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Biometric and Symmetry Issues in Animal and Human Morphology

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Message from the Guest Editors

Morphology—the science of organismal form—is amongst the oldest scientific branches that laid the theoretical foundations to all of comparative biology. However, the rapid development of molecular genetic methodologies in the last century shifted the focus of the scientific community predominantly toward molecular studies and away from living forms. We believe that balanced evolutionary explanations should integrate at all levels of biological organization, including considering morphology as a causal factor in its own right, and not just the result of other systems. Organismal form is a significant factor that interacts with the environment, and other organisms within it, which bestows adaptive roles and survival values. Recently, the role of symmetry as a fitness indicator has received a great deal of attention, and the growing development of multivariate statistics and computational and visualization techniques offer new avenues into the study of human and nonhuman animal forms. Therefore, this Special Issue aims to promote methodological approaches and theoretical accounts focusing on symmetry and biometric issues in animal and human morphology.



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Message from the Editor-in-Chief

Symmetry is ultimately the most important concept in natural sciences. It is not surprising then that very basic and fundamental research achievements are related to symmetry. For instance, the Nobel Prize in Physics 1979 (Glashow, Salam, Weinberg) was received for a unified symmetry description of electromagnetic and weak interactions, while the Nobel Prize in Physics 2008 (Nambu, Kobayashi, Maskawa) was received for the discovery of the mechanism of spontaneous breaking of symmetry, including CP symmetry. Our journal is named *Symmetry* and it manifests its fundamental role in nature.

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