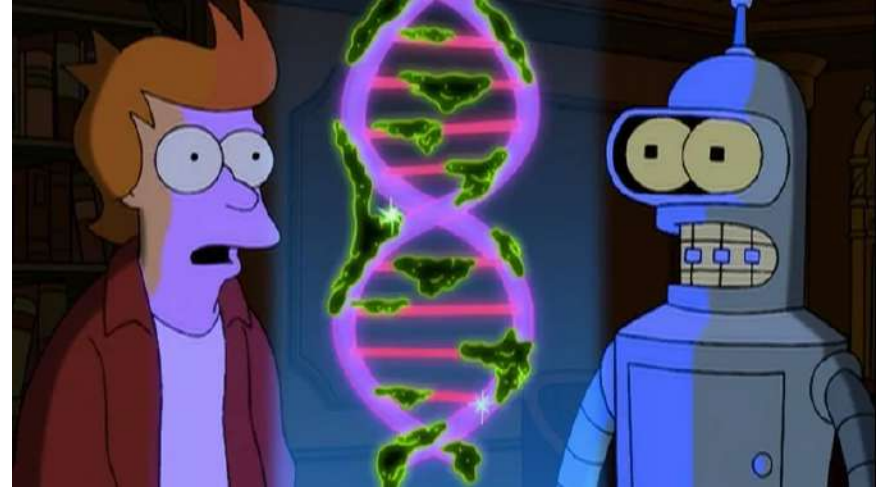


- Agenda** |
- Science & identity
1. Genetic ancestry testing & indigeneity
  2. Group discussions

# Genetic ancestry testing & indigeneity

## Types of tests

- ‡ **Mitochondrial DNA (mtDNA):**  
Identifies markers inherited matrilineally.
- ‡ **Single nucleotide polymorphisms (SNPs):**  
Identifies markers inherited patrilineally.
- ‡ **Short tandem repeats (STRs):**  
Tests for parentage.



## Linking alleles to populations

- ‡ Most ancestry tests look for alleles/haplotypes that are associated with specific populations.
- ‡ Not everyone in a population has any given allele.
- ‡ Alleles that are common in a particular population are also present elsewhere.
- ‡ Based on sample of recent people using statistical inference.

**DNA tests  $\neq$  ancestry  $\neq$  race**



## “Indigenous” as a category

- ∴ “Indigenous” is a term and identity related to the global indigenous movement
- ∴ Refers broadly to peoples/nations that were already present when a colonizing or settling population arrived

## Unifying term

- ∴ Identifies diverse, global peoples through shared struggle
- ∴ Can also be used to “flatten” those peoples into a homogenous kind, defined by colonial history

## Articulations of indigeneity (TallBear 2013)

### Dominant “genomic” articulations

- ⋮ Indigenous populations are defined by specific characteristics of populations’ genomes.
- ⋮ Co-exists with a view of *static “cultural” distinction*.

### Contrasted with various indigenous articulations

- ⋮ **Place-based:**  
“They were not simply first but they arose as peoples, as humans in relationships with particular places.” (514)
- ⋮ **Oppositional:**  
Indigenous identity defined in terms of resistance against colonial forces.
- ⋮ **Generative:**  
“... enabling mutual recognition and collaboration by indigenous peoples across disparate histories and geographies.” (514)

## Narratives underlying genomic articulation (TallBear 2013)

TallBear discusses **two cultural narratives** that support and are supported by the genomic articulation of indigeneity:

### 1. "Indigenous peoples are vanishing"

- ∴ Indigenous peoples represent "*pure*" *populations* that developed in relative isolation.
- ∴ Due to colonialism, genetic *admixture* is making "pure" indigeneity rarer.
- ∴ Provides ***scientific backing for indigenous erasure.***

### 2. ""We are all related/all African"

- ∴ All humans can be traced to a single "mitochondrial Eve" who is supposed to have lived in North Africa.
- ∴ Implicitly (and often explicitly) conceives of non-Europeans as an *earlier stage of human development.*
- ∴ Provides ***scientific backing for indigenous erasure.***

# INDIGENEITY

## Co-opting indigeneity

- ∴ Many genetic ancestry tests will report a 'percentage' of indigenous ancestry
- ∴ Non-indigenous settlers may use these results to claim indigeneity for cultural cachet, tax benefits, etc.

## Gaming the system

- ∴ In 2018, CBC reported on a scam linked to "Confederation of Aboriginal People of Canada" (CAPC)
- ∴ Genetic tests of journalist's dogs were reported as having significant indigenous DNA



## Heredity or hoax?

How dog DNA helped uncover a suspected Indian status scam

By Jorge Barrera and Tiffany Foxcroft

June 13, 2018

When Louis Côté became suspicious of a Toronto-based laboratory that tests people's DNA to determine their ancestry, he decided to try an experiment by submitting a sample from his girlfriend's dog for analysis.



Edmonton

## After dog DNA debacle, Indigenous researcher says ancestry testing is 'stupid science'

Tribal culture can't be bottled in a test tube, says Kim TallBear

CBC News · Posted: Jun 14, 2018 11:49 AM EDT | Last Updated: June 14, 2018



Even in a credible DNA lab, there are problems using tests to determine Indigenous affiliation, Kim TallBear says. (Submitted by Kim TallBear)



## AI, knowledge, and social data

- ∴ **Joyce et al. (2021)**  
*Toward a Sociology of Artificial Intelligence*
- ∴ **Roberts (2020) — optional**  
*Your AI Is a Human*

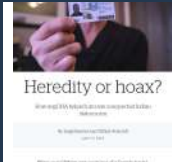
# Image credit



Still from Futurama  
(1999).



*The Subjugation of Truth*  
(2016) by Kent Monkman  
via Huffpost



Screenshot from CBC



Screenshot from CBC