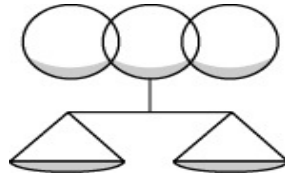


GRUTER INSTITUTE FOR
LAW AND BEHAVIORAL RESEARCH



AND

MATT RIDLEY
HOUSE OF LORDS

Symposium
Is Innovation Evolutionary?
Understanding the Processes Underlying Innovation

July 8-9, 2014

Millbank House, House of Lords
London
England

Co-Organizers

Monika Gruter Cheney
Executive Director, Gruter Institute for Law & Behavioral Research

Oliver Goodenough
Vermont Law School, Berkman Center for Internet & Society

Julian Morris
Vice President of Research, Reason Foundation

Matt Ridley
House of Lords

Symposium

Is Innovation Evolutionary?: Understanding the Processes Underlying Innovation

Goals

The objective of this highly interdisciplinary symposium is to examine the underlying mechanisms of innovation in humans and other species. The discussion will incorporate analysis of innovation across complex systems, including biological, economic, legal and technological. We will examine the degree to which innovation arises from individual inspiration, central command and control, or through collaborative behavior evolving via trial and error – much like natural selection. Using this comparative, interdisciplinary, approach, we seek to improve our understanding of the processes that give rise to innovation and human progress and how legal regimes, economic policies, and business approaches can foster productive innovation and growth.

The Intellectual Challenge

Innovation underpins advances in human well-being. Economists, members of the business community and politicians are in rare agreement as they recurrently point to innovation as a primary cause of economic growth and societal progress. In a sense, “innovation” is everywhere. In addition to its frequent invocation in popular discourse, programs in “Innovation and...” have proliferated widely; there are numerous journals devoted to innovation in general and to subtopics in particular; companies are instituting multi-step programs to foster innovation among their employees. Policy discussions abound about how a given law may effect and affect innovation. Large firms and start-ups alike struggle to develop just the right invention at just the right price to garner market share or build a new market.

Unfortunately, too many discussions about innovation remain mired in a single discipline or in the false notion that it is unleashed by a “secret sauce” or single “spark” in the hands of one individual.. Such discussions are as productive as the alchemists’ search for a means to turn base metal into gold (i.e. sometimes they inadvertently result in useful insights).

We are seeking to understand the *ecosystems* that give rise to higher rates of innovation, built upon our growing understanding of innovation in a range of complex systems: biological, technological, institutional (including legal and political) and cultural. By focusing on innovation in these systems, and the interactions between them, we will be better equipped to understand and positively affect the legal regimes, policies, and business approaches that can foster productive innovation and growth.

Tuesday, July 8

- 4:00 pm** **Tour of the H#9 on map) House of Lords** (*advance sign up required*). Convene at House of Lords (Entrance at Peers’ Entrance near Old Place Yard)
- 6:30 pm** **Welcome Dinner: Scott’s Restaurant** (in Mayfair: 20 Mount St, London W1K 2HE)

Symposium

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Wednesday, July 9, Millbank House, Room 3-20

Given the interdisciplinary nature of this conference, the diverse backgrounds of the participants and the rich discussion that we are seeking to foster, we understand that some will prefer to use speaking tools such as PowerPoint, while others may speak less formally in providing their remarks; either approach is welcome. We also ask participants to allow for at least 5 minutes of discussion at the end of their allotted time.

8:00 am **Coffee Served Millbank House, Room 3-20**

8:30 am **Introductions & Welcome**

Matt Ridley, Monika Gruter Cheney, Julian Morris, Oliver Goodenough

Analysis Across Complex Systems

9:00 - 9:30 Matt Ridley

Innovation in Non-Human Primates

9:30 – 9:55 Lydia Hopper

9:55 - 10:20 Isabel Behncke

10:20 - 10:35 **Break**

Cultural Evolution

10:35 -11:05 Kate Distin

Innovation from Genes to Humans

11:05 – 11:35 Andreas Wagner

Innovation in Science

11:35 – 12:05 Terence Kealey

12:05 – 1:05 **Lunch**

Innovation in Economic Policy

1:05 - 2:35 Brigitte Granville, Linda Whetstone, Tim Harford, Emily Skarbeck

Innovation in Law, Legislation and Government

2:35 – 3:45 Douglas Carswell, Andrew Torrance, Julian Morris, Oliver Goodenough

Innovation in Business Models

3:45 – 5:00 Richard Webb, Nicklas Lunblad, Suzanne Lee, Reuben Abraham, Anula Jayasuriya

Theory and Modeling Possibilities; Open Discussion of Targets for Further Interaction and Development

5:00 – 5:30 Matt Ridley, Monika Gruter Cheney, Julian Morris, Oliver Goodenough

5:30 pm **Session ends**

6:30 pm **Closing Dinner: The Emin Room at 34, 34 Grosvenor Square**

Symposium

Is Innovation Evolutionary?: Understanding the Processes Underlying Innovation

Participant List

Reuben Abraham (CEO and Senior Fellow, IDFC Institute)

Isabel Behncke (Oxford - Cognitive and Evolutionary Anthropology)

Douglas Carswell (House of Commons)

Monika Gruter Cheney (Gruter Institute)

Kate Distin (Author, Cultural Evolution)

Oliver Goodenough (Vermont Law School, Berkman Center at Harvard Univ., Gruter Institute)

Brigitte Granville (Queen Mary, University of London - International Economics and Policy)

Tim Harford (Economist, Author, Financial Times)

Lydia Hopper (Fisher Center, Lincoln Park Zoo, Chicago - Cognitive and Behavioral Research)

Anula Jayasuriya (India Life Science Fund, eXXXclaim Capital)

Terence Kealey (University of Buckingham - Economics and Science)

Suzanne Lee (Fashion and Future Technologies)

Nicklas Lunblad (Google - Policy and Government Relations)

Julian Morris (Reason Foundation)

Matt Ridley (House of Lords)

Emily Skarbeck (King's College - Political Economy)

Andrew Torrance (University of Kansas/MIT - Law and Bioscience)

Andreas Wagner (University of Zurich - Evolutionary Biology and Environmental Studies)

Richard H. Webb (StepOut; Centre for Philosophy of Natural & Social Science, London School of Economics)

Linda Whetstone (Chairman of Network for Free Society)