

WOZNIAK, A - KONSTANCZAK, S. (2013): Evolutionary Ethics in the Light of Extended Synthesis In: *Ethics & Bioethics*, 3 (1-2), pp. 21-30, Prešov: Vydavateľstvo Prešovskej univerzity (University of Prešov Press) ISSN 1338-5615

Abstract

The program of Evolutionary Ethics (EE) is based on the assumption that our moral features constitute adaptations and as such are to be explained in terms of the evolutionary process of natural selection. However, the fundamental assumption of EE was seriously put into question: the level of analysis relevant for moral features is essentially ontogeny and culture, while the explanation using natural selection applies to the level of phylogeny and genes (Sober, 1995; Ayala, 1995; Okasha, 2009). To the discussion on the validity of the program of EE we propose to bring the recent program of Extended Synthesis (ES, Pigliucci & Muller, 2010), because it attempts to account for the role of the ontogeny in evolution. We conclude, nevertheless, that ES fails to properly account for the importance of ontogeny in evolutionary processes because by extending the notion of inheritance it (con-)fuses the notions of unit of inheritance and of unit of selection (against the well-known distinction made by Hull, 1980).

Keywords: evolutionary ethics, ontogeny, inheritance, selection

Adrianna Wozniak is a philosopher of biology. Completed a PhD in philosophy at the Institute for Cognitive Science, France. Currently assistant professor at the Institute of Philosophy, University of Zielona Gora, Poland. Authored *La théorie évolutive de la connaissance. La relation phylogénétique de la représentation a l'objet*, Éditions Universitaires Européennes 2012.

Stefan Konstanczak is a Professor and Chair in Ethics at the Institute of Philosophy, University of Zielona Gora. Authored *Etyka srodowiskowa wobec biotechnologii* [Environmental Ethics with Regard to Biotechnology], Slupsk: PAP 2003; *Wybrane zagadnienia ekofilozofii* [Selected Topics in Ecophilosophy], Slupsk: PAP 2005 and *Etyka piellegniarska* [Nursing Ethics], Warszawa: Difin 2010.

Corresponding author:

Adrianna Wozniak, Institute of Philosophy, University of Zielona Gora, al. Wojska Polskiego 71A, 65-762 Zielona Góra, Poland
e-mail: a.wozniak@ifil.uz.zgora.pl