



February 12, 2009 marks the 200th anniversary of Charles Darwin's birth, and 2009 the 150th anniversary of publication of *The Origin of Species by Means of Natural Selection*. Carleton University will present a series of public lectures during the week of February 12, celebrating the impact and legacy of Charles Darwin on western thought and culture.

February 9

Daniel Dennett,
Tufts University,
Darwin and the Evolution of Reasons

Evolution by natural selection not only accounts for the apparent design of the biological world; it explains the emergence of intelligent designers like us, acting on reasons that we formulate and evaluate. Our capacity to be moved by reasoning is one of evolution's most potent products to date, unique in the biosphere, and a lens through which we can look back at the evolutionary process itself.

ase.tufts.edu/cogstud/incbios/dennettd/dennettd.htm

February 10

Michael Summerfield FRSE,
University of Edinburgh,
Darwin's Landscape Vision

An account of the terrain that Darwin encountered on the Beagle voyage presents an introduction to how Darwin interpreted geology, and how the landscapes he entered influenced his work and thought.

www.geos.ed.ac.uk/people/person.html?indv=26

February 11

David Livingstone FBA,
Queen's University, Belfast,
Putting Darwinism and Religion in their Place

The response of religious groups in various locations to Darwinism highlights the importance of local factors in shaping what Darwinism was taken to be. This places encounters between science and religion in context and reveals the cultural, political and other interests that surface in these debates.

www.qub.ac.uk/schools/gap/Staff/AcademicStaff/

[ProfessorDavidLivingstone/](#)

February 12

Charles Krebs FRSC,
University of British Columbia,
The Struggle for Existence in a World of Climate Change

Darwin's ideas about the struggle for existence have been explored for more than 100 years, providing us with insight into the operation of competition and cooperation in natural ecosystems. Faced with rapid climate change, we need to investigate with a Darwinian perspective how natural populations will respond to a quickly changing environment, particularly in northern Canada.

www.zoology.ubc.ca/~krebs/

February 13

Patricia Gowaty,
University of California at Los Angeles,
A Predictive Darwinian Theory of Human Fertility Variation

Presentation of the hypothesis of compensation, which takes into account the facts that (1) human reproductive decisions are often made under constraints and (2) reproductive competition among females is common. The hypothesis predicts, among other things, within-population, between-individual variation in number of offspring.

www.eeb.ucla.edu/indivfaculty.php?FacultyKey=8418

April 17

Peter Grant FRS and Rosemary Grant FRS,
Princeton University,
On the Origin of Species: Studies of Darwin's Finches in the Galapagos Islands

During the last 2-3 million years, fourteen species of Darwin's finches have evolved from a common ancestor on the Galapagos Islands. Long-term studies have identified ecological factors promoting diversification in these birds, how evolution occurs when the environment changes, what the barriers are to interbreeding, how they are inherited, and what happens when they break down.

www.eeb.princeton.edu/faculty/Grant_P/grantPeter.html

www.eeb.princeton.edu/faculty/Grant_R/Grant_BR.html

Full details on this series of public lectures will be available in Fall 2008 from Dr. Chris Burn, Carleton University, Department of Geography and Environmental Studies.