

The Science Delusion: Freeing the Spirit of Inquiry

Written by Rupert Sheldrake, P. D.

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Sunday, 01 September 2013 00:00 - Last Updated Wednesday, 18 March 2015 10:31

Everything is essentially mechanical. Dogs, for example, are complex mechanisms, rather than living organisms with goals of their own. Even people are machines — lumbering robots, in Richard Dawkins' vivid phrase — with brains that are like genetically programmed computers.

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The technical triumph of the Human Genome Project led to big surprises. There are far fewer human genes than anticipated, a mere 23,000 instead of 100,000. Sea urchins have about 26,000, and rice plants 38,000. Attempts to predict characteristics such as height have shown that genes account for only about 5 percent of the variation from person to person, instead of

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