

Editorial First Issue

With this first issue, we are very pleased to announce the launch of the Letters on Evolutionary Behavioral Science. Recently, the way in which scientific papers are published is changing greatly. Traditionally, most scientific findings were published on paper media issued by major publishing companies, and the journals were typically ranked by their impact factors. Moreover, editing process was done mainly by voluntary work of researchers and scholars, and those who were asked to review manuscripts had to commit their precious time to the process of improving them. However, rise in price of commercial journals becomes a big problem. Moreover, while the number of manuscripts being submitted is increasing, requests of review would cluster around a small number of researchers. In the age of internet which enables drastically different ways to access information, the ways in which researchers publish their findings should also change.

The Letters on Evolutionary Behavioral Science (LEBS) is the official journal of the Human Behavior and Evolution Society Japan, a newly founded academic society in 2008. We will make some new attempts with this journal. The most important one is to make a quick report. LEBS is a letter journal and manuscripts should be no longer than 2,500 words. We will try to publish short reports as quickly as possible. A submitted manuscript must be examined by responsible editor(s) who would decide whether it is acceptable or not. To maintain quick reviewing processes, manuscripts that require major revisions should be rejected. Poor presentation and language would also be a justifiable reason for rejection. However, minor revisions may be requested in some cases. Upon publication, LEBS will routinely post responsible reviewers' reports with comments accompanying the papers. Accepted manuscripts will be up-loaded one by one, and put together as one issue every half year. In these days we do not have to pay so much cost for sending and receiving information. So we will publish results as quickly as possible and entrust the readers with the judgment of scientific value. With this method we can reduce the time that the invited reviewers are required to invest in reviewing process. Of course, a minimum quality to be qualified as a scientific paper should be guaranteed, and it will be executed with the editor's responsibility. In addition to this, we will make another attempt. Up until now, the primary value of any submitted manuscripts was on their originality. Therefore, some studies

would not be published because of their low degree of originality, even if they would be important to the scientific progress in general. For example, in experimental studies replication of previous results with different groups of subjects tended to be disregarded. Some of them were even rejected if they reported different results. LEBS welcomes those studies that replicate previous findings.

We wish to express our sincere gratitude to those who helped us in starting up this journal. We are particularly grateful to the co-editors and consulting editors who accepted to support our journal. We are sure that their international reputations and great expertise in the field will have a significant contribution in shaping up the journal. We also thank our editorial assistant Drs. Osamu Kurashima and Kikue Sakaguchi for their painstaking effort to set up the journal publishing system.

The Editors-in-chief also wish to thank the authors who submitted their papers to the first issue of LEBS. This first issue is a special edition and Dr. Toshio Yamagishi kindly accepted to be a guest editor. Most of the authors attended the international workshop "Workshop on cheater/cooperator detection" held at Hokkaido University last year. However, this special edition is an exception. From the next issue we welcome submissions from any areas of human evolutionary behavioral science as well as studies on humanities. Articles reporting findings on other species will be welcomed if their relevance to human is apparent. In particular, LEBS eagerly anticipates submissions from Asian and Oceanian researchers.

During the process of preparing this journal, we had asked the late Dr. Margo Wilson to be a consulting editor for us, and she had kindly accepted it. Unfortunately she has passed away last September. We feel regretful for not being able to show her our first issue. We think that making this journal better would be a way of appreciating her warm encouragements. Any suggestions on how to improve our activity in delivering a better journal to the authors and readers will always be very much appreciated.

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Ryo Oda, Mayuko Nakamaru
Editors-in-chief