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Social semantics: altruism, cooperation, mutualism, strong reciprocity and group selection.

West SA, Griffin AS, Gardner A

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 Hypothesis

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I found this article an important contribution to the field of cooperation because the authors are able to clarify a number of issues regarding terminology, theory and interpretation of data. More specifically, the authors explain mathematically why 'weak altruism' is in fact self-regarding behaviour if analysed on the population level (as it should be done). Furthermore, the authors point out that several hot topics in the literature on human cooperation address mechanistic questions rather than the evolution of cooperation.

Competing interests: None declared

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