

Four-Campus Video-Conference Series, F-W-S 2006-7

Human Sciences and Complexity

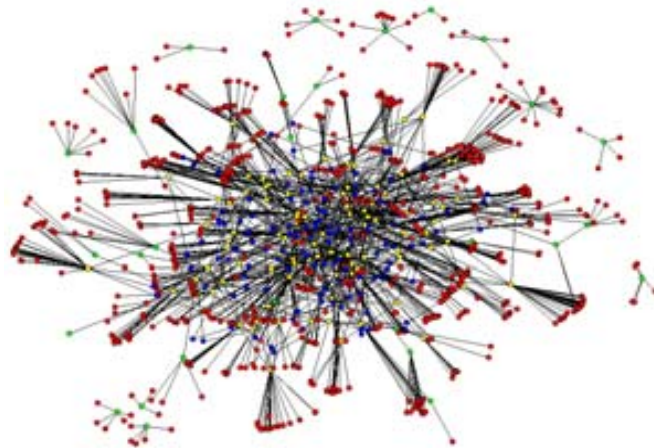
Video Conference Locations for Participants

UCLA: 285 Powell Library – Don Roby vidcon@ucla.edu 310 206-7449

UCSD: 260 Galbraith Hall – Mary Gibsen mgibsen@ucsd.edu 858 534-8265

UCR: A139 Olmsted Hall – Mike Capriotti mcap@ucr.edu 951 827-3045

UCI: 122 Social Science Tower – Jeffrey.Fisher@uci.edu 949 824-7581



January 26, 2007: Friday, 1:30-3:00 telecast from UCLA

Jared Diamond (Geography and Physiology), UCLA

http://www.geog.ucla.edu/people/faculty.php?lid=3078&display_one=1&modify=1

Tentative title: "Variation in Human Cultural Practices"

Tentative **Abstract**: Variation in cultural choices that human societies make, even from the cross-cultural or comparative literature, is still a vast area of study. To illustrate ranges of variation I focus on treatment of old people, child-rearing practices, marriage, sexual practices, religion, starvation/sufficiency of food supply, and risk-taking/dangers. I am looking at which of those variations are commonest and to flesh out the examples. I looked at references saying something like "in most societies, families or clans select and buy a wife for a boy, and the wife moves to her new husband. In a minority of societies, a girl's family instead selects from another group a boy, who moves to join the girl. Examples of such societies, with some details, are X and Y. In 10% of societies, like the Z, boys woo girls and they choose each other. In the Q of New Britain, girls instead chase and capture boys, who are terrified of girls." From such examples I intend to draw some general conclusions about human societies.