

Northumbria Research Link

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So for Richard Dawkins to expect that the prevalence of abusers in the Catholic clergy might be less than 3% was for him to operate with a “deeply flawed premise” (Overrated, November).

I am sure that Dawkins will have no difficulty in lowering his future expectation so that it more accurately reflects the empirical evidence. And he might do so even though “the vast majority of cases were in the past” because it is not as if they could be anywhere else.

However, for my own part, I think I shall abstain from expecting that an Emeritus Fellow and retired Professor for Public Understanding of Science be at the “cutting-edge” of evolutionary biology. I would not wish to incorporate a false premise into my own arguments.