

# From ethology to sexual selection: trends in animal behavior research

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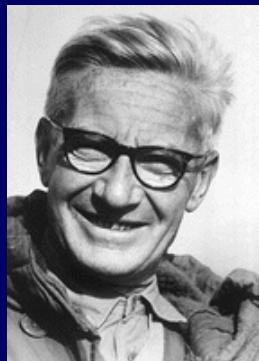
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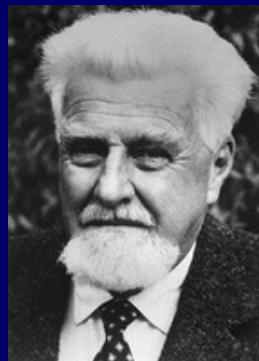
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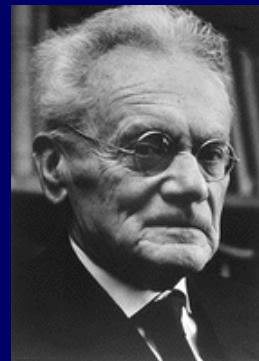
## Animal behavior – then & now



Niko Tinbergen  
1907-1988

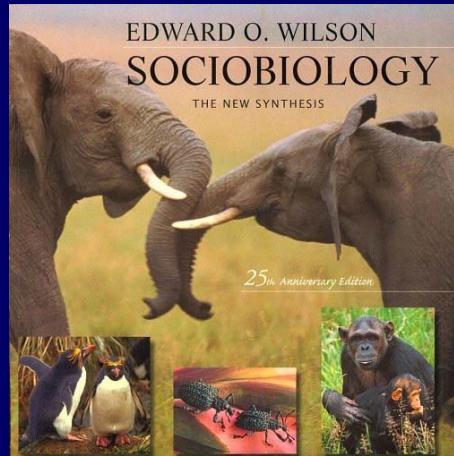


Konrad Lorenz  
1903-1989



Karl von Frisch  
1886-1982

## Animal behavior – then & now



\*1975

mechanism/  
development

evolutionary theory/  
population biology

## Animal behavior – then & now

- Peter Klopfer (2002 - ABS newsletter)
  - 7 journals, 1<sup>st</sup> 50 papers 1950 vs 2000
  - little change
- John Alcock (2003 – ABS 50<sup>th</sup> anniversary)
  - animal behavior in texts
  - < 1975 = proximate, >1975 = ultimate

## Animal behavior – then & now

1. Major trends over 30 yrs
  - research focus: 1972-1977 vs. 1996-2001
2. Journal coverage
  - 1996-2001
  - who publishes what?

## Obtaining the data

- Relevant journals
  - Animal Behavior Abstracts (Camb. Sc. Abst.)
  - 228 journals = animal behavior
- Biological Abstracts (BIOSIS)
  - 219 journals, 414,739 papers, 1968-mid2002

## Refining the data

- Animal Behavior Abstracts
  - CORE journals = all animal behavior
  - PRIORITY journals = <50% animal behavior
  - SELECTIVE journals = >50% animal behavior

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14 journals, 15,282 papers

*Anim. Behav.*

*Anim. Learn. Behav.*

*Appl. Anim. Behav. Sci.*

*Behaviour*

*Behav. Ecol.*

*Behav. Ecol. Socio.*

*Behav. Processes*

*Bird Behav.*

*Birds N. Am.*

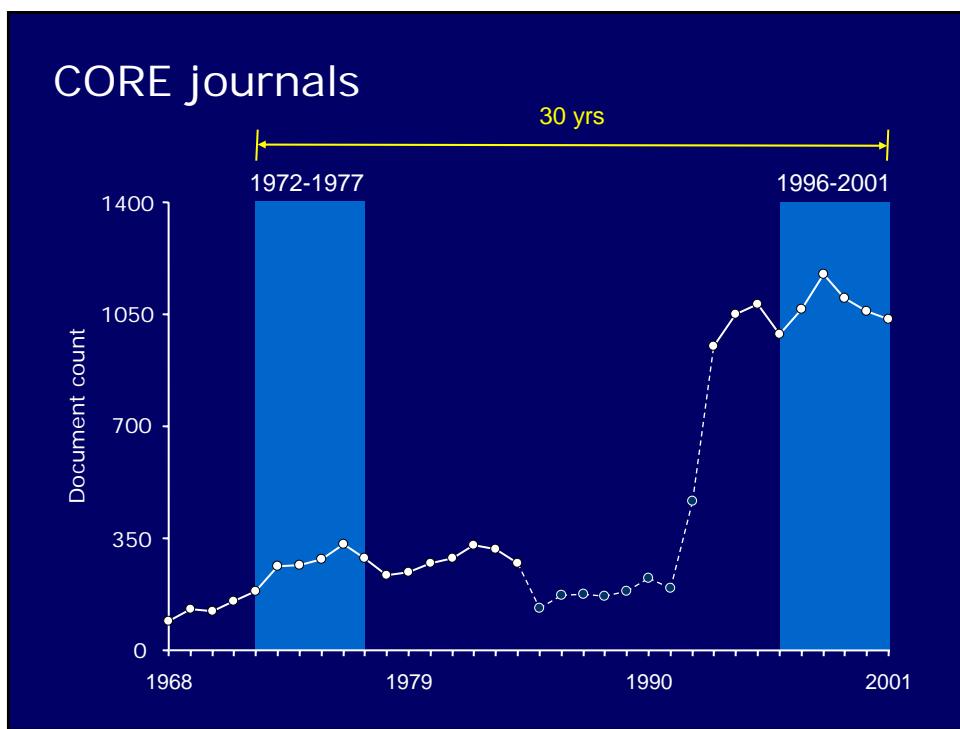
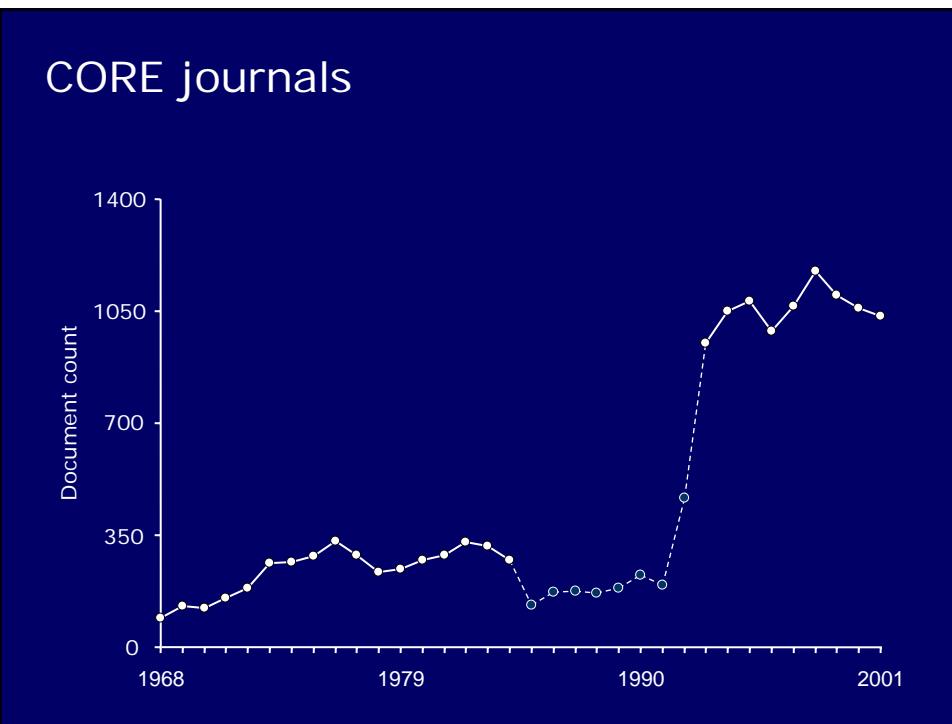
*Ethology*

*J. Ethol.*

*J. Exp. Psychol.: Anim. Behav. Processes*

*J. Insect Behav.*

*Learn. Motiv.*



## Latent semantic analysis

Early handling increases lamb affinity for humans

Communicative cultures in cetaceans: big questions are unanswered, functional analyses are needed

Estimating ancestral states of a communicative display:  
A comparative study of *Cyclura* rock iguanas.

Does sociality drive the evolution of communicative complexity? A comparative test with ground-dwelling sciurid alarm calls

The maternal feeding display of domestic hens is sensitive to perceived chick error

Variation in chick-a-dee calls of a Carolina chickadee population, *Poecile carolinensis*: identity and redundancy within note types

Responses of foraging hedgehogs to badger odour

## Latent semantic analysis

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**COMMUNICATIVE** cultures  
in cetaceans: big questions are unanswered, functional analyses are needed

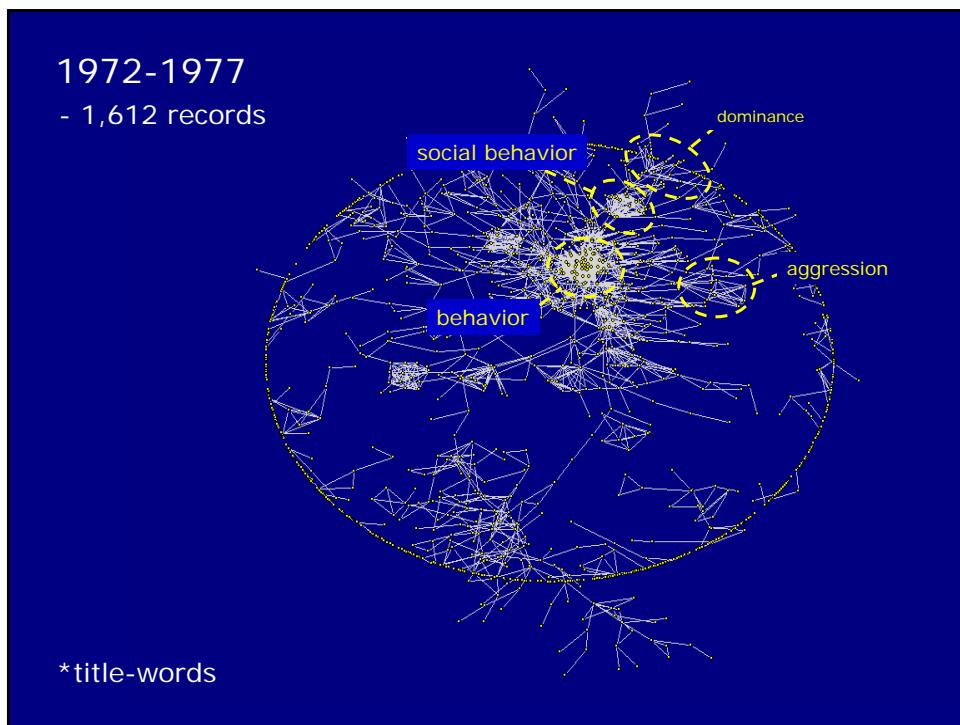
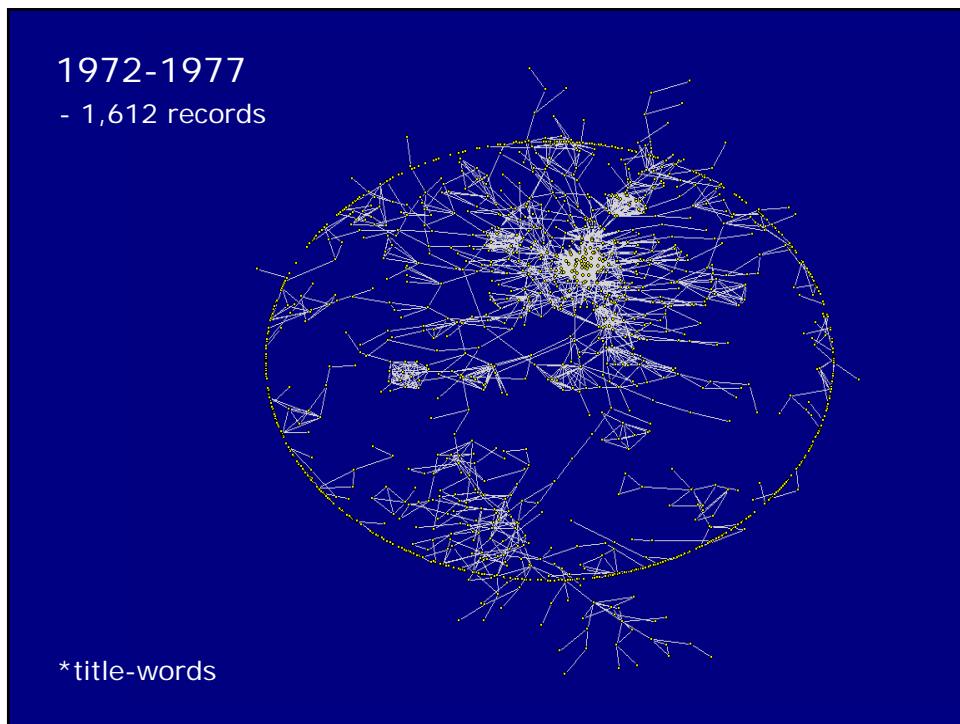
Estimating ancestral states of a **COMMUNICATIVE DISPLAY**  
A **COMPARATIVE** study of *Cyclura* rock iguanas.

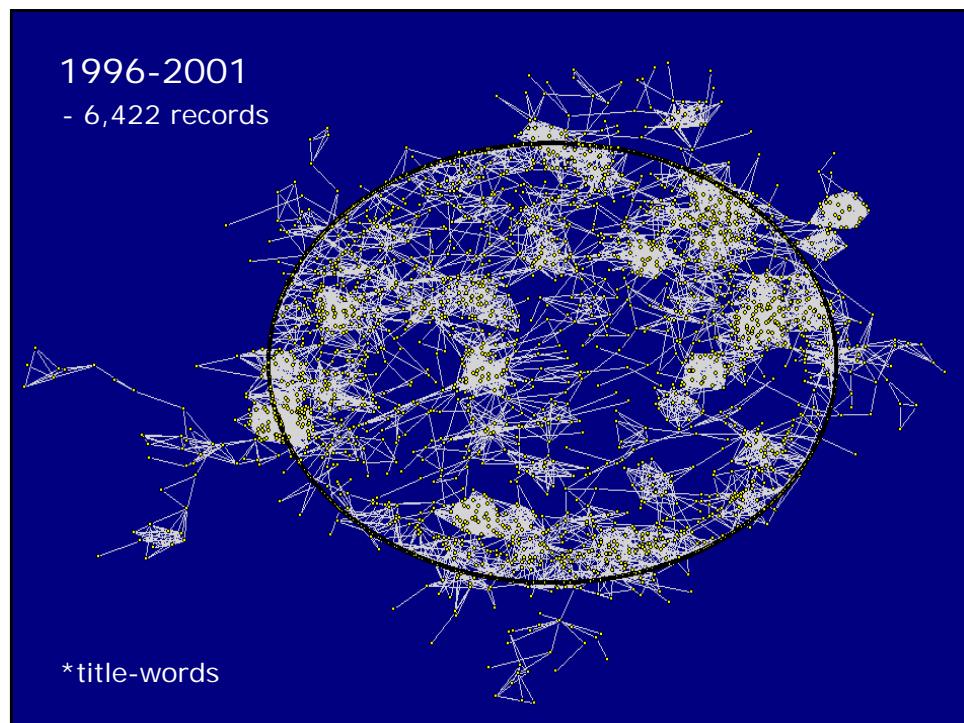
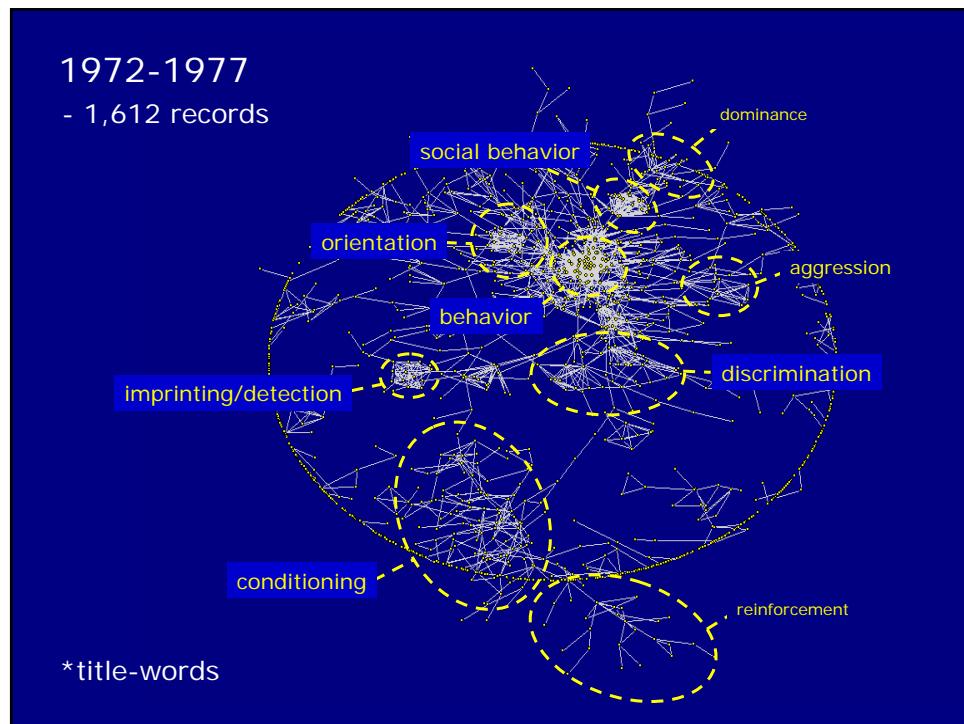
Does sociality drive the evolution of **COMMUNICATIVE** complexity? A **COMPARATIVE** test with ground-dwelling sciurid alarm **CALL**s

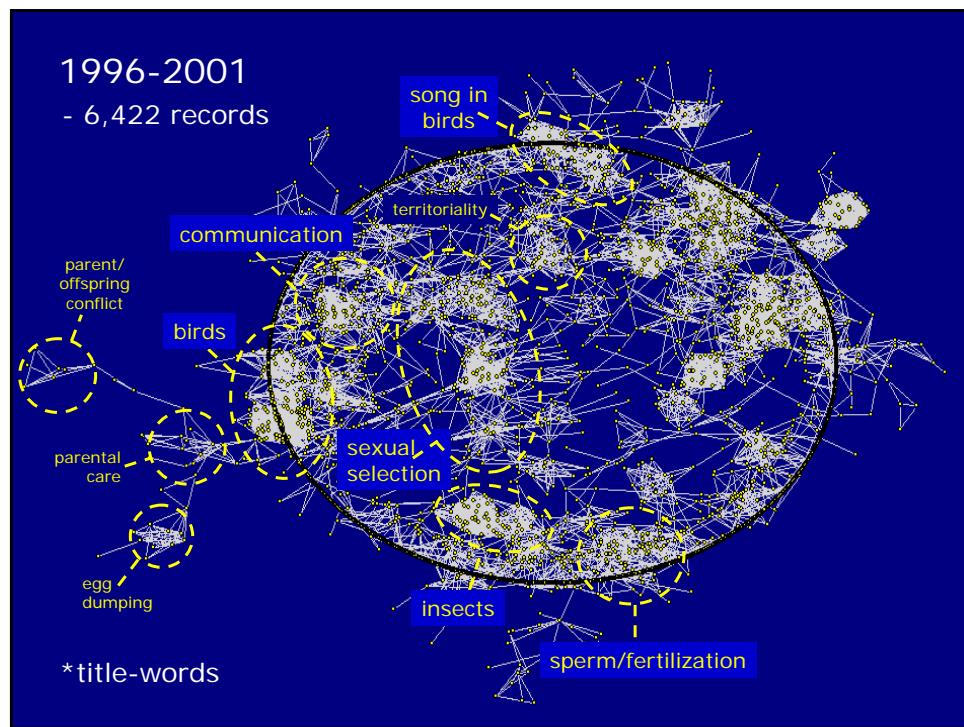
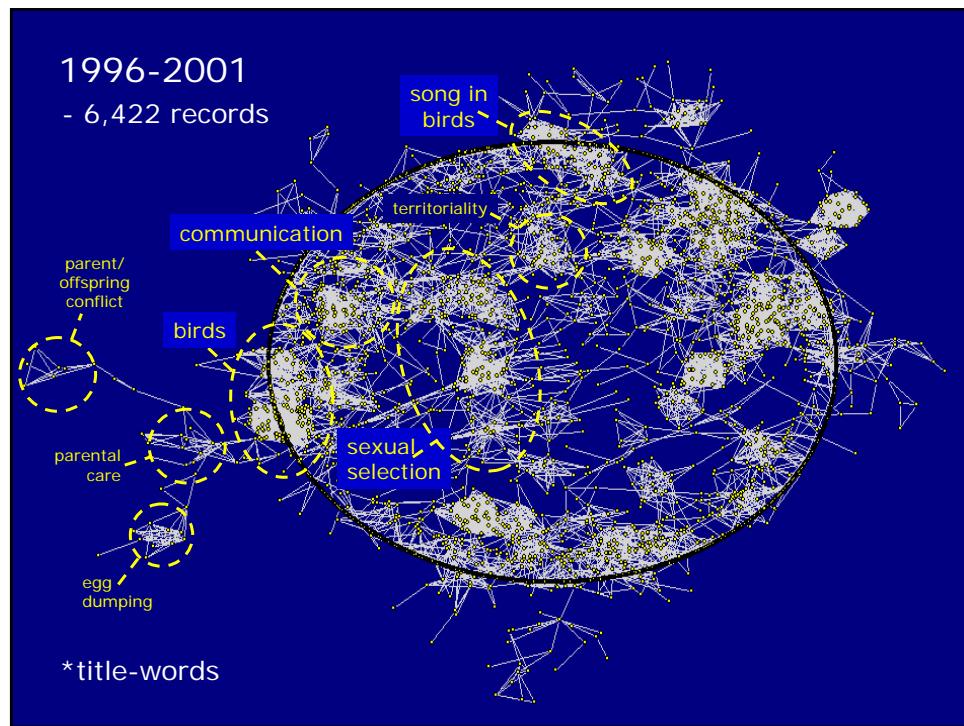
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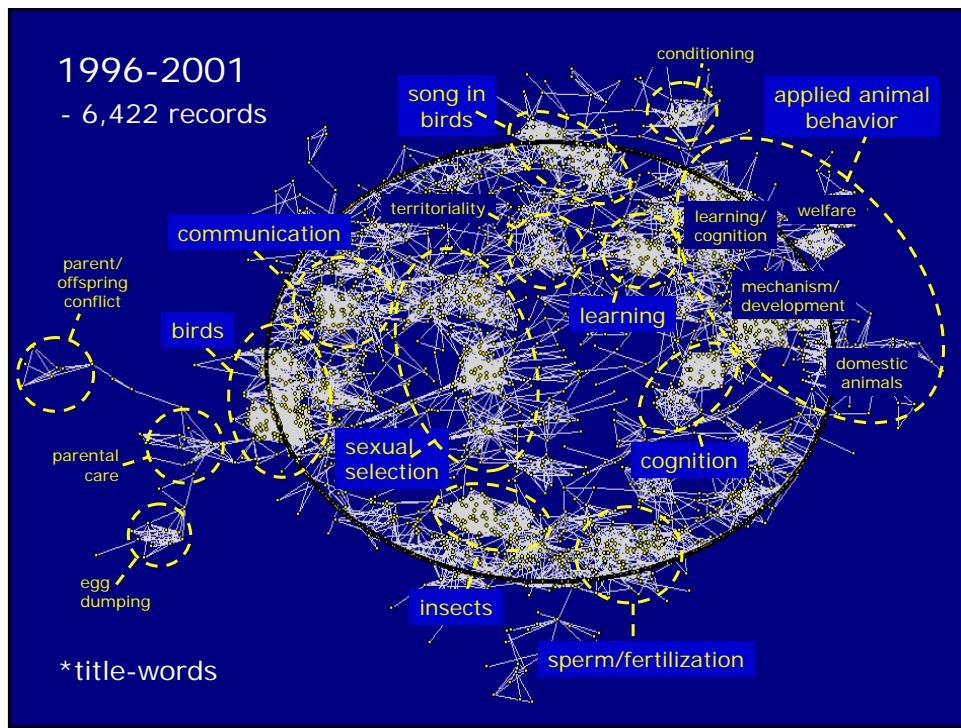
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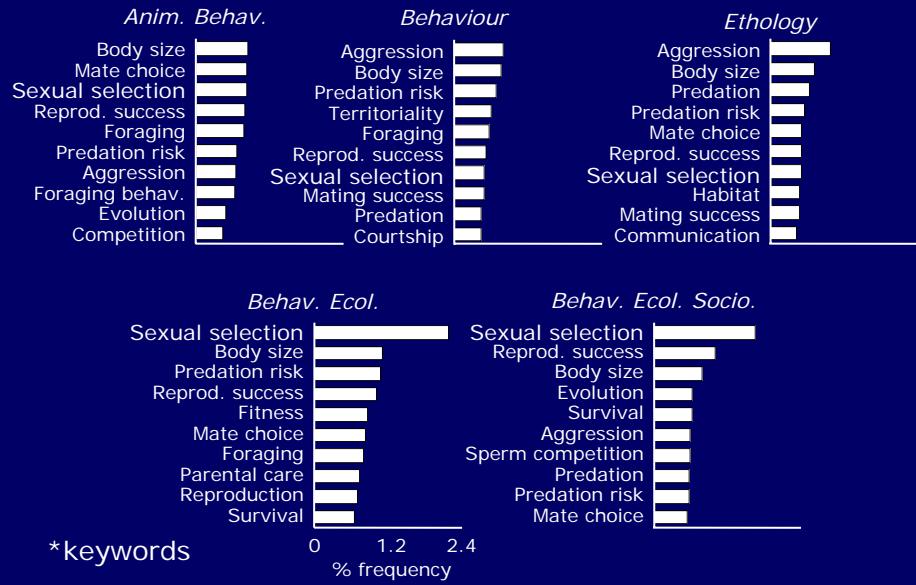




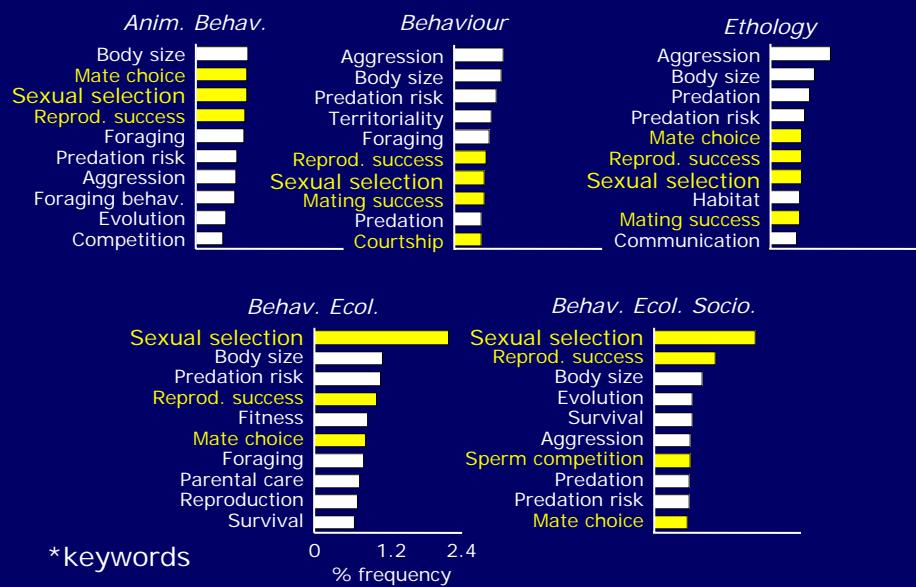
## Summary – major trends

- 1972-1977
    - ethology
    - comparative psychology
  - 1996-2001
    - broader vocabulary
    - taxonomic split
    - applied animal behavior
    - mechanism/development...

## Journal focus (1996-2001)



## Journal focus – sexual selection



## Journal focus = big 4

|                      | <i>Anim.<br/>Behav.</i> | <i>Behaviour</i> | <i>Ethology</i> | <i>Behav.<br/>Ecol.</i> | <i>Behav.<br/>Ecol. Socio.</i> |
|----------------------|-------------------------|------------------|-----------------|-------------------------|--------------------------------|
| sexual selection     | ✓                       | ✓                | ✓               | ✓                       | ✓                              |
| predation            | ✓                       | ✓                | ✓               | ✓                       | ✓                              |
| aggression           | ✓                       | ✓                | ✓               |                         | ✓                              |
| foraging             | ✓                       | ✓                |                 | ✓                       |                                |
| body size            | ✓                       | ✓                | ✓               | ✓                       | ✓                              |
| evolution            | ✓                       |                  |                 |                         | ✓                              |
| communication        |                         |                  | ✓               |                         |                                |
| fitness/reproduction |                         |                  |                 | ✓                       |                                |
| habitat              |                         |                  | ✓               |                         |                                |
| parental care        |                         |                  |                 | ✓                       |                                |
| survival             |                         |                  |                 | ✓                       | ✓                              |

\*keywords

## Summary – journal focus (1996-2001)

- 4 dominant areas of study
  1. sexual selection
  2. predation
  3. aggression
  4. foraging
- Mechanism/development not in top10
- Journal coverage
  - *Anim. Behav., Behaviour, Ethology* = ~diverse
  - *Behav. Ecol., Behav. Ecol. Socio.* = sexual selection

## Conclusion

- General research shift
  - today, ethology =
    - sexual selection, social behavior, birds
    - applied animal behavior

1972-1977 → 1996-2001



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- Journal focus = 'Big 4'
  1. sexual selection
  2. predation
  3. aggression
  4. foraging

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|                    |                       |                              |
|--------------------|-----------------------|------------------------------|
| <u>ethology</u>    | <u>mixed</u>          | <u>sexual selection</u>      |
| - <i>Behaviour</i> | - <i>Anim. Behav.</i> | - <i>Behav. Ecol.</i>        |
| - <i>Ethology</i>  |                       | - <i>Behav. Ecol. Socio.</i> |

## Conclusion

- General research shift
  - today, ethology =
    - sexual selection, social behavior, birds
    - applied animal behavior
- Journal focus = 'Big 4'
- Mechanism/development...?
  - specialized journals, e.g., *Horm. Behav.*
  - change in vocabulary

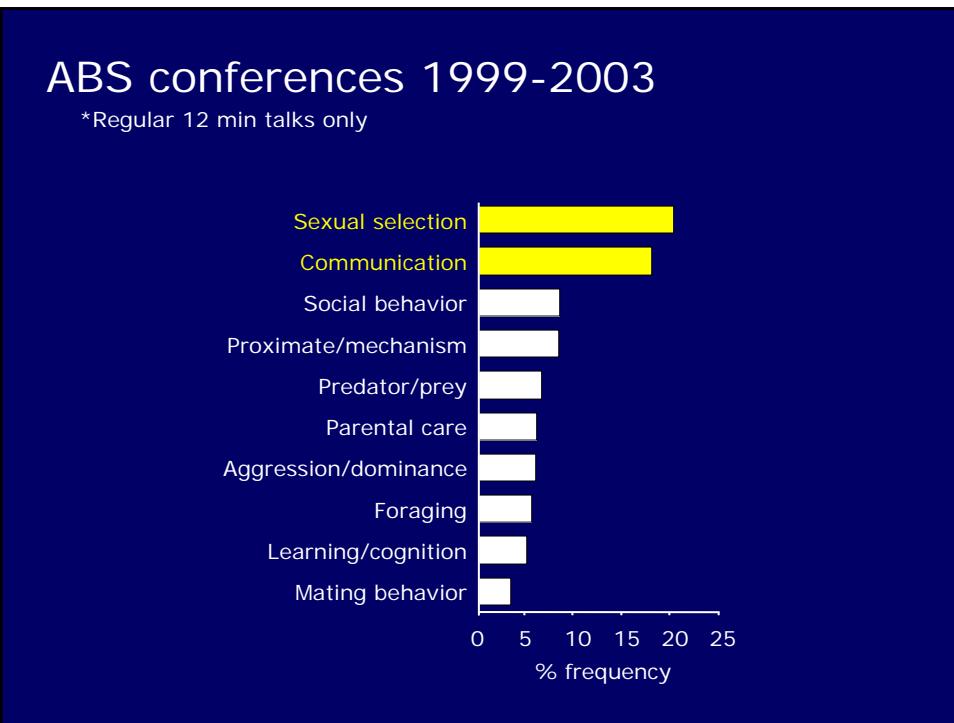
## Future work

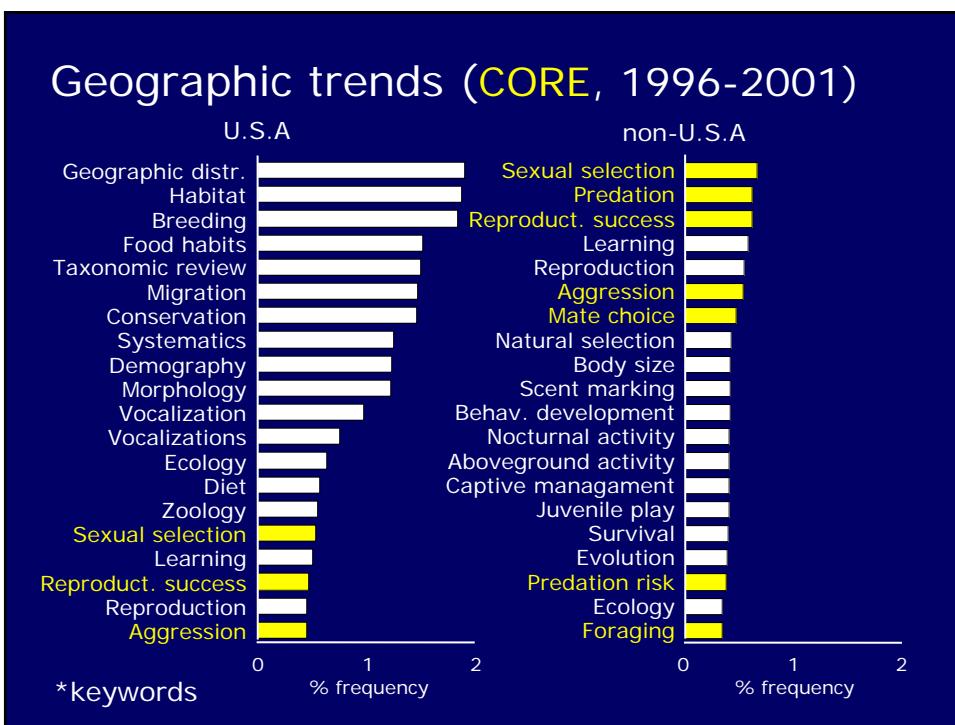
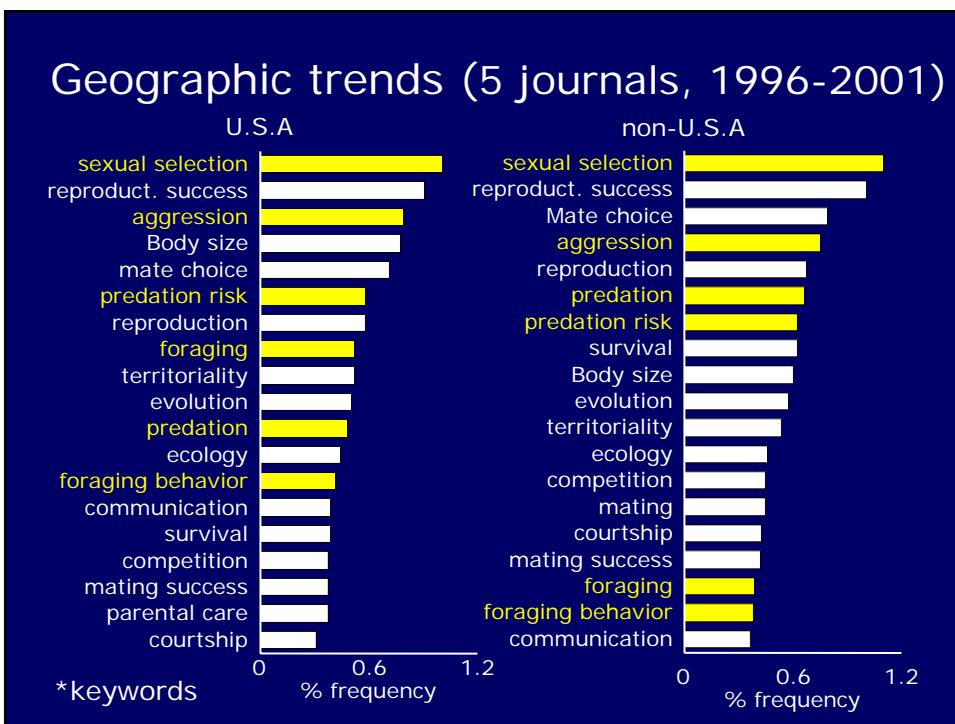
- PRIORITY & SELECTIVE journals
  - isolate animal behavior papers by keywords
- Author affiliation data
  - geographic trends
- Funding trends (NIH, NSF, society awards)
- Automation

## Acknowledgements

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IU Library Information Technology







## Author affiliations (U.S.A)

- appearing in CORE animal behavior journals

