

Deep History and Domestication 2/11/13

Readings: Bulliet HHH, Ingold TTD, Clutton-Brock

Bulliet vs Diamond

- New species domestication?
- **Are some species “un-domesticable”?**
- Genetic variability and susceptibility to domestication
- We domesticate the species we need to domesticate--it doesn't make practical sense to domesticate every species.
- *Domestication is a two-way street*: what we want and what the other species wants

Clutton-Brock - on humans' need to nurture -- plays an important role in the domestication process

- **Need to nurture** exists in other species
- We (humans) like animals that look young and cute - [based on/illustrated by our Biology and Culture]
- Bengal cats--crosses between wild and domesticated cats
 - http://www.yeepet.com/blog_image/201103/BlogImg3_1301600043.jpg
- Can fashion drive selection?
 - Chinchillas
 - http://www.whimsys-menagerie.com/Birthday_Chinchillas_Wallpaper_pj5ot.jpg
- Animals selected/domesticated for one purpose and now used for something else and useless for original purpose (miniature horses)
- Are we domesticated because we have an idea of how we should look and attempt to look that way? Technology for human selection. Creating the perfect child

What does it mean to be domesticated? How does this compare to what it means to be civilized?

- Behavior vs genetic make-up
- Advertisers creating cultural institutions (we shave because razor companies made it a social norm. We have carpets because we have vacuums) .

Progress

- What does progress mean? It isn't fair to say that progress means “More like western civilization.”
- “Anything is possible if we progress into the future”--but is this really progress? There are problems with our idea of progress
- Domestication has fueled basic movements of humanity, so domestication relates back to many other topics
- www.youtube.com/watch?v=siu6JYqOZ0g < Watch this. Success. Money. Do we want separation or harmony with nature. What if money was no object?
- What is success? Money? Happiness? Being the best at something?

- Pokemon--does it relate to domestication? YES. Technology-Nature-Animal-Human
- Progress has value while change doesn't have a value

Hunter-prey relationship

- Is it a relationship of trust?
- Nostalgia--do we look back too fondly upon hunter-gatherers?
- Native americans: every animal has a spirit--must use every part of the animal
- Animals as property
 - Domestication does not have to imply property
 - we read back about domestication as domination and exploitation

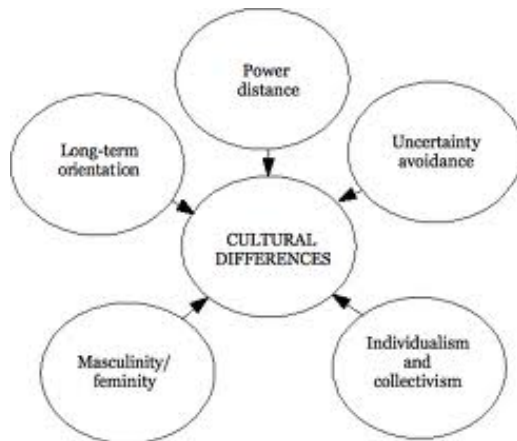
Ingold

- Children holding hands and sharing a basket of fruit (from hunter-gatherer tribes)
- Return to the idea of progress--what is progress?
- Animal companions to allow us to be more individualistic
- Individual vs collective societies (see below)

Hofstede's Cultural Dimension

<http://geert-hofstede.com/dimensions.html>

http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Hofstede%27s_cultural_dimensions_theory



Study of history

- **HOW CAN WE APPLY THIS TO THE FUTURE?**
- *Again, the idea of progress. (Distinguish between progress (and the assumption that it is necessarily positive or "good") and change, which is inevitable but can be seen as value neutral)*
- Need insight on how we got where we are today to create a better future
- Why do we think the way we think?
- What can we take home and apply in this class? Is there intrinsic value to knowledge or must we be able to apply the knowledge?

- **Wind turbines!!?** Energy issues?
- Do you want to be a do-er or a thinker? Must you be a thinker before you are a do-er?
- **Must everything have utility?**
- Does everything have purpose? Do some disciplines have more utility than others?
- Two camps with regards to resource use and success: there will always be poor people and rich people (Malthus) OR it is possible for everyone to have success (Nash)
- Demographic crisis
 - individualism
 - minimize carbon footprint, but take care of yourself
 - preparing yourself for major weather events
 - or for asteroids
- Nuclear waste
- Do we act as individuals or do we act for the greater good of the population?

“In every deliberation, we must consider the impact of the seventh generation...even if it requires having skin as thick as the bark of a pine.” - Native American Prophecy

- Prisoners’ dilemma/ tragedy of the commons
- Preservation of resources
- Our culture values the individual over the future of the entire population
- Placing value on the future or on a collective present or on the individual
- Looking out for own progeny vs. the entire species
- correlation between what we domesticated and what we hunted: we domesticated what we had already hunted. then we established this idea of ownership. In cultures where we domesticated prey, there may have already been a different hunter/prey relationship than in cultures in which prey animals were never domesticated.
- Cataclysm / ”end of days”
 - Massive reduction in the population
 - Potentially an improvement?
 - Planet headed for some sort of disaster

1. WE SHOULD CONSIDER THE QUESTION: WHAT DO I TRULY DESIRE?
2. AND THEN... READ *REINDEER PEOPLE*.
3. AND AFTER THAT... THINK ABOUT YOUR PROJECT ANIMAL TOPIC.
 - a. SILKWORMS: TAKEN (BILL)
 - b. HORSES: TAKEN (CAMILLA)