

HCSN Study day What it means to be Human

From the feedback this was a very enjoyable, interesting and informative day for all concerned, U3A members, students from Bay House School, and the science, philosophy, spiritual and psychology leaders.

The day started with a very challenging talk by Jonathan Pearce who presented a compelling case for there being no such thing as Personhood, and Dr Juliane Kaminski talked about differences between humans and other primates, giving an insight into how this type of research is done.

After a break groups of U3A members and students, each focusing on a particular discipline, had lively exchanges of views, from both sides of the "generation divide". It was interesting that the summaries from the groups had many points in common, particularly what being human meant in a legal sense. Many thanks to Rev. Sean Blackman for leading the spiritual group.

The final talk by Dr Carl Adams, concerned the effect on society of robotic technology, including the Internet of Things, and machine consciousness which will have major effect on our lives (and was slightly scary !)

A good follow up to last year's "Do we have Free will"