Darwin Lecture Series Seminar

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“The Biology of Prophetic Morality”

Wednesday 8 October, 4 pm, BI 211

Abstract:
Owing to the continuing attraction of the classical Asian religions the linkage of religion and morality remains a common assumption, even among people who profess no faith. As this story goes, divinities make moral demands on devotees whose attempts to comply are rewarded by religious affiliation. Although scholars of ancient religions recognize that morality was not always an accepted currency in religious reciprocity, they have not reflected on the potential biological origin of this pairing. Developing an insight that goes back to Darwin, this talk applies Richard Alexander’s analysis (1987) of the “biology of morality.” The biblical prophets are famed for inventing morality; Alexander’s analysis of morality and inter-group competition is reflected in their literature and provides a socio-biological explanation of it.

– All Welcome –

Darwin Lecture Series info: homepages.ucalgary.ca/~jefox/Darwin.htm