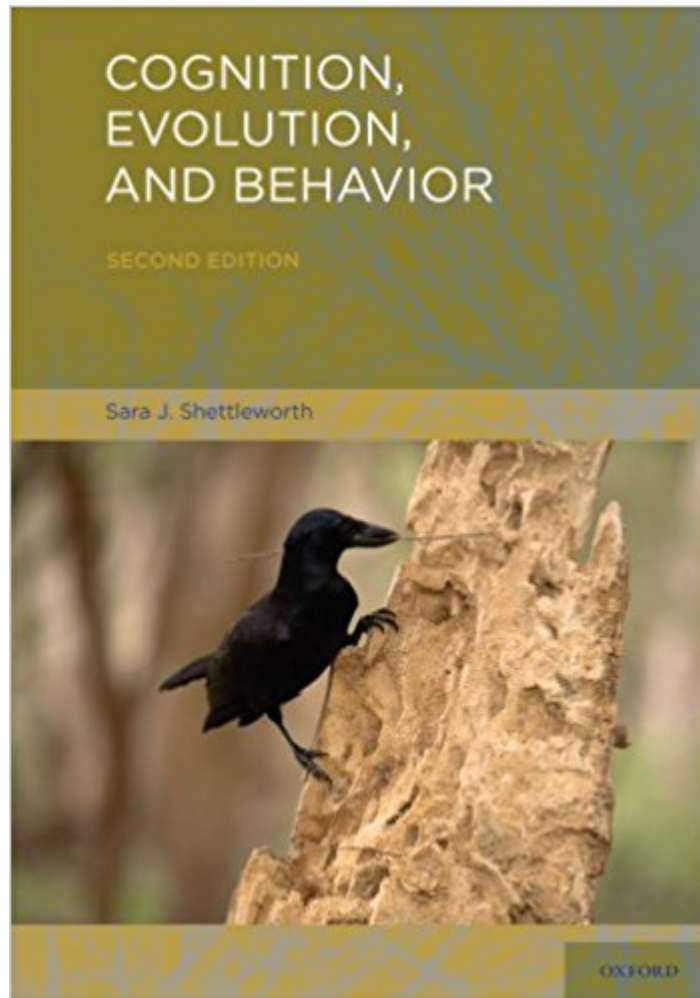




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Cognition, Evolution, And Behavior



Synopsis

How do animals perceive the world, learn, remember, search for food or mates, communicate, and find their way around? Do any nonhuman animals count, imitate one another, use a language, or have a culture? What are the uses of cognition in nature and how might it have evolved? What is the current status of Darwin's claim that other species share the same "mental powers" as humans, but to different degrees? In this completely revised second edition of *Cognition, Evolution, and Behavior*, Sara Shettleworth addresses these questions, among others, by integrating findings from psychology, behavioral ecology, and ethology in a unique and wide-ranging synthesis of theory and research on animal cognition, in the broadest sense--from species-specific adaptations of vision in fish and associative learning in rats to discussions of theory of mind in chimpanzees, dogs, and ravens. She reviews the latest research on topics such as episodic memory, metacognition, and cooperation and other-regarding behavior in animals, as well as recent theories about what makes human cognition unique. In every part of this new edition, Shettleworth incorporates findings and theoretical approaches that have emerged since the first edition was published in 1998. The chapters are now organized into three sections: Fundamental Mechanisms (perception, learning, categorization, memory), Physical Cognition (space, time, number, physical causation), and Social Cognition (social knowledge, social learning, communication). Shettleworth has also added new chapters on evolution and the brain and on numerical cognition, and a new chapter on physical causation that integrates theories of instrumental behavior with discussions of foraging, planning, and tool using.

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Customer Reviews

"Sara Shettleworth has accomplished a truly impressive synthesis of an enormous body of research on a wide variety of animal species. I can think of no other work that so successfully and thoughtfully integrates research in both experimental psychology and behavioral ecology, and that so comprehensively describes the exciting new field of animal cognition. Her book is essential to anyone interested in the evolution of animal minds and the mechanisms that guide animal thought."

--Dorothy Cheney, University of Pennsylvania "In the decade since the first edition was published, the field of comparative cognition has seen an expansive increase and diversification (Shettleworth, 2009*). Many advances have been made, and many new ideas have become influential. The revisions in this new edition represent an enormous undertaking, masterfully capturing the excitement of the past decade. Whether in spatial cognition or communication, the chapters remain both comprehensive and integrative, with additions highlighting significant and interesting developments in diverse topics. The range of issues discussed is staggering and attests to a highly skilful and balanced overview of what has become a complex and interdisciplinary field. The new edition is an improvement on an already great scholarly work, with much to say to diverse fields including comparative cognition, neuroethology, and behavioral ecology. It will be highly cited."

--Ken Cheng, Macquarie University *Behavioural Processes 80:210-217 "Rigorous analyses of field and laboratory findings lie at the heart of this readable yet insightful examination of the uses and abuses of evolutionary theory and ecology in the study of animal cognition. Shettleworth's thought-provoking, up-to-date, interdisciplinary overview is essential reading for anyone with an interest in understanding the relationship between animal and human psychology." --Bennett Galef,

McMaster University "If you are curious about animal behaviour, whether as an undergraduate or a graduate student or a researcher, then you absolutely must read this remarkable book. It is extraordinarily well written, erudite, yet simple, beautifully illustrated and perhaps more importantly, comprehensive and really up-to-date. Shettleworth has been a major influence in animal behaviour. As her earlier book, this one will no doubt contribute strongly to the ongoing paradigm shift in behaviour from all ecology to animal cognition: information gathering and processing and their effects on decision. Said simply, Shettleworth is a major artisan of putting 'behaviour' back into animal behaviour. It is a must read!" --Luc-Alain Giraldeau, University of QuÃ©bec at MontrÃ©al

"Sara Shettleworth has achieved an amazing synthesis of all the classical themes within behavioural sciences. This second edition is thoroughly up to date: over half the references have

been published in the decade since the first edition, and they reflect all major advances in the rapidly changing fields of comparative cognition, learning theory and behavioural ecology. I will recommend this book to all my students, both undergraduates and graduates. And I will study it carefully myself." --Alex Kacelnik, Oxford University "[This book is] written clearly and coherently, and will be accessible to students and scientists in many fields. Everyone interested in animal cognition should have this book. I can't wait to get a copy and then use it to teach an animal cognition course."--Alan Kamil, University of Nebraska "This new edition is remarkably up to date, and the changes from the first faithfully reflect the new advances in the field. There is no serious competitor." --Nicholas Mackintosh, Cambridge University "We were huge fans of the first edition of this book. We are therefore delighted that the first edition is no longer the best available overview of comparative psychology: This second edition is. It is a magisterial overview of comparative psychology. If everyone in this field (and not just students) would stop working for a day and read this book, a great deal of senseless debate about animal minds would be avoided. Once a year, there should be an official "Shettleworth Day" for everybody in comparative psychology to set aside their daily routines and meditate on the implications of this book for their own research." --Derek C. Penn & Daniel J. Povinelli, University of Louisiana "Shettleworth's second edition provides considerable synthesis and a greater theoretical amalgamation with other disciplines, such as child development, cognitive science and neuroscience. The result is a detailed, nuanced and biologically informed view of how and why the cognitive capacities of various species can be the same yet different."--Nature

Sara Shettleworth is Professor Emerita in the Departments of Psychology and Ecology & Evolutionary Biology at the University of Toronto, where she obtained her Ph.D. in 1970. Her research on learning and memory in a variety of species of birds and mammals has been published in over 100 articles and book chapters. Her contributions have been recognized by numerous awards, including the International Comparative Cognition Society's 2008 Research Award. She is a fellow of the Royal Society of Canada and Animal Behavior Society, and a member of the Society of Experimental Psychologists.

This book is in a way an intellectual history of comparative and evolutionary cognitive studies. I found this to be a fascinating read. It's loaded with mountains of fine details about various animal cognitive systems and provides thorough explanations of the tests that support the scientific claims. Even more interesting, she provides a primer in critical thinking about experimental research and

findings. She demonstrates how initial appearances as to results can prove to be misleading when unexamined assumptions are addressed. Perhaps most valuable for me was her constant vigilance against the common errors of anthropomorphism which too easily distort our perceptions of animal life. All effort to draw conclusions about animal behaviour, cognition, communication, consciousness, etc., has to sustain constant critical vigilance against such conceptual errors if anything valuable is to be learned from such research. Shettleworth helped me appreciate this fact in a way I'd not quite previously. Highly recommended!

I found this book by Shettleworth useful on a variety of levels, but it will take me some with re-readings time to properly absorb the evidence proposed here. The book is a keeper in my personal library. A key quote that for me sums up the text: "On this view [that evolution ratchets up traits from mammal to human] although humans undoubtedly share some of the simpler social transmission mechanisms with other species, the propensity to imitate sets us apart even from chimpanzees...and makes genuine culture possible" (p 306). We have learned to imitate through symbols to the point that we can imitate our genetic codes and make valuable use of those imitations. Great book!

As a dedicated student of animal behavior I have read a wide variety of texts on the subject but this book stands out in its seamless synthesis of data from ethology/behavioral ecology and comparative/experimental psychology. Previously a student seeking a complete picture of the field of animal behavior would be best served by reading several texts from psychology and biology but here a vast amount of information is presented in a clear, concise, and highly readable manner. The author has in one text presented material that will intrigue but not overwhelm the lay person, yet it will also challenge experts in the field to consider data they might otherwise not have considered. I wish I could give this book 6 stars. My only regret is not having discovered this one years ago.

This book is so full of fascinating information and interesting studies that it's remarkable! I recommend it to anyone who is interested in human or animal intelligence, evolution, or behavior. It is a huge gift to all of us who are curious about ourselves, the other animals we share the planet with, and how all of us became who we are over the course of evolution. It's not a light read, but it's not so heavy as to be out of reach for most educated readers. I have reread parts of it several times and always find new rewards. It should be required reading for a real education!

this is a textbook and is first rate I am doing quite well in class and got this textbook promptly too

This was the required textbook for a class on Animal Intelligence at the University of Kansas. Contained various examples from a broad range of animal intelligence. Illustrated quite well how little we know about intelligence.

I used this for a college course. Very difficult to read through. I disliked the bulky size and small print of this book. Yes content is there, if you can decipher it.

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