

# Imitation, Memory, and Cultural Changes: Probing the *Meme* Hypothesis

Victoria College, Northrop Frye Hall, Room 205 (May 4-6, 2007)

## PROGRAM

Friday, May 4, 3:00-5:30 pm

Opening

**Professor David Klausner**

Vice-dean for Interdisciplinary Affairs, Faculty of Arts and Science

Chair: **Professor Emeritus Paul Bouissac**  
(University of Toronto, French)

**Dr. Alejandro Lynch**  
(Toronto)

***“The Population Memetics of Bird Song”***

**Prof. Dr. George van Driem**  
(University of Leiden, Linguistics)

***Symbiosis and the Leiden Definition of the Meme***

Saturday, May 5, 9:00-12:30

Chair: **Professor Maggie Toplak**  
(York University, Psychology)

**Professor Keith Stanovich**  
(University of Toronto, OISE)

***“Rationality, Evolution, and the Meme Concept”***

Coffee break

**Professor Michael Chazan**  
(University of Toronto, Anthropology)

***“Is a Handaxe a Meme?”***

**Dr. Ethan Cochrane**  
(University College London, Institute of Archaeology)  
***“How Useful is Memetics in Evolutionary Archaeology?”***

Saturday, May 5, 2:00-5:00

**Professor Michael Best**  
(Georgia Institute of Technology)  
***“Computational Memetics”***

**Professor Marion Blute**  
(University of Toronto, Sociology)  
***“The Role of Memes in Cultural Evolution: Memes if Necessary but not Necessarily Memes”***

Sunday, May 6, 10:00-12:00

Chair: **Professor Richard West**  
(James Madison University, Psychology)

**Professor Peter Jackson**  
(University of Tromso, Religious Studies)  
***“Some Thoughts on the Concept of Meme in Religious Studies”***

General discussion

Please check the following website for additional papers and for video clips of this symposium:

<http://www.semioticon.com/virtuals/imitation/index.html>

Submissions of papers relevant to the topics discussed in this symposium (for inclusion in the virtual symposium website) are welcome. They should be sent in electronic form to Paul Bouissac ([bouissa@attglobal.net](mailto:bouissa@attglobal.net)) or Alejandro Lynch ([alynch@hopscotch.ca](mailto:alynch@hopscotch.ca)). Past symposia and other resources can be accessed through <http://www.semioticon.com>