



The International Behaviorology Institute

# TIBI 27th Behaviorology Anniversary Convention

2014 May 21–23, Canton NY USA

*Behaviorology*

*Conductologia*

*Xingwei Xue*

*Gedragologie*

*Behaviourology*

## Tentative Program & Notes

While the scientific history of behaviorology began in the 1930s, the discipline was formally recognized at a meeting of natural scientists of behavior at a related convention in Nashville TN in May 1987. At this meeting, those original behaviorologists organized behaviorology as an *independent*, natural–science–of–behavior discipline, separate from any and all disciplines espousing fundamentally mystical or superstitious accounts for human nature and human behavior. This convention celebrates the 27th anniversary of that formal organizational founding.

Behaviorologists held their first behaviorology convention in “The North Country” at Clarkson University in Potsdam NY (ten miles from Canton) in 1988. This year’s convention focuses on the contributions that we can each make in covering the many aspects of our discipline’s scientific and cultural missions with respect to improving life both for individuals and for society.

### PROGRAM SCHEDULE

**(TUESDAY 20 May: Arrivals.)**

**WEDNESDAY 21 May:**

☞ 8:30 to 9 A.M. Registration.

☞ 9 to 9:25 A.M. *Welcome to the North Country and Canton.*

Dr. Joseph Hoffman, President, SUNY–Canton.

☞ 9:25 to 9:50 A.M. *A Welcome to Science Researchers and Practitioners.*

Ms. Daphne Pickert, Director, St. Lawrence NYSARC.

☞ 10 to 10:45 A.M. *What is Reality to an Organic Chunk of Matter? Some Physics of Behavior, with Implications for Sentience and Sociality.*

Lawrence Fraley, Ed.D., DLBC.

☞ 11 to 10:45 A.M. *Running Out of Time for New “Behaviorology and Green Engineering” Programs to be Effective.*

Stephen F. Ledoux, Ph.D., DLBC.

**Lunch** Noon to 2 P.M.

☞ 2 to 2:45 P.M. *Developing a Sequential Intervention Model to Reduce Engagement in Vocal Stereotypy.*

Marc Lanovaz, Ph.D., BCBA–D.

☞ 3 to 3:45 P.M. *An Economic Contingency Analysis of Reproductive Practices.*

Samantha Bissell, MA, & Jón Sigurjónsson, Ph.D.

☞ 4 to 4:45 P.M. *Does Periodic Instant Messaging While Working Improve Productivity and Quality of Work?*

Angela Lebbon, Ph.D., Jón Sigurjónsson, Ph.D., & Emilay Florez, BA.

☞ 5 to 5:15 P.M. *Shrinking Universe*

A short, one–act, science–related play

Readers: SUNY–Canton behaviorology students.

Playwright: Miles L. Ledoux.

☞ 5:15 to 6 P.M. Book signing (all attending authors).

**Dinner** 6 to 8 P.M.

☞ 8 to 9 P.M. *Participatory Science and Magic.*

Coordinator: Stephen Ledoux.

**THURSDAY 22 May:**

☞ 8:30 to 9 A.M. Registration.

☞ 9 to 9:45 A.M. *Obtaining and Maintaining Optimal Body Weight in a Fattening America.*

Michael Hanley, Ph.D., BCBA–D.

✧ 10 to 10:45 A.M. *A Brief Description and Demonstration of PNET (Progressive Neural Emotional Therapy).*

John Ferreira, Ph.D., DLBC.

✧ 11 to 10:45 A.M. *Progressive Neural Emotional Therapy (PNET): Influences on the Endosystemic Processes.*

Philip Johnson, Ph.D., DLBC, & Michael Urquhart, Ph.D.

**Lunch** Noon to 2 P.M.

✧ 2 to 2:45 P.M. *Why Behaviorologists Must Care about Parenting Skills.*

Barry Berghaus, MA, MLBC.

✧ 3 to 3:45 P.M. *Behaviorology in the Field of Companion Animal Behavior Technology and What this Process can Contribute to the Emergence of Behaviorology in Other Fields.*

James O’Heare, DLBC.

✧ 4 to 4:45 P.M. Panel and Audience discussion: *What Difference Behaviorology and Behavior Analysis?*

Panel of Presenters.

✧ 5 to 5:50 P.M. Book signing (all attending authors).

**Dinner** 6 to 8 P.M.

✧ 8 to 9 P.M. *Going to Graduate School*

Discussion with available presenters et al.

### FRIDAY 23 May:

✧ 8:30 to 9 A.M. Registration.

✧ 9 to 10:15 A.M. Audience and Panel discussion: *General Audience Questions and Answers.*

✧ 10:30 to 11:45 A.M. *The Rationale Behind Some of TIBI’s By-Laws: A Workshop–Style Discussion as a Prelude to Improvements.*

Discussants: Audience and TIBI Board members.

**Lunch** Noon to 2 P.M.

✧ 2 to 5 P.M. *TIBI Business Meeting.*

[Members and Friends welcome.]

(SATURDAY 24 May: Departures.)

### ABSTRACTS

✧ **Paper:** *What is Reality to an Organic Chunk of Matter? Some Physics of Behavior, with Implications for Sentience and Sociality.*

Lawrence Fraley (West Virginia University, Morgantown—Retired).

**Abstract:** If, as we scientific people seem to agree, human beings are not managed and driven by mystical

self-agents, then while behavior happens, it is not “done” or “performed” initiatively by a body managing self-entity. This leaves a person as an organic chunk of matter to which things happen when energy impinges upon them. When the energy impingements are below destructive levels, organic chunks of matter react in far more ways than do inorganic chunks of matter, which follows from the greater structural intricacy and variations of the organic platform. If rocks had our intricacy and complexity of structure, they might be represented by the Sandstone family living next door, because the same energy-induced processes that account for us could likewise account for them.

✧ **Paper:** *Running Out of Time for New “Behaviorology and Green Engineering” Programs to be Effective.*

Stephen F. Ledoux (SUNY–Canton).

**Abstract:** Due to the increasing interest in the connection between solving global problems and establishing sustainable lifestyles, this presentation describes the basis and need for degree programs in green engineering that teach students *all* the natural sciences that are working on these concerns, particularly the natural science that generally was previously unavailable to them, namely, the natural science of behavior known as behaviorology. The emphasis is on developing curricula that improve the effectiveness of graduates who would work in the areas of green engineering and sustainable lifestyles by including behaviorology and the application of its contingency engineering in their knowledge repertoire and skill set.

To explore those possibilities, we will establish some credentials for behaviorology, review some resources, and consider pertinent observations of some folks who have been in the thick of the struggle to solve problems like global warming, observations that successful solutions require changes in human behavior, and thus require knowledge and application of behaviorology. *Credentials* include adherence to the tenets of naturalism respecting (a) only natural events as independent variables and dependent variables, (b) the natural history of events with their multiple levels of analysis, and (c) scientific methods. *Resources* refers to published materials about complex human behavior and our responses to climate change. And *considering observations* relates to calls that solutions involve behavior change requiring behaviorology in the green interdisciplinary engineering–team training to benefit all natural scientists helping each other become more effective in addressing, in a timely manner, those large scale problems whose solutions are acknowledged as needing intervention components by citizens for citizens.

✧ *Paper: Developing a Sequential Intervention Model to Reduce Engagement in Vocal Stereotypy.*

Marc Lanovaz (University of Montreal)

**Abstract:** Despite the availability of several interventions designed to reduce engagement in vocal stereotypy, few studies have compared two or more interventions together. Consequently, practitioners have limited amounts of data to make informed decisions on whether an intervention may be more suitable than another to begin treating vocal stereotypy. This presentation will examine a series of experiments on the direct and collateral effects of multiple interventions to reduce engagement in vocal stereotypy in individuals with autism and other developmental disabilities. Together, the results indicate that (a) noncontingent music generally produced more desirable outcomes than differential reinforcement of an alternative behavior, (b) differential reinforcement of other behavior reduced vocal stereotypy in two participants for whom noncontingent music had failed to do so, (c) adding simple prompts may enhance the effects of the interventions, and (d) the effects of noncontingent music may persist during sessions with extended durations. Based on these results, the presentation will propose a sequential intervention model to facilitate the initial and subsequent selection of an intervention most likely to reduce vocal stereotypy while producing desired collateral outcomes.

✧ *Paper: An Economic Contingency Analysis of Reproductive Practices.*

Samantha Bissell & Jón Sigurjónsson (CUNY).

**Abstract:** The malleability of human behavior enables survival in an ever changing environment. In order for a biological trait to be selected for, it must either be negative, neutral or positive for the organism in accordance with the environment. This means that an organism that can alter its behavior will have a greater chance of becoming an evolutionary success. If the environmental conditions are stable, and the organism is thriving, there is less of a need to manipulate its biological mapping. However, for the human species living in an unstable environment, it would be beneficial to have biological plasticity to adapt to the given environment. Therefore, in order for a species to survive in an altered climate, biological selectionism or adaptation due to environmental changes must occur. Schmitt showed support for several cross-cultural theories that demonstrated the variability between human mating strategies. All of the strategies were contingent upon how the group responded to their environment. Barber dissected GDP across cultures and found that, when an environment is resource deprived, it is associated with higher rates of early reproduction, and when resources are stable there are higher rates of single parents. This may occur because men do not have

to invest as much time into their offspring to ensure reproductive maturity because resources are accessible and women may be willing to be more promiscuous to attain higher quality genes. Conventionally, topics such as these have been researched by evolutionary or social psychology. However, neither of these approaches includes a plausible scientific way of intervention.

We have utilized the absolute Gross Domestic Product (GDP), GINI Index, and National Gender Pay Gap as an economic status measure for western European countries as well as the United States, Canada and Australia and compared the groups by assessing the relative status of these variables within the country to understand how accessibility to resources changes mating strategies and family structures. Consistent with past research, we expect to find that, in cultures with limited resources, there would be a higher level of monogamy, and in cultures with accessible resources, monogamy would decline because less effort would be required by both parents to care for the offspring.

This would be congruent with the behaviorological interpretation that organisms' "motivations" can be interpreted as behaviors caused by escape and avoidance contingencies, in this case from poverty and hunger. The talk will focus on the appropriate units of analysis for cultural behaviorology, the plausibility of a behaviorological intervention in mass cultural change, and how these results relate to both behaviorology and evolutionary psychology.

✧ *Paper: Does Periodic Instant Messaging While Working Improve Productivity and Quality of Work?*

Angela Lebbon, Jón Sigurjónsson, & Emilay Florez (CUNY).

**Abstract:** Social media has emerged as a great source for information and interaction for individuals. One specific type of social media activity involves real-time communication between two or more individuals, wherein written communication is transmitted through cell phones as text messages and through computers as instant messages (IM). Analysts have estimated that 2.5 billion IM accounts are currently active and roughly 47 billion IMs are exchanged each day world-wide (Pingdom, 2010). Researchers have theorized that IMing is a great tool in the workplace to aid communication and decision making, yet it is speculated that productivity will likely suffer as a result of frequent interruptions during the workday (Rennecker & Godwin, 2003). Recent survey research by Coker (2011) suggests that workplace internet leisure behavior improves workers' productivity by 9% if it is below 12% of their total work hours. Behavioral research by Lebbon and Hurley (2013) appears to support Coker's (2011) findings that employees spending less than 15% of their total work hours on workplace leisure did experience improvements

on productivity. Previous survey research has examined the effects of IMing on productivity largely via surveys (Garrett & Danziger, 2008; Junco & Cotton, 2011; Ou et al., 2010) and empirical analysis of pupil dilation and non-work-related cognitive responses (Bailey & Iqbal, 2008; Monk, Trafton, & Boehm-Davis, 2008; Trafton, et al., 2003). A search of the research literature found little empirical research with work-related behavior supporting these results.

The current research study examined the effects of fixed variable IMing on 38 individuals' time on-task, productivity, and quality of work with more common work-related behavior. The data will additionally examine the effects of IM interruptions that require mathematical calculations versus recall, as an analogue to work interruptions versus personal interruptions. Data will be analyzed and presented in 1-minute and 5-minute intervals, in addition to the 35-minute aggregate. Participants' work-related behavior will be graphed for an aggregated analysis to determine where productivity and quality declined during the experimental session.

✧ **“Party”:** *Participatory Science and Magic.*

Coordinator: Stephen Ledoux (SUNY-Canton).

**Abstract:** In keeping with the competition among cultural contingencies for the foundations of our intellectual and emotional responses, this session (which you could construe as a kind of party) offers the opportunity for repertoire expansion through discussion of the steps that those attending have experienced with respect to sharing scientific information about the magic of science and the science of magic. The festivities will include a selection of attendee-provided magical activities involving keys, cards, minds, watches, and so on. Discussion topics will include horoscopes, faith healers, and various “Secrets of the Psychics” (NOVA).

✧ **Paper:** *Obtaining and Maintaining Optimal Body Weight in a Fattening America.*

Michael Hanley (St. Lawrence NYSARC—Retired).

**Abstract:** According to the best meta-analysis, weight loss with long term maintenance is impossible. But why, in the fat county of St. Lawrence, are my neighbors so thin and happy. Why do they have low rates of physical and mental illness? What really works? This review includes diets, exercise science, and applied behavior analysis.

✧ **Paper:** *A Brief Description and Demonstration of PNET (Progressive Neural Emotional Therapy).*

John Ferreira (Ess-Plus Behaviorological Counseling, Tucson AZ—Retired).

**Abstract:** Professionals advocate a wide variety of methods, strategies, and techniques to attempt to

produce calming/relaxing outcomes. However, the results are often disappointing due to the diverse and inconsistent analyses and implementations of individual processes. The need to develop and describe a standard, comprehensive methodology that can consistently and reliably produce predictable outcomes is apparent. Progressive Neural Emotional Therapy (PNET) provides an objective methodology based on the principles and practices of Behaviorology. Before demonstrating the PNET protocol, we will review examples of successful PNET outcomes.

✧ **Paper:** *Progressive Neural Emotional Therapy (PNET) Influences on the Endosystemic Processes.*

Philip Johnson and Michael Urquhart (University of Arizona, Tucson).

**Abstract:** This paper will address how a specific behaviorological technique, Progressive Neural Emotional Therapy (PNET) affects endobehavioral responses in the human body. In addition, the endosystemic effects of stress and the neuro-biochemical effects of medication will be discussed and compared to the endosystemic effects of PNET.

✧ **Paper:** *Why Behaviorologists Must Care about Parenting Skills.*

Barry Berghaus (United Helpers & SUNY-Canton).

**Abstract:** There exists a vast body of evidence from Adverse Childhood Experiences studies (for example, see <http://acestoohigh.com/>) and other sources showing that the majority of children around the world, and even in these United States, are exposed to adversity and trauma, a large proportion of which are inflicted by their parents. These adversities and traumas have long lasting, profound effects in all areas of life including school and work performance and mental and physical health. We know that parenting behaviors are not instinctual, but are instead learned mostly from parents. Bad parenting, just like good parenting, becomes intergenerational, passed from grandparent, to parent, to child. The infliction of adversity and trauma by parents is also intergenerational.

Most parenting training in this country is based on sociological or psychological models of parenting (of which there are many and students are instructed to choose whatever model they like) and much of it is theory-based, offering little in the way of practical skills training and development of fluency. But behaviorologists have the tools and the skills, based entirely on the natural science of human behavior, to train parenting skills (we've been doing it at SUNY-Canton for years) and thus help current and future parents to develop life-long, positive parenting behaviors that help break the chain of intergenerational trauma and abuse.

☘ **Paper:** *Behaviorology in the Field of Companion Animal Behavior Technology and What this Process can Contribute to the Emergence of Behaviorology in Other Fields.*

James O’Heare (Companion Animal Sciences Institute).

**Abstract:** This presentation will provide a brief history of the most prominent contributions to the expansion of behaviorology into the field of companion animal training. Behaviorology began making its impact on companion animal training almost as early as it began making an impact in human behavior. In the early to mid 1940s Marian and Keller Breland, and later Bob Bailey, were applying B. F. Skinner’s new science of behavior to nonhumans. After a very slow start, the 1980s saw an explosion of popularity in both an operant conditioning and added–reinforcement based approach to training companion animals, pioneered by Karen Pryor and Ian Dunbar. The 1990s saw another revitalization with the work of Jean Donaldson. At the turn of the century, new associations and schools were being formed, increasing support for an approach with less ethology, and pathology, models, and more of a natural science approach. Around this time, popularity in applied behavior analysis began to grow with contributions from Susan G. Friedman and Mary Burch. Currently, one school and one professional association are completely behaviorological in focus. With such a foot in the door, it can be expected that behaviorology will grow exponentially in the coming years. The emergence of behaviorology in companion animal training is likely to be similar to its emergence in other fields, and this broader process will also be explored.

## NOTES

**Site.** The convention takes place in the Laurentian Room at the *Best Western University Inn* at 90 East Main Street (which is U.S. Route 11) Canton NY 13617. You can reach the inn for room reservations at 315–386–8522. A restaurant and lounge/bar (and golf course) are on the premises.

**Alternative Lodgings.** Canton sports two other motels. One is a *Comfort Suites* (315–386–1161) which lacks a restaurant, etc., but which offers a complimentary breakfast. It is about one—pedestrian **unfriendly**—kilometer east of the convention inn, at 6000 U.S. Route 11, at the edge of Canton. The other is *The Cascade Inn* (315–386–8503) which has a restaurant and bar/lounge. It is about three—pedestrian friendly—kilometers west of the convention inn, at 4 West Main Street (at the intersection of U.S. Route 11 and Route 68) just across the Grasse River from downtown Canton.

**Flying?** Regarding airports:

☘ The airport in Syracuse is 130 miles from Canton.

☘ The airport in Ottawa is 80 miles from Canton (but requires extra time to clear Canadian Customs at the airport, and U.S. Customs at the border).

☘ The airport in Watertown is 70 miles from Canton.

☘ The airport in Massena is 40 miles from Canton.

☘ The airport in Ogdensburg is 20 miles from Canton.

**Information.** Call Stephen Ledoux, the local site and program coordinator, at any time for details (at 315–386–7423—leave name and number if a callback is needed) concerning instructions for driving to Canton, accommodations, weather predictions, and possible conveyances from or to airports. (If you are traveling by air, please call ASAP to enable the kind of coordination that can reduce your delays and costs).

**Registration Fees.** With the exception of students, the registration fee for each member or presenter, is \$20 per day or \$50 for all three days. For students the amount will be \$10 per day or \$25 for all three days; the three–day fee also includes one year of TIBI student membership.

For non–members the registration fee is \$30 per day, or \$80 for all three days which includes one year of TIBI Affiliate membership.

*Make out checks to TIBI for registration and, for current members, dues (see later note on dues details). TIBI can only accept checks or cash (including—only for this convention—Canadian dollars at par).*

**Savings.** Note that anyone whose three–day registration fee arrives before 1 May 2014 may deduct \$10 before writing the check.

Send early payments to:

Stephen Ledoux, TIBI Treasurer  
9 Farmer Street  
Canton NY 13617

**Free Extras.** A selection of bookmarks and back issues of *Behaviorology Today* and *Journal of Behaviorology* will be available for free to registered attendees while supplies last. Also, new TIBI members will receive copies of the current issue of our fully peer–reviewed journal, *Journal of Behaviorology* (volume 17, number 1, Spring 2014).

**On Sale.** Throughout the convention the TIBI Bookstore will be open and selling (for cash or check only) a CD and textbooks at special convention prices:

☘ CD copies of Pat McKeown’s 1988 WSLU Public Radio interview of the organizers of the first behaviorology convention (Lawrence Fraley, Stephen Ledoux, Julie Vargas, and Ernie Vargas); *convention–only* price of \$10 [regular cost: \$12].

☘ *General Behaviorology—The Natural Science of Human Behavior* (Fraley) \$80. [Regular cost: \$120]

☘ *Origins and Components of Behaviorology* (Ledoux) \$60. [Regular cost: \$95]

☘ *Dignified Dying—A Behaviorological Thanatology* (Fraley) \$40. [Regular cost: \$60]

❖ *Behaviorological Rehabilitation and the Criminal Justice System* (Fraley) \$40. [Regular cost: \$60]

❖ *Running Out of Time—Introducing Behaviorology to Help Solve Global Problems* (Ledoux) \$60. [Regular cost: \$73]

❖ *The Science and Technology of Dog Training* (O’Heare) \$20 [Regular cost: \$24]

**Study Question books** should also be available for some of these textbooks (with the cost of the study question book in parentheses after the title):

❖ *SQs for Origins and Components of Behaviorology* (\$25)

❖ *SQs for Latham’s Power of Positive Parenting* (\$30)

❖ *SQs for Latham’s Keys to Classroom Management* (\$25)

❖ *SQs for Wyatt’s The Millennium Man* (\$20)

❖ *SQs for Behavioral Intervention for Young Children with Autism* (\$30).

**Dues.** Some members have already paid their 2014 dues, for which many thanks are extended. If you are still procrastinating, this is another evocative stimulus to send in your check with your early registration fees. Make your check out to TIBI and send it to the Treasurer at the above address.

Here are the published membership dues levels for 2014 (and, in anticipation, we thank you):

Student	\$20
Affiliate	\$40
Associate (MA)	\$60
Advocate (Ph.D)	\$80
[Board Member	\$300] ❖