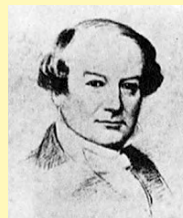


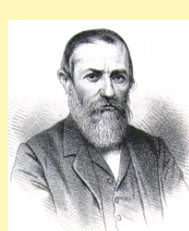
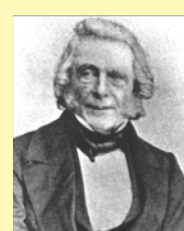
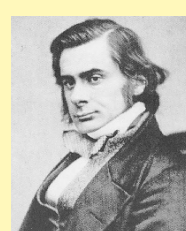
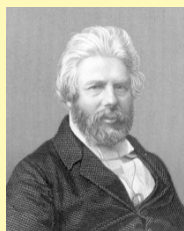
Pre-Darwinian Evolution Reading Group

IV. Darwin's "Historical Sketch"

The making of evolutionism's first intellectual history



Charles Darwin is known as the co-discoverer of the principle of natural selection. However, Darwin was by no means the first person to espouse evolutionary ideas - and by his own admission, he was not the first to articulate a principle of natural selection. For well over a half century prior to the publication of the *Origin of Species* (1859), naturalists, theologians, horticulturalists, medical practitioners, poets, and philosophers had been advancing evolutionary concepts for the diversification of life through modification of species. Shortly after the initial publication of *Origin of Species*, Darwin felt the pressure to formally acknowledge his evolutionist predecessors. The first intellectual history of evolutionism, by Darwin himself, appeared in the first German edition and fourth printing of the first American edition of *Origin* in 1860; in 1861, Darwin's "Historical Sketch" finally appeared in the third English edition of *Origin*. The reading group will focus on the British and American individuals cited by Darwin in his "Historical Sketch," as early evolutionists - and will examine their contributions to the development of evolutionary thought.



British and American evolutionists 1794-1859

Students, postdoctorals, and faculty are welcome. The reading group will meet monthly, in the evening, on the following dates: January 7 (Wednesday), February 6 (Friday), March 6 (Saturday), April 5 (Monday). If you are interested in participating in this group (limited to 13 members), contact [William \(Ned\) Friedman](mailto:ned@colorado.edu) (ned@colorado.edu, 492-3082, or in person). The first organizational meeting will be in December, 2003.

Nota bene: This reading group will not count for graduate credit, and will require attendance (with preparation) at all sessions. Reading loads will be significant.