

'Intelligence' has long been considered to be a feature unique to human beings, giving us the capacity to imagine, to think, to deceive, to make complex connections between cause and effect, to devise elaborate strategies for solving problems. However, like all our other features, intelligence is a product of evolutionary change. Until recently, it was difficult to obtain evidence of this process from the frail testimony of a few bones and stone tools. It has become clear in the last 15 years that the origins of human intelligence *can* be investigated by the comparative study of primates, our closest non-human relatives, giving strong impetus to the case for an 'evolutionary psychology', the scientific study of the origins of the mind.

**Dr Byrne** has written a thoroughly readable exploration of this fascinating topic, enhanced by numerous illustrations and photographs. *The Thinking Ape* presents a new synthesis of the evidence from extensive field studies of primate behaviour and the most modern data on our genetic relationship to non-humans, showing a gradual accumulation of intellectual skills over 30 million years of evolution.

*From reviews*

'An original and interesting thesis that will appeal to general readers as well as researchers in the field.'

*Nature* (Dr Cecilia Heyes)

'A book that is long overdue. Dick Byrne has done us a valuable service in producing an erudite, yet simply written, overview of the current state of knowledge in this area . . . This book sets the scene so clearly that it will surely prove to be essential reading for anyone embarking on the study of primate cognition and behaviour.'

*Trends in Ecology and Evolution* (Professor Robin Dunbar)

'This book is an important contribution to primatology and makes wonderful material for 'hot' debates in classes and graduate seminars.'

*Animal Behaviour* (Dr Elisabetta Visalberghi)

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