

## **Developmental Context Effects on Bicultural Post-Trauma Self Repair in Chimpanzees**

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To examine, through clinical case studies, post-trauma self-repair of chimpanzees who now reside in sanctuary. Each of the chimpanzees -- Tom, Regis and Billy -- represented one of three developmental histories: born and reared for some time in the wild by his biological mother (Tom); born and reared in a lab in a peer group without adult chimpanzees (Regis); and reared by humans as a human (Billy). All were subsequently used as biomedical subjects.

### **Conclusions:**

- Chimpanzees subjected to laboratory confinement and biomedical research and testing exhibit trauma-induced psychological symptoms.
- Cross-fostered chimpanzees also contend with an identity crisis and the enhanced vulnerability and compounded trauma this presents.
- Cross-fostered chimpanzees show symptoms of identity confusion and attachment disorder peculiar to their early developmental history:
  - compromised ability to socialize with other chimpanzees;
  - dominant behavioral traits reflective of human culture;
  - a preference to socialize with humans rather than other chimpanzees; and
  - symptoms consistent with a diagnosis of depression
- The study raises serious ethical implications for the practice of cross-fostering chimpanzees and for their use in laboratory research.