

Exercise C2, 11/2/04

Multimodal Group Work: Animal and Human Societies

Note: You are not expected to spend an enormous amount of time. Plan and execute the exercise carefully so that it would fit within the time you have for this exercise.

This exercise involves the following three components, as well as informal presentation.

1. Field Work

Observe real-life examples which would not fall into pure competition or cooperation (possibly of humans' and/or animals'). Try to identify several examples so that you can analyze and explain (i) the effect of the society/community/group on individuals, including visible and invisible ones, and (ii) the effects of even a small number of individuals on the society/community/group [Content Goals 5*def*].

2. Reading

Read the paper which your group chose. Some part of the reading may be technical. Focus on the main points of the reading, and try to understand how those points are supported. [Optional: Examine the paper with respect to the research-paper organization introduced/used in this course. See how references are listed and cited.]

3. Report [one submission per group]

Write a concise, free-formatted report including the following:

- Description of the field work (including the explanation of)
- Main points of the reading
- Analysis of the connection between the field work and the reading
- Description of “the mechanism underlying all sorts of social activities (animal or human)” which all of the group members can agree on (in a sense, this is the common research question for this exercise)
- Possible connection to family values [Content Goal 3*a*]

Be prepared to explain and discuss the content of the report in a way the other groups can understand and benefit from it (no need to prepare a formal presentation, though).

Instructions/Notes:

1. Follow the general take-home exercise guidelines (as in previous modules).□

Survey: Time spent between classes: _____

Supplemental Information

Reading available for this exercise [all available in the library]

- The following chapters are in de Waal, F. B. M. and Tyack, Peter L., ed. 2003. *Animal social complexity: intelligence, culture, and individualized societies*. Harvard University Press.
 - Chapter 4 “Complex Cooperation among Tai Chimpanzees” by Christophe Boesch; Case Study 4A “Coalitionary Aggression in White-Faced Capuchins” by Susan Perry; Case Study 4B “Levels and Patterns in Dolphin Alliance Formation” by Richard Connor and Michael Krützen
 - Chapter 6 “Is Social Stress a Consequence of Subordination or a Cost of Dominance” by Scott Creel and Jennifer Sands; Case Study 6A “Sperm Whale Social Structure: Why It Takes a Village to Raise a Child” by Sarah Mesnick, et al.
- The following chapter is in Camazine, Scott, Deneubourg, Jean-Louis, Franks, Nigel R., Sneyd, James, Theraulaz, Guy, and Bonabeau, Eric. 2001. *Self-organization in biological systems*. Princeton University Press.
 - Chapter 18 “Termite Mound Building”
- The following chapter is in Watts, Duncan J. 2003. *Six degrees: the science of a connected age*, 1st ed. Norton.
 - Chapter 1 “The Connected Age”
- The following chapter is in Folbre, Nancy. 2001. *The invisible heart: economics and family values*. New Press.
 - Introduction; Chapter 1 “The Milk of Human Kindness”

Sample on-line resources

Note: We will be more careful about using on-line information for the rest of the semester [Performance Goal 4a].

- http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Main_Page (very extensive on-line encyclopedia, which is still being expanded by the users)
- <http://www.google.com> (arguably the best search engine)

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