

The Inequality Process: How it functions as an optimization algorithm, why it was selected by evolution

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The Inequality Process (Angle, 1983-2009) is a particle system abstracted from Lenski's (1966) modification of an old and well documented verbal theory of economic anthropology, the Surplus Theory of Social Stratification, that accounts for the universal pairing of the first appearance of substantial inequality of wealth with the first evidence of a storeable food surplus, i.e., as the result of a competition process in place before the food surplus came along. A storeable food surplus gave the competition process wealth to concentrate. Lenski wanted to explain why the concentration of wealth decreases over the course of techno-cultural evolution. Lenski's modification of the Surplus Theory is the speculation, among a number of speculations, that workers more productive of wealth are more sheltered from competition for wealth. The IP has a wide empirical explanandum of quantitative patterns in income and wealth statistics. This explanandum indicates that the IP is a good model of an empirical process selected by evolution.