

ZULF'S VIEWS ABOUT GENES FOR THIS AND THAT

ZULFIKAR MOINUDDIN AHMED

I have been thinking about Human Nature in evolutionary history. I am not fond of 'scientism' any more than John Dupre, the author of "Human Nature and the Limits of Science". I think there is a serious problem of perspective when it comes to issues of genetic basis of various features of the human being. It's a simple issue, for me, really. We are the product of roughly 6 million years of co-evolution. There needs to be perspective about how the whole genome functions together. We share more than 99.8% of the genes overall, and so one has to consider gene for some trait in the global context; we share most of the genes across species so the idea that we're going to develop any classification by genes in a simple manner is deluded. But it is unavoidable that enthusiastic scientists will be emphasizing particular genes because they're working on them. I prefer to consider whether there is a 'thermodynamic' understanding *across all human beings* first. That is because I don't think anything we actually care about is that uncommon across the globe.