



REVIEWS AND BRIEF NOTICES

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HISTORY, PHILOSOPHY, AND ETHICS OF BIOLOGY

SCIENCE, POLITICS AND EVOLUTION. *Cambridge Studies in Philosophy and Biology*.

By Elisabeth A. Lloyd. *Cambridge and New York: Cambridge University Press*. \$85.00. vii + 301 p.; ill.; index. ISBN: 978-0-521-86570-8. 2008.

This book brings together 12 papers that examine topics such as the group selection debate, the role of evolutionary theory in psychology, and interactions between feminism and objectivity in science. As such, it represents a stimulating and broad compilation of articles from a well-recognized figure in the philosophy of science.

The papers all share a focus on how one determines when one scientific theory is supported over other theories. Although I do not agree with some of the conclusions the author draws, she certainly provides an interesting perspective and illustrates the importance of being very clear about the nature of the debate and our assumptions when comparing theory and data. A limitation of the volume is, however, that it is only a compilation of already published papers. There are no introductory notes or background from Lloyd or other researchers in the field. Since the articles span a few decades, many of them do not address more recent work in the field (e.g., the ongoing levels of selection debate). These essays are more historical and demonstrate a general approach rather than a current synthesis of the field. They also lack the background necessary to introduce new students of

philosophy or science to these complex topics. Therefore, the audience for this book may be limited to those that know this area very well already. I find this unfortunate because with some introductory notes inserted between the chapters to provide background and a modern update (much like those in W. D. Hamilton's collected papers), this book could provide many biologists with a different perspective on what it means to test and support theory, as well as possibly shed light on some of the new debates in which we currently find ourselves embroiled.

SUZANNE H. ALONZO, *Ecology & Evolutionary Biology*, Yale University, New Haven, Connecticut

BABIES BY DESIGN: THE ETHICS OF GENETIC CHOICE.

By Ronald M. Green. *A Caravan Book*. New Haven (Connecticut): Yale University Press. \$26.00. vii + 279 p.; ill.; index. ISBN: 978-0-300-12456-7. 2007.

The author has written a concise, readable introduction to the vexing issues raised by reproductive genetic technology. *Babies by Design* has several virtues for a short volume on a complex subject: it offers a lucid exposition of cutting-edge science and technology, it clearly outlines most of the plausible arguments for and against various applications of biotechnology, and it takes science fiction seriously—not merely as a source of striking vignettes, but as an imaginative meditation on an uncertain future. Falling in between popular ac-