

Gene Expression

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Sunday, March 02, 2008

The West Group posted by [DavidB](#) @ 3/02/2008 02:13:00 AM



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A comment on my recent post on [Group Selection and the Wrinkly Spreader](#) has drawn my attention to the work of S. A. West, A. S. Griffin and A. Gardner. In recent years this team and their various associates have done a great deal of theoretical and empirical work on kin selection, group selection, co-operation, spite, and related issues. On searching for their names I found this excellent [web page](#), which provides a list of publications with pdf links. I was disgracefully unaware of this work, but am now catching up. I have only read a few papers so far, but from what I have seen I like the cut of their jib. They are working very much in the tradition of W. D. Hamilton, and emphasise that interpretations of social behaviour in terms of inclusive fitness are usually preferable to complex multi-level selection models. They also emphasise that seemingly 'altruistic' behaviour often brings direct fitness benefits to the 'altruist', and is therefore explicable by simple Darwinian selection.

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B.B.: The novel variant is found in an ethnic-religious minority population and no other phenotypic eff

razib: but not god or even a significant presence of plural gods. also, this is just a seman

razib: Hmmm... I don't know of any, at least in which the main gods are that way. There may be secondary...

John Emerson: Razib and I have talked about this. Pantheism is a refined elite form of religion and not characteri...

Luis: What seems to have been almost always absent from Chinese thought was a belief in an all-powerful

Luis: ... in many societies gods are mischevious or even malevolent Hmmm... I don't know of any,

Drawbacks: There was a pretty good (though not up to the level of this post, natch) Analysis program on BBC Rad...

K.A.: I was going to mention the schizophrenia connection as well. Unaffected siblings of people with schi...

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