



DIFFERENT NORMS ACROSS THE  
SCIENTIFIC DIVIDE LEADS TO SOME  
RISKY SEMINARS: SCIENCE, PRACTICE  
AND A SENSE OF AIMLESS WONDERING  
IN THE GREEN FOREST OF BERLIN  
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University Education: Ph.D., M.A. Anthropology, University of California at Los Angeles, 1999. B.S. Aerospace Engineering, University of Notre Dame, 1991 (high honors). B.A. Anthropology, University of Notre Dame, 1991 (high honors). Major recent fellowships and grants: 2002 National Science Foundation Grant in Anthropology, Economics and Decision Science for *The Roots of Human Sociality: An Ethno-Experimental Exploration of the Foundations of Economic Norms in 16 Small-Scale Societies* (3 years). Recent refereed journal articles and forthcoming volume: “Cultural Transmission and the Diffusion of Innovations: Adoption Dynamics Indicate that Biased Cultural Transmission is the Predominate Force in Behavioral Change and Much of Sociocultural Evolution.” *American Anthropologist* 103 (2001): 992–1013; (with Robert Boyd) “Why People Punish Defectors: Conformist Transmission Stabilizes Costly Enforcement of Norms in Cooperative Dilemmas.” *Journal of Theoretical Biology* 208 (2001): 79–89; “Does Culture Matter in Economic Behavior? Ultimatum Game Bargaining Among the Machiguenga.” *American Economic Review* 90, no. 4 (2000): 973–979. – Address: Department of Anthropology, Emory University, Geosciences Building, Atlanta, GA 30322-1720, USA.

Our Tuesday “norms” and “risk” seminars provided great opportunities for exchanging ideas across disciplinary boundaries. Talks begun at these meetings with Ernst Fehr, Margó Wilson, Alex Kacelnik, Michael Kosfeld, Cristina Bicchieri, Rob Boyd, Michael Kosfeld, Elke Weber, Eric Johnson, John Breuille, Martin Daly and John McNamera, as well as with great visitors like Simon Gächter, Armin Falk and Rick Wilson, turned into extended conversations that filled the hallways, dinner tables and local beer gardens. In sev-

eral cases, these conversations have turned into completed (and forthcoming) papers. Ernst Fehr and I have produced one forthcoming paper and have another in the works. Rob Boyd and I published two papers together during the year. And the three of us were able to bring to completion our edited volume on the empirical foundations of human sociality, which will be published by Oxford University Press. Outside the Wissenschaftskolleg, my interaction with Richard McElreath at the Max Planck Institute for Human Development lead to our writing and publishing two papers together.

The larger-group, mandatory Wiko seminar was, however, a whole different kind of experience. As an anthropologist interested in norms and culture, it was interesting to watch the clash of academic traditions. Unlike one might have guessed *a priori*, the biggest clash of cultures was not, German/American, or Economics/Anthropology, but rather science vs. anti-science (I use “anti-science” for lack of a better term). This came out curiously in the style in which questions were asked. The science types, which include biologists, economists, psychologists, anthropologists, mathematicians, neuroscientists and computer scientists, seemed to agree that questions should be succinct, direct, linear and unadorned. The anti-science types, on the other hand, preferred to turn their “questions” into long, meandering, repetitious lectures that twisted, turned, and attempted to use large, impressive-sounding words when simpler words would have added clarity and precision. Some of these folks loved to hear themselves talk and seemed to marvel at their own scholarly brilliance – meanwhile the rest of us were either acutely unimpressed or had been pelted into stupor by a seemingly endless barrage of verbiage. Fortunately, it was often humorous to watch the speakers attempt to extract a single question, or even clear line of thought, from the verbal goulashes that were just poured over their heads. About halfway through the year I took to timing the “questions” of certain individuals. I found that their questions often ran 8–10 minutes. Assuming the speaker used 8–10 minutes in answering these “questions”, the interaction would take around 20 minutes. If everyone did this, there would only be three questions per talk. Here we have an example of both Ernst Fehr’s public goods game, and further evidence of his controversial “selfish types”.

Aside from these weekly entertainments and numerous excellent lunch discussions, my own work proceeded nicely. Wiko proved to be an excellent place to work – although don’t even think about asking for *Mathematica*. I spent mostly my days organizing and analyzing my ethnographical data on Mapuche economic life, reading everything I could find on aboriginal Tasmanians (the library did great on this, although I still cannot figure out why such an otherwise efficient group insists on running little slips of paper back and forth,

rather than using e-mail, internet, etc.) and building mathematical models of cultural evolution. My office neighborhood proved perfect. Michael Kosfeld and I exchanged ideas and opinions on a daily basis – by the end, he had me reading more game theory and I had him reading ethnographies (*Pigs for the Ancestors*).

My evenings and weekends were filled with rich adventures in Berlin (we found a great pizza place), warm chats with our neighbors, running in the Grunewald with wild boars and unruly scholars (Ansgar Büschges, Rob Boyd and Jakob Tanner), and errant forays with my beloved Natalie into the German countryside in Herr Riedel's fearless *Auto*. During one of my running adventures in the forest, Rob Boyd tripped on a small pebble and broke his angle. In bringing back the car for a rescue, I almost lost him in the darkness of Berlin's 3 p.m. dusk. This led to another noteworthy experience in the local emergency room. In all these adventures, the initial five weeks of German language training provided by our excellent teachers Daniel, Marita and Hennig (who will only admit to being a "tutor") proved very useful and completely worthwhile.

Papers published or accepted while at the Wissenschaftskolleg

Henrich, Joseph, Robert Boyd, Samuel Bowles, Herbert Gintis, Ernst Fehr, and Colin Camerer, eds., forthcoming. *Foundations of Human Sociality: Ethnography and Experiments in 15 Small-Scale Societies*. Oxford University Press.

Henrich, Joseph and Richard McElreath, forthcoming. "The Evolutionary Foundations of Cultural Evolution." *Evolutionary Anthropology*.

Henrich, Joseph, forthcoming. "Cultural Group Selection, Coevolutionary Processes and Large-Scale Cooperation." A target article in *Journal of Economic Behavior and Organization*.

Henrich, Joseph and Robert Boyd. 2002. "On Modeling Cognition and Culture: Why Replicators are not Necessary for Cultural Evolution." *Journal of Cognition and Culture*, 2, no. 2: 87–112.

Henrich, Joseph and Richard McElreath. 2002. "Are Peasants Risk-Averse Decision-Makers?" *Current Anthropology*. 43, no. 1: 172–181.

Henrich, Joseph. 2001. "Cultural Transmission and the Diffusion of Innovations: Adoption Dynamics Indicate that Biased Cultural Transmission is the Predominate Force in Behavioral Change and Much of Sociocultural Evolution." *American Anthropologist* 103: 992–1013.

- Henrich, Joseph, Robert Boyd, and Peter Richerson, forthcoming. "Five Common Mistakes in Cultural Evolution." In *Epidemiology of Ideas*, edited by Dan Sperber. Open Court Publishing.
- Henrich, J., P. Young, E. Smith, S. Bowles, P. Richerson, A. Hopfensitz, K. Sigmund, and F. Weissing, forthcoming. "The Culture and Genetic Origins of Human Cooperation." In *Genetic and Culture Evolution of Cooperation*, edited by Peter Hammerstein. MIT Press.
- Richerson, Peter, Robert Boyd, and Joseph Henrich, forthcoming. "The Cultural Evolution of Cooperation." In *Genetic and Culture Evolution of Cooperation*, edited by Peter Hammerstein. MIT Press.
- Fehr, Ernst and Joseph Henrich, forthcoming. "Is Strong Reciprocity a Maladaptation?" In *Genetic and Culture Evolution of Cooperation*, edited by Peter Hammerstein. MIT Press.