

Peaceable bonobos, violent chimpanzees and the evolution of human behavior

Tuesday, August 27, 2019

7-8:30 p.m.

Anheuser-Busch Theater

The Living World

Free admission

No reservations needed



Featured speaker:

Richard Wrangham, Ph.D., Professor of Biological Anthropology, Harvard University.

Dr. Wrangham, a primate behavioral ecologist, has studied wild chimpanzees in Kibale National Park, Uganda, since 1987.

Domesticated animals such as dogs, pigs and horses often sport floppy ears, patches of white hair, and other features that are rare or unknown in their wild ancestors. These traits—collectively referred to by scientists as a “domestication syndrome”—are found when selection favors reduced aggression.

Drawing from his new book, “The Goodness Paradox,” Richard Wrangham will show that our cousin apes, the bonobos, also exhibit a domestication syndrome, and he will suggest why they do so. Self-domestication is likely a widespread phenomenon in the wild. It even appears responsible for the origin of our own species, *Homo sapiens*.

This lecture is co-sponsored by the Living Earth Collaborative.

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