

## *Languages and Genes in Collaboration: some Practical Matters*

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This paper examines aspects of how linguistics and human genetics can collaborate in investigating human prehistory. It addresses questions put to conference participants, emphasizing linguistic matters that need more careful attention for linguistic-genetic correlations to have value, and discussing frequent problems in association with the questions addressed. The questions (and associated problems) addressed include:

Does a common linguistic ancestry mean a common biological ancestry?

What of linguistic areas, language contact, and language shift?

The problem: misunderstanding of the nature of language change and the role of inheritance vs. borrowing.

What of multilingual societies practicing linguistic exogamy?

Are there particular social conditions that constrain language change and evolution?

What of the initial peopling of the Americas?

Other problems: the predilection for problematic linguistic phylogenetic classifications, and the predilection for non-mainstream linguistic scholars' claims.

How can research in this area be carried forward by the application of new methods or by the combination of methods from different disciplines?

Problems with several proposed new approaches.