

EvoS Symposium 2011: The evolution of free will

MAY 14TH 2011, 14h

Faculty of Sciences, University of Lisbon

Cidade Universitária (Campo Grande, Lisbon) Building C2: Room 2.2.15

<http://evos.fc.ul.pt/index.php>

INVITED SPEAKERS

Michael R. Rose **University of California at Irvine, USA**

The Mental Arms Race Amplifier and the Multicameral Mind

ABSTRACT: I attempt to solve two problems. First, why would natural selection have favored the evolution of a hominin brain with free will? Second, how did natural selection address the liability that free will creates for Darwinian fitness?

José Maria Castro Caldas **University of Coimbra, Portugal**

How evolution rescued rational choice from extinction and why economists are coming to doubt again

ABSTRACT: uses as misuses of evolutionary metaphors in economics from “evolutionary” institutional to “neoclassic” and neo-shumpeterian perspectives. Reference will be made experiments in economic decision where maximization of profit seem to be replaced by "moral" decisions (punishment of the other player, for example, becomes more important than maximizing profit). The controversy stemming from these results will be scrutinized in relation to parallel debates in evolutionary theory.

Thomas Pollet **Vrij University, The Netherlands**

Social brains and “automatic” thought: How an evolved social brain could lead to “less” freedom

ABSTRACT: not available yet

David Sloan Wilson **Binghamton University, USA**

Evolution and the Kind of Free Will Worth Wanting

ABSTRACT: The kind of free will worth wanting involves the ability to decide one's future while also benefiting or at least not harming others. This kind of free requires a sophisticated knowledge of evolution, including genetic evolution and other evolutionary processes built by genetic evolution.

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14h00 Reception

14h15 Welcoming words

Margarida Santos Reis, Coordinator of CBA

José Manuel Pinto Paixão, Director of FCUL

14h45 Introduction to the speakers and EvoS, Filipa Vala

15h00 Michael R. Rose

15h30 Thomas Pollet

16h00 Coffee break

16h30 José Maria Castro Caldas

17h00 David Sloan Wilson

17h30 General discussion

18h30 End