

CHARLES DARWIN UNIVERSITY PUBLIC LECTURE

2018 CHARLES DARWIN ORATION

From Bacteria to Bach: Charles Darwin's Vision Extended

Professor Daniel Dennett

Professor of Philosophy and Co-Director of the Center for Cognitive Studies in the School of Art and Sciences, Tufts University, USA

DARWIN

5.30pm – 7.30pm

Thursday 13 September 2018

University Theatre, Building Orange 3

Casuarina campus

Charles Darwin University

RSVP: Friday 7 September 2018

E: cduevents@cdu.edu.au

T: 08 8946 6554

ALICE SPRINGS

5.30pm – 7.30pm

Thursday 20 September 2018

Building 15.1.01 Lecture Theatre

Alice Springs campus

Charles Darwin University

RSVP: Friday 14 September 2018

E: cduevents@cdu.edu.au

T: 08 8946 6554

Summary

Charles Darwin's theory of natural selection was, according to one critic, a "strange inversion of reasoning", and today we can see the same inversion playing out in other realms: in technology, and in the understanding of our own minds, which are the product of two parallel evolutionary processes, genetic and cultural.

Professor Dennett's 2017 book *From Bacteria to Bach and Back: The Evolution of Minds*, explores the origin of human consciousness from a materialist theory of mind, arguing that consciousness is no more mysterious than gravity and that natural systems can create "competence without comprehension".



Professor Daniel C. Dennett

Professor Daniel Dennett, an internationally acclaimed philosopher who specialises in the evolution of the human mind, is Charles Darwin University's 2018 Charles Darwin Scholar.

Professor Dennett's long and distinguished research career has focused on the philosophy of the mind, science, and biology - particularly how these fields relate to evolutionary biology and cognitive science – and the evolution of the human mind and what distinguishes it from other animals' minds in terms of consciousness.

Professor Dennett is the author of many books, including *Breaking the Spell* (Viking, 2006), *Darwin's Dangerous Idea* (Simon & Schuster, 1995), and most recently *From Bacteria to Bach and Back: The Evolution of Minds* (Norton, 2017), and the recipient of numerous awards including two Fulbright Fellowships, two Guggenheim Fellowships and five honorary doctorates. He was elected to the American Academy of Arts and Sciences in 1987 and was awarded the Erasmus Prize, the Netherlands' highest academic honour, presented by Queen Beatrix in Amsterdam in 2012.

Professor Dennett's visit to Charles Darwin University is being supported by a Fulbright Specialist Grant.

For further information about Professor Dennett go to ase.tufts.edu/cogstud/dennett/cv.html

For further information about the Charles Darwin Scholar Program go to:

www.cdu.edu.au/about/charles-darwin-scholar

A recording of the 2018 Charles Darwin Oration will be available on this website from October 2018.

