

Re: The Objectivity of Science

Source: <http://sci.tech--archive.net/Archive/sci.bio.evolution/2005-12/msg00241.html>

- *From:* "Jim McGinn" <jimmcginn@xxxxxxxxxxxxxx>
 - *Date:* Mon, 19 Dec 2005 12:26:43 -0500 (EST)
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"g" <gillawton@xxxxxxxxxxxxxx> wrote in message
[news:do5a9k\\$17br\\$1@xxxxxxxxxxxxxx](mailto:news:do5a9k$17br$1@xxxxxxxxxxxxxx)

>

> "Jim McGinn" <jimmcginn@xxxxxxxxxx> wrote in message

> [news:dncvst\\$275p\\$1@xxxxxxxxxxxxxx](mailto:news:dncvst$275p$1@xxxxxxxxxxxxxx)

>> I'm hesitant to stir up this bee's nest.

>>

> Jim,

>

> I empathize warmly and abundantly with that.

>

> This news group is about EVOLUTIONARY BIOLOGY, in which I am at once

> enormously interested enormously ignorant and enormously desirous of

> learning about it as it REALLY IS.

Well, it's a bee's nest in a different way. But I feel like I can handle
this bee's nest. But it's taken me a lot of hours in libraries to get to
the level I'm at now.

No easy way.

>

> In my family (out three generations and to first-cousin level, alone)

> there

> are multiple individuals working in "the sciences," (assuming we agree

> that

> physicians, surgeons, organic chemists, intra-cellular researchers and

> space

> reentry vehicle design quality control... are "scientists' at work").

> Also

> among us are some clergymen and one missionary. In fact One of us is BOTH

> a

> clergyman and a scientist, and very astute on matters of both. Yet none

> of

> us... not one... finds it necessary to lie to ourselves or others to

> reconcile the two.

I hope you realize this is a good thing and leave it at that.

Re: The Objectivity of Science

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- > We are not INSECURE in ourselves and do not feel threatened by any search
- > for understanding.
- >
- > The search for understanding takes an open mind and does NOT attempt to
- > promote discord among others who seek understanding, by sewing distortions
- > and lies.
- >
- > Thank you, Jim, for commenting. Your silence on the subject may speak
- > more
- > eloquently than my
- > words.

Evolutionary theory is conflicting to us--most all of us--on a deeply emotional level. Many people find it confusing, couterintuitive, and even offensive. The more one understands it the more existential becomes their outlook on existence. And this is, unavoidably, depressing.

One thing I've come to learn about evolutionary theory is that it is social poison. Handle it