



How leaders emerge in groups

Leadership is an evolved trait helping groups (including organisations and companies) function effectively. Whenever a group of people interact, a leader-follower relationship almost always emerges: the leader is someone who chooses to choose first, while a follower is someone who chooses to 'wait and see'.

A study of leadership can provide insights on the success and failure of business leaders, consumer fashions and trends, strategies of financial traders, or pricing in competitive markets. An evolutionary perspective on leadership can give us new understanding about what leadership is, why it matters and how it comes about.

You can watch a podcast interview (in the Evolution and Society topic) in which Dr Edward Cartwright, University of Kent, talks about leadership, followership and evolution.



Further reading

- Edward Cartwright, Mark Van Vugt: "Why some people chooses to be leaders: The emergence of leadership in groups and organizations"