

Perspectives on Human Cooperation conference report

On January 9th 2015, the Departments of Genetics Evolution and Environment and Anthropology, respectively, hosted the EHBEA-sponsored event*, *Perspectives on Human Cooperation*. The aim of the workshop was to build on the success of the previous year's event and to bring together practitioners from diverse disciplines and backgrounds to discuss the factors influencing cooperation in humans. The goal of the event was to attempt to bridge the gap between diverse academic disciplines and also between academia and the 'real world' by drawing together a truly eclectic mix of speakers.

Rory Sutherland (Vice Chairman of Ogilvy & Mather, UK) provided a wonderful and lively opening keynote on how a better understanding of social behaviour in humans can be used to business advantage. We were then treated to talks from David Papineau (Kings College London), Sarah Smith (University of Bristol), Rebecca Sear (LSHTM), Daniel Richardson (UCL), Oliver Curry (Oxford University), Nichola Raihani (UCL), Ruth Mace (UCL), Louise Barrett (Lethbridge) and Michael Sanders (UK Behavioural Insights Team). Together, the talks encompassed fields as diverse as philosophy, behavioural economics, evolutionary psychology, philosophy and behavioural ecology; and gave us a really good overview of how all these different disciplines can contribute to improving our understanding of human social behaviour.

All in all, the event fuelled a large amount of thought in how to approach questions relating to social behaviour and an insight into fields that are closely related to each other. The event provided a forum for discussion that often doesn't find its place in more traditional academic conferences.

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