

Re: Nature Genetics: A Genetic View of Jewish History

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- *From:* Ray Martinez <pyramidal@xxxxxxxx>
 - *Date:* Wed, 13 Feb 2008 13:41:01 -0500 (EST)
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[moderator's snarky note: This may be a first: A post by Ray Martinez which is actually on-topic, sort of, and reasonably useful. Keep it up, Ray! But frankly, I'm starting to wonder what this thread has to do with evolutionary biology. – JAH]

On Feb 2, 10:28 pm, "John W Edser" <ed...@xxxxxxxxxxxxxxxx> wrote:

j...@xxxxxxxxxxxxxxxx (amazingly) wrote:–

[moderator's note: I have no idea why John thinks I wrote this article; I did not. The article in question was written by Jon Entine (for which see www.abrahamschildren.net) and seemed reasonably on-topic to me and no more beset with offensive comment than a lot of other posts here.

To see the original article, you could use the Message-ID header: Message-ID: <fnvojc\$1nuk\$1@xxxxxxxxxxxxxxxx> to locate it. – JAH]

snip<

I had interviewed Harry while preparing the book. I emailed about his single critical comment in the review... He wrote back that he thought it could have focused more on the genetics of Jewish diseases—which just so happens to be the focus of his book, which those of us writing on this subject are eagerly awaiting.

snip<

JE:–

I think that only the rabid fascist right is "eagerly awaiting" an empirically falsifiable test as to what a "Jew" is genetically. They will wait a rather long time because "Jew", along with what man is as a separate species was thrown out on an empirical basis by Darwin. It appears the penny has not dropped as to what Darwin proposed: all there is out there are adult individuals which can only be individually selected within groups isolated for just an undetermined period of time. The net result: only adult individuals can be selected and only groups of them can evolve, i.e. NEVER

THE REVERSE.

Who is a Jew?

....

A century ago, popular wisdom held that Jews were a race with a distinctive build and physiognomy. The New York University physician and physical anthropologist Maurice Fishberg wrote: "One can pick out a Jew from among a thousand non-Jews without difficulty." Joseph Jacobs, a physical anthropologist and folklorist, expanded on this viewpoint by noting that "The remarkable unity of resemblance among Jews, even in different climes, seems to imply a common descent." This concept was embraced by Einstein.

JE:–

Einstein also embraced communism. So much for Einstein as a valid social theorist....

But amid the tumult of the twentieth century, in which race science run amok led to the Nazi-led Holocaust of Jews, new constructs using the discoveries of population genetics emerged.

JE:–

A Jew can be only separated genetically from a non Jew by deploying polycentric (self contradictory) population genetics. Bravo, the mathematicians have done it again....

"All things are mortal but the Jew; all other forces pass,
but he remains..."

JE:–

Sounds like Dawkins' notion of immortal genes which were not immortal at all simply because Dawkins was only referring to mortal gene replicates that can only exist within different adult bodies (Darwinian monocentric selectees) with many other quite different genomic genes all of which have a NON additive (epistatic) dependent fitness, i.e. NOT an additive independent fitness, even if they can independently segregate.

What is the secret of his immortality?" Entine's response "good breeding." To trace the patterns of good breeding, he pays special attention to the discovery of the 'Cohan modal haplotype,' a Y chromosomal marker defined by a series of microsatellites that is found in a high proportion of Jewish men who claim descent from Aaron the Priest, the brother of Exodus leader

Re: Nature Genetics: A Genetic View of Jewish History

Moses.

JE:–

Just maybe, the population geneticists have put the cart before the horse. Instead of the "Y chromosomal marker defined by a series of microsatellites that is found in a high proportion of Jewish men" perhaps "a high proportion of Jewish men" are "defined by a series of microsatellites". We can never really know because population genetics was and remains polycentric allowing just contradictory frames of reference. Mathematics is not a science.

He also pays special attention to the discovery of the BRCA1 185delAG mutation that arose in ancient Palestine and that was transmitted through Jewish populations and some of their converso successors.

Does this mutation define Jewishness or does Jewishness define this mutation? If both, then just nothing at all is being argued except mathematics.

By drawing on many studies, including some unpublished, Entine pulls many groups in from the margins of contemporary Judaism, including the Jewish Communities of India and Ethiopia and the Hispanic communities of the American Southwest.

JE:–

Ah, the all purpose "get out of jail free card": "the margins of contemporary Judaism". What the &^%@ is that supposed to mean?

However, there are many other genetic strands that link Jews—

JE:–

Yes and of course, many genetic strands that ARE supposed Jewish. What we all want to know is what represents a genetic stand that is definitively not Jewish? In the everything–is–grey–world of polycentric population genetics nothing as definite as this can exist. All we are provided with are increasingly grey mathematically based probabilities.

Entine is no stranger to controversy. His earlier book was Taboo: Why Black Athletes Dominate Sports and Why We're Afraid to Talk About It. As he and his predecessors in the field of Jewish genetics have pointed out, the stakes in these genetic discoveries about Jews are

Re: Nature Genetics: A Genetic View of Jewish History

high—a genetic demonstration of Middle Eastern origins that would favor claims for a Jewish homeland in Israel, glorious lineages with potential lines of descent from a priest or a king, even a Messianic line, absolution from Christ-killing, a genetic stake in a long intellectual tradition of learning and scholarship, and duties and curses are all on the line.

JE:–

Yes it is just another back to the future disaster waiting in the wings. This is what happens when falsifiability is deleted from evolutionary theory by demented mathematicians.

Historically endogamous
Jewish populations are admixing in the melting pot of Israel.
Admixture rates between Jews and non-Jews are high.

JE:–

Shock... horror..how devastatingly "unnatural"...

Heterozygote
testing programs have led to selective mating practices that are influencing allele frequencies. So, the genetics of Jewish populations as currently discerned will change.

JE:–

Just one variable calling another variable a convenient (polycentric) constant which remains valid in mathematics but utterly invalid within the sciences. Please refer to Galileo.

For the generation of geneticists who avidly read Richard Goodman's series of books on Jewish genetics, and its predecessors by Raphael Patai and Jennifer Patai-Wing, Elisabeth Goldschmidt and Arthur Mourant, J on Entine's book is a welcome addition. His understanding of the genetics is limited and uncritical, but his broad, well-documented sweep of Jewish history will inform even the most knowledgeable of readers.

JE:–

Do the population geneticists who post here support this as valid science or do they throw it out as just mathematically based nonsense? Time to make a stand gentlemen...

Regards,

Re: Nature Genetics: A Genetic View of Jewish History

John Edser
Independent Researcher

ed...@xxxxxxxxxxxxxxxx

Food For Thought

Aaron, the older brother of Moses, was not Jewish. Aaron was of the tribe of Levi (1). The word "Jews" does not appear in Scripture until well after the break-up of the united monarchy (2). "Jews" is derived from the tribe of Judah; hence Judah/Jewdah/Jews. It refers to citizens of the Southern kingdom of Judah (two tribes), capitol of Jerusalem; not to be confused with the Northern kingdom of Israel (ten tribes), capitol of Samaria.

According to Biblical chronology, Aaron, of course, lived in the 15th–14th century BC. The united monarchy separated into the two different kingdoms *after* the death of Solomon in the 10th century BC (3).

The point is that all Jews are Hebrews but not all Hebrews are Jews. Again, only citizens of two tribe Judah, the Southern kingdom, were called "Jews". But citizens of both kingdoms are Hebrews. Jews did not exist as such until the Southern kingdom of Judah came into existence. Genetically, I suppose, we can identify Jews to be members of the tribe of Judah from its patriarchal inception. The tribe of Levi was part of the Southern kingdom, but did not count as a tribe.

1. Jewish Encyclopedia: <http://www.jewishencyclopedia.com/view.jsp?artid=4&letter=A>

2. 2Kings 16:6; 2Chronicles 32:18 (KJV): first appearance of the word "Jews" in Scripture. Incidentally, both Books of Kings were written by scribes belonging to the Northern kingdom of Israel. 2Kings 16 chronologically precedes 2Chronicles 32.

3. Biblical chronology dating based on: I. Velikovsky 1952 ("Ages in Chaos"), Exodus out of Egypt, 1447 BC; A. Rutherford 1957 ("Pyramidology Book 1"), Exodus out of Egypt, 1453 BC.

Ray

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