

# JONATHAN MARKS, UNC Charlotte Presents: Four Myths of Darwinism

They are: (1) Darwinism was theologically very directly threatening; (2) Darwinism was primarily opposed by biblical literalists; (3) Darwinism was apolitical; and (4) anti-Darwinism was wrong. I am going to look at the engagement of first-generation Darwinism in the mid-19<sup>th</sup> century with anthropology, and specifically with the meaning of human variation. Actually, ape ancestry was just a tiny part of a contemporaneous upheaval in biblical scholarship. Moreover, the history of evolutionary anthropology was more political than the canonical history of evolutionary biology. And finally, the emergence of anthropology as a scholarly discipline was necessarily very much in opposition to Darwinism.

