

FOREWORD

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Editor

This Foreword will serve four functions: to introduce the contents of this double issue, to welcome *BSI's* new interim editor, to proudly announce some exciting electronic information and to provide a “vehicle” for my departure.

This volume, as has its predecessors, contains a varied, interesting, group of articles, all with a common thread: focusing on cultural issues of interest to a broad range of readers. Lowery and Mattaini offer a behavior analysis of Native American practices that encompass the importance that this subculture places on power sharing. The authors then explain how this practice is particularly relevant for our applied work at a cultural level.

Weatherly, Miller, and McDonald examine examples of a social psychological construct, “social influence” in the behavior analytic context of stimulus control. They report the results of a questionnaire-based study that supports their viewpoint.

Grote, in her article “The Behavior of the Scientist: Epistemological Tools Science-Makers Use and Games They Play,” discusses some responses that scientists share in common and some contingencies that control their behavior.

Beth Sulzer-Azaroff writes about the science of behavior, but from an entirely different vantage point. Hers is a very personal article about how the principles of behavior analysis have helped change her behavior and her life. In “Meeting Life’s Challenges—Strategies and Stories: A View From the Far Side” (one of the papers presented in the ABA ’99 symposium organized around the life experiences of a group of women behavior analysts), Beth’s account is both highly personal and at the same time instructive. This is the first of what we hope will be other papers from this symposium.

Dick Malott’s “Saving The World With Behavioral Comunitarianism: Los Horcones” offers us his unique and informal view of that community and its work.

At the outset of her philosophical and conceptual paper, Lee points out that behavior and social issues involve behavior. This article contrasts the “etymologically-original meaning of behavior” (i.e., normative conduct), or things a person achieves or gets done with the usage of behavior in psychology (i.e., behavior of the organism). From this starting point Lee shows the reader how her

conceptual views regarding the importance of accepting the original meaning of behavior will “make discussions about social justice considerably more widely accessible.” See what she has to say and then decide for yourself—*BSI* promises you an interesting read.

Ed Morris and Troy Zarcone’s essay is based on their unique and important review of Peter Lamal’s book, *Cultural Contingencies: Behavior Analytic Perspectives on Cultural Practices*. In addition to an evaluation of chapter contents, these authors examine and discuss the book’s contents within a professional and disciplinary context, then evaluate the content in the context of its stated purposes.

Now we’re shifting the subject from the contents of *this* issue to the exciting future of the next and all subsequent issues of *BSI*. *We’re going electronic!* *BSI* will be publishing all future issues on the Web and binding these into a paper copy for our library subscribers at the end of each year. The Cambridge Center is very excited about this new venture and we all wish them the best in this undertaking.

It’s always hard to say “goodbye”—and especially so to a project that has played an important role in my professional life over a 6-year period. I would be less than honest if I failed to disclose my dependence on the cooperation and competence of Howard Sloane, Betsy Constantine, the *BSI* Associate Editors, Richard Rakos, and from my “Denton community.” Above all, I thank all of you who have contributed your manuscripts, your support, your many thoughtful words and deeds to this journal.

Saying goodbye is somewhat softened by being able to introduce our interim editor, Dr. Dwight Harshbarger. Dwight’s gentle approach to taking over this job, as well as his insight and sense of humor relieve me of any anxiety and/or guilt this goodbye might have engendered. So, thanks, Dwight, for helping me exit (somewhat graciously) and for taking over a task that I believe will be as reinforcing for the behavior of *BSI*’s contributors and staff as it has been for my editing behavior.