The Mind / Reproduction, Stress, and the Death Drive: Go With the Flow (detail)

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Haney

Interviews David Buss

Evolutionary Psychology and Intimacy: The Science of Violence, Competition, and Sex

Dr. David Buss received his PhD from the University of California, Berkeley in 1981. He is presently professor of evolutionary psychology at the University of Texas at Austin. His books include *The Murderer Next Door: Why the Mind Is Designed to Kill*, *The Dangerous Passion: Why Jealousy Is as Necessary as Love and Sex*, *The Evolution of Desire: Strategies of Human Mating*, and *Evolutionary Psychology: The New Science of the Mind*. He is currently president of the Human Behavior and Evolution Society.

Dr. Buss visited the University of Kentucky in February 2005 to participate in the Spring Seminar and Lecture Series on Intimacy sponsored by the UK Committee on Social Theory. He delivered a lecture, "The Evolution of Desire: Strategies of Human Mating," in which he presented an overview of the central ideas of the book of the same title, in light of subsequent research. During his visit, Dr. Buss was interviewed by Sean Dummitt and J. Michael Tilley, members of the *disClosure* editorial collective. In this interview, he clarifies what he sees as the central contributions evolutionary psychology can make to our understanding of human sexual relationships, explains how evolutionary psychology relates to other social scientific disciplines, and describes what he sees as its extraordinary explanatory power. He offers a defense of evolutionary psychology’s premises and methods for the purpose of dispelling what he sees as widespread misunderstanding of it. For him, evolutionary psychology’s approach is a powerful tool for self-knowledge that can help to dispel much of the confusion and subsequent interpersonal conflict surrounding issues of intimate relationships and the social environments in which these relationships are embedded.