

## **Genetic and cultural change in human social behaviour** a multifaceted exploration

Pieter van den Berg

1. Although it is useful to ask how selection may act on the phenotypic dimensions of human behaviour, we must also ask how evolution has shaped the psychological and neurological substrates that underlie it.  
*This thesis, Chapters 4 and 8*
2. Ignoring direct causation when constructing models of social evolution can lead to predictions that are almost arbitrary.  
*This thesis, Chapters 2, 4 and 8*
3. Conflict begets conflict. When trying to understand a conflict observed in the world, it can be useful to ask if it may be rooted in a deeper conflict.  
*This thesis, Chapter 3*
4. People consistently differ in to what extent they are interested in social information, and also with respect to the kind of social information they are interested in.  
*This thesis, Chapters 5 and 6*
5. Cultural change is not only determined by the social learning strategies that people use; it is also strongly affected by the type of information people focus on in the first place.  
*This thesis, Chapters 5 and 6*
6. In a group that is mixed with respect to behaviour in the common interest, some see opportunities for cooperation, whereas others see threats of being exploited.  
*This thesis, Chapter 7*
7. 'Although behavioural ecologists have built complex models of optimal behaviour in simple environments, we argue that they need to focus on simple mechanisms that perform well in complex environments.'  
*McNamara & Houston, 2009*