



What makes humans human? How are body and mind connected, and how are the sciences of the body connected with the sciences of the mind?

Evolution has left its traces on both the body and the soul. For this reason, accumulated evolutionary knowledge is a useful and indispensable underpinning for a better understanding of humans: social behaviour, moral consciousness, aggression and the inhibition of aggression, attachment behaviour, learning and intellect, political judgment and activity, as well as behavioural differences due to gender. The interlacing of nature, culture and mind is visible in all realms of humanness/human nature/humanity. This knowledge can help to expand our behavioural freedom, and with that, our freedom to act responsibly.

Responses to the first English edition:

- “Medicus has shown us both breadth and depth in his far-reaching synthesis of the physical and mental aspects of our humanity. Using classical ethology as a starting point, he then ranges widely in the natural and social sciences, especially Psychology, and beyond, for example, Philosophy. Few scholars are in a position to provide us with such a satisfying compendium on human nature.” WILLIAM MCGREW, University of Cambridge, UK, 2015.
- “To date, there is no comprehensive, unifying theory of psychology. The various subdisciplines, from psychoanalysis to the psychology of management and business, have their own theoretical underpinnings. It seems to me that Gerhard Medicus’ analytical concept lays the groundwork for a building in which all members of the family of psychology could feel at home.” Foreword by WULF SCHIEFENHÖVEL, Human Ethology Group, Max Planck Institute, Seewiesen.

From the reviews of the first German edition:

- “A fascinating book that conveys the animalistic aspects of our own mirror image in a scientifically structured and sound manner and in doing so succinctly carves out traits that, to some extent, set humans apart from animals. It adds important insights into the central question of who and what we humans really are.” HELMUT PECHLANER (2012), *Schönbrunner Tiergarten Journal* 3: 18; *Vetmed-Magazin* 2: 32
- “Clear examples enable the reader to better understand the links between human ethology, psychology and philosophy.” BARBARA ANTESBERGER (2012), *Mitteilungen aus dem Haus der Natur* 20: 106

Gerhard Medicus

Being Human

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Bridging the Gap between the Sciences of Body and Mind

