

Noise in the Evolution of Communication and Thought

How Natural Selection and Noise Shape Human and Animal Minds

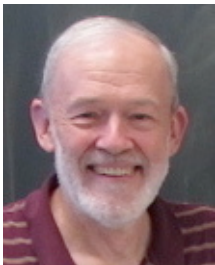
R. Haven Wiley

Mathematics, biology, psychology, linguistics – all contribute to explaining the evolution of adaptations in communication. Noise is an inescapable influence on the evolution of communication. As a result, features of human language and cognition receive new explanations.

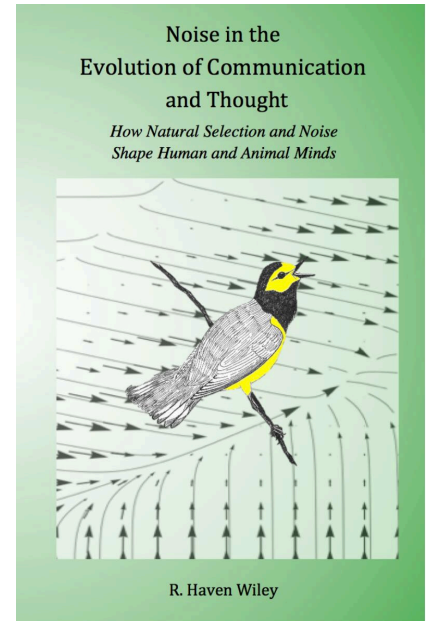
Haven Wiley and his students have studied the consequences of noise for animal communication for five decades. This volume collects his papers that lead to an unexpected understanding of how natural selection shapes the evolution of communication and as a consequence also human language and thought.

His previous book, *Noise Matters: The Evolution of Communication in Noise*, explains how the presence of noise makes a big difference in the evolution of adaptations for communication. The essays in the present collection start from different approaches, and they go farther.

They reveal the general honesty of communication, warn of inescapable dishonesty, indicate ways to minimize miscommunication, illuminate complexities of human language, disclose the fundamental similarities between humans and other organisms, suggest why even surprisingly intelligent animals still lack language, show the similarity between communication and perception, lead to new understandings of free decision, self-awareness, and thinking, and finally locate the basis of human morality in an ancient adage.



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Hickory Woods Press May 2023 259 pp. paperback 6 x 9 graphs, tables \$30.00 Science

ISBN 9781732522718

<https://www.amazon.com/stores/R.-Haven-Wiley/author/B0116DR6R4>