

Lecture Two: Minds and Groups

That the human mind-in-culture is somehow a collective enterprise is a notion that has been difficult to rationalize. Physically, humans are separate individuals; psychologically, each of us has an autonomous will. How then can a group be anything other than a collection of individuals, each pursuing his or her own ends in collaboration with or in competition with others?

The three essay-reviews that make up this lecture deal with this question in connection with cultural and society as a whole, visual art (both in Rock Art), music (Synch, Song) and literature (Signposts). The music argument is the critical one, for it suggests how a group of humans can interact in such a way that we may consider their nervous systems as a single coupled system. This is not, of course, a permanent condition. It is temporary. But it is through the cyclic repetition of such temporary states that groups of clever apes transformed themselves into human beings.

Rock Art in Darwin's Cathedral

<http://human-nature.com/ep/reviews/ep012841.html>

Synch, Song and Society. A review of Steven Mithen, *The Singing Neanderthals: The Origins of Music, Language, Mind and Body* [not online yet, but I can supply it when needed]

Signposts for a Naturalist Criticism.

<http://www.entelechyjournal.com/billbenzon.html>