

## Introduction to Special Issue

This issue of *Evolutionary Anthropology* pays tribute to the achievements of two remarkable scientists, Jeanne Altmann and Sarah Blaffer Hrdy. Their careers spanned the early development of field primatology, the rise of evolutionary analyses of behavioral adaptations, and important changes in the role of women in society. It is fitting to honor them together because they share a common interest in the life history of females and the selective pressures that females face as they balance diverse roles as mothers, mates, allies, and rivals. Their work has had a profound influence on the development of contemporary primatology and evolutionary anthropology. Both Jeanne and Sarah have also served as valued mentors and highly visible role models for a generation of academics trying to balance field work, families, and professional positions.

This special issue begins with two short essays that describe the intellectual impact that Altmann and Hrdy have had on the field. The articles solicited for the special issue review some of the many areas of research that have been strongly influenced by their work, which range from methodological innovations to the evolution and dynamics of human families.

My co-authors, Dorothy Cheney, Robert Seyfarth, and I describe methods for the analysis of dyadic social relationships, an effort that is inspired in part by Jeanne's enormously influential paper on observational sampling methods. In *Baboon Mothers and Infants*, Jeanne Altmann showed that females' energetic condition influences maternal investment strategies as their infants mature. Maria van Noordwijk, Chris Kuzawa, and Carel van Schaik take up this theme and focus on evolutionary changes in maternal lactation strategies within the primate order.

Jacinta Beehner and Amy Lu consider why it might sometimes be adaptive for females not to reproduce under certain social and ecological conditions. They also explore the proximate mechanisms that influence reproductive suppression. These are functional questions that Sarah Hrdy addressed in *The Woman That Never Evolved* and that Jeanne Altmann's work on baboon mothers illuminated.

Anja Widdig reviews empirical work stemming from Jeanne Altmann's original insight that in species with high reproductive skew, members of the same birth cohort are likely to be paternal half siblings. Although this idea could not be tested until molecular genetic meth-

ods for assessing paternity were developed, there is now evidence of paternal kin discrimination in a variety of species, including the Amboseli baboons, which Jeanne has studied for more than four decades.

In *Mothers and Others*, Sarah Hrdy emphasized the importance of cooperation within human families and groups for rearing offspring successfully. Ruth Mace explores the tension between cooperation and conflict within human families and the conditions under which cooperative solutions prevail.

Brooke Scelza builds on Sarah Hrdy's challenge of the conventional wisdom that only males gain benefits from multiple mating. Scelza adopts a life-history perspective on this issue and reviews the ethnographic literature for insight about when and why women might gain advantages by mating with multiple partners.

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