



Evolution and the Big Questions: Sex, Race, Religion, and Other Matters

By David N. Stamos

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This provocative text considers whether evolutionary explanations can be used to clarify some of life's biggest questions.

- Examines topics of race, sex, gender, the nature of language, religion, ethics, knowledge, consciousness and ultimately, the meaning of life
- Each chapter presents a main topic, together with discussion of related ideas and arguments from various perspectives
- Addresses questions such as: Did evolution make men and women fundamentally different? Is the concept of race merely a social construction? Is morality, including universal human rights, a mass delusion? Can religion and evolution really be harmonized? Does evolution render life meaningless?
- Written in a clear and informative style, with helpful references for further reading and research

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Editorial Review

Review

"In conclusion, this book is definitely worth a read, and Stamos successfully shows how evolutionary thinking has a bearing on the "Big Questions." (*Evo Edu Outreach*, 1 December 2011)

"He does not simply present and adjudicate between arguments in the existent literature—he also includes some innovative arguments of his own, which gives one the impression of an author who is seriously engaged with his subject matter. Stamos is not just going through the scholarly motions: he means business." (*Reports of the National Center for Science Education*, April 2010)

"This book by Stamos is remarkable for the breadth and depth of its discussions. It promises to discuss the big questions and does just that. Stamos is very well informedHe presents different views on controversial issues, and does not shy away from pressing his own. Although this is a scholarly work with many references, it is written clearly and with verve. It will be of great interest to any reader willing to make the effort to understand the controversies concerning the implications of evolution. This outstanding work demonstrates how evolutionary ideas are of interest to virtually everyone. Enriching the text are a useful glossary, an extensive bibliography, and a good index. Highly recommended." (*CHOICE*, November 2008)

Review

"David Stamos's *Evolution and the Big Questions* delivers what its title promises—you get to look at all of the issues like race and ethics and religion that make the study of evolution so interesting and more than just a science. The book is written in a clear and friendly manner and deserves a very wide readership."

Michael Ruse, Florida State University

From the Back Cover

This provocative text considers whether evolutionary explanations can be used to clarify some of life's biggest questions. It offers a lively, informative, and timely look at a wide variety of key issues facing all of us today—including questions of race, sex, gender, the nature of language, religion, ethics, knowledge, consciousness and ultimately, the meaning of life.

Some of the questions examined are:

- Did evolution make men and women fundamentally different?
- Is the concept of race merely a social construction?
- Is morality, including universal human rights, a mass delusion?
- Can religion and evolution really be harmonized?
- Does evolution render life meaningless?

Designed for students and anyone with an interest in the relationship between evolutionary heritage and human nature, the text takes an interdisciplinary approach and offers direction for further reading and research. Each chapter presents a main topic, together with discussion of related ideas and arguments from various perspectives. Along the way, it poses life's biggest questions, pulling no punches and presenting a challenge to thinkers on all levels.

Users Review

From reader reviews:

Lori Roth:

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