Special Section of Perspectives on Behavior Science: Cultural and Behavioral Systems Science

Guest Associate Editors:

Traci Cihon (traci.cihon@unt.edu) and Mark Mattaini (mattaini@uic.edu)

Skinner (1948) imagined a world in which the natural science of behavior would be applied to free us from coercive cultural practices. He elaborated on these ideas in several subsequent, non-fictional works (e.g., Skinner, 1953, 1971, 1974, 1987). These works provided the theoretical basis for analyzing cultural practices from a behavioral/selectionist perspective. The conceptualization of the metacontingency (Glenn, 1988, 2004; Glenn & Malott, 2004; Glenn et al., 2016; Houmanfar & Rodrigues, 2006) has encouraged further theoretical conversations among behavior scientists and behavior analysts regarding how selection occurs at the cultural level. These works have thus spurred a number of laboratory studies involving experimental microcultures aimed to mimic the contingencies in effect for individuals and coordinated behaviors of individuals regarding cooperation (e.g., Locey, Safin, & Rachlin, 2013), allocation of common-pool resources (e.g., Camargo & Haydu, 2016), and others (e.g., De Carvalho, Couto, Gois, Sandaker, & Todorov, 2017; Ortu, Becker, Woelz, & Glenn, 2012). Collaborations between those interested in cultural analysis and behavioral systems analysis have been forged as organizations have proved to be conducive to the study of the coordinated behaviors of individuals (e.g., Malott, 2003, 2015; Malott & Glenn, 2006; Sandaker, 2009). Still others have contributed toward Skinner's vision with conceptual analyses regarding the contingencies leading to and maintaining cultural practices (e.g., Biglan & Glenn, 2013; Mattaini, 2013; Rachlin & Locey, 2011).

With some working under the umbrella of cultural analysis/selection and others working under the umbrella of behavioral systems science, behavioral systems scientists are increasingly contributing to a better understanding of the selection and maintenance of cultural practices, the processes involved in dynamic systems, and the interactions between and amongst complex systems (e.g., political, economic, educational, social, legal, religious). Yet our understanding of practices in and/or interactions between or among dynamic systems, let alone our influence on changing ineffective practices, leaves much to be determined as is evidenced by a number of recent calls for action (e.g., Biglan, 2015, 2016; Biglan & Embry, 2013; Dixon, Belisle, Rehfeldt, & Root, 2018; Mattaini & Aspholm, 2016; Wilson, Hayes, Biglan, & Embry, 2014).

Perspectives on Behavior Science welcomes manuscript submissions for a special section on **cultural and behavioral systems science**. Manuscripts that involve collaboration with other disciplines are strongly encouraged. We seek submissions that do the following:

- Review the existing literature, inside and outside of behavior science and behavior analysis, and propose hypotheses regarding the behavioral processes that support ineffective cultural practices and propose viable solutions, and/or those that support effective cultural practices.
- Provide historical accounts of dynamic systems and cultural practices that have led to or maintain significant social issues.
- Offer an analysis of various sectors and their respective practices, contingencies, and obstacles regarding how each sector might influence practices toward more desirable outcomes.
- Report experimental evaluations of efforts to produce large-scale change at the systems, community, and cultural levels conducted in either natural or laboratory settings.
- Describe ecological observations of cultural- and systems-level phenomena.
- Describe and provide computer software that models dynamic complex systems.
- Advance the conceptual and theoretical work in cultural and behavioral systems science.

To receive consideration, papers must be submitted no later than **February 1, 2019**, via the journal's online system at <u>https://www.editorialmanager.com/tbha/default.aspx</u> and should be flagged for the special section on cultural and behavioral systems science by using the "Article Type" pull-down menu in the journal's online portal.

Papers should be approximately 20 manuscript pages (excluding tables, figures, and references) and conform in all ways to the requirements for submissions to *Perspectives on Behavior Science* as described in the online system. It is recommended that papers be professionally proofread prior to submission. Any papers that have been accepted but are not finalized, for any reason, by **November 1, 2019**, will be rejected.

Inquiries regarding possible submissions should be sent to guest associate editor Traci Cihon: traci.cihon@unt.edu.

References

- Biglan, A. (2015). *The nurture effect: How the science of human behavior can improve our lives and our world.* Oakland, CA: New Harbinger.
- Biglan, A. (2016). The need for a more effective science of cultural practices. *The Behavior Analyst, 39*(1), 97–107. https://doi.org/10.1007/s40614-016-0051-z
- Biglan, A., & Embry, D. (2013). A framework for intentional cultural change. Journal of Contextual Behavioral Science, 2(3–4), 95–104. https://doi.org/10.1016/j.jcbs.2013.06.001
- Biglan, A., & Glenn, S. S. (2013). Toward prosocial behavior and environments: Behavioral and cultural contingencies in a public health framework. In G. J. Madden, W. V. Dube, T. D. Hackenberg, G. P. Hanley, & K. A. Lattal (Eds.), *APA handbook of behavior analysis, vol. 2: Translating principles into practice* (pp. 255–275). Washington, DC: American Psychological Association.
- Camargo, J., & Haydu, V. B. (2016). Fostering the sustainable use of common-pool resources through behavioral interventions: An experimental approach. *Behavior and Social Issues*, 25, 61–76. https://doi.org/10.5210/bsi.v25i0.6328
- De Carvalho, L. C., Couto, K. C., Gois, N. de S., Sandaker, I., & Todorov, J. C. (2017). Evaluating effects of cultural consequences on the variability of interlocking behavioral contingencies and their aggregate products. *European Journal of Behavior Analysis*, 18(1), 84–98. doi:10.1080/15021149.2016.1231003
- Dixon, M. R., Belisle, J., Rehfeldt, R. A., & Root, W. B. (2018). Why we are still not acting to save the world: The upward challenge of a post-Skinnerian behavior science. *Perspectives on Behavior Science*, 1–27. https://doi.org/10.1007/s40614-018-0162-9
- Glenn, S. S. (1988). Contingencies and metacontingencies: Toward a synthesis of behavior analysis and cultural materialism. *The Behavior Analyst, 11*(2), 161–179. https://doi.org/10.1007/bf03392470
- Glenn, S. S. (2004). Individual behavior, culture, and social change. *The Behavior Analyst*, 27(2), 133–151. https://doi.org/10.1007/bf03393175
- Glenn, S. S., & Malott, M. E. (2004). Complexity and selection: Implications for organizational change. *Behavior and Social Issues*, 13(2), 89–106. https://doi.org/10.5210/bsi.v13i2.378
- Glenn, S. S., Malott, M. E., Andery, M. A. P. A., Benvenuti, M., Houmanfar, R. A., Sandaker, I.,... Vasconcelos, L. A. (2016). Toward consistent terminology in a behaviorist approach to cultural analysis. *Behavior and Social Issues*, 25, 11–27. https://doi.org/10.5210/bsi.v25i0.6634
- Houmanfar, R. A. & Rodrigues, N. J. (2006). The metacontingency and the behavioral contingency: Points of contact and departure. *Behavior and Social Issues*, 15, 13–29. https://doi.org/10.5210/bsi.v19i0.3065
- Locey, M., Safin, V., & Rachlin, H. (2013). Social discounting and the prisoner's dilemma game. *Journal of the Experimental Analysis of Behavior*, 99(1), 85–97. http://doi.org/10.1002/jeab.3.Social

- Malott, M. E. (2003). Paradox of organizational change: Engineering organizations with behavioral systems analysis. Reno, NV: Context Press.
- Malott, M. E. (2015). What studying leadership can teach us about the science of behavior. *The Behavior Analyst*, 39(1), 47–74. doi:10.1007/s40614-015-0049-y
- Malott, M. E., & Glenn, S. S. (2006). Targets of intervention in cultural and behavioral change. *Behavior and Social Issues*, 15, 31–56. https://doi.org/10.5210/bsi.v15i1.344
- Mattaini, M. A. (2013). Strategic nonviolent power: The science of satyagraha. Edmonton, AB: AU Press.
- Mattaini, M. A., & Aspholm, R. (2016). Contributions of behavioral systems science to leadership for a new progressive movement. *The Behavior Analyst*, *39*(1), 109–121. doi:10.1007/s40614-015-0043-4
- Ortu, D., Becker, A. M., Woelz, T. A. R., & Glenn, S. S. (2012). An iterated four-player prisoner's dilemma game with an external selecting agent: A metacontingency experiment. *Revista Latinoamericana de Psicología*, 44(1), 111–120.
- Rachlin, H., & Locey, M. (2011). A behavioral analysis of altruism. *Behavioural Processes*, 87(1), 25–33. http://doi.org/10.1016/j.beproc.2010.12.004
- Sandaker, I. (2009). A selectionist perspective on systemic and behavioral change in organizations. *Journal of Organizational Behavior Management, 29*(3-4), 276–293. doi:10.1080/01608060903092128
- Skinner, B. F. (1948). Walden two. New York, NY: Macmillan Co.
- Skinner, B. F. (1953). Science and human behavior. New York, NY: Macmillan Co.
- Skinner, B. F. (1971). Beyond freedom and dignity. Indianapolis, IN: Hackett Publishing Company, Inc.
- Skinner, B. F. (1974). About behaviorism. New York, NY: Random House Inc.
- Skinner, B. F. (1987). Why we are not acting to save the world. In B. F. Skinner (Ed.), *Upon further reflection* (pp. 1–14). Upper Saddle River, NJ: Prentice Hall.
- Wilson, D. S., Hayes, S. C., Biglan, A., & Embry, D. D. (2014). Evolving the future: Toward a science of intentional change. *The Behavioral and Brain Sciences*, 37(4), 395–416. https://doi.org/10.1017/s0140525x13001593

Other References for Consideration

- Baum, W. M., Richerson, P. J., Efferson, C. M., & Paciotti, B. M. (2004). Cultural evolution in laboratory microsocieties including traditions of rule giving and rule following. *Evolution and Human Behavior*, 25(5), 305–326. http://dx.doi.org/10.1016/j.evolhumbehav.2004.05.003
- De Carvalho, L. C., Sandaker, I., & Ree, G. (2017). An ethnographic study of tagging cultures. *Behavior and Social Issues, 26*, 67–94. doi:10.5210/bsi.v26i0.6621
- Houmanfar, R. A., & Mattani, M. A. (Eds.) (2018). *Leadership for cultural change: Managing future well-being*. New York, NY: Routledge.
- Luke, M. M., & Alavosius, M. (2012). Impacting community sustainability through behavior change: A research framework. *Behavior and Social Issues*, 21, 54–79. http://dx.doi.org/10.5210/bsi.v21i0.3938
- McElreath, R., Lubell, M., Richerson, P. J., Waring, T. M., Baum, W. M., Edsten, E., . . . Paciotti, B. M. (2005). Applying evolutionary models to the laboratory study of social learning. *Evolution and Human Behavior*, 26(6), 483–508. http://doi.org/10.1016/j.evolhumbehav.2005.04.003