

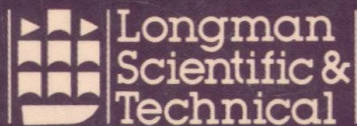
ANOTHER UNIQUE SPECIES

Humans are unique. No other animal has our capacity for communication, complex social interaction, technological innovation and adaptability. No other primate is bipedal, nor has such a large brain relative to its body size. And yet this uniqueness is the product of straightforward evolutionary processes.

Another Unique Species tackles this paradox by looking at how uniqueness arises for all species through the mechanism of natural selection. It does so by examining problems that early hominids faced in their environment, and at the types of solution selection might have favoured. This approach emphasizes the fact that different animals may share the same problems, of survival, and so a comparative approach to adaptation – the evolution of biological solutions – is possible. Adaptive problems that have been important in human evolution include those of living in tropical environments, being a large mammal, being a ground-dwelling primate, living in a seasonal environment, and being part of a competitive ecosystem. By comparing hominid solutions to these problems it is possible to see how humans can be a unique species, and also just *another* unique species.

Robert Foley's book will appeal to students and researchers in anthropology, archaeology, zoology and evolutionary biology, as well as to the general reader with an interest in biology and anthropology.

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