

L'identità umana dopo Darwin

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Human Identity after Darwin

Abstract: The concept of human identity is generally built upon the view that human beings are somehow central and unique among all the other living beings. Nonetheless, presumed human uniqueness is no longer tenable after the “revolution” caused by Darwin’s theory. According to the scientific image produced by Darwinian biology human beings can no longer be understood as the outcome of a project. Furthermore, cognitive ethology undermines also the idea that Homo sapiens is equipped with unique capacities and shows unique behaviors. Non human animals have minds and they are able of tool-making and cultural transmission. After Darwin the idea of a human identity rooted in the separation of humans from the rest of living world is irreparably undermined. New ideas of humanity should be elaborated from the view that humans and non-humans are netted and share emotions and experiences.

Keywords: Identity, Darwin, Naturalism, Animal cognition, Ethology.

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