

Given the strong reservations that most social scientists have towards evolutionary biology, they might welcome [Jerry Fodor](#) and [Massimo Piattelli-Palmarini](#)'s new book, [What Darwin Got Wrong](#) (2010), as they once did Stephen Jay Gould and Richard Lewontin famous article, "[The Spandrels of San Marco](#)" that criticized the so-called "adaptationist programme." From the book's blurb: "Jerry Fodor and Massimo Piattelli-Palmarini, a distinguished philosopher and a scientist working in tandem, reveal major flaws at the heart of Darwinian evolutionary theory. Combining the results of cutting-edge work in experimental biology with crystal-clear philosophical arguments, they mount a reasoned and convincing assault on the central tenets of Darwin's account of the origin of species."

Before getting carried away however, read [Ned Block](#) and [Philip Kitcher](#)'s review ([here](#)) in the Boston Review. In their conclusion, Block and Kitcher note: "Fodor and Piattelli-Palmarini take the role of philosophy to consist in part in minding other people's business. We agree with the spirit behind this self-conception. Philosophy can sometimes help other areas of inquiry. Yet those who wish to help their neighbors are well advised to spend a little time discovering just what it is that those neighbors do [...] What Darwin Got Wrong shows no detailed engagement with the practice of evolutionary biology..."