

Review of: "Femmes finales: natural selection, physiology, and the return of the repressed"

Olen Brown¹

¹ University of Missouri - Columbia

Potential competing interests: No potential competing interests to declare.

The author, David Haig, scholarly addresses central issues with Darwinian evolution, including its modern variants in a unique and interesting way. He strongly uses direct quotations to provide evidence that engages the reader; however, he does not shrink from providing his own, equally-strong, opinions. It is refreshing to read his words about Darwinian evolution provided with a point of view, but that artfully escapes criticism justly due to many authors on all sides of this subject. I strongly recommend it for the thoughtful reader- scientist, historian, philosopher, and others.

I provide some recommendations for the author's consideration. The article title (although, almost the author's sacred domain), is suitably captivating but obscure. Consider revision, even if only to place natural selection first; also 'the repressed' is vague and I suggest it will be understood by most readers only as the reader delves into the article.

The abstract dives too abruptly into the depths of the subject, and a more informative initial sentence would be welcome to this reader. I like the brief, introductory, attributed quotations (example: as used prior to the introduction). Specific words are artfully used to link important concepts. I suggest that this may be a bit obscure for many readers who would appreciate a little more direct 'explanation', including associations (examples: teleology, final causes).

Sections 2 and 3: the transitions are abrupt, and better introductory sentences would be helpful (I suggest, to many readers). Consider that 3.6. might be better as 4. I do like 'guilty secrets'. Consider adding a reference in the last paragraph for Cartesian dualism.