

# THE RATIONAL ANIMAL

*HOW EVOLUTION MADE US SMARTER THAN WE THINK*



DOUGLAS T. KENRICK  
& VLADAS GRISKEVICIUS

*Read by Timothy Andrés Pabon | Unabridged*

# Rational Animal

**John Peter Anton, Anthony Preus, John  
P. Anton, George L. Kustas**

## **Rational Animal:**

Dependent Rational Animals Alasdair MacIntyre, 1999-08-10 MacIntyre one of the foremost ethicists of the past half century makes a sustained argument for the centrality in well lived human lives of both virtue and local communities of giving and receiving He criticizes the mainstream of Western ethics including his own previous position for not taking seriously the dependent and animal sides of human nature thereby overemphasizing the powers of reason and the pursuit of reason and the pursuit of autonomy This important work in ethics is essential for the professional philosopher and is highly readable for students at all levels and for thoughtful citizens Choice

The Rational Animal Ludwig Huber, 2024-07-09 In this book the major and at the same time most difficult questions of comparative cognition research here called the sextet of animal intelligence are presented using good examples discussed in all their facets and finally answered with due caution Starting with the question of human rationality which is illuminated historically at the beginning and presented as a framework concept the latest research is dealt with which either revises preferred interpretation schemes or calls for new ones It is particularly important to critically question hastily conceived categorisations often derived from research on the human species and from everyday psychological notions and to consider so called animal irrationality as a mis performance from the perspective of species specific natural requirements Why is it at all important to know whether animals can act rationally intentionally or consciously The answer is because it is of both theoretical and practical relevance Theoretical relevance is twofold because it is good in itself to understand animals better but this knowledge is then also of great importance for assessing ourselves This brings up the practical relevance we are not only surrounded by animals we live with animals we live from animals Yet we see ourselves as separate from them in important ways Consciousness language and rationality are essential characteristics with which we justify our human uniqueness and thus our superiority and ultimately our right to dominate and use animals in many ways If an animal can feel pain we feel obliged to avoid inflicting unnecessary pain on it But yet we do not accord it the special inherent value and dignity associated with consciousness and rationality This has far reaching consequences for human action and the coexistence of humans and animals

**The Rational Animal** Douglas T. Kenrick, Vidas Griskevicius, 2013-09-10 Why do three out of four professional football players go bankrupt How can illiterate jungle dwellers pass a test that tricks Harvard philosophers And why do billionaires work so hard only to give their hard earned money away When it comes to making decisions the classic view is that humans are eminently rational But growing evidence suggests instead that our choices are often irrational biased and occasionally even moronic Which view is right or is there another possibility In this animated tour of the inner workings of the mind psychologist Douglas T Kenrick and business professor Vidas Griskevicius challenge the prevailing views of decision making and present a new alternative grounded in evolutionary science By connecting our modern behaviors to their ancestral roots they reveal that underneath our seemingly foolish tendencies is an exceptionally wise system of decision making From investing money to choosing a job

from buying a car to choosing a romantic partner our choices are driven by deep seated evolutionary goals Because each of us has multiple evolutionary goals though new research reveals something radical there s more than one you making decisions Although it feels as if there is just one single self inside your head your mind actually contains several different subselves each one steering you in a different direction when it takes its turn at the controls The Rational Animal will transform the way you think about decision making And along the way you ll discover the intimate connections between ovulating strippers Wall Street financiers testosterone crazed skateboarders Steve Jobs Elvis Presley and you

**Rational Animals?** Susan Hurley,Matthew Nudds,2006 To what extent can animal behaviour be described as rational What does it even mean to describe behaviour as rational This book focuses on one of the major debates in science today how closely does mental processing in animals resemble mental processing in humans It addresses the question of whether and to what extent non human animals are rational that is whether any animal behaviour can be regarded as the result of a rational thought processes It does this with attention to three key questions which recur throughout the book and which have both empirical and philosophical aspects What kinds of behavioural tasks can animals successfully perform What if any mental processes must be postulated to explain their performance at these tasks What properties must processes have to count as rational The book is distinctive in pursuing these questions not only in relation to our closest relatives the primates whose intelligence usually gets the most attention but also in relation to birds and dolphins where striking results are also being obtained Some chapters focus on a particular species They describe some of the extraordinary and complex behaviour of these species using tools in novel ways to solve foraging problems for example or behaving in novel ways to solve complex social problems and ask whether such behaviour should be explained in rational or merely mechanistic terms Other chapters address more theoretical issues and ask for example what it means for behaviour to be rational and whether rationality can be understood in the absence of language The book includes many of the world s leading figures doing empirical work on rationality in primates dolphins and birds as well as distinguished philosophers of mind and science The book includes an editors introduction which summarises the philosophical and empirical work presented and draws together the issues discussed by the contributors

**Man the Rational Animal** Edo Pivcevic,2019-12-13 To know that something is the case if closely considered turns out to be no more than to believe with good evidence that something is the case and beliefs however well supported by evidence do not yield certainty So the question is what kind of evidence is sufficient to justify a knowledge claim And most important of all What kind of beliefs do qualify as rational This challenging and refreshingly innovative book addresses certain fundamental questions concerning the rational legitimacy of some widely held beliefs and provides argument based answers to such questions while at the same time encouraging the reader to actively engage with the views put forward and form his her own judgment The book is typically discursive rather than merely informative and introduces philosophy by doing it

**The Analysis of Virtue in Alasdair Macintyre and His View of "The Enlightenment**

**Project”** Benjamin Okon MSP,2016-04-15 MacIntyre is greatly discontented with the nature of contemporary morality which according to him has a form i e what appears like morality but lacks essential content He argues that the most common feature of contemporary ethical discourse is that much of it is used to express individual preferences which leads to disagreements among philosophers and eventually results in debates that are interminable in character MacIntyre attributes the cause of this situation to the activities of the enlightenment philosophers of the 17th and 18th centuries who in an attempt to find rational justification for morality repudiated those essential elements that define the essence of morality and give it its contents Such elements include historical narrative tradition teleology and divine law In MacIntyres opinion morality so constructed was destined for failure since it was not founded on the true nature of the human person The obvious consequences of this failure were the birth of diverse post enlightenment ethical theories and a substantial change in the conception of virtue In order to remedy this deplorable condition of contemporary ethics MacIntyre along with other virtue ethicists advocates a certain renaissance of ethical principles that are founded on the true nature of the human person characterized by historical narrative tradition and teleology all grounded on divine legislation Morality thus reconstructed finds its fullest expression in the theory of human character traits i e virtues This is what has motivated MacIntyres construction of virtue theory which has brought him into confrontation with the enlightenment philosophers Our study and analysis of MacIntyres theory of virtue reveals that his account of virtue is inadequate This inadequacy is what has motivated our own project of reconstructing MacIntyres theory of virtue in view of offering an account of virtue that is adequate In this way our own project complements that of MacIntyre

**A Rational Animal and Other Philosophical Essays on the Nature of Man** Antony Flew,1978 These philosophical essays are related by a concern to develop and defend and Aristotelian view that we are both essentially and entirely creatures of mortal flesh and blood and uniquely rational animals

**Heidegger and the Essence of Man** Michel Haar,1993-01-01 Michel Haar argues that Heidegger went too far in transferring all traditional properties of man to being Haar examines what is left after this displacement not only of human identity but perhaps more importantly of nature life embodiment of the flesh of human existence This sensitive yet critical reading of Heidegger raises such issues in relation to questions of language technology human freedom and history In doing so it provides a compelling argument for the need to rethink what it means to be human

*The Routledge Handbook of Philosophy of Animal Minds* Kristin Andrews,Jacob Beck,2017-07-06 While philosophers have been interested in animals since ancient times in the last few decades the subject of animal minds has emerged as a major topic in philosophy The Routledge Handbook of Philosophy of Animal Minds is an outstanding reference source to the key topics problems and debates in this exciting subject and is the first collection of its kind Comprising nearly fifty chapters by a team of international contributors the Handbook is divided into eight parts Mental representation Reasoning and metacognition Consciousness Mindreading Communication Social cognition and culture Association simplicity and modeling Ethics Within

these sections central issues debates and problems are examined including whether and how animals represent and reason about the world how animal cognition differs from human cognition whether animals are conscious whether animals represent their own mental states or those of others how animals communicate the extent to which animals have cultures how to choose among competing models and explanations of animal behavior and whether animals are moral agents and or moral patients The Routledge Handbook of Philosophy of Animal Minds is essential reading for students and researchers in philosophy of mind philosophy of psychology ethics and related disciplines such as ethology biology psychology linguistics and anthropology

Words and Images Christopher Gauker, 2011-06-30 At least since Locke philosophers and psychologists have usually held that concepts arise out of sensory perceptions thoughts are built from concepts and language enables speakers to convey their thoughts to hearers Christopher Gauker holds that this tradition is mistaken about both concepts and language The mind cannot abstract the building blocks of thoughts from perceptual representations More generally we have no account of the origin of concepts that grants them the requisite independence from language Gauker's alternative is to show that much of cognition consists in thinking by means of mental imagery without the help of concepts and that language is a tool by which interlocutors coordinate their actions in pursuit of shared goals Imagistic cognition supports the acquisition and use of this tool and when the use of this tool is internalized it becomes the very medium of conceptual thought

The Heirs of Avicenna: Philosophy in the Islamic East, 12-13th Centuries Peter Adamson, Fedor Beneviseh, Dustin Klinger, 2025-01-27 This is the second in a series of sourcebooks charting the reception of Avicenna Ibn Sina 1037 in the Islamic East from Syria to central Asia in the 12th 13th centuries CE Moving on from the metaphysical and theological concerns covered in the first book this volume looks at issues in logic and epistemology in the reception of Avicenna's thought Across dozens of authors and hundreds of passages the translated material covers a wide range of topics including the subject matter of logic the nature of knowledge and self knowledge questions in philosophy of language and syllogistic theory and paradoxes

What It Is to Exist Patrick Zoll, 2022-10-24 One important task of metaphysics is to answer the question of what it is for an object to exist The first part of this book offers a systematic reconstruction and critique of contemporary views on existence The upshot of this part is that the contemporary debate has reached an impasse because none of the considered views is able to formulate a satisfactory answer to this fundamental metaphysical question The second part reconstructs Thomas Aquinas's view on existence *esse* and argues that it contributes a new perspective which allows us to see why the contemporary debate has reached this impasse It has come to this point because it has taken a premise for granted which Aquinas's view rejects namely that the existence of an object consists in something's having a property A decisive contribution of Aquinas's theory of *esse* is that it makes use of the ideas of metaphysical participation and composition In this way it can be explained how an object can have *esse* without being the case that *esse* is a property of it This book brings together a reconstruction from the history of philosophy with a systematic study on existence and is

therefore relevant for scholars interested in contemporary or medieval theories of existence      *Nelson Goodman's Theory of Symbols and Its Applications* Catherine Z. Elgin, 1997 A challenger of traditions and boundaries A pivotal figure in 20th century philosophy Nelson Goodman has made seminal contributions to metaphysics epistemology aesthetics and the philosophy of language with surprising connections that cut across traditional boundaries In the early 1950s Goodman Quine and White published a series of papers that threatened to torpedo fundamental assumptions of traditional philosophy They advocated repudiating analyticity necessity and prior assumptions Some philosophers realizing the seismic effects repudiation would cause argued that philosophy should retain the familiar framework Others considered the arguments compelling but despaired of doing philosophy without the framework Goodman disagreed with both factions Rather than regretting the loss of structure he capitalized on the opportunities that arise when the strictures of tradition are loosened

**Theological Ethics through a Multispecies Lens** Celia E. Deane-Drummond, 2019-11-05 There are two driving questions informing this book The first is where does our moral life come from It presupposes that considering morality broadly is inadequate Instead different aspects need to be teased apart It is not sufficient to assume that different virtues are bolted onto a vicious animality red in tooth and claw Nature and culture have interlaced histories By weaving in evolutionary theories and debates on the evolution of compassion justice and wisdom it shows a richer account of who we are as moral agents The second driving question concerns our relationships with animals Deane Drummond argues for a complex community based multispecies approach Hence rather than extending rights a more radical approach is a holistic multispecies framework for moral action This need not weaken individual responsibility She intends not to develop a manual of practice but rather to build towards an alternative philosophically informed approach to theological ethics including animal ethics The theological thread weaving through this account is wisdom Wisdom has many different levels and in the broadest sense is connected with the flow of life understood in its interconnectedness and sociality It is profoundly theological and practical In naming the project the evolution of wisdom Deane Drummond makes a statement about where wisdom may have come from and its future orientation But justice compassion and conscience are not far behind especially in so far as they are relevant to both individual decision making and institutions      **Avicenna, ›The Healing, Logic: Isagoge‹** Avicenna, Silvia Di Vincenzo, 2021-04-19 This book offers a new edition with English translation and commentary of the Kit b al Mad al which opens Avicenna's d 1037 most comprehensive summa of Peripatetic philosophy namely the Kit b al if For the first time the text is established together with a stemma codicum showing the genealogical relations among 34 manuscripts the twelfth century Latin translation and the literal quotations by Avicenna's first and second generation students In this book Avicenna's reappraisal of Porphyry's Isagoge is examined from both a historical and a philosophical point of view The key features of Avicenna's theory of predicables are analyzed in the General Introduction and in the Commentary both in their own right and against the background of the Greek and Arabic exegetical tradition Readers shall find in this book the

first systematic study of the Mad al which in addition to being the only logical work of the if ever transmitted in its entirety both in Arabic and in Latin is crucial for understanding Avicenna s conception of universal predicables at the crossroads between logic and metaphysics      **Self-knowledge for Humans** Quassim Cassam,2014 Humans are not model epistemic citizens Our reasoning can be careless our beliefs eccentric and our desires irrational Quassim Cassam develops a new account of self knowledge which recognises this feature of human life He argues that self knowledge is a genuine cognitive achievement and that self ignorance is almost always on the cards      Seneca: Selected Philosophical Letters Lucius Annaeus Seneca,2007-05-24 Seneca s Letters to Lucilius are a rich source of information about ancient Stoicism an influential work for early modern philosophers and a fascinating philosophical document in their own right This selection of the letters aims to include those which are of greatest philosophical interest especially those which highlight the debates between Stoics and Platonists or Aristotelians in the first century AD and the issue still important today of how technical philosophical enquiry is related to the various purposes for which philosophy is practised In addition to examining the philosophical content of each letter Brad Inwood s commentary discusses the literary and historical background of the letters and to their relationship with other prose works by Seneca Seneca is the earliest Stoic author for whom we have access to a large number of complete works and these works were highly influential in later centuries He was also a politically influential advisor to the Roman emperor Nero and a celebrated author of prose and verse His philosophical acuity and independence of mind make his works exciting and challenging for the modern reader CLARENDON LATER ANCIENT PHILOSOPHERS General Editors Jonathan Barnes and A A Long This series is designed to encourage philosophers and students of philosophy to explore the fertile terrain of later ancient philosophy The texts range in date from the first century BC to the fifth century AD and will cover all the parts and all the schools of philosophy Each volume contains a substantial introduction an English translation and a critical commentary on the philosophical claims and arguments of the text The translations aim primarily at accuracy and fidelity but they are also readable and accompanied by notes on textual problems that affect the philosophical interpretation No knowledge of Greek or Latin is assumed      **Philippa Foot on Goodness and Virtue** John Hacker-Wright,2018-08-09 This volume focuses on controversial issues that stem from Philippa Foot s later writings on natural goodness which are at the center of contemporary discussions of virtue ethics The chapters address questions about how Foot relates judgments of moral goodness to human nature how Foot understands happiness and addresses objections to her framework from the perspective of empirical biology The volume will be of value to any student or scholar with an interest in virtue ethics and analytic moral philosophy      **Essays in Ancient Greek Philosophy V** John Peter Anton,Anthony Preus,John P. Anton,George L. Kustas,1992-01-01 Selected for topic and merit from presentations at annual meetings of the Society for Ancient Greek Philosophy 14 essays wrangle with the enduring questions and issues of Aristotle s logic methodology and the Metaphysics and his view of being and soul Indexed by names concepts and classical passages cited Also in paper not seen



16 95 Annotation copyrighted by Book News Inc Portland OR      **Discerning Religious Truth** Hamza Karamali, 2025-12-31  
Discerning Religious Truth comprehensively gathers all the substantial questions and debates of Islamic logic that are mentioned in these mature works of logic supplements them with a selection of important questions from other important manuals in Islamic logic kalam and falsafa unravels their layered organization into a more readable linear organization and then re expresses them in a fluid English style that uses the technical vocabulary of modern analytic philosophy It is this last point that is most important the re expression of the questions and debates of traditional Islamic logic in the technical vocabulary of modern analytic philosophy and this is why this book is subtitled Islamic Logic in the Language of Modern Analytic Philosophy

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