



THE UNIVERSITY OF
WESTERN AUSTRALIA
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Animal Psychology and Human Nature:

A Historical Perspective

INSTITUTE OF ADVANCED STUDIES

Masterclass with
David Konstan, Professor of
Classics, New York University

How we view animals has a lot to tell us about how we view ourselves, as human beings. In classical antiquity, it was widely supposed that animals lacked reason (what the Greeks called *logos*), and that consequently they did not even have emotions in the full sense of the word. But what is reason, and can we use it to draw a boundary between ourselves and other species?

In this Masterclass, we will begin by examining the ancient arguments, and then proceed to consider how they may help illuminate (or not) modern views of human versus animal nature. Perspectives from a wide variety of modern disciplines will be most welcome.

This Masterclass is presented by the Institute of Advanced Studies at UWA and the ARC Centre of Excellence for the History of Emotions.



About David Konstan

David Konstan is Professor of Classics at New York University and Professor Emeritus of Classics and Comparative Literature at Brown University.

David Konstan's research focuses on ancient Greek and Latin literature, and on classical and Hellenistic philosophy. In recent years, he has investigated the emotions and value concepts of classical Greece in Rome.

Among his books are *Roman Comedy* (1983), *Sexual Symmetry: Love in the Ancient Novel and Related Genres* (1994), *Greek Comedy and Ideology* (1995), *Friendship in the Classical World* (1977), *Pity Transformed* (2001), *The Emotions of the Ancient Greeks* (2006), *"A Life Worthy of the Gods": The Materialist Psychology of Epicurus* (2008), and *Before Forgiveness: The Origins of a Moral Idea* (2010). He is currently working on a book on ancient conceptions of beauty, and also a study of remorse and repentance in classical and early Jewish and Christian thought.

Professor Konstan is a visiting UWA Institute of Advanced Studies Professor-at-Large.

Masterclass Details

Date: Thursday 23 August 2012

Time: 10am-4pm (includes a light lunch)

Venue: Old Senate Room, IAS, UWA

Cost: Free but **registration is essential.**

Register via:

<http://www.ias.uwa.edu.au/masterclass>

Registration close: 16 August or until full.

Enquiries: 6488 1340 or ias@uwa.edu.au

- The IAS Masterclass provides an opportunity for postgraduate students and early career researchers to meet and discuss their research with a distinguished visiting scholar.
- Participants will present short papers within the framework of the stated topic, which will then be opened for discussion by the group. Places are available for those who wish to participate in the discussion, but do not wish to give a paper.
- Interested postgraduate students, early career researchers and academics from all relevant disciplines at all Perth universities are invited to attend, as well as those working in relevant fields.

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