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Darwin and the Emergence of Evolutionary Theories of Mind and Behavior (Science and Its Conceptual Foundations series)

By Robert J. Richards



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With insight and wit, Robert J. Richards focuses on the development of evolutionary theories of mind and behavior from their first distinct appearance in the eighteenth century to their controversial state today. Particularly important in the nineteenth century were Charles Darwin's ideas about instinct, reason, and morality, which Richards considers against the background of Darwin's personality, training, scientific and cultural concerns, and intellectual community. Many critics have argued that the Darwinian revolution stripped nature of moral purpose and ethically neutered the human animal. Richards contends, however, that Darwin, Herbert Spencer, and their disciples attempted to reanimate moral life, believing that the evolutionary process gave heart to unselfish, altruistic behavior.

"Richards's book is now the obvious introduction to the history of ideas about mind and behavior in the nineteenth century."—Mark Ridley, Times Literary Supplement

"Not since the publication of Michael Ghiselin's *The Triumph of the Darwinian Method* has there been such an ambitious, challenging, and methodologically self-conscious interpretation of the rise and development and evolutionary theories and Darwin's role therein."—John C. Greene, *Science*

"His book . . . triumphantly achieves the goal of all great scholarship: it not only informs us, but shows us why becoming thus informed is essential to understanding our own issues and projects."—Daniel C. Dennett, *Philosophy of Science*

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Editorial Review

From Library Journal

Richards traces scientific and philosophical concepts of the mind's evolution through scholarly writings from the Enlightenment to the present. Lamark, Cuvier, Huxley, Wallace, Morgan, William James, James Baldwin, and others are quoted to show how the interpretation of Darwin's theory in relation to instinct, reason, and morals has changed with the social postulates of each writer's period. Of particular interest is the second appendix, which states the author's views. The most complete study on this topic available and an important work for scholars in this field; for academic and large public libraries. Frank Reiser, Nassau Community Coll., Garden City, N.Y.

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From the Back Cover

This book traces the development of evolutionary theories of mind and behavior from their first distinctive appearance in the 18th century to their controverted state in the present.

About the Author

Robert J. Richards is professor of history, philosophy, and behavioral science at the University of Chicago. He is a member of the Committee on the Conceptual Foundations of Science and director of the Program in History, Philosophy, and Social Studies of Science and Medicine.

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From reader reviews:

Sharon Hall:

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Nicole Marcil:

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Evolutionary Theories of Mind and Behavior (Science and Its Conceptual Foundations series).

Terry Hollis:

The reason? Because this Darwin and the Emergence of Evolutionary Theories of Mind and Behavior (Science and Its Conceptual Foundations series) is an unordinary book that the inside of the reserve waiting for you to snap it but latter it will jolt you with the secret that inside. Reading this book alongside it was fantastic author who else write the book in such awesome way makes the content inside of easier to understand, entertaining approach but still convey the meaning totally. So , it is good for you for not hesitating having this ever again or you going to regret it. This phenomenal book will give you a lot of benefits than the other book get such as help improving your talent and your critical thinking means. So , still want to hold up having that book? If I ended up you I will go to the e-book store hurriedly.

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