

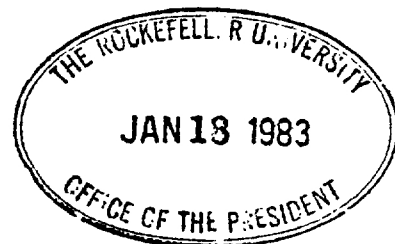


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January 10, 1983



Dr. Joshua Lederberg
Office of the President
The Rockefeller University
1230 York Avenue
New York, NY 10021

Dear Dr. Lederberg:

Thank you for your note and the enclosed reprints. I regret that I was not aware of them and the Dubos book, since all could have been appropriately cited in my Perspectives note.

My interest in Avery arose while I was working on my dissertation under Toumin in philosophy of science. The object of my dissertation was to use a very simple utility maximizing model to argue that differences in the speed of acceptance of scientific theories might be due to different constraints faced by the scientists rather than different values. Hence, I was attempting to refute Kuhn's irrationalism in a way that might be consistent with the history and practice of science.

For intellectual as well as practical reasons I have changed my professional affiliation to economics. My main research program is to try to extend economic maximization models in order to explain human behavior usually thought to lie outside the domain of economics. I have recently written a paper with Luis Locay on the economics of matrilineal kinship but most of my effort is devoted to giving an economic (i.e., utility maximizing) account of theory acceptance.

In case they would be of interest to you, I am enclosing a paper I co-authored on the acceptance of evolution as well as a brief note on the acceptance of cliometrics. I thank you again for taking the time to read and comment on my note on Avery.

Sincerely,

Arthur M. Diamond, Jr.
Arthur M. Diamond, Jr.
Assistant Professor

x
↓ (Avery)
o ↓ reprints
7/11/85
air