

THE EVOLUTIONARY SOCIOECOLOGY OF COMMUNICATION

Communication is an aspect of social relationships and interaction among members of a population. This paper begins with a brief introduction to multi-process selection theory, to the forces that explain the existing array of entities in evolving populations (constraints, chance, history and necessity), and to some basic principles of evolutionary ecology. The latter asks and seeks to answer the question of under what ecological conditions does selection favour what kinds of characteristics, including behavioural ones, vis a vis the ecological environment and other species. Evolutionary *socioecology* then asks and seeks to answer the same question vis a vis other members of the *same* population. In discussing some general principles of the evolutionary socioecology of communication (for situations in which the parties play similar, and for those in which they play different roles), this paper pays particular attention to the cooperative (sharing information), antagonistic (managing and assessing), and often mixed nature of social communication.