

Title

On the roots of ethnic diversity

Presenter

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Abstract

We provide a theoretical and empirical analysis of the determinants of ethnic diversity in the world. We introduce a model of cultural and genetic drift where new ethnic groups endogenously emerge among peripheral populations in response to an insufficient supply of public goods. The theoretical prediction of a positive effect of the duration of human settlements on ethnic diversity receives strong empirical support, and there are clear indications that ethnic diversity is higher where geographical conditions have favoured isolation, and lower where early civilization proved more successful, and the state was stronger during the modern nation-state era.