

Genetic ancestry testing is not 'astrology'

The following is an excerpt.

Professor Mark Thomas may have a point [in his critique of genetic ancestry testing companies](#). The line between popularising science and misleading the public is a very difficult one to draw, as responses to the recent BBC TV programme [Meet the Izzards](#), in which Eddie Izzard traces the migration of his ancestors out of Africa and into Europe, illustrate. But Thomas's portrayal of what he calls "interpretative phylogeography" – the principal means by which those of us who study mitochondrial DNA and the Y chromosome draw conclusions about the dispersal history of modern humans – as "genetic astrology" has profound implications. Here he is taking on not just the commercial use of the scientific work, but the science itself – work that has been published in peer-reviewed articles in leading scientific journals. Can he really be right?

Read the full article here: [It is unfair to compare genetic ancestry testing to astrology](#)

Further reading:

- [To claim someone has 'Viking ancestors' is no better than astrology](#). Mark Thomas, *The Guardian*
- [Ancestry tests are not to be trusted](#). Matt Thomas, *BioNews*..