

How Biologists Conceptualize Genes: An empirical study

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Full text available as:

[PDF \(This is the pre-copy edited manuscript and an annotated version of the questionnaire\)](#) - Requires a viewer, such as [Adobe Acrobat Reader](#) or other PDF viewer.

[Other \(please enter description below\) \(This is an SPSS file \(.sav\) with the raw data from the study, including the Boolean group definitions referred to in the published paper\)](#)

Abstract

Philosophers and historians of biology have argued that genes are conceptualized differently in different fields of biology and that these differences influence both the conduct of research and the interpretation of research by audiences outside the field in which the research was conducted. In this paper we report the results of a questionnaire study of how genes are conceptualized by biological scientists at the University of Sydney, Australia. The results provide tentative support for some hypotheses about conceptual differences between different fields of biological research.

Keywords: gene conceptual change molecular biology Gene-D Gene-P

Subjects: [Specific Sciences: Biology: Molecular Biology/Genetics](#)
[General Issues: Theory Change](#)

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Additional Information: The raw data for this study will appear on this site as soon as the authors have negotiated with the site administrators about placing files with .sav extensions on the site. In the meantime, the data can be accessed at <http://www.uq.edu.au/biohumanities/>