

ANNOUNCEMENT

International Symposium “Biological Evolution and the Nature of Human Beings”

University of San Marino
Ancient Monastery of Santa Chiara
Republic of San Marino
22nd -24th August, 2012

organized by

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Association for the promotion of the scientific endeavour
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In collaboration with
Rimini Meeting for Friendship amongst People
CEUR Foundation
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The San Marino Symposia, now at the VII edition, are a unique occasion to engage a limited number of high-level scholars in a friendly, multi-disciplinary, open-minded interdisciplinary dialogue on fundamental issues raised by contemporary science. About 10 speakers give their lectures with ample time for informal discussion involving a limited number of Guest Participants. The Symposia are organized in the broad context of the "Meeting for Friendship among the Peoples", a week-long gathering taking place each year at the end of August in the nearby city of Rimini.

The 2012 San Marino Symposium will be a two-days debate involving nine speakers discussing about “Biological Evolution and the Nature of Human Beings.”

Following the successful scheme adopted in the previous editions of the San Marino Symposium, the questions below will be addressed in three sessions, each involving three outstanding thinkers from both science and humanities.

1. The nature of biological evolution

What is the status of our understanding of biological evolution? What are the well established facts and what are the open questions? What are, if any, the broader cultural implications of the different models of evolution? How does biological evolution relate to evolutionism in the philosophical debate?

2. The emergence of humans

What are the distinguishing characters of the human nature that mark a difference from the other living creatures? How do paleo-anthropologists recognize the emergence of “human behaviour”? Are the category of infinity and the awareness of self-limitation unique of humans? Is human evolution limited to a biological process?

3. Being humans: between finiteness and infinity

Is the notion of infinity essential to our human nature? We refer to infinity in various contexts: mathematics, metaphysics, recursive natural processes, existential experience: how are these levels related to each other? How can a finite mind grasp open-ended processes and structures?

Opening: Wednesday, August 22nd 7.00 pm
General discussion and conclusions: Friday, August 24th, late afternoon
Symposium language: English

Invited speaker

Marcello Buiatti, University of Firenze, Italy

William Carroll, Theology Faculty, Oxford University, UK

Conor Cunningham, Dept. of Theology and Religious Studies, University of Nottingham, UK

Michele Di Francesco, Faculty of Philosophy, University Vita-Salute “San Raffaele”, Milan, Italy

Costantino Esposito, Dept. of Philosophy, University of Bari, Italy

Scott F. Gilbert, Dept of Biology, Swarthmore College, USA

Karl Sigmund, Faculty for Mathematics, University of Vienna, Austria

Corrado Sinigaglia, Faculty of Philosophy, University of Milano, Italy

Ian Tattersal, Dept. of Anthropology, American Museum of Natural History, New York, USA

Guest participants

The Symposium will be open to a limited number of “guest participants” (PhD students, Post-docs, and Scholars) who will be invited to attend the seminar sessions and to participate in the discussion sessions. Some financial support covering lodging expenses are available to guest participants.

To apply for participation the candidates should prepare

- ▲ a CV including a list of selected publications and/or other activities in the field
- ▲ a motivation letter pointing out the reason for the interest in the symposium, and the expected usefulness for his/her scientific background

Applicants are requested to mail the CV and the motivation letter to
secretariat.sm@euresis.org

The deadline for application is June 15th. The applicants selected by a board of experts will be informed by June 30th.