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Leiden
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N.A.

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Summaries

Ethology and political science: antithesis or completion?

by V. S. E. Falger

The bad reputation in the social sciences of social-Darwinian theories is one of the main hindrances to pay attention to ethology, the biological study of behaviour. Although developments in this area of research suggest interesting implications for political science, among other things, so far very few political scientists have been occupied with these matters.

The first section of this article serves as an introduction to the biological way of thinking about behaviour. Object and method of ethology are dealt with in the first paragraph by paying attention to the problems of function, causation and history of behaviour of animal and man. The neo-darwinian theory of evolution, which is fundamental to both ethology and the main argument of this article, is briefly summarized in the second paragraph. Its conclusion is that morphology and behaviour are to be considered as evolutionary organisms. The third paragraph is about man in the perspective of evolution. The notably in the social sciences generally held belief in a rigid distinction between nature and nurture is discussed, and the author shares the modern biological view that the human capacity for making culture is ultimately genetically precoded.

Some aspects of this biological view on behaviour, relevant to political science, are discussed in the second section of this article. From a comparison of definitions in both ethology and political science it appears, not surprisingly, that social behaviour is the most important problem in both disciplines. Social scientists, however, usually study behaviour as an autonomous object, whereas biologists integrate their visions on behaviour in the larger context of evolution. Unexpectedly, then, there is a fundamental similarity between ethological concepts of social behaviour and some recently developed conceptions of political behaviour. The author argues that the relinquishment of the more traditional focus of political science on state-oriented or group-centred action is an important condition for connecting the findings of ethology and political science, and *vice versa*. The result could well be a non-anthropocentric view of politics, which fits better in with an over-all evolutionary perspective on behaviour.

As an appendix a brief survey is presented of modern political scientific literature, based on biological studies of behaviour, concerning some aspects of ethology which were not included in the two main sections of this article.

Summaries

Development administration — problems of public administration and problems of academic disciplines

by B. J. S. Hoetjes

The framework of public administration in many developing countries was, to a large extent, set by the colonial experiences: direct or indirect rule, centralization of administrative power, which only benefited a small elite, and the abuse of power at the lower levels of government affect the administrative apparatus up till this day. Other problems are the psychological insecurity of many administrators, the intertwining of politics and administration, the inability of the administration to cope with problems of economic planning and performance, and the general shortage of skilled personnel, especially in the field of management.

The science of public administration presents various approaches to the study of development administration: 'idiographic' analysis — largely descriptive and directed to the solution of practical problems —, typologies and classifications and ideal types — either 'crude' models or sophisticated ideal types like Weber's 'bureaucracy' —. Especially Riggs' bipolar ideal type of 'agraria' and 'industria' deserves attention; when it is used in the context of an ecological approach (cf. Riggs' 'prismatic society'), it forms a quite useful approach to the study of public administration in developing countries.

Idiographic analysis suffers from a lack of scientific rigour, but its attention for history and culture and its practical orientation constitute definite advantages. Still, there are considerable problems in justifying 'comparative idiographic' development assistance in the field of public administration. Weber's ideal type offers another useful starting-point for the study of development administration, but only if one uses the bureaucratic ideal type in a more inductive way than Weber did (cf. Heady) and if one takes great care to avoid simplistic notions about a 'modern' bureaucracy. Riggs' ecological approach and Weber's ideal type of 'the' bureaucracy, as reformulated by Heady, seem to be the most solid basis for a further development of the study of development administration.