

Beyond q-bio?

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The denizens of this meeting are all self-identified “quantitative biologists”. But is being quantitative really what defines this group, distinguishing us from the biologists of the past? Or does something else in our approach, outlook or methodology explain why meetings such as this, and other efforts to be “quantitative”, “systems”, or “computational” in biology are so much on the rise these days? I will argue that q-bio is part of a major realignment of priorities within the discipline of biology, and with that realignment has come new responsibilities on the part of the q-biologist, both to the scientific community and to the world at large.