



HUMAN EVOLUTION LUNCH LECTURES

08 May, 2015 12.00 – 13.00

Aarhus Institute for Advanced Studies,
Hoegh-Guldbergs Gade 6B
AIAS Conference Room, Bldg. 1632

The Evolution of Human Sociality: The Current State of Knowledge

Presentation by **Prof. Joseph Carroll**^{1,2}

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Abstract: Because culture is social, biocultural theory must include a good basic model of evolved human sociality. The elements of such a model have become available only within the past few years. As yet, no one book or set of articles contains all the elements of the model. In this talk, I synthesize the most advanced thinking on this subject from several main research areas: game theory, primatology, paleoanthropology, evolutionary social psychology, and evolutionary social and political history. I argue that, for humans, the identity of the social group is integral to individual identity and that this idea can be used to organize seven concepts necessary for a model of evolved human sociality: (1) dominance, (2) egalitarianism or reverse dominance (3) leadership, (4) internalized norms, (5) strong reciprocity or third-party enforcement of norms, (6) legal institutions, and (7) legitimacy in the exercise of power. By integrating these concepts, I produce a framework for (a) evaluating salient recent works dealing with evolved human sociality, and (b) analyzing social themes in literature.

The Human Evolution Lunchtime Lecture (HELL) series is organised by the Centre for Biocultural History. The series emphasises the stimulation of ideas, discussion and involvement across all disciplines broadly interested in human evolution. Speakers come from a wide variety of backgrounds. All are welcome at whatever level - feel free to invite friends and colleagues. Coffee / tea is provided; please bring your lunch.