Memory, Social Networks, and Language: Probing the Meme Hypothesis II
May 15 – 17, 2008
Victoria College, Northrop Frye Hall, 73 Queen’s Park Crescent
Room 205

Program

Thursday, May 15 (2:00 pm – 5:00 pm)

Opening

Professor David Klausner, Vice Dean for Interdisciplinary Affairs, University of Toronto

Chair: Paul Bouissac (French)

Robert Finkelstein (Robotics Inc., University of Maryland)
What is a Meme: A Functional Definition

Morris Moscovitch (Psychology, University of Toronto)
The Cognitive Neuroscience of Memory and its Relevance to Meme Research

Friday, May 16 (9:00 am – 1:00 pm)

Chair: Nikolaus Ritt (Linguistics)

Paul G. Higgs (Physics and Astronomy, McMaster University)
Is it Good to Share? The Parallel between Information Transfer and Horizontal Gene Transfer

Barry Wellman (Sociology, University of Toronto)
Social Networks Theory: Networked Lives and Meme Fields

Bernie Hogan (Sociology, University of Toronto)
The Social Structure of (Memetic) Diffusion

Lunch
Friday, May 16 (2:00 pm – 6:00 pm)

Chair: Robert Finkelstein (Robotics)

Nikolaus Ritt (Linguistics, University of Vienna)
*Putting Memetic to the Test: The Case of Historical Trends in English Phonotactics*

Morten Christiansen (Psychology, Cornell University)
*Is Memetics a Science? Lessons from Language Evolution*

Domenico Pietropaolo (Italian Studies, University of Toronto)
*Irresistible Changes in Languages: Cases Studies*

Saturday, May 17 (10:00 – 12:00)

*Memetics: Issues, Agenda, and Prospects*

*A round table discussion*

Chair: Marion Blute (Sociology, University of Toronto)