

The Nordic Evolutionary Psychology Meeting 2012

Held from 13th-14th September, 2012 at the University of Turku, Finland.

Organised by Markus J Rantala (University of Turku)

The purpose of the meeting was to bring together researchers and students of diverse backgrounds united by an interest in explaining behavior in the light of evolution as well as increase the awareness about evolutionary psychology in general. As such, the meeting was free of charge for all participants. The meeting had over 100 registered participants from several countries representing the fields of psychology, biology and philosophy. The speakers included many of Finland's most prominent figures in evolutionary psychology research as well as highly distinguished keynotes.

The first day of the meeting focused on research on animal behavior, including a keynote lecture from Professor Klaus Zuberbühler about communication and social cognition of non-human primates. The second day was more focused on humans and included keynotes from Professor Robin Dunbar on Facebook and cognitive constraints of human sociality and from Professor David Perrett on human facial attractiveness. There were also 10 posters from promising young researchers interested in evolution and behavior on display during the meeting.

We have already received very positive feedback about the meeting and are investigating the possibility of making it an annual or bi-annual event. Clearly there is a lot of interest in evolutionary psychology among students in Finland and more possibilities for networking are welcome among researchers in the field. The meeting would not have been possible without financial support from EHBEA.