

## Re: What do geneticists think of memes?

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- *From:* "Peter F" <fell\_spamtrap\_in@xxxxxxxxxxxxxxxx>
  - *Date:* Wed, 28 Dec 2005 20:09:33 -0500 (EST)
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"John Edser" <edser@xxxxxxxx> wrote in message  
[news:dos4d4\\$06\\$1@xxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxx](mailto:news:dos4d4$06$1@xxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxx)

>

>

> "Anon." <bob.ohara@xxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxx>

>> Subject: Re: What do geneticists think of memes?

>> I'll just add a fourth to this:

>> 4. There is no good objective definition of a meme. For genes the  
>> definitions are good enough that, even if the concept is fuzzy  
around

>> the edges, we can still objectively identify most genes as genes  
(i.e.

>> any reasonable and well informed person can do it). We can then  
work

>> with this object, and (for example) transfer it into another  
organism.

>> For memes, it's much more difficult to identify a meme as a meme,  
rather

>> than a part of a meme or several memes (e.g. is religion a meme, or  
a

>> collection?). This makes it much more difficult to work with as a  
>> concept: if you can't identify a meme, you can't manipulate it, or  
>> develop a mathematical model for how it behaves.

>

> JE:-

> Model genes, like model memes, simply delete all FITNESS epistatic  
effects.

> Not a single trait empirically exists, i.e. has been documented within  
> nature, that is just the simple sum of the fitness of each gene or  
each meme

> that codes for it. The really big limitation to BOTH concepts is that  
each

> meme, like each gene, remains 100% dependent on, i.e. 100% dependently  
> selectable on exactly \*WHAT\* biological entity within NATURE?

Sufficiently mature human individuals.

Aren't you glad I let you know the answer! ;-)

## Re: What do geneticists think of memes?

"Memes" is a metaphor with drastically diminished Darwinian dimensionality.

However, the existence of "memes" provides many people with an opportunity to become AEVASIVELY preoccupied with trying to dissect what it can possibly mean.

Just be thankful for that our streets are made a bit safer because of the mind-binding effect of this – by Dawkins derived new little delightful intellectual thumb-twiddling – device.

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### • *References:*

- ◆ *Re: What do geneticists think of memes?*  
◇ *From: John Edser*

- Prev by Date: *Re: Smaller than or equal to a breadbox*
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