

Prospects for a dual inheritance model of emotional evolution

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Abstract

Dual inheritance (DI) models of cultural evolution have been criticized for likening cultural transmission to genetic (lateral) transmission. I argue that although these objections might pertain to the cognitively sophisticated traits that DI theorists typically focus on (e.g. tool making and natural history knowledge), they do not undermine DI models of emotional evolution. Cultural traditions influence emotional development primarily during the early stages of life, before the onset of complex cognition and when children are exposed almost exclusively to their parents. Consequently, many emotional dispositions are transmitted laterally as DI models assume.

Keywords: emotion, evolution, dual inheritance, evolutionary psychology

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