population and Resource Studies at Stanford University. His research covers population genetics, cultural evolution, demography, and ecology. Feldman is a member of the U.S. National Academy of Sciences, and a fellow of the American Academy of Arts and Sciences and of the American Philosophical Society. He is the author or co-author of more than six-hundred refereed articles and was the 2011 Dan David Laureate in Evolution.



Dorothy Fragaszy is a Professor of Psychology at the University of Georgia where she studies primate behavior from ethological, ecological, psychological, and biomechanical perspectives. She focuses on behavioral development, learning, problem-solving, perceptual and motor skills, foraging behavior, manual dexterity, social influences on learning, and technical traditions. Fragaszy has served as President and Secretary General of the International Primatological Society and as President of the American Society of Primatologists. She is a Fellow of the American Association for the Advancement of Science and of the Association of Psychological Science and currently serves as Editor-in-Chief of the *Journal of Comparative Psychology*.



Dietrich Stout is an Associate Professor of Anthropology at Emory University, where his Paleolithic Technology Laboratory investigates the role of technology in human evolution. Stout is also Associate Director of Emory's cross-disciplinary Center for Mind, Brain, and Culture, which promotes diverse and integrative research into human nature and experience. His research focus on Paleolithic stone tool-making and brain evolution integrates field research at Early Stone Age archaeological sites in Ethiopia with laboratory and museum research including artifact analysis and experimental replication, functional and structural neuroimaging, behavioral analysis, and psychometric testing.



Leah Krubitzer is a Professor in the Department of Psychology at UC Davis. Her graduate work focused on the evolution of visual cortex in primates, and she extended her research in Australia to include monotremes and marsupials. She has worked on the brains of over 45 different mammals. Krubitzer's current research focuses on the impact of early experience and how culture impacts brain development. She also examines the evolution of sensory motor networks involved in manual dexterity, reaching and grasping in mammals. She received a MacArthur award for her work on evolution.



John J. Shea is Professor of Anthropology at Stony Brook University in New York. An archaeologist, Shea is renowned for his expertise in stone tool analysis and for his contributions to Southwest Asian and Eastern African prehistory. His research explores ways to link the archaeological stone tool evidence to major issues in human evolution. His most recent published work is *Stone Tools in Human Evolution: Behavioral Differences among Technological Primates* (Cambridge University Press, 2016). Shea's stoneworking demonstrations appear in numerous television documentaries and in the United States' National Museum of Natural History in Washington, D.C.

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Paula Tallal received her Ph.D. from Cambridge University and held academic positions at Johns Hopkins and UC San Diego School of Medicine before co-founding the Center for Molecular and Behavioral Neuroscience at Rutgers University. At Rutgers, she held the University's highest academic rank, Board of Governors Professor of Neuroscience. Tallal is currently faculty at The Salk Institute. She co-founded Scientific Learning Corporation (SCIL), which develops and delivers "smart technologies" that improve cognitive, linguistic and academic outcomes. She holds dozens of patents and won the Thomas Alvin Edison Patent Award for her innovative research leading to the development of the *Fast ForWord®* series of neuroeducational training programs.



Rafael Núñez is a Professor of Cognitive Science at UC San Diego. He investigates the relationship between everyday and technical cognition—especially regarding conceptual systems, imagination, and abstraction—from the perspective of the embodied mind. His multidisciplinary approach uses methods such as psycholinguistic experiments, gesture studies, brain imaging, and field research with isolated indigenous groups. Núñez grew up in Chile, obtained his Ph.D. in Switzerland, and completed his post-doctoral work at Stanford University and UC Berkeley. His book with George Lakoff, *Where Mathematics Comes From* (Basic Books, 2001), presents a new theoretical framework for understanding the human bio-cultural nature of mathematics and its foundations.



Candice Odgers is a Professor of Psychological Science at UC Irvine and of Public Policy at Duke University. She studies how children's early experiences influence their later health and how new technologies can be used to improve the lives of young people. Her research team gathers streaming data from mobile phones and wearable devices to map adolescents' daily experiences, mental health, and digital technology usage. Odgers is the author of over 100 publications and a leading voice studying the influence of digital technologies on the developing adolescent.



Joe Henrich is a Professor and Chair of the Department of Human Evolutionary Biology at Harvard University. His research deploys evolutionary theory to understand how human psychology gives rise to cultural evolution and how this has shaped our species' genetic evolution. Henrich has conducted fieldwork in Peru, Chile and in the South Pacific, as well as having spearheaded several large comparative projects. In 2016, he published *The Secret of Our Success: How culture is driving human evolution, domesticating our species, and making us smart* (Princeton University Press).

Upcoming CARTA Symposia

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Impact of Early Life Deprivation on Cognition:

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