

## Preface

When I set out to write this book, I never anticipated how much I would learn and how greatly it would alter my research program. I was amazed to see how widely the comparative approach is applied in evolutionary anthropology and to discover that the comparative method means different things to people in different fields of anthropology. I also was impressed with the wide diversity of phylogenetic methods that are being used to investigate fundamental questions in evolutionary anthropology—including in emerging fields such as evolutionary archeology—and with the rapid development of new methods in biology to study phylogenetic patterns. I hope that this book captures some of the excitement I felt as I discovered these fields of study and that it showcases the phylogenetic research being conducted across evolutionary anthropology more generally. I also hope that it will make phylogenetic approaches more accessible to evolutionary anthropologists and biologists.

This book was conceived during three intellectually rewarding years of research at the Max Planck Institute for Evolutionary Anthropology in Leipzig, Germany. The institute houses five departments: linguistics, comparative psychology, evolutionary genetics, primatology, and human evolution. During this time, I witnessed collaborations blossom among researchers, and I was inspired to find commonalities among the different departments housed by the institute. One of my goals in writing this book is to increase communication among the subfields of evolutionary anthropology. By probing the common comparative foundations of the different subfields that I was exposed to in Leipzig—and by considering the differences in how the comparative method is applied in these fields—I believe that we can create a more integrative and productive approach to understanding the factors that have shaped our evolutionary history.

While the book was conceived in Leipzig, the first pages were written shortly after a job interview at Harvard University, where discussions with a number of my future colleagues inspired me to start writing. My subsequent interactions with faculty, postdoctoral researchers, and graduate students

propelled me along new paths of discovery. In addition, I was fortunate to use the manuscript as a reading in an undergraduate class titled "Comparison and Adaptation in Primate Evolutionary Biology," which resulted in new insights from many different perspectives.

I had to make many difficult decisions when considering the methods and examples to include in this book. I apologize to those who might feel left out, and I acknowledge that my choices probably were biased toward examples that appealed most to my research interests. The literature is filled with many wonderful examples, but space was limited, and so I had to prioritize some topics over others and aim for key examples rather than exhaustive overviews.

Many colleagues provided comments and discussion on the material covered in this book. I would like to thank in particular Christian Arnold, Isabella Capellini, Luke Matthews, Terry Ord, and Liam Revell for reading a majority of chapters (in some cases, the entire book). Enrico Rezende and an anonymous reviewer also provided extremely valuable comments on the first version of the text. I also benefited greatly from discussion and comments on the manuscript from Quentin Atkinson, Christophe Boesch, Monique Borgerhoff Mulder, Carrie Brezine, Dave Collar, Michael Cysouw, Laura Fortunato, Mathias Franz, Ted Garland, Alex Georgiev, Russell Gray, Anja Hayen, Kate Jones, Jason Kamilar, Dan Lieberman, Patrik Lindenfors, Roger Mundry, Brian O'Meara, Kevin Omland, Chris Organ, Sheila Patek, David Pilbeam, Brian Preston, Andrew Ritchie, Richard Smith, Jamie Tehrani, Claudio Tennie, Linda Vigilant, and Søren Wichmann.

More generally, I learned much of what I know about comparative methods and their applications from discussions with Robert Barton, Monique Borgerhoff Mulder, Joe Felsenstein, Kate Jones, Ted Garland, John Gittleman, and Carel van Schaik.

I also wish to thank a number of people who contributed to the production of the book itself. I thank Christie Henry at the University of Chicago Press for her support of this project and Abby Collier and Mary Gehl for help with production. For assistance with figures and other aspects of the text, I thank Christian Arnold, Carrie Brezine, Judith Butler-Vincent, Sebastian Geidel, Peter Maciej, Christof Neumann, Joanna Rifkin, Karen Santospago, and Serena Zhao. A number of colleagues also provided data, information, or images for the figures, including Quentin Atkinson, Marcel Cardillo, Alexandre Diniz Filho, Michel Genoud, Kevin Omland, Ulrich Reichard, Katerina Rexová and Peter Ungar. Christian Arnold and Luke Matthews contributed numerous entries to the AnthroTree website that accompanies this book. I also thank

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