

Culture evolves

Organised and edited by Andrew Whiten, Robert A Hinde, Christopher B Stringer and Kevin N Laland

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Culture, broadly defined as all we learn from others that endures for long enough to generate customs and traditions, shapes vast swathes of our lives and has allowed the human species to dominate the planet in an evolutionarily unique way. Our 'capacity for culture' appears so distinctive among animals that it is often thought to separate we cultural beings from the rest of nature and the Darwinian forces that shape it.

Culture evolves presents a different view arising from the recent discoveries of a diverse range of disciplines that instead focus on evolutionary continuities.

Articles derive from a Royal Society Discussion meeting held on 28-30 June 2010.

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