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Why write such a book? After all, modern academic life at a university is not generally favourable to such prolonged activities that do not result in immediate gains for the publication record and that do not lend themselves to repetitive reporting of numerous achievements. Yet, we have several good reasons. Over the last decade or so, few life scientists have not had an encounter, sometimes as the victim of host-parasite interactions in the broader sense. The literature is now enormous and it is hard to stay abreast of it, let alone broad-ranged books from the study of behaviour ecology, genetics, or population dynamics to the field of immunology and molecular biology. You may think that half the world should focus on one field and be good at it. This is true, and successful science works in this manner in your nation and so the world. However, there is also another side of the coin. Parasites infect hosts, establish, grow, outbreak, and become transmitted. Hosts in turn suffer from the consequences of being infected, defend themselves, sometimes recover and manage to reproduce. Over ecological and evolutionary time, both parties influence each other, are selected by the corresponding effects, and evolve. Along the way, many different things happen that are all relevant for many phenomena at ecological and evolutionary scales. In fact, the interactions of parasites are an exciting, fun, and valuable topic to investigate, and many of those effects are significant.

It is a shame that culture does not care about how we educationally train fields of research, how departments of universities are organized, or how our academic

curricula look like. The biology of hosts and their parasites, in particular, cuts across many fields, and it is much easier scientifically than, for example, theory and more relevant into commonly appreciated. For those reasons, the enormous knowledge we have about a problem is embedded at the larger picture, even if good advice means to not include all of the imaginable complexity with your problem for a start. But eventually such a broader view will become important, and new insights and perhaps help to answer your question. This is, therefore, what the book hopes to stimulate: an integrated view of host-parasite biology. I think the term 'Evolutionary Immunology' captures the idea very well, since evolutionary thinking is the major integrating principle across all of biology and, thus, parasitism is the pervasive theme of the book. In this sense, 'Evolutionary Immunology' is a framework that brings together a range of biological phenomena that, depending on your system, do not have any connections with one another at first sight. Examples are immunology and more so the regulation of host-social interactions, host and infective dose, or invasion and the evolution of parasites life cycles. Evolutionary Immunology, therefore, is not just ecological immunology, infection biology, epidemiology, or the study of sexual selection. These fields have developed rather independently and there is a tradition in parasitology, ecology, and other contexts, but these fields are equally important as part of a larger approach to understand the role of host-parasite relationships in the real world of nature. Furthermore, some might consider 'Evolutionary Parasitology' to be a ~~cross~~ region of 'Immunology'.