



Oxford Handbook of Evolutionary Psychology (Oxford Library of Psychology)

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The Oxford Handbook of Evolutionary Psychology provides a comprehensive overview of the latest developments in this fast-growing area of research. With contributions from over fifty experts in the field, the range and depth of coverage is unequalled.

In addition to well studied areas of investigation, such as mate choice and reproduction, the volume also includes chapters on the philosophical underpinnings of evolutionary psychology, comparative perspectives from other species, recent neurobiological findings, and gets to grips with the issue of cultural evolution in relation to human psychology. All the chapters combine a solid review of the relevant literature with well reasoned arguments and robust discussions of the major findings, as well as original insights and suggestions for future work.

All the chapters are written by active researchers in the field of evolutionary psychology and so, as might be expected, a wide diversity of opinions is presented. The critical, wide-ranging and diverse discussions are thought-provoking and, taken together, the handbook as a whole provides a well balanced assessment of current research, from both theoretical and empirical perspectives. In addition, the editors provide an initial chapter and section introductions that place the contributions in context and help guide the reader by highlighting the major themes raised by the contributors. While each chapter thus stands on its own, and the book can be used as a work of reference, the integration of themes across chapters and sections means it can also be read in its entirety as a complement to textbooks and other publications in the field.

The Oxford Handbook of Evolutionary Psychology is the definitive text on this burgeoning field.

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Editorial Review

Review

"This handbook is must reading for individuals interested in evolutionary psychology and biology...offers a wealth of information."--*Doody's*

"A new and welcome addition to this list...provides multiple insights on cognition and our cultural capacities."--*Journal of Evolutionary Psychology*

"All academic libraries catering for postgraduate work in any of the behavioral sciences will find it to be an important source of up-to-date information. Public libraries...should be aware that evolutionary ideas are changing the face of psychology, so they will need to keep a regular eye on updating their stock."--*Journal of Mental Health*

About the Author

Robin Dunbar is Professor of Evolutionary Psychology at the University of Liverpool and has held fellowships at the Universities of Cambridge and Stockholm. He has been praised for 'writing that is dizzyingly multi-disciplinary but shows great generosity to the ordinary reader' (Guardian). His books include *The Trouble with Science* (1995), 'an eloquent riposte to the anti-science lobby' (Sunday Times), and *Grooming, Gossip and the Evolution of Language*, praised as 'brilliantly original' and 'a delight to read' (Focus).

His main research interests are the evolution of the mind, and the social systems of human and non-human primates; he has carried out field studies of monkeys and antelope in East and West Africa, and of wild goats in Scotland. He is a Fellow of the British Academy and in June 2003 he led a team of academics which won the largest single grant ever awarded by the British Academy, to research what it means to be human.

Louise Barrett has a PhD in Anthropology from University College London, and is an Associate Professor in the Department of Psychology, University of Lethbridge. She conducts research on the ecology and development of social cognition of baboons and vervet monkeys in South Africa, and the development of social cognition in human children in the UK and South Africa. She is the co-author (with Robin Dunbar and John Lycett) of "Human Evolutionary Psychology" and "Evolutionary Psychology: a Beginner's Guide".

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