



Biologist
Expert on Apes

Patrick van Veen shows the parallels between the social behaviour of monkeys and managers in an entertaining mix of coaching and behavioural biology.

Van Veen studied biology at Utrecht University and then worked for various social organisations. In 1996, he decided to work in a completely different industry and became an administrative assistant at an insurance company. As a participant in a management training course, he noticed the competitive situation among the participants - and discovered striking parallels to the power struggles between the adult males in a group of chimpanzees. Inspired by the behaviour he observed in the workplace, he began observing the behaviour of his colleagues in 1999, delving again into ape behaviour and looking deeply into psychology. To understand workplace behaviour, he looks for parallels to primate behaviour.

Since 2002, van Veen has been working as an independent biologist. With his company Apemanagement, he advises companies on the subject of social behaviour in the workplace, conducts presentations and training courses and gives guest lectures at universities. As a biologist, he is regularly in demand in the media as an expert on apes and social behaviour issues.

In 2004 his book "Help! My boss is an ape. A biological look at social behaviour in companies." This is followed in May 2007 by his second book, "Tierische Kollegen. Monkey traits in the workplace". A photo and text book that is the result of his collaboration with the Apenheul Foundation (Monkey Park in Apeldoorn the Netherlands).

During his lectures, Patrick holds up a biological mirror to the audience, enabling them to recognise and understand problems in companies and to tackle them from their root causes.