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 مام التطور التالي المعلومات التقافية بين أفراد
 علم التطور الثقافي أو علم الميميات Memetics هو أحد طرق النمذجة التطورية لانتقال المعلومات التقافية بين أفراد

علم التطور الثقافى

من ويكيبيديا، الموسوعة الحرة

علم التطور الثقافي أو علم الميميات Memetics هو أحد طرق النمذجة التطورية لانتقال المعلومات الثقفافية بين أفراد المجتمع. أول من رسخ هذه المحاولة كان العالم ريتشارد داوكنز عام 1976، لكن تسجل محاولة سابقة عام 1904 على يد ريتشارد سيمون البيولوجي التطوري الذي ألف كتابا أسماه : المحاولة كان العالم ريتشارد داوكنز عام 1976، لكن تسجل محاولة سابقة عام 1904 على يد ريتشارد سيمون البيولوجي التطوري الذي ألف كتابا أسماه : Memetics تحت ترجمته للانكليزية باسم *The محاولة سابقة عام 1904 على يد ريتشارد سيمون البيولوجي التطوري الذي ألف كتابا أسماه : Memetics يتشارد داوكنز مصطلح قريب دعي ميم أو "ميمي" Meme للانكليزية باسم <i>The مسويا الماسية Die Mnemische Empfindungen in ihren Beziehungen zu den Originalenempfindungen و Memet* والتقافي الإنساني معتبر الياها المناظرة للجينات في الوراثة، معتبر ا ان الانتساخ والانتقال يحدث بطريقة مشابهة و غن كانت غير متماثلة تماما. يناقش داوكنز في كتابه أن الميمي هي وحدة المعلومات في الوراثة، معتبر ا ان الانتساخ والانتقال يحدث بطريقة مشابهة و غن كانت غير متماثلة تماما. على التأثير على محيبر الياها المناظرة للجينات في الوراثة، معتبر ا ان الانتساخ والانتقال يحدث بطريقة مشابهة و غن كانت غير متماثلة تماما. على التأثير على محيبر الياها المناظرة للجينات في العول البشري و هو المنسوخ الطافر خلال عملية التطور الثقافي. فهي النمط الأساسي القادر على التأثير على محيطه والقادر على الانتشار من فرد لآخر. كتاب دازكنز حمل اسم "*الجينة الأنانية*" The Selfish Gene وكان كتابا يركز أساسا على على التأثير على محيطه والقادر على الانتشار من فرد لآخر. كتاب دازكنز حمل اسم "*الجينة الأنانية*" The Selfish Gene وكان كتابا يركز أساسا على على التأثير على محيطه والقادر على الانتشار من فرد لآخر. كتاب دازكنز حمل اسم "الجينة الزائانية" محلوا الأنانية" وكان يشرح ونه كون كتابا يركز أساسا على على الوراثة ولم يشرح فيه كيف تؤثر الوحدة الأساسية للمعلومات في الدماغ على سلوط الإنسان وكيف تنتقل لتؤثر على الثقافة، وسر عان ما أطلقت هذه علم الور اثة ولم يشرح فيه كيف تؤثر الوحدة الأساسية للمعلومات في لنفسه طرحه داوكنز عرضا ولم يقصد تقديم نظرية وانه ألف لم يم المفهوم أو التعريف الديميي أو ساط علماء الأساسية للمعلومات" بشكل دقيق وظلت تأخذ معان مختلفة حس

الحركة الميماتية الجديدة انطلقت من جديد في منتصف الثمانيات على يد دوغلاس هوفشتادر الذي كان يكتب حينها عمود "مواضيع فوق-سحرية" في مجلة ساينتفيك أمريكان، كان من أهم مميز ات هذه الحركة الجديدة انها مختلفة عن النظرية التطورية الاجتماعية التقليدية وأن معظم ناشطيها كانوا من خارج إطار علم الاجتماع وعلم الإنسان بلإنهم حتى من غير الأكاديميين. كانت لشعبية كتاب داوكنز "الجينة الأنانية" دورا كبيرا في اجتذاب الكثير من المهتمين بهذه المواضيع لهذه الساحة الإبداعية الجدية وغير المستكشفة، في عام 1992 ظهر كتاب جديد حقق رواجا "ا*لو عي مفسرا*" لفيلسوف جامعة تينت دانيال دينيت الذي استخدم الميمي ضمن إطار نظرية مستفيضة حول الو عي والدماغ والعقل. في عام 1993 عاد ريتشار د داوكنز ليستخدم مصطلح "الميميات" Memetics في مقالته "فيروسات العقل" ليشرح ظاهرة المعتقدات الدينية وخواص الديانات المنظمة.

انظر أيضا

- علم الاجتماع الحاسوبي Computational sociology
 - Copycat
- نظرية الاصطفاء الثقافي Cultural selection theory
- نظرية الوراثة المزدوجة Dual inheritance theory
 - نظرية التطور Evolution
- ابستمولوجيا تطورية Evolutionary epistemology
 - ∎ سیمانتیك عام General Semantics
 - علم البيئة المعرفي Knowledge ecology
 - ∎ تطور لاماركي Lamarckian evolution
 - قائمة منشورات عن التطور والسلوك الإنساني

مراجع

منى عبود، الميمياء نظرية تطورية في تفسير الثقافة، بيروت: دار بيسان 2008

- Meme pool
 - ناسخ Replicator
- social constructionism
 - ∎ نمط اجتماعي Sociotype
 - تنسخ ذاتي Self-replication
 - تسویق فیروسي Viral marketing

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 - *Cultural Software: A Theory of Ideology (http://www.yale.edu/lawweb/jbalkin/cs.htm)* by Jack Balkin which .uses memetics to explain the growth and spread of ideology

http://www.humboldt-forum-recht.de/druckansicht/druckansicht.php?artikelid=144

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 semiotics point of view
 - (The Selfish Meme (http://www.theselfishmeme.co.uk

مجلوبة من "http://ar.wikipedia.org/w/index.php?title=علم_التطور_الثقافي&oldid=12146346"

تصنيفات: مصطلحات علم الاجتماع | علم الميميات | علوم مبتدئة | علم الإنسان الثقافي | تطور | نظريات نفسية | علوم سلوكية | علم الاجتماع

■ آخر تعديل لهذه الصفحة كان يوم 11 ديسمبر 2013 الساعة 22:41. ■ النصوص منشورة برخصة المشاع الإبداعي: النسبة-الترخيص بالمثل 3.0. قد تنطبق مواد أخرى. طالع شروط الاستخدام للتفاصيل.

Memetics

This article is related to the study of self-replicating units of culture, not to be confused with Mimesis.

Memetics is a theory of mental content based on an analogy with Darwinian evolution, originating from the popularization of Richard Dawkins' 1976 book *The Selfish Gene*.^[1] Proponents describe memetics as an approach to evolutionary models of cultural information transfer.

The meme, analogous to a gene, was conceived as a "unit of culture" (an idea, belief, pattern of behaviour, etc.) which is "hosted" in the minds of one or more individuals, and which can reproduce itself, thereby jumping from mind to mind. Thus what would otherwise be regarded as one individual influencing another to adopt a belief is seen as an idea-replicator reproducing itself in a new host. As with genetics, particularly under a Dawkinsian interpretation, a meme's success may be due to its contribution to the effectiveness of its host.

Memetics is also notable for sidestepping the traditional concern with the *truth* of ideas and beliefs. Instead, it is interested in their success.^[2]

The Usenet newsgroup alt.memetics started in 1993 with peak posting years in the mid to late 1990s. The *Journal of Memetics* was published electronically from 1997 to 2005.

History

In his book The Selfish Gene (1976), the evolutionary biologist Richard Dawkins used the term *meme* to describe a unit of human cultural transmission analogous to the gene, arguing that replication also happens in culture, albeit in a different sense. Ted Cloak had briefly outlined a similar hypothesis in 1975, which Dawkins referenced. Cultural evolution itself is a much older topic, with a history that dates back to Darwin's era.

Dawkins (1976) contended that the meme is a unit of information residing in the brain and is the mutating replicator in human cultural evolution. It is a pattern that can influence its surroundings – that is, it has causal agency – and can propagate. This created great debate among sociologists, biologists, and scientists of other disciplines, because Dawkins himself did not provide a sufficient explanation of how the replication of units of information in the brain controls human behaviour and ultimately culture, since the principal topic of the book was genetics. Dawkins apparently did not intend to present a comprehensive theory of *memetics* in *The Selfish Gene*, but rather coined the term *meme* in a speculative spirit. Accordingly, the term "unit of information" came to be defined in different ways by many scientists.

The modern memetics movement dates from the mid-1980s. A January 1983 Metamagical Themas column by Douglas Hofstadter, in *Scientific American*, was influential as was his 1985 book of the same name. "Memeticist" was coined as analogous to "geneticist" originally in *The Selfish Gene*. Later Arel Lucas suggested that the discipline that studies memes and their connections to human and other carriers of them be known as memetics by analogy with 'genetics." Dawkins' *The Selfish Gene* has been a factor in drawing in people of disparate intellectual backgrounds. Another stimulus was the publication in 1991 of *Consciousness Explained* by Tufts University philosopher Daniel Dennett, which incorporated the meme concept into a theory of the mind. In his 1991 essay "Viruses of the Mind", Richard Dawkins used memetics to explain the phenomenon of religious belief and the various characteristics of organised religions. By then, memetics had also become a theme appearing in fiction (e.g. Neal Stephenson's Snow Crash).

The idea of *language as a virus* had already been introduced by William S. Burroughs as early as 1962 in his book *The Ticket That Exploded*, and later in *The Electronic Revolution*, published in 1970 in *The Job* and is also explored in Media Virus^[3] by Douglas Rushkoff in 1995.

However, the foundation of memetics in full modern incarnation originates in the publication in 1996 of two books by authors outside the academic mainstream: *Virus of the Mind: The New Science of the Meme* by former Microsoft executive turned motivational speaker and professional poker player, Richard Brodie, and *Thought Contagion: How*

Belief Spreads Through Society by Aaron Lynch, a mathematician and philosopher who worked for many years as an engineer at Fermilab. Lynch claimed to have conceived his theory totally independently of any contact with academics in the cultural evolutionary sphere, and apparently was not even aware of Dawkins' *The Selfish Gene* until his book was very close to publication.

Around the same time as the publication of the books by Lynch and Brodie the e-journal Journal of Memetics – *Evolutionary Models of Information Transmission*^[4] appeared on the web. It was first hosted by the Centre for Policy Modelling at Manchester Metropolitan University but later taken over by Francis Heylighen of the CLEA research institute at the Vrije Universiteit Brussel. The e-journal soon became the central point for publication and debate within the nascent memeticist community. (There had been a short-lived paper memetics publication starting in 1990, the *Journal of Ideas* edited by Elan Moritz.^[5]) In 1999, Susan Blackmore, a psychologist at the University of the West of England, published *The Meme Machine*, which more fully worked out the ideas of Dennett, Lynch, and Brodie and attempted to compare and contrast them with various approaches from the cultural evolutionary mainstream, as well as providing novel, and controversial, memetics-based theories for the evolution of language and the human sense of individual selfhood.

The term "meme"

The term "meme" derives from the Ancient Greek $\mu\mu\eta\tau\eta\varsigma$ (*mimētés*), meaning "imitator, pretender". The similar term "mneme" was used in 1904, by the German evolutionary biologist Richard Semon, best known for his development of the engram theory of memory, in his work *Die mnemischen Empfindungen in ihren Beziehungen zu den Originalempfindungen*, translated into English in 1921 as *The Mneme*. Until Daniel Schacter published *Forgotten Ideas, Neglected Pioneers: Richard Semon and the Story of Memory* in 2000, Semon's work had little influence, though it was quoted extensively in Erwin Schrödinger's prescient 1956 Tarner Lecture "Mind and Matter". Richard Dawkins (1976) apparently coined the word "meme" independently of Semon, writing this:

"Mimeme" comes from a suitable Greek root, but I want a monosyllable that sounds a bit like "gene". I hope my classicist friends will forgive me if I abbreviate mimeme to meme. If it is any consolation, it could alternatively be thought of as being related to "memory", or to the French word même.

Maturity

In 2005, the *Journal of Memetics – Evolutionary Models of Information Transmission* ceased publication and published a set of articles on the future of memetics. The website states that although "there was to be a relaunch...after several years nothing has happened". Susan Blackmore has left the University of the West of England to become a freelance science writer and now concentrates more on the field of consciousness and cognitive science. Derek Gatherer moved to work as a computer programmer in the pharmaceutical industry, although he still occasionally publishes on memetics-related matters. Richard Brodie is now climbing the world professional poker rankings. Aaron Lynch disowned the memetics community and the words "meme" and "memetics" (without disowning the ideas in his book), adopting the self-description "thought contagionist". Lynch lost his previous funding from a private sponsor and after his book royalties declined, he was unable to support himself as a private memetics/thought-contagion consultant.^[citation needed] He died in 2005.

Susan Blackmore (2002) re-stated the definition of meme as: whatever is copied from one person to another person, whether habits, skills, songs, stories, or any other kind of information. Further she said that memes, like genes, are replicators in the sense as defined by Dawkins.^[6] That is, they are information that is copied. Memes are copied by imitation, teaching and other methods. The copies are not perfect: memes are copied with variation; moreover, they compete for space in our memories and for the chance to be copied again. Only some of the variants can survive. The combination of these three elements (copies; variation; competition for survival) forms precisely the condition for Darwinian evolution, and so memes (and hence human cultures) evolve. Large groups of memes that are copied and passed on together are called co-adapted meme complexes, or *memeplexes*. In her definition, the way that a meme

replicates is through imitation. This requires brain capacity to generally imitate a model or selectively imitate the model. Since the process of social learning varies from one person to another, the imitation process cannot be said to be completely imitated. The sameness of an idea may be expressed with different memes supporting it. This is to say that the mutation rate in memetic evolution is extremely high, and mutations are even possible within each and every interaction of the imitation process. It becomes very interesting when we see that a social system composed of a complex network of microinteractions exists, but at the macro level an order emerges to create culture.

Internalists and externalists

The memetics movement split almost immediately into two. The first group were those who wanted to stick to Dawkins' definition of a meme as "a unit of cultural transmission". Gibran Burchett, another memeticist responsible for helping to research and co-coin the term memetic engineering, along with Leveious Rolando and Larry Lottman, has stated that a meme can be defined, more precisely, as "a unit of cultural information that can be copied, located in the brain". This thinking is more in line with Dawkins' second definition of the meme in his book *The Extended Phenotype*. The second group wants to redefine memes as observable cultural artifacts and behaviors. However, in contrast to those two positions, Blackmore does not reject either concept of external or internal memes.

These two schools became known as the "internalists" and the "externalists." Prominent internalists included both Lynch and Brodie; the most vocal externalists included Derek Gatherer, a geneticist from Liverpool John Moores University, and William Benzon, a writer on cultural evolution and music. The main rationale for externalism was that internal brain entities are not observable, and memetics cannot advance as a science, especially a quantitative science, unless it moves its emphasis onto the directly quantifiable aspects of culture. Internalists countered with various arguments: that brain states will eventually be directly observable with advanced technology, that most cultural anthropologists agree that culture is about beliefs and not artifacts, or that artifacts cannot be replicators in the same sense as mental entities (or DNA) are replicators. The debate became so heated that a 1998 Symposium on Memetics, organised as part of the 15th International Conference on Cybernetics, passed a motion calling for an end to definitional debates. McNamara demonstrated in 2011 that functional connectivity profiling using neuroimaging tools enables the observation of the processing of internal memes (i-memes) in response to external e-memes.

An advanced statement of the internalist school came in 2002 with the publication of *The Electric Meme*, by Robert Aunger, an anthropologist from the University of Cambridge. Aunger also organised a conference in Cambridge in 1999, at which prominent sociologists and anthropologists were able to give their assessment of the progress made in memetics to that date. This resulted in the publication of *Darwinizing Culture: The Status of Memetics as a Science*, edited by Aunger and with a foreword by Dennett, in 2000.

Criticism

This evolutionary model of cultural information transfer is based on the concept that units of information, or "memes", have an independent existence, are self-replicating, and are subject to selective evolution through environmental forces. Starting from a proposition put forward in the writings of Richard Dawkins, it has since turned into a new area of study, one that looks at the self-replicating units of culture. It has been proposed that just as memes are analogous to genes, memetics is analogous to genetics.

Critics contend that some proponents' assertions are "untested, unsupported or incorrect."^[] Luis Benitez-Bribiesca, a critic of memetics, calls it "a pseudoscientific dogma" and "a dangerous idea that poses a threat to the serious study of consciousness and cultural evolution" among other things. As factual criticism, he refers to the lack of a *code script* for memes, as the DNA is for genes, and to the fact that the meme mutation mechanism (i.e., an idea going from one brain to another) is too unstable (low replication accuracy and high mutation rate), which would render the evolutionary process chaotic.^[7]

Another criticism comes from semiotics, (e.g., Deacon,^[8] Kull^[9]) stating that the concept of meme is a primitivized concept of Sign. Meme is thus described in memetics as a sign without its triadic nature. In other words, meme is a degenerate sign, which includes only its ability of being copied. Accordingly, in the broadest sense, the objects of copying are memes, whereas the objects of translation and interpretation are signs.

Mary Midgley criticises memetics for at least two reasons:^[10] One, culture is not best understood by examining its smallest parts, as culture is pattern-like, comparable to an ocean current. Many more factors, historical and others, should be taken into account than only whatever particle culture is built from. Two, if memes are not thoughts (and thus not cognitive phenomena), as Daniel C. Dennett insists in "Darwin's Dangerous Idea", then their ontological status is open to question, and memeticists (who are also reductionists) may be challenged whether memes even exist. Questions can extend to whether the idea of "meme" is itself a meme, or is a true concept. Fundamentally, memetics is an attempt to produce knowledge through organic metaphors, which as such is a questionable research approach, as the application of metaphors has the effect of hiding that which does not fit within the realm of the metaphor. Rather than study actual reality, without preconceptions, memetics, as so many of the socio-biological explanations of society, believe that saying that the apple is like an orange is a valid analysis of the apple.^[11]

New developments

Dawkins responds in *A Devil's Chaplain* that there are actually two different types of memetic processes (controversial and informative). The first is a type of cultural idea, action, or expression, which does have high variance; for instance, a student of his who had inherited some of the mannerisms of Wittgenstein. However, he also describes a self-correcting meme, highly resistant to mutation. As an example of this, he gives origami patterns in elementary schools – except in rare cases, the meme is either passed on in the exact sequence of instructions, or (in the case of a forgetful child) terminates. This type of meme tends not to evolve, and to experience profound mutations in the rare event that it does.

Another definition, given by Hokky Situngkir, tried to offer a more rigorous formalism for the meme, *memeplexes*, and the *deme*, seeing the meme as a cultural unit in a cultural complex system. It is based on the Darwinian genetic algorithm with some modifications to account for the different patterns of evolution seen in genes and memes. In the method of memetics as the way to see culture as a complex adaptive system ^[12], he describes a way to see memetics as an alternative methodology of cultural evolution. However, there are as many possible definitions that are credited to the word "meme". For example, in the sense of computer simulation the term *memetic algorithm* is used to define a particular computational viewpoint.

The possibility of quantitative analysis of memes using neuroimaging tools and the suggestion that such studies have already been done was given by McNamara (2011). This author proposes hyperscanning (concurrent scanning of two communicating individuals in two separate MRI machines) as a key tool in the future for investigating memetics.

In 2013 Australian academic JT Velikovsky proposed the holon as the structure of the meme, synthesizing the major theories on memes of Richard Dawkins, Mihaly Csikszentmihalyi, E. O. Wilson, Frederick Turner (poet) and Arthur Koestler.

Memetics can be simply understood as a method for scientific analysis of cultural evolution. However, proponents of memetics as described in the Journal of Memetics (out of print since 2005) – *Evolutionary Models of Information Transmission* believe that 'memetics' has the potential to be an important and promising analysis of culture using the framework of evolutionary concepts. Keith Henson who wrote *Memetics and the Modular-Mind* (Analog Aug. 1987) makes the case that memetics needs to incorporate evolutionary psychology to understand the psychological traits of a meme's host. This is especially true of time-varying, meme-amplification host-traits, such as those leading to wars.

Recently, Christopher diCarlo has developed the idea of 'memetic equilibrium' to describe a cultural compatible state with biological equilibrium. In "Problem Solving and Neurotransmission in the Upper Paleolithic" (in press), diCarlo argues that as human consciousness evolved and developed, so too did our ancestors' capacity to consider and attempt to solve environmental problems in more conceptually sophisticated ways. Understood in this way, problem

solving amongst a particular group, when considered satisfactory, often produces a feeling of environmental control, stability, in short—memetic equilibrium. But the pay-off is not merely practical, providing purely functional utility—it is biochemical and it comes in the form of neurotransmitters. The relationship between a gradually emerging conscious awareness and sophisticated languages in which to formulate representations combined with the desire to maintain biological equilibrium, generated the necessity for memetic equilibrium to fill in conceptual gaps in terms of understanding three very important aspects in the Upper Paleolithic: causality, morality, and mortality. The desire to explain phenomena in relation to maintaining survival and reproductive stasis, generated a normative stance in the minds of our ancestors—Survival/Reproductive Value (or S-R Value).

Applications

Research methodologies that apply memetics go by many names: Viral marketing, cultural evolution, the history of ideas, social analytics, and more. Many of these applications do not make reference to the literature on memes directly but are built upon the evolutionary lens of idea propagation that treats semantic units of culture as self-replicating and mutating patterns of information that are assumed to be relevant for scientific study. For example, the field of public relations is filled with attempts to introduce new ideas and alter social discourse. One means of doing this is to design a meme and deploy it through various media channels. One historic example of applied memetics is the PR campaign conducted in 1991 as part of the build-up to the first Gulf War in the United States.^[13]

The application of memetics to a difficult complex social system problem, environmental sustainability, has recently been attempted at thwink.org ^[14]. Using meme types and memetic infection in several stock and flow simulation models, Jack Harich has demonstrated several interesting phenomena that are best, and perhaps only, explained by memes. One model, The Dueling Loops of the Political Powerplace ^[15], argues that the fundamental reason corruption is the norm in politics is due to an inherent structural advantage of one feedback loop pitted against another. Another model, The Memetic Evolution of Solutions to Difficult Problems ^[16], uses memes, the evolutionary algorithm, and the scientific method to show how complex solutions evolve over time and how that process can be improved. The insights gained from these models are being used to engineer memetic solution elements to the sustainability problem.

Another application of memetics in the sustainability space is the crowdfunded Climate Meme Project ^[17] conducted by Joe Brewer and Balasz Laszlo Karafiath in the spring of 2013. This study was based on a collection of 1000 unique text-based expressions gathered from Twitter, Facebook, and structured interviews with climate activists. The major finding was that the global warming meme is not effective at spreading because it causes emotional duress in the minds of people who learn about it. Five central tensions were revealed in the discourse about [climate change], each of which represents a resonance point through which dialogue can be engaged. The tensions were Harmony/Disharmony (whether or not humans are part of the natural world), Survival/Extinction (envisioning the future as either apocalyptic collapse of civilization or total extinction of the human race), Cooperation/Conflict (regarding whether or not humanity can come together to solve global problems), Momentum/Hesitation (about whether or not we are making progress at the collective scale to address climate change), and Elitism/Heretic (a general sentiment that each side of the debate considers the experts of its opposition to be untrustworthy.^[18]

Ben Cullen, in his book *Contagious Ideas*, brought the idea of the meme into the discipline of archaeology. He coined the term "Cultural Virus Theory", and used it to try to anchor archaeological theory in a neo-Darwinian paradigm. Archaeological memetics could assist the application of the meme concept to material culture in particular.

Francis Heylighen of the Center Leo Apostel for Interdisciplinary Studies has postulated what he calls "memetic selection criteria". These criteria opened the way to a specialized field of *applied memetics* to find out if these selection criteria could stand the test of quantitative analyses. In 2003 Klaas Chielens carried out these tests in a Masters thesis project on the testability of the selection criteria.

In *Selfish Sounds and Linguistic Evolution*, Austrian linguist Nikolaus Ritt has attempted to operationalise memetic concepts and use them for the explanation of long term sound changes and change conspiracies in early English. It is argued that a generalised Darwinian framework for handling cultural change can provide explanations where established, speaker centred approaches fail to do so. The book makes comparatively concrete suggestions about the possible material structure of memes, and provides two empirically rich case studies.

Australian academic S.J. Whitty has argued that project management is a memeplex with the language and stories of its practitioners at its core.^[19] This radical approach sees a project and its management as an illusion; a human construct about a collection of feelings, expectations, and sensations, which are created, fashioned, and labeled by the human brain. Whitty's approach requires project managers to consider that the reasons for using project management are not consciously driven to maximize profit, and are encouraged to consider project management as naturally occurring, self-serving, evolving process which shapes organizations for its own purpose.

Swedish political scientist Mikael Sandberg argues against "Lamarckian" interpretations of institutional and technological evolution and studies creative innovation of information technologies in governmental and private organizations in Sweden in the 1990s from a memetic perspective.^[20] Comparing the effects of active ("Lamarckian") IT strategy versus user–producer interactivity (Darwinian co-evolution), evidence from Swedish organizations shows that co-evolutionary interactivity is almost four times as strong a factor behind IT creativity as the "Lamarckian" IT strategy.

Terminology

- Memeplex (an abbreviation of meme-complex) is a collection or grouping of memes that have evolved into a mutually supportive or symbiotic relationship.^[21] Simply put, a meme-complex is a set of ideas that reinforce each other. Meme-complexes are roughly analogous to the symbiotic collection of individual genes that make up the genetic codes of biological organisms. An example of a memeplex would be a religion.
- Meme pool a population of interbreeding memes.
- Memetic engineering The process of deliberately creating memes, using engineering principles.
- Memetic algorithms an approach to evolutionary computation that attempts to emulate cultural evolution in order to solve [optimization_problems].
- Memotype is the actual information-content of a meme.^[22]
- Memeoid is a neologism for people who have been taken over by a meme to the extent that their own survival becomes inconsequential. Examples include kamikazes, suicide bombers and cult members who commit mass suicide. The term was apparently coined by H. Keith Henson in "Memes, L5 and the Religion of the Space Colonies," *L5 News*, September 1985 pp. 5–8,^[23] and referenced in the expanded second edition of Richard Dawkins' book *The Selfish Gene* (p. 330). But in the strict sense all people are essentially *memeoid*, since no distinction can be made if one uses language, or memes use their host. In *The Electronic Revolution* William S. Burroughs writes: "the word has not been recognised as a virus because it has achieved a state of stable symbiosis with the host."
- **Memetic equilibrium** refers to the cultural equivalent of species biological equilibrium. It is that which humans strive for in terms of personal value with respect to cultural artefacts and ideas. The term was coined by Christopher diCarlo.

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External links

• Memetics publications on the web (http://users.lycaeum.org/~sputnik/Memetics/index.html)

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