

Migracijska zoologija (ulomak)

Javier Tellez i Judi Werthein

Demonstrirajući limite genetičkog determinizma projekt humanog genoma završio je kao ironična afirmacija naše individualnosti upravo svojom nemogućnosti da objasni humanitet jednostavno kao tekst. Taj je projekt primorao molekularnu biologiju da se usredotoči na načine na koje naši geni ostvaruju interakciju sa stvarnim svijetom. Naša priroda, čini se, podložna je beskrajnoj promjeni od strane same naše prirode. Iako su geni odgovorni za najveći dio anatomije mozga, naši plastični neuroni dizajnirani su kako bi se prilagodavali našim iskustvima. Najbolja metafora našeg DNA je književnost. Kao sva djela klasične književnosti naš genom nije određen izvjesnošću svoga značenja, već svojom lingvističkom nestabilnošću, svojim svojstvom da potakne mnoštvo interpretacija.

— Jonah Lehrer

Povodeći se za šestero novoprdošlica iz Ohijske, 46 pingvina u zoološkom vrtu u San Franciscu napustilo je svoje jame i otputilo se u veliku seobu – premda njihov bazen baš i nije obala Južne Amerike i unatoč tome što zapravo nemaju kamo ići.

“Potpuno smo izgubili kontrolu”, kaže Jane Tollini, njihova čuvarica. “Ovdje vlada kaos. Već 18 godina obavljam ovaj posao, i sad su me ove ptice slomile.”

Plivaju još od Badnjaka, kružeći bazenom kao smokinzi u perilički rublja. Nitko ne zna zašto su počeli, niti kada će prestati. Sve što se zna jest da je Otočić pingvina u zoološkom vrtu iznenada postao vrlo kaotično mjesto.

Početkom 2000. godine Vodenim svijet u Aurori u Ohiju je prodan, a svi njegovi Mageljanovi pingvini, navikli na plivanje tijekom čitave zime, izruci su Morskom svijetu u San Diegu. Nekoliko ih je tijekom studenog preseljeno u San Francisco, gdje su prije više od 3 tjedna upoznali svoje kolege.

Otada ništa više nije isto.

Za samo 2 sata tri mužjaka i tri ženke iz Ohijske – sitniji i poslušniji od svojih zlih i snažnijih kolega iz San Francisa – uvjerili su njih 46 da skoče u bazen s njima. Sada većinu dana plivaju, tek u sumrak pokazujući znakove posustajanja. “Ne mogu zamisliti kako su pingvini iz Aurora navele ostalih 46 na to”, kaže Tollini, koja ne želi naprsto preseleti šestoročlanu bandu. “Ne eksperimentiram sa svojim pticama.”

Ostali stručnjaci za pingvine ne znaju kako rješiti problem mahnitog plivanja.

“U skupini obično postoji jedna ili dvije dominantne ptice”, kaže Hiler. “Nekako se te životinje istaknu i pokažu da su dostojne biti vode.”

“Životinje su ‘upale’ u vodu i nisu izašle četiri tjedna,” kaže.

Skupina drskih malih majmuna pobegla je iz londonskog zoološkog vrta penjući se po visokom drveću i preskočila u susjedni Regent's Park.

Međutim, njihove su radosne budalaštine – preskakanje ograda koja dijeli park i zoološki vrt – promatrati čuvari.

Glasnogovornica kaže: “Izlaze van i vraćaju se unutra i zaista se ponašaju pomalo bezobrazno.”

Dvanaest je majmuna-vjeverica već bilo u nevolji ranije ove godine jer su počeli krasiti mobilne uređaje posjetiteljima – tada su ih morali dresirati kako bi ih pustili na miru.

Upravitelji zoološkog vrta kažu da su poduzeli zaštitne korake kako bi zaustavili bježanje majmuna.

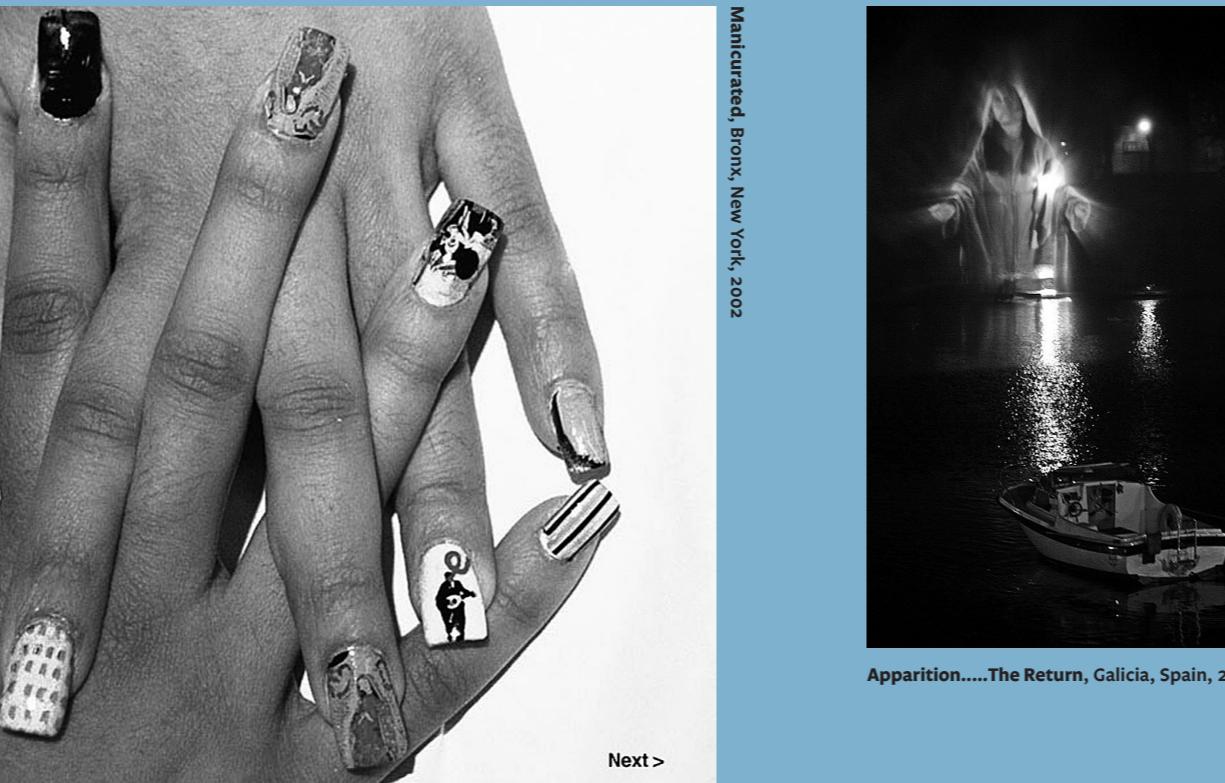
Glasnogovornica kaže: “Majmuni-vjeverice nisu opasne životinje – posjetitelji čak mogu i ušetati u njihov boravišni prostor – i ne predstavljaju prijetnju posjetiteljima.”

Majmuni će se vratiti u svoje stanište zbog hrane, dodala je.

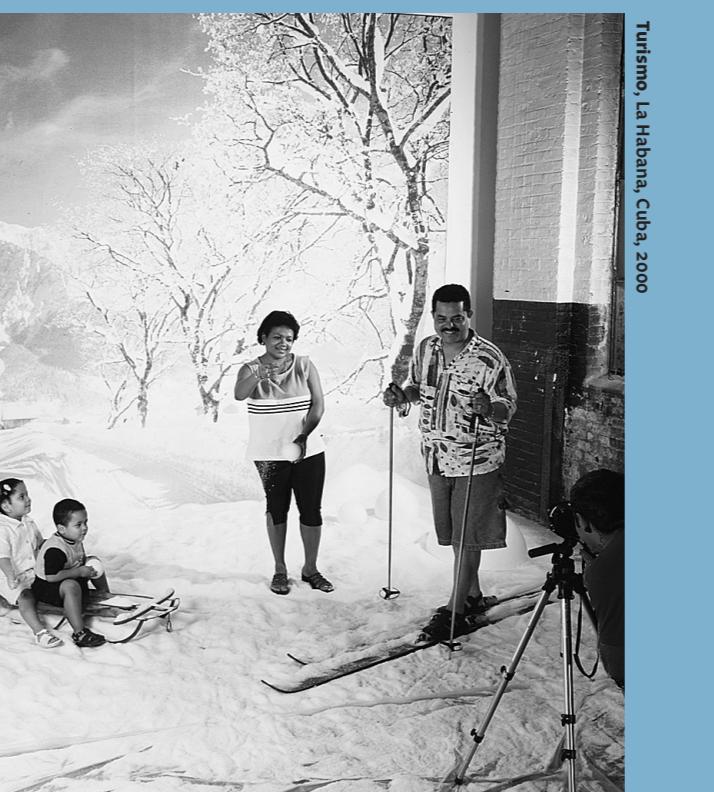
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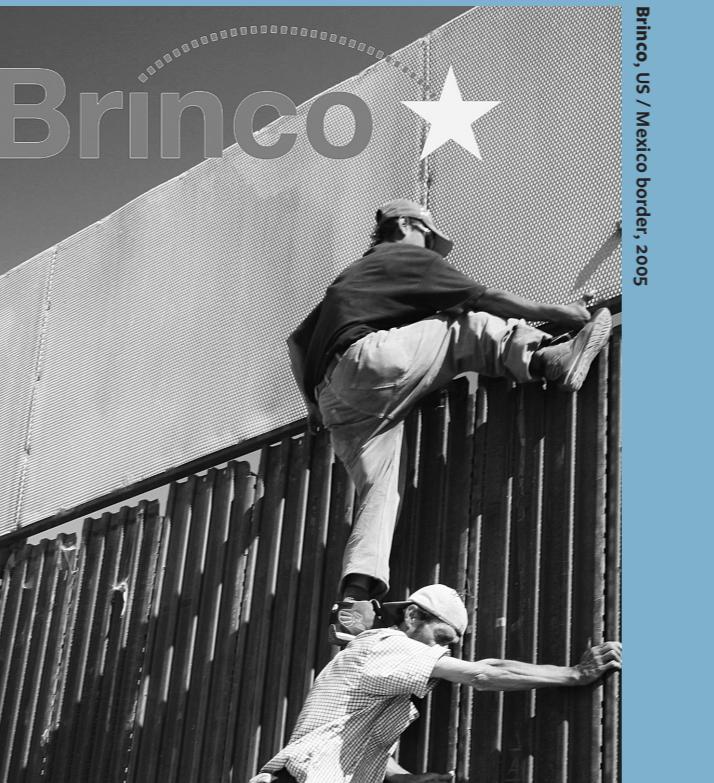
Mancurated, Bronx, New York, 2002



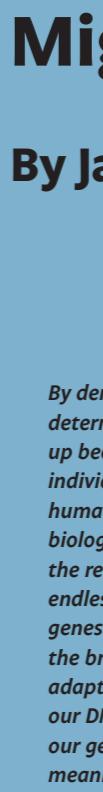
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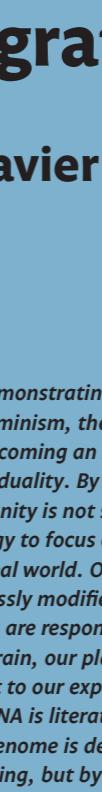
Turismo, La Habana, Cuba, 2000



Apparition.....The Return, Galicia, Spain, 2006



Brinco, US / Mexico border, 2005



Brinco, US / Mexico border, 2005

Migratory Zoology (excerpt)

By Javier Tellez and Judi Werthein

By demonstrating the limits of genetic determinism, the human genome project ended up becoming an ironic affirmation of our individuality. By failing to explain us, that humanity is not simply a text. It forced molecular biology to focus on how our genes interact with the real world. Our nature, it turns out, is endlessly modified by our nurture. Although genes are responsible for the gross anatomy of the brain, our plastic neurons are designed to adapt to our experiences. The best metaphor of our DNA is literature. Like all classic literary texts, our genome is defined not by the certainty of its meaning, but by its linguistic instability, its ability to encourage a multiplicity of interpretations.

— Jonah Lehrer

Brinco rainwashed by six newcomers from Ohio, 46 penguins at the San Francisco Zoo have abandoned their burrows and embarked on a great migration – except their pool is not exactly the coast of South America and there's really nowhere for them to go.

“We've lost complete control”, said Jane Tollini, their keeper. “It's a free-for-all in here. After 18 years of doing this job, these birds are making mincemeat of me.”

They've all been swimming since Christmas Eve, whirling around the pool like tuxedos in a washing machine. No one knows why they started or when they'll stop. All they know is that the zoo's Penguin Island has turned into a very chaotic place.

In early 2000, Sea World in Aurora, Ohio, was sold, and its Magellanic penguins, accustomed to swimming all winter, were shipped to Sea World in San Diego. Half a dozen of them moved to San Francisco in November, and they met their new colleagues 3 1/2 weeks ago.

Since then, nothing has been the same.

Within two hours, the three males and three females from Ohio – smaller and more docile than their mean and hefty San Francisco counterparts – had convinced the 46 to jump in the pool with them. Now they swim most of the day and stagger out only at dusk.

“I can't figure out how the Aurora penguins communicated and changed the minds of the other 46”, said Tollini, who doesn't want to simply remove the gang of six. “I don't experiment on my birds.”

Other penguin experts don't know what to make of the swimming frenzy.

“Usually there are one or two dominant birds”, Hiler said. “Somehow these animals came up and showed they're worthy of being followed.”

“The animals hit the water and never came out for four weeks”, he said.

A group of cheeky little monkeys escaped from London Zoo by climbing up tall trees and leaping into next-door Regent's Park.

But their happy antics were watched closely by zookeepers as they jumped between the park and the zoo.

A spokeswoman said: “They are coming in and out and being a bit cheeky really.”

The 12 squirrel monkeys were in trouble earlier this year when they started stealing visitors' mobile phones – and had to be trained to leave them alone.

Zoo bosses said that they were taking steps to stop the monkeys escaping.

A spokeswoman said: “Squirrel monkeys are not a dangerous animal – their enclosure is a walk-through exhibit – and they pose no threat to the public.”

The monkeys will return to their enclosure for their food, she added.

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— MIKRO POLITIKE —