



CALL FOR PAPERS – Adaptive Behavior Special issue: “Evolution of Cultural Complexity”

From a global perspective the sociocultural evolution of humans has been a strong driving force throughout our shared history. From the invention of tools as simple as a knapped pebble to the development of complex machines able to land men on the Moon, humans as a species have been developing, advancing and perfecting objects and techniques we use in our daily lives. Equally, we have witnessed a slow but steady shift among human groups towards more complex multilevel social organisations.

Although never a case of continuous progress but rather an ebb and flow peppered with sudden surges in pace and dramatic collapses, the global trend can be characterised as an increase in cultural and social complexity over time. Despite its significance, the mechanisms and the factors driving this process are still poorly understood and subject to debate. What drives society to continuously update and elaborate their products? Why certain forms of social organisation seem to be more stable than others? What factors cause a sudden loss in cultural complexity? Different hypotheses trying to explain the rise of sociocultural complexity across human societies have been proposed, from demographic factor, cognitive component to historical contingency, but we are far from reaching a consensus.

This special issue follows on from the session “**Evolution of Cultural Complexity**” held at the Conference on Complex System (2017 & 2018), where those questions were discussed. However we also welcome submissions from authors who did not present. The submission can be of any of the types: original research article, review of the literature on the topic of the session, short communication and opinion (*cf.* the submission guideline of Adaptive Behavior for more information on these formats: <https://us.sagepub.com/en-us/nam/journal/adaptive-behavior#submission-guidelines>). We invite studies related to the evolution of cultural complexity, including but not limited to the following topics:

- Definition, proxies and quantification of cultural complexity
- Cultural transmission, cumulative culture and social learning
- Evolution of technology and technological change
- Social dynamics of innovation and cooperation
- Cognitive basis of creativity, cooperation and innovation
- Interactions between cultural complexity and population dynamics
- Methods and tools to study cultural complexity and evolutionary change

The submission will proceed through the SAGE journal submission system:

<https://mc.manuscriptcentral.com/ad-behav>

During the submission process please select the article type: “**Special issue on the evolution of cultural complexity**”.

Please also note that submissions have to follow SAGE submission guidelines:

<https://us.sagepub.com/en-us/nam/manuscript-submission-guidelines>

A Word template is available [here](#) and a Latex template [here](#).

Timeline:

Submission deadline: **November 2018**

Reviewers' feedback due: **Early 2019**

Revised submissions due: **Early 2019**

Publication date: **TBA**

Guest Editors of the special issue:

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(2017)

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