

The BENNINGTON INTERNATIONAL CONFERENCE on MIND and BRAIN

AN INTEGRATION OF EVOLUTIONARY ORIGINS AND EMERGING DEVELOPMENTAL PRINCIPLES

November 8-12, 1999

Bennington College, Bennington, Vermont

In November 1999, a week long, interdisciplinary conference will convene at Bennington College to discuss the integration of the evolutionary origins of mind and brain with emerging principles of brain and mind development. A group of scholars from biochemistry, psychology, philosophy, developmental biology, and cognitive science will discuss how the interaction of contingency, natural selection, and self-organization might lead to the open-ended biological order on which development depends. A central question will be: Can an expanded evolutionary synthesis, informed by complex system dynamics and developmental systems theory, bring within its orbit a study of mind as a biological adaptation? Possible roles of behavior and mind in evolution originally suggested about a century ago by psychologist James Baldwin, and of genetic assimilation suggested about a half century ago by embryologist Conrad Waddington, can now be more fruitfully explored as developmental genetics begins to enrich and combine with evolutionary theory. Such a development is essential if the neurosciences are to converge on a convincing biologically based theory of mind.

Conference Director

BRUCE WEBER, Professor of Biochemistry and Liberal Studies at California State University, Fullerton, Visiting Professor, Bennington College, Fall 1999, co-author of *Darwinism Evolving*.

Conference Participants

ROBERT BERWICK, Professor of Computer Science at M.I.T. and Co-director of the M.I.T. Center for Biological and Computational Learning.

SØREN BRIER, Associate Professor of Information Studies in Science and Humanities at the Royal School of Librarianship, Aalborg Branch, Denmark, editor of Cybernetics and Human Knowing.

TERRENCE DEACON, Professor of Biological Anthropology at Boston University, and Professor at McLean Hospital at the Harvard Medical School, author of The Symbolic Species: The Co-evolution of Language and the Brain.

DAVID DEPEW, Professor of Communication Studies and Director of the Project on the Rhetoric of Inquiry at the University of Iowa, co-author of Darwinism Evolving.

STEPHEN M. DOWNES, Associate Professor, Philosophy, University of Utah, contributor to Where Biology Meets Psychology.

SCOTT GILBERT, Professor of Biology at Swarthmore College, author of Developmental Biology.

PETER GODFREY-SMITH, Associate Professor of Philosophy at Stanford University, author of Complexity and the Function of the Mind in Nature.

PAUL GRIFFITHS, Professor of the History and Philosophy of Science at the University of Sydney, author of What Emotions Really Are and co-author of Sex and Death.

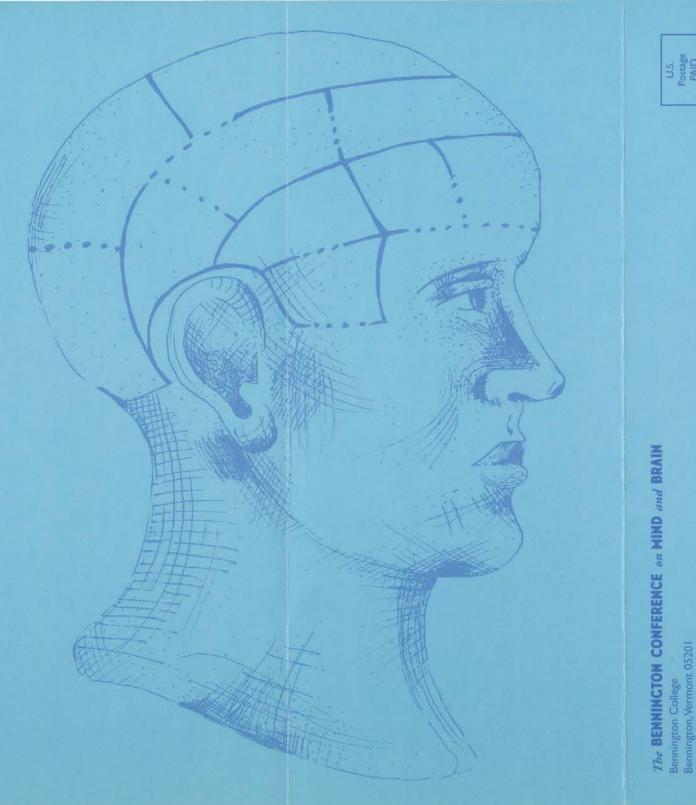
JESPER HOFFMEYER, Institute of Molecular Biology at University of Copenhagen, author of Signs of Meaning in the Universe.

KALEVI KULL, faculty member, the department of Semiotics, Tartu University, and department of Ecophysiology, Institute of Zoology and Botany, Estonia, author of Lectures in Theoretical Biology: The Second Stage.

CELIA MOORE, Professor of Psychology at the University of Massachusetts, Boston, co-author of Developmental Psychobiology: An Interdisciplinary Science.

SUSAN OYAMA, Professor of Psychology at the City University of New York, author of The Ontogeny of Information.

For information and reservations call: 802.440.4700



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