The Philosophy of Human Evolution

This book provides a unique discussion of human evolution from a philosophical viewpoint, looking at the facts and interpretations since Charles Darwin's *The Descent of Man*. Michael Ruse explores such topics as the nature of scientific theories, the relationships between culture and biology, the problem of progress, and the extent to which evolutionary issues pose problems for religious beliefs. He identifies these issues, highlighting the problems for morality in a world governed by natural selection. By taking a philosophical viewpoint, the full ethical and moral dimensions of human evolution are examined. This book engages the reader in a thorough discussion of the issues, appealing to students in philosophy, biology, and anthropology.

**Michael Ruse** is the Lucyle T. Werkmeister Professor of Philosophy and the Director of the Program in the History and Philosophy of Science at Florida State University. His previous publications include *Can a Darwinian Be a Christian? The Relationship between Science and Religion* (Cambridge, 2004), *Darwinism and Its Discontents* (Cambridge, 2008), and *Science and Spirituality: Making Room for Faith in an Age of Science* (Cambridge, 2010).
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The Philosophy of Human Evolution

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For Francisco Ayala
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No book is written in isolation, certainly not this one. As you will see on every page, it was Charles Darwin and his wonderful theory of evolution through natural selection that made possible all interesting inquiry about human origins and their implications. More immediately, for detailed knowledge about human evolution I am much in the debt of my colleague, the paleoanthropologist Dean Falk. Her wisdom and friendship are very much appreciated. As always, my thinking has been shaped in many ways by the interaction with three people: the philosopher David Hull, the historian and philosopher Robert J. Richards, and the biologist Edward O. Wilson. The paleontologist Daniel McShea has long stimulated my interest in the question of progress in evolution, and I owe much to Randolph Nesse for his pioneering thinking about evolutionary medicine.

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