

[kommende Veranstaltungen](#)

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Terrence W. Deacon: "On Human (Symbolic) Nature: How the Word Became Flesh", March 29th 2019, 6:00 pm, public lecture, FEST & gerprag.net, Marsilius-Kolleg der Universität Heidelberg (Im Neuenheimer Feld 130.1).

The concept of human nature has been challenged by social scientists because of its inability to clearly delineate the distinction between the biologically inherited and experientially acquired attributes of being human. Yet the very fact of being susceptible to acquired cultural influences irrelevant to other species makes clear that this is an evolutionarily constrained susceptibility. Symbolic processes are the source of the most

important and distinctively human acquired influences, and include both linguistically mediated and habitually reproduced social conventions.

Susceptibility to these influences arose due to the evolution of neurological adaptations that support symbolic communication and cognition.

Although human brains do not include any structures that lack ape homologues, the slight reorganization that made symbolic abilities ubiquitous has also

created the possibility for socially transmitted information to radically reorganize mental functions. In this lecture I re-analyze the concept of symbolic reference in order to overcome equivocal and ambiguous uses of the concept that obscure the special nature of these adaptations and thus blind research to the complex bio-cultural interactions that produce some of the most ubiquitous and unprecedented features of being human. These include modifications of memory functions, emotional experiences, the nature of identity, and the range of mental plasticity.

FEST and gerprag.net in cooperation with Marsilius-Kolleg and Philosophisches Seminar, Universität Heidelberg

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PD Dr. Christian Tewes, christian.tewes@fest-heidelberg.de

"The Symbolic Mind. Investigating Religious and Aesthetic Experiences", 30th March 2019, 10:00 pm, Workshop with Prof. Terrence Deacon, FEST in cooperation with gerprag.net, FEST Heidelberg.



Further information: please click the poster for an abstract and details about the workshop organization.

All sections are based on papers or chapters (by Terrence Deacon) that are available for interested participants in advance.

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**Volker Jung: Digital Mensch bleiben, 2. April 2019, 18 Uhr c.t.,
 öffentlicher Vortrag im Rahmen des JOUR FIXE an der FEST, Heidelberg**



Informationen zum Vortragsthema und Referenten erhalten Sie durch Klicken auf das nebenstehende Bild.

Ort: FEST, Schmeilweg 5, 69118 Heidelberg

Die Teilnahme ist kostenlos.

Anmeldung erbeten unter: jour-fixe@fest-heidelberg.de

**"Umsetzung kirchlicher Klimaschutzkonzepte", 11./12. November 2019,
 Fachtagung, Burkardushaus - Tagungszentrum am Dom, Würzburg**

Fachtagung in Kooperation mit dem Büro für Umwelt und Energie der Ev.
Landeskirche in Baden, dem Institut für Kirche und Gesellschaft der Ev.
Kirche von Westfalen und dem Bistum Würzburg

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