

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

### Guest Associate Editors:

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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 <https://www.editorialmanager.com/tbha/default.aspx> 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](mailto:traci.cihon@unt.edu).

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