Sussex Biologist Scoops Crafoord Prize

Professor John Maynard Smith has been awarded the Crafoord Prize by the Swedish Academy of Sciences for his fundamental contribution to evolutionary biology. Widely recognised as the equivalent of the Nobel Prize, the Crafoord Prize is awarded annually to scientists working in fields not covered by the Nobel Foundation. John Maynard Smith is being honoured particularly for his revolutionary work on game theory.

During a career in evolutionary biology spanning over fifty years, John has been credited with introducing the concept of 'game theory' to biology in the 1970s. Game theory was established within economics in the 1940s as a mathematical way of analysing situations where competition arises between individuals. Applying a concept born in economics to the subject of animal behaviour was a radical step, but game theory has now become "part of the toolkit of every field biologist," according to John.

The inspiration to use game theory hit John when he observed animals’ fighting patterns. "They may make a lot of fuss over the fight, but there is rarely much blood on the carpet. This suggests that the whole affair is very ritualised. Rituals can be mapped mathematically, and game theory is a way of doing that," he says.

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John is an advocate of the application of mathematics to biology, claiming that, "You can't be vague with mathematics, you have to be precise. The great thing about maths is that it forces you to say exactly what you mean."

In game theory, the mathematical model comes before the empirical observation, creating an interchange similar to that between theoretical and experimental physics.

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Radio Conference Set to Make Waves

Sussex will be host to the national Student Radio Association Conference from 19-21 March. In what is expected to be the biggest SRA conference ever - with around 500 delegates due to descend on the campus - University Radio Falmer are hoping to dazzle the university radio world with their programme of events.

The conference will feature workshops given by radio professionals to the student radio delegates. Bruno Brookes’ Radio Skills training outfit will be holding an advice session on the Sunday of the conference, before Bruno himself stages a debate with fellow Radio 1 DJ Neil James. Radio 1 will be represented in full, as Afternoon Show DJ Chris Moyles will be presenting an award ceremony on the Saturday. URF will be broadcasting a show throughout the conference on a special LPAM transmitter, and conference-goers will be given a radio each so they can tune in.

Delegates are flocking to Sussex from as far afield as Europe and the USA, where University radio stations are just beginning to get off the ground. Previously held in Edinburgh and Sheffield, the hosting of this year’s conference was awarded to Sussex at a late stage, so the organisers have had only five months in which to pull the event off.

According to Chris Wright, VP for Communications, "When URF goes to other conferences they are the life and soul of the party - now we're hosting that party...God help us all!"
Vote of Confidence for High Fliers

For the first time in nearly twenty years, the President of the Students’ Union has been called to a second term of office. Physics graduate Becca Holyhead was re-elected as President in last month’s sabbatical elections, halfway through a successful inaugural stint. Beating off stiff competition from the highest number of candidates for many years, Becca shared her winning ticket with colleagues Hannah Darvill and Kate Ridley, who were also re-elected as Education Officer and Welfare Officer respectively.

The three have ambitious plans for re-hauling and improving such problem spots as student representation, the processes set up to deal with students’ welfare problems, and the University’s equal opportunities policy. All of these are long term objectives which would benefit from more than a single year’s cultivation, and Becca, Hannah and Kate are pleased to be given the time to develop their ideas. They are aware of the potential criticism that new blood is needed on the sabbatical team. As Becca points out, however, “This year will see a mixture of old know-how with new enthusiasm.” Kate is sure that a two-tier system won’t arise, since “All the sabbatical officers have their own remits.”

All three emphasise that their goals on first accepting their posts were long-term and less tangible than, for example, the promise of a “new on-site gold-plated swimming pool filled with free beer”. Hannah was worried at first about the lack of flashy promises in her manifesto, but refused to “dumb-down” her campaign, as she has come to realise that voters are more interested in achievable goals. Returning candidates, as Becca points out, “Really know what is and isn’t achievable.” All three believe that the real challenge of being a sabbatical officer is to remain committed to goals which are unlikely to be fully achieved while they are still here.

With their vision of students as stakeholders in their own educational experience, and a sense of responsibility for, in Becca’s words, “Human resource management and the development of multifaceted organisations,” the three are serious about succeeding. Such ambitious, assured and determined candidates are certainly set to fly to the highest places.

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Game theory is an abstract way of observing animal behaviour which is extremely precise but rarely immediately applicable. “You guess what the possible behaviours of animals might be in order to make abstract predictions. These predictions are very clear-cut, but they don’t necessarily apply to a particular species,” says John.

Indeed, the process of transition from theory to observation can take time. The classic game ‘Rock, Paper, Scissors’ was used as a model in John’s early experiments with game theory, and only many years later was it actually found to apply - to a species of lizard.

John is delighted at being awarded the prestigious 1999 Crafoord Prize, saying “It is obviously a great honour.” The ceremony will take place in Sweden in September, when he will be presented with a share of $500,000 and a gold medal.

The prize will be awarded jointly to fellow biologists Ernst Mayr of Harvard and George C Williams of State University, New York, something which gives John particular pleasure. George Williams is a respected colleague, and Ernst Mayr is something of a mentor - John read his work as a student. Indeed, John is looking forward to the pleasure of getting together with two friends he respects and admires almost as much as he is to receiving his prize.

Gardner Arts Centre Freebies

English Touring Theatre

Hushabye Mountain by Jonathan Harvey - a new play by the award winning writer of Beautiful Thing which takes a long hard look at love, life and living with AIDS in the 90s. Danny is dead but not quite gone - which is awkward because his boyfriend Conner is trying to move on with his life: a life which includes looking after Danny’s mum, his brother’s love life, his own future and strange apparitions of Judy Garland.

The Gardner Arts Centre has free tickets to give away to the first 10 readers who turn up at the box office waving a copy of the Bulletin.

Red Nose Day

The Sport Service is holding an Aerobics Session on Friday 12 March from 1.00 - 2.00 pm at the Sportcentre in aid of Comic Relief. Price £1.50 or more if you want (Saver Cards cannot be used for this session).

Millennium Bug
New Faces

Justin Rosenberg
Senior Lecturer in International Relations

New Senior Lecturer in International Relations, Justin Rosenberg, is delighted to have left the city behind for more pleasant surroundings. Having lived in Neasden, north London he says there is "no comparison to his current journey into work through Woodingdeau and past the wonderful sea views." Justin joins us from the LSE where he taught for seven years. He is particularly impressed by the close proximity of so many interesting and varied shops in Brighton and is looking forward to exploring the Laines with his passion for jazz in mind.

Attracted by the "distinctive blend of history and theory" here in International Relations, Justin's main focus is on reinterpreting the history of the international system over the last 200 years using ideas from Marx and Weber. In fact, he developed a lecture series on this theme at LSE which he will be starting up here next year. Justin's PhD, The Empire of Civil Society, won the Isaac Deutscher memorial prize in 1994 and he is now the secretary of the prize committee - so any nominations for next year's prize should be directed to him. He also hopes to start up a Das Kapital Reading Group, reading through volume one of Marx's work, and anyone interested in joining should contact him on e-mail: j.p.rosenberg@sussex.ac.uk

Legal Eagles Negotiate Their Way to the Top

Martin Williams and Irena Stirkzaker with Emily Haslam (right), Lecturer in Law, who also helped to organise the South of England competition. The competition involves teams being given a legal problem or situation and negotiating a solution or deal.

Success again for CLS as Sussex law students Irena Stirkzaker and Martin Williams win the regional round of a national student negotiating competition, sponsored by the solicitors Allen and Overy. The competition, which was hosted at Sussex, required the winners to compete against twelve teams of trainee lawyers from across the South of England. Irena and Martin, who were trained by Emily Haslam, will now go forward to represent the University at the two-day national round to be held in London on 20-21 March. Sussex students James Beverley and Raphael Joubene were runners up at the international round of the competition last year.

Ludovic Blot

A memorial was held last Friday for Ludovic Blot, who died from suspected meningococcal disease on Thursday 11 February. The service included tributes from members of the School of European Studies, from one of Ludovic's tutors from the University of Grenoble and from friends of Ludovic at Sussex, who spoke movingly and with great affection, of his open nature, his personal warmth and generosity of spirit. The service was led by father Rob Eisdail who, together with a number of Sussex students, had attended the funeral service for Ludovic which took place in France last Monday.

Research Funding Opportunities

This is a selection of Research Opportunities. More details of these and other opportunities are available from the Research Grants and Contracts Office, contact Debbie, ext 3812 or email: D.Foy-Everett@sussex.ac.uk. For an extensive listing of funding opportunities see REFLUND on the Research Web site: http://www.sussex.ac.uk/Units/research or UIS Home Page, under Research.

The James McDonnell Foundation invites applications for the Cognitive Rehabilitation Programme. Up to £360,000 will be awarded annually in support of cognitive rehabilitation research carried out by interdisciplinary teams of cognitive neuroscientists, cognitive psychologists, and rehabilitation professionals. Deadline: 15 March 1999

The ESRC is inviting outline applications for Research Fellowships and Research Networks under Phase 1 of a new Teaching and Learning Programme. Principal aim is to improve outcomes for learners at all ages within the full range of educational and training settings. Funding available for up to three years beginning in January 2000. Deadline: 13 April 1999

The EPSRC issued a fourth call under the Aerodynamics Managed Programme. Proposals should address the following key areas: aerodynamic efficiency; dynamic behaviour; noise; and key enabling technologies. Deadline: 16 April 1999

The British Council is accepting applications for grants for joint scientific research between British and Polish groups in 2000. Applications are welcome from pure and applied sciences, and from social sciences as long as they are in the field funded by the ESRC. Deadline: 31 October 1999

The EPSRC wishes to promote interactions between mathematicians and engineers in UK Universities that will lead to new interdisciplinary research collaborations being established. Funding will be provided for visits by mathematicians to engineering departments and vice versa through the visiting fellowship grants scheme. No deadline.

The ESRC is offering a Research Fellowship Scheme available to social scientists at all stages of a post-doctoral career. Applications should be for a programme of work rather than a single project and will provide a significant career development opportunity. Awards will be made for between 2 - 3 years. No deadline.

The Leverhulme Trust invites applications from individuals for research grants to be administered by universities. Awards cover the salary costs of a researcher or researchers of post-doctoral level to work on an original research project. Grants are awarded between 6 months to 3 years. No deadline.
Lectures, Seminars, Colloquia

Monday 1 March
12.30pm Sussex Continuing Education Research Forum: Steve Babbage (Brighton), Widening participation, higher education and the open college network.
D310.

1.00pm Experimental Psychology Seminar: Jamie Ward, False recognition of people. EP 3.9.

4.00pm Sociology and Social Psychology Graduate Faculty Seminar: Lynn Myers (UCL), Adherence to medical treatment - a psychology perspective. D310.

4.30pm Neuroscience Seminar: Kevin Laland (Cambridge), Behavioural innovation in animals: a case of inspiration or desperation? BLR.

5.00pm Women’s Studies Research-in-Progress Seminar: Christine Zmoczek (Roehampton), Gender, class and ethnicity in international perspectives. D610.

Tuesday 2 March
1.30pm Psychology Research Colloquium: Kate Cavanagh, TBA. PEV2A1.

2.15pm European Institute Research-in-Progress Seminar: Jim Rollo, Economic challenges for the European Union. A71.

4.15pm Biochemistry & Genetics and Development: Judith Goodship (Newcastle). From left/right to right/left in the Inv mouse. BLT.

4.30pm Social and Political Thought Graduate Faculty Seminar: Tom Hickey (Brighton), Class and class analysis for the 21st Century. D630.

5.00pm Social Anthropology Seminar: Carol Smith (California), Ethnographic exchanges with native intellectuals: one solution to the problem of anthropographic representation. C219.

5.00pm Media Studies Seminar: Keith Tester (Southampton), Everyday life and the relationship between media consumption and moral action. D710.

5.15pm German Research Colloquium: Richard Grunberger (London, AJR Information) and the experiences of refugees. A155.

Wednesday 3 March
1.00pm IDS Seminar: Alison Evans, Gender Policy in the World Bank. Room 109.

2.00pm Queerology: Patrick Hanafin, Reimagining gay(ely)ric sexual identity: the queer legal subject in postcolonial Ireland. A71.

4.00pm Music Research Seminar: Nic McKay, Eccentric gestures: articulating musical meaning in Stravinsky’s semiotic syntax. Room 120, Falmer House.


5.00pm English Graduate Colloquium: Nanette Hale (Aarhus), The telescope and the pickle factory: transpositions of history in The Raj Quartet and Midnight’s Children. D640.

Thursday 4 March
11.30am Economics Seminar: Mamta Murthi (Cambridge), TBA. D310.

1.45pm CLS Research Seminar: Amanda Perry, Law as a determinant of foreign investment flows. D310.

4.00pm Geography Research Seminar: Roger Lee (Queen Mary & Westfield), Economic geographies of regard. D340.

4.00pm Experimental Psychology Colloquium: Sue Gathercole (Bristol), Children’s memory and their scholastic achievements. BLR.

5.00pm History Work-in-Progress Seminar: Bernard Capp (Warwick), An English Montalou? social and cultural tensions in Silvey, Leicestershire in the late 1630s. A155.

5.00pm Sussex Development Lecture: Jock Stirrat, Mercenaries, missionaries and misfits. A1.

5.00pm French Seminar: Karin de Boer (Amsterdam), Tragedy, dialectical and difference: on Hegel and Derrida. A71.

5.00pm Statistics and Stochastic Modelling Seminar: Rong Tsong Wang, A multivariate exponential shared-load model in reliability. PEV2A2.

Friday 4 March
2.00pm SPRU Seminar: Mike Sharples (Birmingham), Personal technologies for lifelong learning. Room 121.

4.00pm Astronomy Centre Seminar: Roger Blandford (Caltech), Fast and slow accretion onto black holes. Arundel 401.

4.00pm Chemical Physics and Materials Seminar: John Dore (Kent), Studies of nanotubes and carbon materials. CHI-3R241 (MS3).

4.30pm Philosophy Society: Alex Oliver (Cambridge). Grammatical and logical form. A155.

Miscellaneous

There’s No Place Like Home: Workshops for students planning to move into (or living in) private rented accommodation.

Tuesday 2 March 1.00-2.00pm, Room 126 Falmer House

Thursday 4 March 6.30-7.30pm, Lancers House Common Room.

Small Ads

FOR SALE: Nissan Micra (GSX) 1989, 11, 73000m, sun roof, stereo, met. green, history, 11mth MOT, £955 ono. Call Aydin 887605 or a.demircan@sussex.ac.uk

FOR SALE: Condor 10 speed men’s racing bike £30, Hoover £10, Baby Buggy £10 JudyB@IDS.ac.uk or phone 883892.

FOR SALE: Volvo 340DL; 3-door hatchback; C-reg 1986; red; good runner; Tax & MOT; 350 pounds; Tel: 476243

FOR SALE: Double futon. Good quality wool filled mattress with pine base, hardly used. £80.00 ono. Ext 8251 or 605134 afts and eves. Email j.parlett@sussex.ac.uk

WANTED: Newly appointed lecturer (partner, two children) seeks 3 bedroom house for let in Brighton or Lewes, from August or Sept 1. Proximity to schools a major consideration. Email sthomason@chass.utoronto.ca

TO LET: Accommodation in shared house. Easy access to university and town centre. Suitable for a postgraduate or faculty. £55 per week plus bills. Phone: 877266 or 677401.

WANTED: one b/room or two b/room flat in Hove. For scientist working at the MRC unit, from 1 April onwards. Please contact Thomas on 877236 or e-mail: T.Caspari@sussex.ac.uk

TO LET: Room for £43/wk, Cambridge Grove, Hove. Large, good facilities, small window. Does anybody have space for a small 2 berth caravan? I have just moved into town from the countryside and have nowhere to put it! Also 122 Studiomaster GOLD-R mixing desk for sale. Parametric eq, 4 aux/s’r, warm quiet £250. Simmons drum brain £50. EmuESI-32 sampler memory 16mb £60. For all of above tel 731068 or e-mail: D.Harper@ids.ac.uk

TO LET: a small room in a very nice, clean, warm and fully furnished house in London Rd Area (Stanford Avenue). To share with 5 other students. £60 p/w (exc of bills). Available for 2-3 months after March. Contact Ricardo or Hector, 508722.

FOR SALE: King-size bed, headboard + nighttables. Excellent condition. £199. Electra Superbe SI cooker, as new. £100. Tel: 688758 ext. 3618 or email: B.P.Kolnick@sussex.ac.uk

FOR SALE: Colour Laptop. Pentium P90, 1.3 gb, 10.5" TFT colour, built-in soundcard, docking station, Win '98, Office '97...etc. PLUS Brand New Colour printer. Excellent condition. Real Bargain, £500. Call 898538.

WANTED: Huddersfield University lecturer seeks house for four from March 27 to April 11 1999, preferably in Lewes but surrounding area or Brighton also a possibility. Please reply to SB5USGAMC@pegasus.hud.ac.uk

FOR SALE: Electrolux 550 upright vacuum cleaner. Good working order, with tools and spare bags. £15 - Tel: 622 071 (eves)

Bulletin

The Bulletin appears every Friday during term time with copy deadlines the preceding Friday lunchtime. We welcome any suggestions for news, events, letters and small ads from staff and students of the University.

Please contact the Information Office in Sussex House on Ext. 8209 or Email: Bulletin@sussex.ac.uk.