

Free Public Lecture:

Thursday 10th June 2010, 7.00pm,
Wellcome Trust, London

Prosocial Primates: Empathy in Animals and Humans
Frans de Waal, Emory University, Atlanta, USA

In this free public lecture, the acclaimed author of *The Age of Empathy* (2009) shows how empathy comes naturally to a great variety of animals, including humans. In his work with monkeys and apes, he has found many cases of one individual coming to another's rescue in a fight, putting an arm around a previous victim of attack, or other emotional responses to the distress of others. By studying social behaviours in animals, such as bonding, the herd instinct, the forming of trusting alliances, expressions of consolation, and conflict resolution, Frans de Waal demonstrates that animals and humans are preprogrammed to reach out, questioning the assumption that humans are inherently selfish. He argues that understanding empathy's survival value in evolution can help to build a more just society based on a more accurate view of human nature.

Prof. Frans B. M. de Waal is a Dutch/American behavioural biologist known for his work on the social intelligence of primates. His first book, *Chimpanzee Politics* (1982) compared the schmoozing and scheming of chimpanzees involved in power struggles with that of human politicians. Ever since, de Waal has drawn parallels between primate and human behaviour, from peacemaking and morality to culture. His latest book is *The Age of Empathy* (2009, Harmony Books).

Places are free but you will need to register as soon as possible as numbers are limited. Please contact Betty McGrath by email: betty.mcgrath@manchester.ac.uk or phone: 0161 275 3473 to reserve a place.

This event is being run in association with a two day conference 'Humans and Other Animals: Challenging the Boundaries of Humanity' on 11th and 12th of June, at the Institute of Philosophy, London.

To register for the conference go to: www.philosophy.sas.ac.uk/HumansAnimals_reg.php

To find out more about this conference go to: www.isei.manchester.ac.uk