

Prof Daniel **Dennett**

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Title: Consciousness and free will evolved together

Abstract: The cultural evolution of thinking tools gave our brains a bounty of opportunities and problems: the power to adjust our actions by recognizing and acting on reasons, but too many degrees of freedom to control. Human consciousness is the arena in which the competitions of self-control play out.

Bio: Daniel Dennett is 2018 Charles Darwin Scholar. He is the author of many books, including *Breaking the Spell* (Viking, 2006), *Darwin's Dangerous Idea* (Simon and Schuster, 1995), and recently *From Bacteria to Bach and Back: The Evolution of Minds* (Norton, 2017). Dennett is the Director of the Center for Cognitive Studies at Tufts University. He has delivered many talks, including not only the John Locke Lectures at Oxford in 1983, but also the Young Lectures at Adelaide in 1985. He has received two Guggenheim Fellowships, two Fulbright Fellowships, and five honorary doctorates. He has been elected to the American Academy of Arts and Science, and he has been awarded the Erasmus Prize (the highest, academic honour in the Netherlands—an honour bequeathed by Queen Beatrice in Amsterdam).