

THE BIOSYNERGY HYPOTHESIS: EXPLORING THE PSYCHOSOCIAL FORCES THAT ENHANCE HUMAN AND NONHUMAN PRIMATE COEXISTENCE IN CAPTIVE AND NATURAL SETTINGS.

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Humans and non-human primates interact with one another in countless ways and the results are varied and vital. This talk will review the patterns and outcomes of two types of interspecies relationships: those motivated by Biophilia (E.O. Wilson, 1984; Kellert & Wilson, 1993: *human fascination with life*) and those driven by Biosynergy (A.L. Rose, 2002, 2007: *mutual enrichment of life*). We will explore the impact of these two relational processes on human and non-human primates in natural settings and in captive situations. It is our premise, built on interview, questionnaire, and life history research (Kellert, 1996; Rose 1994), interdisciplinary theoretical analysis (Corning, 2003; Rose, 1996, 2004), and field observation/intervention (Rose, 1998; Rose et al, 2008) that biosynergy, not biophilia, promotes development of the most healthy, vigorous and sustainable relationships among and between humans and non-humans. We will conclude by discussing the emotional and social concomitants of biosynergy that appear essential to sustaining the well-being of captive and wild primates, as well as their caregivers and conservators. IPS Congress attendees will be given Biosynergy Experience Surveys to fill out and return to the authors for later analysis and interpretation.

Keywords: biosynergy, social development, human-NHP relationships, biophilia