

Author: Prof Stuart West, University of Oxford

Title: Cooperation and division of labour

Complex life is built by cooperation. Genes cooperate to produce organisms, cells cooperate to produce multicellular organisms, and multicellular animals cooperate to form societies. From a theoretical perspective, this evolutionary problem of “why cooperate?” has long been effectively solved. I will review recent progress, driven by asking more precise or nuanced questions about the distribution and form that cooperation takes in the natural world.