

Complexity Digest 2006.07

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- **Source:** [Experimental Study of Inequality and Unpredictability in an Artificial Cultural Market](#), Matthew J. Salganik, Peter Sheridan Dodds, Duncan J. Watts, *Science* : 854-856., 06/02/10
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9. **Chance, Music, And The Ear Of The Beholder, [ScienceDaily](#)** ↴

Excerpts: By studying the way that the brain's auditory cortex responds to certain types of changes in sound, researchers have found evidence for how the brain is attuned to be especially sensitive to degrees of change in sound that the brain is most likely to encounter in the natural world. (...) The world we inhabit is constantly subjected to countless random influences that may occasionally conspire to bring about large and abrupt changes in our environment, but that more often will cancel each other out, and thus provoke only little or no change. (...)

- **Source:** [Chance, Music, And The Ear Of The Beholder](#), ScienceDaily & Cell Press, 2006/02/07
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10. **Bare Skin, Blood And The Evolution Of Primate Colour Vision, [Biol. Lett.](#)** ↴

Excerpts: We investigate the hypothesis that colour vision in primates was selected for discriminating the spectral modulations on the skin of conspecifics, presumably for the purpose of discriminating emotional states, socio-sexual signals and threat displays. Here we show that, consistent with this hypothesis, there are two dimensions of skin spectral modulations, (...). Furthermore, the M and L cone maximum sensitivities for routine trichromats are optimized for discriminating variations in blood oxygen saturation, one of the two blood-related dimensions determining skin reflectance. We also show that, consistent with the hypothesis, trichromat primates tend to be bare faced.

- **Source:** [Bare Skin, Blood And The Evolution Of Primate Colour Vision](#), M. A. Changizi, Q. Zhang, S. Shimojo, DOI: 10.1098/rsbl.2006.0440, *Biology Letters*, 2006/02/08
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1. **Song Post Exposure, Song Features, And Predation Risk, [Behav. Ecol.](#)** ↴

Excerpts: Male birds use song to attract mates and deter other males, but in doing so, they also attract the attention of predators and parasites. Such viability costs are inherent in reliable signals, potentially causing females to prefer mates that display from the most exposed sites. However,