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# Why psychiatrists shouldn't care about evolutionary psychiatry.

Andreas De Block\*<sup>1</sup>

<sup>1</sup>University of Leuven – Belgium

## Abstract

Most philosophical critiques of evolutionary psychiatry focus on the explanations that evolutionary psychiatrists have produced to account for the spread and/or persistence of particular mental disorders (Adriaens 2007; Faucher & Blanchette 2011). My critique is more fundamental. I argue that even if the proposed evolutionary explanations for depression, autism, and schizophrenia would be supported by all the available evidence, the value of evolutionary psychiatry for the rest of psychiatry would still be very limited. If true, my argument subverts the claims made by both evolutionary psychiatrists (Nesse 2008, Nesse & Jackson 2006) and philosophical proponents of evolutionary accounts of mental disorders (Murphy & Stich 2000). In their view, evolutionary psychiatry should be the foundation for psychiatric theory and practice. By scrutinizing and rebutting four arguments of Nesse and three arguments of Murphy and Stich in favour of their view, I will show that the assumed added value for psychiatry is either not an added value at all, or that the added value cannot be brought about by evolutionary psychiatry.

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\*Speaker