

Dear John,

My Mother was a strong proponent of thank you notes when I was growing up. They were an important form of etiquette to her and their absence in cases of graduation or wedding shower gifts were grave breaches of moral standards. (I understand them better now in light of WTRs.) So, I decided to frame this letter as a thank you note. It is otherwise a very difficult letter to frame.

As an undergraduate when first exposed to evolutionary approaches to human psychology and behavior, an idea for a paper occurred to me. It was based on the simple idea that most critiques of evolutionary approaches were fundamentally misguided in posing learning and culture as alternatives to evolved design. Surely, there must be an evolved design that makes functional psychological development and learning possible in the first place, and that design should be shaped in specific ways by natural selection having acted differently on different species. I thought it would take a very long time to do the necessary reading to construct such an argument – drawing on philosophy, biology, cognitive science, developmental psychology, and so on. It seemed daunting but really important to write.

In my first year in graduate school, I picked up a copy of *The Adapted Mind* after seeing a reference to it. I remember opening it at a wooden table in Regenstein Library at the University of Chicago. I began reading the Psychological Foundations of Culture (the many pages crammed into small font, soon after finding that I needed glasses, so thanks for that) and very quickly saw the paper that I had envisioned begin to unfold in front of me. Except, this paper was far more powerful, eloquent, and complete in its argument than even the wildest fantasy for the paper I had envisioned. As I read (and read and read), I was overcome with a sense of relief. The difficult paper was already written. And it was a masterpiece. So instead, I could just work in this field without having to justify it first.

Years later, I was at the London HBES. As was my standard practice in those days, I skipped the banquet to save some money, and wandered the first floor halls of the British Museum as the banquet occurred. Through some comical misfiring of judges' psychological adaptations, I won the New Investigator Award, which someone later told me that you had announced at the banquet. I called Liggy to express my profound regret: had I attended the banquet, I could have met John Tooby in person.

It was not too many years later that you played peek-a-boo with infant Anna at Chef Karim's. You may actually have been testing theory of mind adaptations, but the episode is an enduring memory for me that is emblematic of your gentleness, kindness, and patience. All of those qualities were important to me, and almost certainly to so many others, as you helped us navigate a career in academia.

At the Austin HBES, I sat in a chair next to you in the lobby during an evening when you were chatting with a group of people. At some point, you turned to me and said something along the lines of, 'So, how are you going to crack hormones?' After some back and forth, I saw

clearly what you meant. That conversation was the germ of a career arc for me. It partly culminated in the book chapter that won the Don Symons Adaptationism Award. I was really gratified to hear that you were a judge for that: consider the chapter my answer to your question that night, woefully belated as it was.

I know that you have positively affected so many other people's lives and careers, including undoubtedly many people you have never met. Your scientific achievements are monumental. You deserve a victory lap. Your personal achievements are also massive, your love for Leda and Nike always effusive and obvious. They will carry that with them going forward. Thank you for all of it.

Jim