招待講演

第1日  9月19日（木） 13:10～14:40  札幌コンベンションセンター 大ホールA

SL-001  Understanding the Psychology of a Cultural Species

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司会者：亀田 達也（北海道大学）

講演の内容

Long before the origins of agriculture, our species had spread from the frozen tundra of Siberia to the arid deserts of Australia. The secret of our immense ecological success lies neither in the intelligence of individuals nor in an array of local genetic adaptations. Instead, unlike other species, humans are entirely dependent on large bodies of culturally-transmitted information that accumulate over generations in ways that build complex non-genetic adaptations to local environmental challenges. Drawing on evolutionary modeling, cross-cultural and cross-species comparisons, laboratory experiments on social learning, and quantitative ethnographic work in diverse small-scale societies, I argue that our species’ long reliance on this second system of inheritance, and its ever accumulating and complex adaptive products, has driven the expansion of human brains while shaping our cognitive abilities, manual dexterity, status psychology, gut size, and social inclinations. Hundreds of thousands of years of this culture-gene coevolutionary process produced modern humans, the world’s only cultural species. Broadly, this research program suggests not only that understanding human evolution requires considering the interaction between genetic and cultural inheritance systems, but also that building a scientific research program in psychology requires considering this unique evolutionary history. Psychology, as a discipline, is currently poorly equipped to tackle this challenge.

略歴

Dr. Henrich holds the Canada Research Chair in Culture, Cognition and Coevolution at the University of British Columbia, where he’s a professor in both Economics and Psychology. He received his PhD in Anthropology from UCLA in 1999. His theoretical work focuses on how natural selection has shaped human learning and how this in turn influences cultural evolution and culture-gene coevolution. This work has explored the evolution of conformist learning and human status, as well as the emergence of large-scale cooperation, norms, social stratification, world religions and monogamous marriage. Methodologically, his research synthesizes experimental and analytical tools drawn from behavioural economics and psychology with in-depth quantitative ethnography, and he has performed long-term anthropological fieldwork in the Peruvian Amazon, rural Chile, and in the South Pacific. His work has been published in the top journals in biology, psychology, anthropology and economics, including Science, Nature, PNAS, Behavioral and Brain Sciences, Proceedings of the Royal Society B, Psychological Science, Cognition, American Economic Review, Current Anthropology, Animal Behavior and Trends in Cognitive Science. In 2004 he was awarded the Presidential Early Career Award, the highest award bestowed by the United States upon scientists early in their careers. In 2009, the Human Behavior and Evolution Society awarded him their Early Career Award for Distinguished Scientific Contributions. Dr. Henrich is a fellow at the Canadian Institute for Advanced Research, and is currently holds the Peter and Charlotte Schoenenfeld Visiting Faculty Fellowship at the NYU Stern School of Business.

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