

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)