Supply and Demand: A Special Case of the Laws of Cultural Motion?

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Treating commodities as cultural artifacts — alongside stories, songs, words, and other vehicles for the transmission and circulation of culture — this paper asks whether the laws of supply and demand can be adequately interpreted and explained in terms of the “laws of cultural motion”.

Figure 2 from Urban’s A Method for Measuring the Motion of Culture, in American Anthropologist, 2010. Graph of “mutation” and stabilization of text transmitted through retelling.

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