

## Introduction

### The selection of social actions in families

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Back in 1992, David Lloyd, then an editor for *Evolutionary Ecology*, was working on a book, one-third of which concerned kin selection. In December of that year, he suffered a severe infirmity and was unable to continue working on it. With the help of Colin Webb and Curtis Lively, former collaborators of David's, three of the chapters have been prepared for publication in *Evolutionary Ecology Research*. They appear here and represent the last theoretical issues that David was working on when his career ended.

The first of the three papers presents a formulation for what David calls 'collective fitness'. This provides an alternative method of analysing how relatedness, inclusive fitness and kin selection are involved in the evolution of social behaviours. In the second and third papers, David uses collective fitness to further our understanding of two issues: parent-offspring conflict and the occurrence of sterile individuals. The work presented is David's and only David's; as a consequence, citations stop at 1992, the year that David himself finished working on the manuscripts. If David were writing the manuscripts today, he would have made his points within the context of today's framework and incorporated findings published since 1992. Nevertheless, the work reported here presents new points and a synthesis of the issues, which one reviewer referred to as displaying 'true Lloydian splendour'.

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