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Winter 2018 Catalogue



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<https://doi.org/10.11647/OBP.0097>

2017 | 234 x 156 mm | 134 pp. | 22 colour illus.

Behaviour, Development and Evolution

PATRICK BATESON

 Read it online

The role of parents in shaping the characters of their children, the causes of violence and crime, and the roots of personal unhappiness are central to humanity. Like so many fundamental questions about human existence, these issues all relate to behavioural development. In this lucid and accessible book, eminent biologist Professor Sir Patrick Bateson suggests that the nature/nurture dichotomy we often use to think about questions of development in both humans and animals is misleading. Instead, he argues that we should pay attention to whole systems, rather than to simple causes, when trying to understand the complexity of development.

In his wide-ranging approach Bateson discusses why so much behaviour appears to be well-designed. He explores issues such as 'imprinting' and its importance to the attachment of offspring to their parents; the mutual benefits that characterise communication between parent and offspring; the importance of play in learning how to choose and control the optimal conditions in which to thrive; and the vital function of adaptability in the interplay between development and evolution. Bateson disputes the idea that a simple link can be found between genetics and behaviour. What an individual human or animal does in its life depends on the reciprocal nature of its relationships with the world about it. This knowledge also points to ways in which an animal's own behaviour can provide the variation that influences the subsequent course of evolution.

This has relevance not only for our scientific approaches to the systems of development and evolution, but also on how humans change institutional rules that have become dysfunctional, or design public health measures when mismatches occur between themselves and their environments. It affects how we think about ourselves and our own capacity for change.

Forthcoming Titles

Science as Social Existence

Heidegger and the Sociology of Scientific Knowledge

JEFF KOCHAN

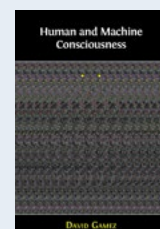
This is the first book of its kind, unfurling its argument through a range of topics relevant to contemporary Science and Technology Studies research. These include the epistemology and metaphysics of scientific practice, as well as the methods of explanation appropriate to social scientific and historical studies of science. *Science as Social Existence* puts concentrated emphasis on the compatibility of Heidegger's existential conception of science with the historical sociology of scientific knowledge, pursuing this combination at both macro- and micro-historical levels.



Human and Machine Consciousness

DAVID GAMEZ

Consciousness is widely perceived as one of the most fundamental, interesting and difficult problems of our time. However, we still know next to nothing about the relationship between consciousness and the brain and we can only speculate about the consciousness of animals and machines. *Human and Machine Consciousness* presents a new foundation for the scientific study of consciousness. It sets out a bold interpretation of consciousness that neutralizes the philosophical problems and explains how we can make scientific predictions about the consciousness of animals, brain-damaged patients and machines.



Related Titles

Warlike and Peaceful Societies

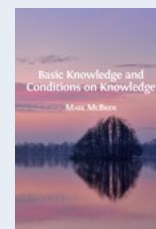
The Interaction of Genes and Culture

AGNER FOG



Basic Knowledge and Conditions on Knowledge

MARK MCBRIDE




Animals and Medicine

The Contribution of Animal Experiments to the Control of Disease

JACK BOTTING. EDITED BY REGINA BOTTING





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