



## **Homo Evolutis**

*Juan Enriquez, Steve Gullans*

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There have been at least 25 prototype humans. We are but one more model, and there is no evidence evolution has stopped. So unless you think Rush Limbaugh and Howard Stern are the be all and end all of creation, and it just does not get any better, then one has to ask what is next? Juan Enriquez and Steve Gullans, two of the world's most eminent science authors, researchers, and entrepreneurs, answer this by taking you into a world where humans increasingly shape their environment, their own selves, and other species. It is a world where our bodies harbor 100 times more microbial cells than human cells, a place where a gene cocktail may allow many more to climb an 8,000 meter peak without oxygen, and where, given the right drug, one could have a 77 percent chance of becoming a centenarian. By the end you will see a broad, and sometimes scary, map of life science driven change. Not just our bodies will be altered but our core religious, government, and social structures as humankind makes the transition to a new species, a *Homo evolutis*, which directly and deliberately controls its own evolution and that of many other species.

## **Homo Evolutis Details**

Date : Published January 25th 2011 by TEDBooks (first published October 13th 2010)

ISBN :

Author : Juan Enriquez , Steve Gullans

Format : Kindle Edition 58 pages

Genre : Nonfiction, Science, Biology, Evolution

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## From Reader Review Homo Evolutis for online ebook

### Manuel says

The provided information, the new knowledge are, without argument from me, interesting. I was glad to have read this book.

Now let me get to the reason, why the star rating is not better: Style, layout, editing  
Name it like you want

- Single sentence paragraphs

It makes you feel like you read a constant stream of yellow press tabloid headlines

- Humor

Now and then a quick one liners have been funny and made a good job of making the text lighter. Most of the time they felt too much, inappropriate and I could see before my inner eyes, how the author was just too delightedly giggling over his own funniness. I don't ask for dust-dry scientific lectures, but this was just too forced

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### Jason says

#### Very informative

This short book discusses various ways that our species could be still evolving. It is a very entertaining, and educational book.

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### Marios says

Watch some of Juan Enriquez presentations and you may notice the following: Short sentence. Pause. Short sentence. Silence. Then a fact(quote, picture or number) is introduced and the audience laughs.

More into his talk and again: short sentence, pause, short sentence, silence. Fact. Only this time the audience remains silent. In wonder, disbelief, awe. Of that mind-boggling scientific discovery that was just revealed. And casually and calmly the speaker goes on to say this happened in that lab, it is currently in experimental stage, but well in a couple of years such and such will happen therefore it's not so difficult to imagine it applied to humans in order to solve this particular problem. And then he usually hints: why not imagine that discovery going even further, not just helping mankind(e.g. restoring health) but enhancing/upgrading mankind too? Enter Homo Evolutis. Fascinating.

I really enjoy Juan Enriquez style and his insights and I do love science and technology.  
So how could this book go wrong?

First of all, I believe it tried to imitate that same speaking style which is not easy on paper. It can be tiring, I found it rather unpleasant. Especially in the introduction where not many unknown or exiting things were mentioned. Actually I was confident it was only a humorous attempt to start off the book and then a normal

main essay would follow. Alas. It was all like that, very strange in style indeed. I was expecting an essay and what I got was a series of questions, statements, facts, sometimes left unanswered, sometimes answered in a provocative way, sometimes answered with humor. It would still be great stimulation and great food for thought except...except nothing much was new.

And here is my biggest complaint. If you have watched some of the author's talks there are not many more things you will learn by this book. There is no further elaboration on this subject, no philosophical discussion about the impact of this kind of progress on society, even the examples used are the same. Admittedly you will learn some new(and interesting) facts but not enough to justify even the low 2.99 price of this ebook. In my opinion I believe you will be better off going on youtube or TED and enjoy the author presenting these ideas himself or/and wait for the eventual hardcover to be published.

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### **Mateo Grisales says**

Homo Evolutis by Juan Enriquez and Steve Gullans (two of the world's most important science authors, and researchers) is a very complete book about scientifical speculation on what would be the evolution after the homo sapiens (us). There have been at least 25 prototype humans. By the end you will see a map of life change. Not just our bodies will change but our religion, government, and social structures in general; all of these makes the transition to a new species, Homo Evolutis. This book is perfect to people that have asked themselves, what's next?

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### **Alejandro says**

While addressing a very important topic related to genetics, explanations are a little too brief even considering this is an eBook. A follow up of this very rough walk through is absolutely needed to dig deeper into the really interesting topics. Its huge spaces between sentences make it easy to read, adding to the fast-paced writing style Enriquez has, even though it also contributes to the feeling in the end that very little has been added from the TED talk that also deals with this concept.

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### **Maciej says**

TED- super! Ksi??ki na podstawie TEDa- jeszcze lepiej!

No w?a?nie nie do ko?ca. Temat ciekawy, w ?rodku te? troch? interesuj?cych informacji, ale...

Matko Boska ?artobliwa, kto to sk?ada?! Gdzie by? redaktor, kiedy wypuszczali do sklepu t? ksi??k??! 3 do 4 ró?nych rozmiarów czcionek na jednej stronie. Akapity w losowych miejscach. 15-to stronicowy wst?p o tym jacy to kreacjoni?ci s? g?upi (ka?dy to wie - po co pisa? o tym przez 15 stron, które mo?na zape?ni? ciekawymi informacjami). Naprawd?, nie da?o si? lepiej? A mo?e "lepiej" autorzy planuj? dopiero w nadchodz?cej pe?noprawnej publikacji (o której panowie wspominaj? ze trzy razy w stylu "tu tylko o tym wspomnimy, ale w naszej mega-uber ksi??ce b?dzie to porz?dnie omówione" arghh).

Tragedii mo?e nie ma, ale niestety ci??ko poleci?...

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## **Book says**

Homo Evolutis by Juan Enriquez and Steve Gullans

Homo Evolutis is not your typical book, it's more like a presentation of fascinating facts. This short book is about the next prototype human, Homo Evolutis. The authors in sharp-shooting fashion shoot scientific facts about their theory while immersing humor more akin to pranksters. It's interesting, it's mind-blowing science and it works. The short book of 58 pages is composed of seven chapters.

Positives:

1. The theory of a new species, Homo Evolutis.
2. You want facts, you can't handle the facts!
3. It's fascinating, succinct, humorous and scientifically profound while remaining accessible to the masses.
4. Interesting open format, never boring.
5. Thought provoking.
6. Accelerated evolution, right before our eyes?
7. Thinking outside the box, that's what TED is about and this book exemplifies that.
8. Knowledge as an appetizer, sweet indeed.
9. Like a great perfume some of the best ideas do come in a small bottle.

Negatives

1. Not a traditional book. It does not contain well-written engaging prose. It feels more like a PowerPoint presentation.
2. The open formatting will upset the traditionalist.
3. Felt more like a great appetizer than the main entree.
4. Need more scientific proof before we can truly reach the conclusions sought.

In summary, Homo Evolutis is the ultimate tease of science. In a mere 58 pages the authors in a humoristic yet scientifically sound tone introduces us to a potentially new species, Homo Evolutis. The book was fun, interesting, and thought provoking. Is there such a thing as Homo Evolutis? Perhaps the authors are jumping the gun, but they certainly make an interesting case about it and I'm all ears.

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## **Peter Kempenich says**

Save your money...as e-books go...this "book" is a joke. A bare outline of current technological work and trends/speculations on speciation.

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## **George says**

SO WHAT?

"We can be certain of one thing: The technologies and changes we are talking about are so powerful that they are changing humanity itself."

Of the eight TED Books I've read to date, Juan Enriquez and Steve Gullans's 'Homo Evolutis' is the least of them. It's written in an annoying, 'cutesy,' style; and it's major premise, that we Homo Sapiens are not the 'be all, end all' that some fundamentalist 'whackos' might think we are—and that some day our species, too, will pass into oblivion, like 99% of all species have—is more a yawner, than not.

And, I surely don't find "...the idea of a rapid evolution of our species into a species that directly and deliberately guides its own evolution, and that of other species," so "completely outlandish." Never have.

The one redeeming feature of this book is the embedded, jaw-dropping, TEDtalks, video of Dr. Anthony Atala's research and accomplishments in 'growing' new organs.

Recommendation: Definitely watch Dr. Atala's TEDtalk video, free online and skip this book.

"99.96 percent of the entire history of the universe took place before the first hominids, never mind the first humans, showed their ugly mugs."

TED Books edition

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### **María E says**

Un libro con una tematica muy interesante, pero con una estructura, ciertamente desconcertante, varios párrafos formados por una sola palabra, diferentes tipos y tamaños de letras, desde enormes y en negrita, hasta otras diminutas que ocupan una pequeña esquina de la pagina, en definitiva un caos. Muy difícil de leer a causa de esto, pero tremadamente original y despliega un gran sentido del humor para tratar temas bastante áridos, lo que se agradece bastante.

Muy recomendable.

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### **Emanuela says**

Lo consiglio a chi non ha tempo di leggersi *Nature* o *Science* la mattina a colazione per sapere cosa sta succedendo nei laboratori di tutto il mondo dopo la mappatura del genoma umano.

Sono ricerche e pratiche che conducono a possibili evoluzioni della specie "homo sapiens" che, volenti o nolenti, stanno già avvenendo sotto i microscopi ma anche sotto i nostri stessi occhi.

Gli autori non fanno mancare occasioni di discussioni sull'etica che questa scienza provoca relativamente alle possibili applicazioni.

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### **Andy says**

Not a bad read, but not all that interesting either. I met the central thesis, that homo sapiens are evolving into

a new species, with a big "so what?" The only way this is a shocking premise is if you believe that humans exist outside of the natural world. If you know that humans are mammals that have evolved significantly then it makes it inevitable that humans will eventually evolve into a new species.

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### **Clint says**

an informative quick read - yes, humans are still evolving.

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### **Nisreen says**

As far as scientific books on extremely complicated subjects go, this book is excellent. It gives a good and comprehensible introduction about evolution, its possibilities, its future and man-made interventions in the process.

Yet there are two major problems with this publication:

The writers' style which, I guess, is supposed to mimic the style of the original TED presentation on which the whole book is based. In a presentation using short sentences mixed with multimedia and occasional jokes can be great to engage the audience, however using the same method in a book, albeit digital, can be very frustrating and it makes really hard to engage with the argument.

There is also a problem with the content: the book starts by giving the impression that humans have already speciated and that the following chapters would prove this thesis. But in fact what the book does is presenting evidence that human evolution is possible and necessary. I am not saying that the information and argument presented are not valuable, but I think that the authors did themselves a disservice by deceiving their audience and raising their expectations instead of preparing them to appreciate the really valuable, though poorly presented, content.

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### **Phillip J. O'Brien says**

Fascinating, thought provoking, terrifying, amazing.

Everyone needs to read this book.

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