

Cooperation and Conflict

The Interaction of Opposites in Shaping Social Behavior

Understanding the interaction between cooperation and conflict in establishing effective social behavior is a fundamental challenge facing societies. Reflecting the breadth of current research in this area, this volume brings together experts from biology to political science to examine the cooperation—conflict interface at multiple levels, from genes to human societies. Exploring both the exciting new directions and the biggest challenges in their fields, the authors focus on identifying commonalities across species and disciplines to help understand what features are shared broadly and what are limited to specific contexts. Each chapter is written to be accessible to students and researchers from interdisciplinary backgrounds, with text boxes explaining terminology and concepts that may not be familiar across disciplinary boundaries, while being a valuable resource to experts in their fields.

Walter Wilczynski was Professor of Psychology and Director of the Neuroscience Institute at Georgia State University (GSU), USA. With more than forty years of teaching and research experience, his work focused on the study of the neural origins of social behavior in animals, with particular interest in communication, behavioral endocrinology, comparative vertebrate neuroanatomy, and sensory processing. In June 2020, Professor Wilczynski passed away after a second battle with cancer.

Sarah F. Brosnan is Distinguished University Professor of Psychology, Philosophy, and Neuroscience and Co-Director of the Language Research Center, Georgia State University (GSU), USA. She studies decision-making in humans and other primates, particularly decisions relating to cooperation and inequity, and how these decision processes evolved. The editors collaborated closely for several years on the Center for Behavioral Neuroscience's (GSU) research into the neurobiology of cooperative behavior.



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In memory of Walter Wilczynski (1952–2020) – much loved scientist, husband, colleague, mentor, and friend who is missed greatly by us all.

To the students, postdocs, and lab techs who have been part of my lab over my long career. They formed a true family that I valued all my life.

Walter Wilczynski

To Alex

Sarah F. Brosnan



Contents

	List of Contributors Acknowledgments	<i>page</i> ix
	Introduction: Understanding for Relationship between Cooperation and Conf Walter Wilczynski and Sarah F. Brosnan	flict 1
Part I Br	oad Insights from Political Science to Molecular Behavior Cooperation and Conflict in International Relations William J. Long	5 7
2	Internalizing Cooperative Norms in Group-Structured Populations Erol Akçay and Jeremy Van Cleve	26
3	Reputation: A Fundamental Route to Human Cooperation Junhui Wu, Daniel Balliet, and Paul A. M. Van Lange	45
4	Finding the Right Balance: Cooperation and Conflict in Nature Elizabeth A. Ostrowski	66
Part II No 5	eural Mechanisms Social Living and Rethinking the Concept of "Prosociality" Heather K. Caldwell and H. Elliott Albers	87 89
6	The Role of the Temporal Lobe in Human Social Cognition Katherine L. Bryant, Christina N. Rogers Flattery, and Matthias Schurz	104
7	Role of Oxytocin and Vasopressin V1a Receptor Variation on Personality, Social Behavior, Social Cognition, and the Brain in Nonhuman Primates, with a Specific Emphasis on Chimpanzees William D. Hopkins and Robert D. Latzman	134
	Interim Summary	161

vii



viii	Contents	
Part III	Species Comparisons	165
8	Understanding the Trade-off between Cooperation and Conflict in Avian Societies Amanda R. Ridley and Martha J. Nelson-Flower	167
9	Cooperation and Conflict in Mutualisms with a Special Emphasis on Marine Cleaning Interactions Redouan Bshary	185
10	The Fundamental Role of Aggression and Conflict in the Evolution and Organization of Social Groups Clare C. Rittschof and Christina M. Grozinger	212
	Index	234
	Color plates can be found between pages 180 and 181.	



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