

CALL FOR PAPERS

European Journal for Philosophy of Religion

EVOLUTIONARY RESEARCH ON MORALITY AND THEOLOGICAL ETHICS

Deadline for submission: August 30, 2019

GUEST EDITORS

Daniele Bertini (Università di Roma Due, Tor Vergata) Andrea
Aguti (Università degli Studi di Urbino)

OVERVIEW

Recent works in biology, social psychology and cognitive sciences show a growing interest for evolutionary accounts of morality. According to the seminal research agenda of Bill Hamilton, an impressive body of empirical inquiries has investigated into the nature of animal groups and behavior within them. As a consequence, joint agency, altruism, and collaboration among kin and non kin have become an important focus of experimental tests. The cumulative evidence that prosocial behaviors favor biological fitness has progressively lead to questioning whether human morality is naturalistically framed upon evolutionary grounds. Grossly speaking, two parties are disputing at present. The former originates from Frans de Waal's studies on great apes. According to such option human morality is rooted in animal empathy, and is continuous in respect to behavioral patterns which most mammals exhibit. On the contrary, the latter denies that human morality has anything to do with animal prosociality, because the cognitive abilities of human beings are noncontinuous in respect to animal ones, and such abilities alone constitute the conditions for the possibility of morality. Michael Tomasello is a leading proponent of such an option. The purpose of the thematic issue is to investigate whether the evolutionary debate on morality is relevant to theological ethics.

Invited contributors are: Roberto Di Ceglie (Pontificia Università Lateranense); Andrea Lavazza (Centro Universitario Internazionale di Arezzo); Andrew Pinsent (University of Oxford); Paul Rezkalla (Florida State University-University of Oxford); John Lemos (Coe College).

POSSIBLE TOPICS

- What do evolutionists mean by relating morality to prosociality?
- How do they outline altruistic behaviors?
- Why should such behaviors be relevant to understanding human morality?
- Does the evolutionary emergence of animal prosociality provide reasons against the legitimacy of ethics?
- Are evolutionary accounts of morality debunking tools for the irreducibility of morality?
- Which God is the designer of the evolutionary process?
- Does He act in the world only by framing a natural mechanism at the beginning of time?
- Can we understand his purposes by considering the natural history of the universe?
- Are animal sufferings which are required by the evolutionary process reasons in support to the argument from evil?

SUBMISSION PROCESS

All papers will be subject to double-blind peer-review, following international standard practices. Manuscripts should be submitted exclusively through EJPR's online submission system in the category "articles".

All relevant information regarding the submission process and the author guidelines are to be found here: <https://philosophy-of-religion.eu/>

For any further information please contact: Daniele Bertini (daniele.bertini@uniroma2.it)