

possess an abundance of uncivilised cousins, once upon a time we had quite a few brothers and sisters as well. We are used to thinking about ourselves as the only humans, because for the last 10,000 years, our species has indeed been the only human species around. Yet the real meaning of the word human is ‘an animal belonging to the genus *Homo*’, and there used to be many other species of this genus besides *Homo sapiens*. Moreover, as we shall see in the last chapter of the book, in the not so distant future we might again have to contend with *nonsapiens* humans. To clarify this point, I will often use the term ‘Sapiens’ to denote members of the species *Homo sapiens*, while reserving the term ‘human’ to refer to all extant members of the genus *Homo*.