

Maturational/Biological— Ethology & Socio-Biology Applied to Lifespan & Digital Communication

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Ethology

- ∞ Ethology– Study of behaviors rooted in evolutionary/biological heritage
- ∞ Evolution– process of organisms changing in response to pressures from changing environment.
 - Variation in genetic heritage
 - Genetic changes make survival possible
- ∞ Natural selection–
 - Sexual reproduction increases variation
 - Develop mechanism to ensure survival of offspring
 - Offspring will use those traits needed to survive as well as modify these traits to be passed along (descent with modification)

Ethology

- ∞ Classes of biologically based behaviors–
 - Reflexes (appear early–sucking, grasping)
 - Taxis (unlearned orienting response to a stimulus–jump-back when startled)
 - Fixed action patterns (genetically programmed sequence of coordinated motor actions–
 - Signed stimulus → Innate releasing mechanism → Fixed action pattern
 - Infant loud cry (signed stimulus) → “Parental Child-Protection Alarm” (action specific energy) → Parent picks up infant (“Caring”)
 - Child smiles (signed stimulus)→ Adult Warmth/Love feelings cued → Parent returns smile (“Positive Communication”)
- ∞ Ethogram (observational method)
- ∞ Illustrations of ethology with studies of attachment




