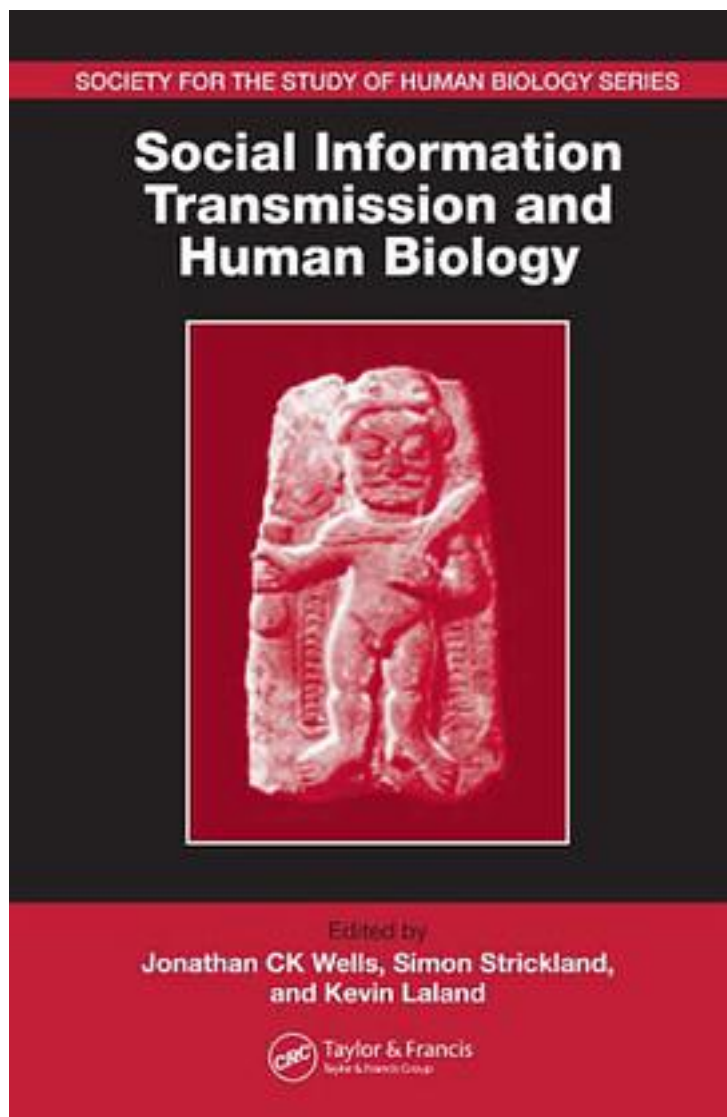


Social Information Transmission and Human Biology



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出版者:CRC Press

出版时间:2006-5-22

装帧:Hardcover

isbn:9780849340475

(论文集- "Human Social Biology" 人类社会生物学)

Recent research has emphasized that socially transmitted information may affect both the gene pool and the phenotypes of individuals and populations, and that an improved understanding of evolutionary issues is beneficial to those working towards the improvement of human health. Equally, an improved awareness of how human behavior influences health and reproductive fitness is starting to shed new light on the processes that shape the evolution of human behavior and the human mind.

Focusing directly on these emerging trends, Social Information Transmission and Human Biology bridges the gap between primarily theoretical work undertaken by those with evolutionary interests and biomedical work undertaken by those dealing with practical issues in human health and demographics. Incorporating papers from a symposium organized under the auspices of the UK Society for the Study of Human Biology, this volume merges the perspectives of internationally renowned evolutionary and theoretical biologists, zoologists, anthropologists, archaeologists, psychologists, and medical researchers whose work is linked by common themes addressing how information is transmitted socially and how its transmission influences both immediate and evolutionary biological outcomes.

Emphasizes the diverse ways in which socially transmitted information impacts on human biology

To illustrate these themes, the chapters draw on models and data ranging from observations on chimpanzee populations in the wild and on the human archaeological record, to studies of contemporary humans in both developing and industrialized countries. Taking a broad approach, many of the chapters address areas of behavior that are familiar to scientists in particular fields, but do so using a variety of cross-disciplinary perspectives, which will prove stimulating for researchers in a range of academic subject areas, while helping to facilitate closer collaboration between biological and social scientists.

作者介绍:

目录: -Chapter 1 Intro

-Chapter 2 Intro to Evolutionary Models of Human Social Behavior

-Chapter 3 How Niche Construction Contributes to Human Gene-Culture Coevolution

-Chapter 4 State and Value: A Perspective from Behavioral Ecology

-Chapter 5 An Agnostic View of Memes

-Chapter 6 Biology Ends and Social Information Transmission

-Chapter 7 The Significance of Socially Transmitted Information for Nutrition and Health in the Great Ape Clade

-Chapter 8 Language: Costs and Benefits of a Specialized System for Social Information Transmission

-Chapter 9 Evolution of Social Information Transmission in Homo

-Chapter 10 From Cultural History to Cultural Evolution: An Archaeological Perspective on Social Information Transmission

-Chapter 11 The Uptake of Modern Contraception in a Gambian Community: The Diffusion of an Innovation over 25 years

- Chapter 12 Sex without Birth or Death: A Comparison of Two International Humanitarian Movements
- Chapter 13 Smoking and the New Health Education in Britain, 1950s-1970s
- Chapter 14 The Demographic and Health Impact of the One Child Family Policy
- Chapter 15 Social Trends and Psychopathology
- Chapter 16 Epilogue: Memory, Tradition, and Teleology
- • • • • [\(收起\)](#)

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