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Human Natures

Genes, Cultures, and the Human Prospect

[Penguin](#) **Why do we behave the way we do? Biologist Paul Ehrlich suggests that although people share a common genetic code, these genes "do not shout commands at us...at the very most, they whisper suggestions." He argues that human nature is not so much result of genetic coding; rather, it is heavily influenced by cultural conditioning and environmental factors. With personal anecdotes, a well-written narrative, and clear examples, Human Natures is a major work of synthesis and scholarship as well as a valuable primer on genetics and evolution that makes complex scientific concepts accessible to lay readers.**

Human Natures

Genes, Cultures, and the Human Prospect

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[Island Press](#) **Explores the impact and inconsistencies of human evolution upon human nature, examining the physical, intellectual, cultural, and sexual aspects of human development and behaviors in the light of current scientific theory.**

Genes, Mind, and Culture

The Coevolutionary Process

[World Scientific](#) **Long considered one of the most provocative and demanding major works on human sociobiology, Genes, Mind, and Culture introduces the concept of gene-culture coevolution. It has been out of print for several years, and in this volume Lumsden and Wilson provide a much needed facsimile edition of their original work, together with a major review of progress in the discipline during the ensuing quarter century. They argue compellingly that human nature is neither arbitrary nor predetermined, and identify mechanisms that energize the upward translation from genes to culture. The authors also assess the properties of genetic evolution of mind within emergent cultural patterns. Lumsden and Wilson explore the rich and sophisticated data of developmental psychology and cognitive science in a fashion that, for the first time, aligns these disciplines with human sociobiology. The authors also draw on population genetics, cultural anthropology, and mathematical physics to set human sociobiology on a predictive base, and so trace the main steps that lead from the genes through human consciousness to culture. Contents:The Next Synthesis: 25 Years of Genes, Mind, and CultureThe Primary Epigenetic RulesThe Secondary Epigenetic RulesGene-Culture TranslationThe Gene-Culture Adaptive LandscapeThe Coevolutionary CircuitThe Biogeography of the MindGene-Culture Coevolution and Social Theory Readership: For the biological and social scientists, as well as applied mathematicians, philosophers, and historians of science, the book will indeed interest and be accessible to researchers, academics and lecturers. Keywords:Genes;Genome;Mind;Culture;Sociobiology;Meme;Consilience;Holism;Consciousness;Development;Epigenesis;Epigenetic;Emergence;Social Physics;Evolution;Darwin;Nonlinear Dynamics;Complexity;ChaosKey Features:Presents a richly multidisciplinary subject matter that appeal to academic readers in the biological, social, and mathematical sciences, as well as in philosophy and the history of scienceEach chapter is organized in a way that non-mathematical readers can assess the key arguments and results while reserving the mathematical sections for future studyExtensive use of diagrams and graphics supplement each chapter's text and mathematical developmentsA Glossary section makes the book's technical vocabulary instantly accessible at any point in the text**

Humans in Nature

The World As We Find It and the World As We Create It

[Oxford University Press](#) **Should there be limits to the human alteration of the natural world? Through a study of debates about the environment, agricultural biotechnology, synthetic biology, and human enhancement, Gregory E. Kaebnick argues that such moral concerns about nature can be legitimate but are also complex, contestable, and politically limited.**

Creating Human Nature

[Cambridge University Press](#) Introduces the new field of 'political bioethics,' focusing on the peculiarly political questions posed by human genetic engineering.

City Baby and Star

Addiction, Transcendence, and the Tenderloin : Book One of the Voices from the Edge Trilogy

[University Press of America](#) This book is an exploration of the sociological, biological, and psychological forces that create pathways into and out of street deviance. Utilizing in-depth case studies, the book examines the relationship of an individual's learned and inherited human traits and the culture that receives, socializes, and judges him or her. The book centers on the compelling life stories of City Baby and Star, two women who became criminal drug addicts, and the colorful history of San Francisco's Tenderloin District. It explains why City Baby is trapped in a world of drugs and violence, and how Star escaped hers. It describes how addictions and criminal behaviors are rooted in the human biological urge to seek meaningful lives and how the organization of our culture produces the very problems it abhors. The book asks, why do tenderloins, 'containment zones' for crime, exist in virtually every major city in the world and what do we do, as a community, to contribute to the problem of street deviance everywhere? This work will be of interest to sociologists, psychologists, criminologists, as well as the general reader.

Human Rights as Social Construction

[Cambridge University Press](#) Most conceptions of human rights rely on metaphysical or theological assumptions that construe them as possible only as something imposed from outside existing communities. Most people, in other words, presume that human rights come from nature, God, or the United Nations. This book argues that reliance on such putative sources actually undermines human rights. Benjamin Gregg envisions an alternative; he sees human rights as locally developed, freely embraced, and indigenously valid. Human rights, he posits, can be created by the average, ordinary people to whom they are addressed, and that they are valid only if embraced by those to whom they would apply. To view human rights in this manner is to increase the chances and opportunities that more people across the globe will come to embrace them.

Bioregionalism and Global Ethics

A Transactional Approach to Achieving Ecological Sustainability, Social Justice, and Human Well-being

[Routledge](#) While a number of schools of environmental thought — including social ecology, ecofeminism, ecological Marxism, ecoanarchism, and bioregionalism — have attempted to link social issues to a concern for the environment, environmental ethics as an academic discipline has tended to focus more narrowly on ethics related either to changes in personal values or behavior, or to the various ways in which nature might be valued. What is lacking is a framework in which individual, social, and environmental concerns can be looked at not in isolation from each other, but rather in terms of their interrelationships. In this book, Evanoff aims to develop just such a philosophical framework — one in which ethical questions related to interactions between self, society, and nature can be discussed across disciplines and from a variety of different perspectives. The central problem his study investigates is the extent to which a dichotomized view of the relationship between nature and culture, perpetuated in ongoing debates over anthropocentric vs. ecocentric approaches to environmental ethics, might be overcome through the adoption of a transactional perspective, which offers a more dynamic and coevolutionary understanding of how humans interact with their natural environments. Unlike anthropocentric approaches to environmental ethics, which often privilege human concerns over ecological preservation, and some ecocentric approaches, which place more emphasis on preserving natural environments than on meeting human needs, a transactional approach attempts to create more symbiotic and less conflictual modes of interaction between human cultures and natural environments, which allow for the flourishing of both.

The Annihilation of Nature

Human Extinction of Birds and Mammals

[JHU Press](#) "This book shows us the face of Earth's sixth great mass extinction, revealing that this century is a time of darkness for the world's birds and mammals. In *The Annihilation of Nature*, three of today's most distinguished conservationists tell the stories of the birds and mammals we have lost and those that are now on the road to extinction. These tragic tales, coupled with eighty-three color photographs from the world's leading nature photographers, display the beauty and biodiversity that humans are squandering."--Book jacket.

Practical Ecocriticism

Literature, Biology, and the Environment

[University of Virginia Press](#) [Table of contents](#)

Genetic Nature/Culture

Anthropology and Science Beyond the Two-Culture Divide

[Univ of California Press](#) Individual essays address issues raised by the science, politics, and history of race, evolution, and identity; genetically modified organisms and genetic diseases; gene work and ethics; and the boundary between humans and animals. The result is an entree to the complicated nexus of questions prompted by the power and importance of genetics and genetic thinking, and the dynamic connections linking culture, biology, nature, and technoscience. The volume offers critical perspectives on science and culture, with contributions that span disciplinary divisions and arguments grounded in both biological perspectives and cultural analysis.

Memetics

Mememes and the Science of Cultural Evolution

[Tim Tyler](#) Memetics is the name commonly given to the study of memes - a term originally coined by Richard Dawkins to describe small inherited elements of human culture. Memes are the cultural equivalent of DNA genes - and memetics is the cultural equivalent of genetics. Memes have become ubiquitous in the modern world - but there has been relatively little proper scientific study of how they arise, spread and change - apparently due to turf wars within the social sciences and misguided resistance to Darwinian explanations being applied to human behaviour. However, with the modern explosion of internet memes, I think this is bound to change. With memes penetrating into every mass media channel, and with major companies riding on their coat tails for marketing purposes, social scientists will surely not be able to keep the subject at arm's length for much longer. This will be good - because an understanding of memes is important. Memes are important for marketing and advertising. They are important for defending against marketing and advertising. They are important for understanding and managing your own mind. They are important for understanding science, politics, religion, causes, propaganda and popular culture. Memetics is important for understanding the origin and evolution of modern humans. It provides insight into the rise of farming, science, industry, technology and machines. It is important for understanding the future of technological change and human evolution. This book covers the basic concepts of memetics, giving an overview of its history, development, applications and the controversy that has been associated with it.

On Purpose

How We Create the Meaning of Life

[Oxford University Press](#) From the start, Froese admits that the answer to the question is deceptively simple: our purpose is whatever we imagine it to be. But what we imagine our purpose to be depends on innumerable factors beyond our control: our wealth, race, education level, upbringing, past experiences, and community. Froese argues that one's surroundings serve as a kind of soil that can either nurture purpose or foster meaninglessness. Framing the book around six key questions, Froese refuses to collapse the meaning of life into a single authoritative answer, as self-help gurus do. Instead, he deconstructs each question to reveal the social pathways that guide people to distinctive answers. Through lively, engaging storytelling that mixes data and analysis with literary and historical examples of the quest for purpose, Froese sheds new light on a timeless and all-too-human quandary.

The Emotional Construction of Morals

[OUP Oxford](#) Jesse Prinz argues that recent work in philosophy, neuroscience, and anthropology supports two radical hypotheses about the nature of morality: moral values are based on emotional responses, and these emotional responses are inculcated by culture, not hard-wired through natural selection. In the first half of the book, Jesse Prinz defends the hypothesis that morality has an emotional foundation. Evidence from brain imaging, social psychology, and psychopathology suggest that, when we judge something to be right or wrong, we are merely expressing our emotions. Prinz argues that these emotions do not track objective features of reality; rather, the rightness and wrongness of an act consists in the fact that people are disposed to have certain emotions towards it. In the second half of the book, he turns to a defence of moral relativism. Moral facts depend on emotional responses, and emotional responses vary from culture to culture. Prinz surveys the anthropological record to establish moral variation, and he draws on cultural history to show how attitudes toward practices such as cannibalism and marriage change over time. He also criticizes evidence from animal behaviour and child development that has been taken to support the claim that moral attitudes are hard-wired by natural selection. Prinz concludes that there is no single true morality, but he also argues that some moral values are better than others; moral progress is possible. Throughout the book, Prinz relates his views to contemporary and historical work in philosophical ethics. His views echo themes in the writings of David Hume and Friedrich Nietzsche, but Prinz supports, extends, and revises these classic theories using the resources of cutting-edge cognitive science. The Emotional Construction of Morals will stimulate and challenge anyone who is curious about the nature and origin of moral values.

A Companion to American Environmental History

[John Wiley & Sons](#) A Companion to American Environmental History gatherstogether a comprehensive collection of over 30 essays that examinethe evolving and diverse field of American environmental history. Provides a complete historiography of American environmentalhistory Brings the field up-to-date to reflect the latest trends andencourages new directions for the field Includes the work of path-breaking environmental historians,from the founders of the field, to contributions frominnovative young scholars Takes stock of the discipline through five topically themedparts, with essays ranging from American Indian EnvironmentalRelations to Cities and Suburbs

Shapers of the Great Debate on Conservation

A Biographical Dictionary

[Greenwood Publishing Group](#) Presents profiles on key figures in the conservation movement, including John Muir, Dixie Lee Ray, Rachel Carson, James Gaius Watt, and Christopher Swain.

Techno-cultural Evolution

Cycles of Creation and Conflict

[Potomac Books, Inc.](#) Publisher description: A new analysis of human behavior that seeks to explain violent clashes between high-tech cultures and those clinging to sacred traditions and shows that new technology changes cultures much as mutations change DNA.

Sense and Nonsense

Evolutionary Perspectives on Human Behaviour

[Oxford University Press](#) This book asks whether evolution can help us to understand human behaviour and explores diverse evolutionary methods and arguments. It provides a short, readable introduction to the science behind the works of Dawkins, Dennett, Wilson and Pinker. It is widely used in undergraduate courses around the world.

Shakespeare and the Nature of Love

Literature, Culture, Evolution

[Northwestern University Press](#) The best conception of love, Marcus Nordlund contends, and hence the best framework for its literary analysis, must be a fusion of evolutionary, cultural, and historical explanation. It is within just such a bio-cultural nexus that Nordlund explores Shakespeare's treatment of different forms of love. His approach leads to a valuable new perspective on Shakespearean love and, more broadly, on the interaction between our common humanity and our historical contingency as they are reflected, recast, transformed, or even suppressed in literary works. After addressing critical issues about love, biology, and culture raised by his method, Nordlund considers four specific forms of love in seven of Shakespeare's plays. Examining the vicissitudes of parental love in *Titus Andronicus* and *Coriolanus*, he argues that Shakespeare makes a sustained inquiry into the impact of culture and society upon the natural human affections. *King Lear* offers insight into the conflicted relationship between love and duty. In two problem plays about romantic love, *Troilus and Cressida* and *All's Well that Ends Well*, the tension between individual idiosyncrasies and social consensus becomes especially salient. And finally, in *Othello* and *The Winter's Tale*, Nordlund asks what Shakespeare can tell us about the dark avatar of jealousy.

Faith, Science and the Future

[Lulu.com](#)

A Darwinian Worldview

Sociobiology, Environmental Ethics and the Work of Edward O. Wilson

[Routledge](#) Darwin's theory of evolution by natural selection is considered in its application to human beings in this book. Brian Baxter examines the various sociobiological approaches to the explanation of human behaviour which view the human brain, and so the human mind, as the product of evolution, and considers the main arguments for and against this claim. In so doing he defends the approaches against some common criticisms, such as the charge that they are reductionist and dehumanising. The implications of these arguments for the social sciences and humanities are assessed, as is the naturalistic view of ethics to which they lead. A key issue examined in the book is the connection between this Darwinist perspective on human beings and modern environmental ethics, which also often assume that human beings are part of an evolved living world. The implications of these positions for the meaningfulness of human life are also examined. Throughout the discussion the positions in sociobiology and environmental ethics developed by Edward O. Wilson are taken as an exemplar of the characteristic features of a Darwinian worldview, and the arguments of Wilson and his chief critics are thoroughly examined.

Forum for Applied Research and Public Policy

Culture in Psychology

[Routledge](#) Culture in Psychology breaks new ground by attempting to understand the complexity and specificity of cultural identities today. It rejects the idea that Western culture is a standard, or that any culture is homogenous and stable. Equally, it rejects the notion that culture is a mechanism that enhances reproductive fitness. Instead, it alerts psychologists to the many forms of 'foreignness' that research should address and to alliances psychology can make with other disciplines such as anthropology, feminism and psychoanalysis. Part one explores the origins of the new 'cultural psychology' in social change movements, in fields such as ethnography and cultural studies, and as a response to evolutionary psychology. Part two looks at how people create and sustain the meanings of social categories of 'class', gender, 'race' and ethnicity, while the third part examines the interaction between written and visual representations in popular culture and everyday lived culture. The final part examines the idiosyncratic significance cultural forms have for individuals and their unconscious meanings.

Nature Revealed

Selected Writings, 1949-2006

[JHU Press](#) Two-time Pulitzer Prize winner Edward O. Wilson is one of the leading biologists and philosophical thinkers of our time. In this compelling collection, Wilson's observations range from the tiny glands of ants to the nature of the living universe. Many of the pieces are considered landmarks in evolutionary biology, ecology, and behavioral biology. Wilson explores topics as diverse as slavery in ants, the genetic basis of societal structure, the discovery of the taxon cycle, the original formulation of the theory of island biogeography, a critique of subspecies as a unit of classification, and the conservation of life's diversity. Each article is presented in its original form, dating from Wilson's first published article in 1949 to his most recent exploration of the natural world. Preceding each piece is a brief essay by Wilson that explains the context in which the article was written and provides insights into the scientist himself and the debates of the time. This collection enables us to share Wilson's various vantage points and to view the complexities of nature through his eyes. Wilson aficionados, along with readers discovering his work for the first time, will find in this collection a world of beauty, complexity, and challenge.

Nature's Edge

Boundary Explorations in Ecological Theory and Practice

[SUNY Press](#) **Leading environmental thinkers investigate the complexities of boundary formation and negotiation at the heart of environmental problems.**

Nature, Culture and Society

Anthropological Perspectives on Life

The Trouble with Human Nature

Health, Conflict, and Difference in Biocultural Perspective

[Taylor & Francis](#) **Cover -- Title -- Copyright -- CONTENTS -- PART I Pathways to the present -- 1 Envisioning evolution: representations of humanness and causation -- 2 Origin stories: the co-evolution of human anatomy and sociality -- 3 Losses and gains: economic and health transitions since the Neolithic Revolution -- PART II Plasticity, identity, and health -- 4 Thicker than water: blood and milk in human evolution -- 5 Risk and responsibility: power and danger in individualized approaches to preventive health -- 6 Difference as destiny: race, sex, and culture -- PART III Sex and gender -- 7 Choosers and cheaters: the sexual/reproductive conflict hypothesis -- 8 Hoe and plow, pig and cow: work, family, and gender stratification -- 9 Tale of two-spirits: constructing gender and sexuality, aptitudes and inclinations -- PART IV Conflict and violence -- 10 Savage empathy: sources of competitiveness and cooperativeness, greed and generosity -- 11 Why stratify? Inequality and interpersonal violence -- 12 Peace and war: patterns and prevention of violent intergroup conflict -- Appendix: Life expectancy rate calculations -- Index.**

A General Theory of Acquisitiveness

On Human Nature, Productivity and Survival

[iUniverse](#) **"Greed is good!" Is this the best argument to be made on behalf of human aspirations and the free market? Acquisitiveness uproots the "greed is good" philosophy, showing it to be both wrong and largely irrelevant in defining human nature and the dynamics of economic progress. The author looks behind Adam Smith's The Wealth of Nations to examine the origin and purpose of human conduct in the free market. The result is a purely conceived natural mechanism centered in each individual for efficient allocation of resources to the most productive and innovative person. Society is the indirect beneficiary. Acquisitiveness brings Adam Smith and The Wealth of Nations to the Twenty First Century where the acquisitive energy of every individual can ride the Internet. The stock markets, business, education and, hopefully, governments will never be the same again.**

On Human Nature

Biology, Psychology, Ethics, Politics, and Religion

[Academic Press](#) **On Human Nature: Biology, Psychology, Ethics, Politics, and Religion covers the present state of knowledge on human diversity and its adaptive significance through a broad and eclectic selection of representative chapters. This transdisciplinary work brings together specialists from various fields who rarely interact, including geneticists, evolutionists, physicians, ethologists, psychoanalysts, anthropologists, sociologists, theologians, historians, linguists, and philosophers. Genomic diversity is covered in several chapters dealing with biology, including the differences in men and apes and the genetic diversity of mankind. Top specialists, known for their open mind and broad knowledge have been carefully selected to cover each topic. The book is therefore at the crossroads between biology and human sciences, going beyond classical science in the Popperian sense. The book is accessible not only to specialists, but also to students, professors, and the educated public. Glossaries of specialized terms and general public references help nonspecialists understand complex notions, with contributions avoiding technical jargon. Provides greater understanding of diversity and population structure and history, with crucial foundational knowledge needed to conduct research in a variety of fields, such as genetics and disease. Includes three robust sections on biological, psychological, and ethical aspects, with cross-fertilization and reciprocal references between the three sections. Contains contributions by leading experts in their respective fields working under the guidance of internationally recognized and highly respected editors.**

On Human Nature

Anthropological, Biological, and Philosophical Foundations

[Springer Science & Business Media](#) **Modern molecular technology in the so-called life sciences (biology as well as medicine) allows today to approach and manipulate living beings in ways and to an extent which not too long ago seemed Utopian. The empirical progress promises further and even more radical developments in the future, and it is at least often claimed that this kind of research will have tremendous effects on and for all of humanity, for example in the areas of food production, transplantation medicine (including stem cell research and xenotransplantation), (therapeutic) genetic manipulation and (cell-line) cloning (of cell lines or tissues), and of biodiversity conservation-strategies. At least in Western, industrialized countries the development of modern sciences led to a steady increase of human health, well-being and quality of life. However, with the move to make the human body itself an object of scientific research interests, the respective scientific descriptions resulted in changes in the image that human beings have of themselves. Scientific progress has led to a startling loss of traditional human self-understanding. This development is in contrast to an understanding according to which the question what it means to be "human" is treated in the realm of philosophy. And indeed, a closer look reveals that - without denying the value of scientific progress - science cannot replace the philosophical approach to anthropological questions.**

Just Transitions

Explorations of Sustainability in an Unfair World

[United Nations Univ](#) A United Nations University Press with University of Cape Town (UCT) Press publication Current economic growth strategies around the world are rapidly depleting the natural resources and ecosystem services that we depend on. Just Transitions provides a comprehensive overview of these challenges from a Global South perspective. The authors ask: How do developing countries eradicate poverty via economic development, while at the same time facing the consequences of global warming and dwindling levels of cheap oil, productive soils, metals, clean water supplies, and forest products? How do they address widening inequalities in income as well as the need to rebuild ecosystem services and natural resources? The book considers the theme of a just transition, which reconciles the sustainable use of natural resources with a pervasive commitment to sufficiency (where overconsumers are satisfied with less so that underconsumers can secure enough). It explores a range of different viewpoints and ideas and synthesizes them to illuminate new ways of thinking from a sustainability perspective. It rethinks development with special reference to the greening of the developmental state, explores the key role that cities could play in the transition to a more sustainably urbanized world, and highlights the neglect of soils in the global discussions around the potential of sustainable agriculture to feed the world. Case studies drawn from the African continent detail the challenges, but they are set in the context of global trends. The authors conclude with their experiences in building a community that aspires to live sustainably.

The Biology and Psychology of Moral Agency

[Cambridge University Press](#) Brings findings and theories in biology and psychology to bear on ethics.

Sociobiology

The New Synthesis, Twenty-Fifth Anniversary Edition

[Harvard University Press](#) When this classic work was first published in 1975, it created a new discipline and started a tumultuous round in the age-old nature versus nurture debate. The controversy surrounding the book's publication--and surrounding its central claim that human social behavior has a biological foundation--reverberates to this day. In the introduction to this twenty-fifth anniversary edition, Edward O. Wilson shows how research in human genetics and neuroscience over the past quarter of a century has strengthened the case for a biological understanding of human nature.

Wild Cultures

A Comparison Between Chimpanzee and Human Cultures

[Cambridge University Press](#) A journey into the lives of chimpanzees, revealing the many parallels and differences between us.

Prospects for Designed Genetic Change

A Transcript Report

Problems of Radiation Genetics

Eve's Seed

Biology, the Sexes, and the Course of History

[Schaum's Outline Series](#) In Eve's Seed, McElvaine bridges the gap between evolutionary biology and history to create a new approach he terms biohistory."--BOOK JACKET.

The Last Human Spring

Silent Spring II, Origin of the Species II, Walden III, Nurturome I Vs. Genome: Breakthroughs!

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Prospects for Designed Genetic Change

A Report from The National Advisory General Medical Sciences Council of the National Institute of General Medical Sciences
National Institutes of Health Bethesda, Maryland