

# THE EVOLUTION OF RELIGION

*The Evolution of Religion: Studies, Theories, and Critiques* is a 408 page hard-back book containing 50 chapters. Published by the Collins Foundation Press ([www.CollinsFoundationPress.org](http://www.CollinsFoundationPress.org)) it will be available for shipping on or before December 15, 2007.

## Description and Acclaim

*The Evolution of Religion* is a unique transdisciplinary volume that gathers the latest research, debates, and programmatic visions of scholars studying religion from an evolutionary perspective. Anyone interested in the relationship of evolutionary science to religion will find insight and inspiration in this striking collection of fifty short essays from a diverse group of renowned international scholars. Here, God meets Darwin, and the conversation that ensues provides fascinating reading for those seeking to make sense of religion's place in nature.

*This book is filled with gems of essays, short enough to sparkle with the energy of new ideas yet rich enough to show readers how to pursue each topic in more detail. It is a valuable introduction to the theme of the evolution of religion especially because, as a collaborative venture with diverse contributions, the volume demonstrates how strongly contested this theme is at the present time.*

Wesley J. Wildman, Director of the Doctoral Program in Science, Philosophy, and Religion at Boston University.

*This is an extraordinary book. With stunning intellectual breadth and judicious editorial taste, it demonstrates evolution's unique potential to provide a rigorous theory for understanding religion. Every student of religion will benefit from reading this path-breaking work.*

William Scott Green, Professor of Religious Studies and Dean of Undergraduate Education, University of Miami.

## A SAMPLE OF THE FIFTY CHAPTERS

### Part I Evolutionary Scenarios

David Sloan Wilson - Evolution & Religion: The Transformation of the Obvious  
Harvey Whitehouse - Cognitive Evolution & Religion;  
Cognition & Religious Evolution  
Armin Geertz - Comparing Scenarios on the Evolution of Religion  
William Irons - Why People Believe Crazy Ideas

### Part II Whose Adaptation?

Peter Richerson & Lesley Newson - Is Religion Adaptive? Mostly, We Don't Know  
Erica Harris & Patrick McNamara - Is Religiousness a Biocultural Adaptation?

### Part III Tribes Under God

Richard Sosis - Evolved Superstitious Responses to Stress and Uncertainty  
Barnaby Marsh - Evolution and Spiritual Capital  
Carl Coon Humanism and the Future Evolution of Religion  
Chris Boehm - Evolutionary Exploration of Supernatural Sanctioning  
Paul Wason - Religion, Status, and Leadership in Neolithic Avebury

### Part IV Religion and Hard to Fake Signals

Joseph Bulbulia - Free Love: Religious Solidarity on the Cheap  
Ilkka Pyysiäinen - Ritual, Agency, and Sexual Selection  
Jeffrey Schloss - Involuntary Religious Affect as a Solution to Recursive Cooperative Defection

### Part V Gods in Minds

Ann Taves - "Religious Experience" and the Brain  
Stewart Guthrie - Spiritual Beings: A Darwinian, Cognitive Account

### Part VI Gods in Bodies

Nicholas Gibson - Emotion and the Cognitive Science of Religion  
Tom Sjöblom - Narrativity, Emotions, and the Origins of Religion  
William McCorkle, Jr. - Evolutionary Anthropology of Death & Burial

### Part VII Methodology

Justin Barrett - Keeping 'Science' in Cognitive Science of Religion  
Donald Wiebe - Does Talk about the Evolution of Religion Make Sense?

### Part VIII Philosophical & Theological Themes

Luther Martin - Can Religion Really Evolve?  
Jesse Bering - How Sartre Presaged a Proper Evolutionary Science of Religion  
Michael Murray - Cognitive Psychology of Religion Undermines the Justification of Religious Belief  
Benson Saler - Essentialism and Evolution