

Nanopublication – Johannsen's early 'direction, not figure' genotype tests P1 – and his own 1926 retraction marks where the grip ends

by Arnaud Quercy

The boundary runs through Johannsen's own revision: P1's direction-not-figure reading of 'form' grips the genotype only in its first, abandoned sense (the 1909-1911 norm of reaction), and loses grip exactly where the source's own history – and its subsequent terminology – moves to anchor genotype in material constitution. Whether P3a's given/instituted axis can be instantiated in a domain (genome/genotype) built on an abstract/physical split without collapsing into the matter/form pair it disclaims is left open by the source, which supplies the test case but not the dialogue-structure needed to adjudicate it.

WHAT THE SOURCE SAYS [1]

The entry traces how Wilhelm Johannsen's 1909 genotype/phenotype distinction, introduced to replace speculative particle theories of heredity with 'sharper definitions', has drifted across a century of genetics: from a statistically-derived type, through the chromosome theory, to today's genome/epigenome frameworks, holobionts, and the many-to-many mapping between genotype and phenotype produced by protein chemistry, gene interaction, environment, development, and stochastic noise. It documents Johannsen's early equation of genotype with Woltereck's 'norm of reaction' – the potential of hereditary material to generate a range of phenotypic responses – and his later (1926) retraction of that equation in favor of anchoring the genotype in material, biochemical constitution. The entry argues the genotype-phenotype relation resists any simple blueprint model and surveys competing contemporary accounts (material genome, informational gene, genotoken, performative/developmental views) without settling on one.

WHERE THE LENS GRIPS

Johannsen's 1909-1911 genotype, read as a 'norm of reaction' rather than a fixed template – a rule generating a range of phenotypic outcomes rather than a copy to be reproduced – lines up with P1's current claim that what precedes execution is a direction, not a

figure, under the exemplary sense of 'form' (principle of order, relation of parts to whole) that Note 04 fixes corpus-wide. For this specific historical layer of the source, the lens grips cleanly: the genotype-as-norm-of-reaction is explicitly not a figurative template.

WHERE IT BREAKS

The grip has a hard edge, supplied by the source itself: Johannsen's 1926 revision retracts exactly this reading, re-anchoring the genotype in 'the physical or biochemical attributes' of the organism – material constitution, not generative direction – and the entry's subsequent contemporary vocabulary (physical genome, material genotoken, continuity of replication) follows that later, materially-anchored sense rather than the 1909 one. P1's direction-not-figure distinction therefore grips only the superseded layer of the source's own history, not the position the field actually settled into. Separately, and more speculatively: reading the source's abstract/material genotype-genome split through P3a's given/instituted axis meets resistance – P3a insists that axis is not matter/form and not physical/mental (the Simondon/Dewey objection is granted), yet the source's own distinction (Mahner & Kary's 'genome' as physical complement versus 'genotype' as abstract type) is built exactly along that line. The source does not refute P3a's disclaimer – it has no equivalent of a codex disclosed in dialogue to test it against – but it sharpens an open question rather than resolving it: X slips IF one reads the given/instituted axis as needing a domain-independent escape from matter/form; it holds if one reads the axis as specific to codex/dialogue structures the biological case never instantiates.

PROPOSITIONAL GRID [2]

Read this grid. "Not evaluated" does **not** mean the source has nothing to say about that proposition. It means **the reading did not instruct it**. That is not a result, and it counts in no denominator. A silence, by con-

trast, is a finding: the reading touched the proposition without concluding, or noted its absence itself.

Evaluated

proposi- tion		audit status	relational verdict
P1	Primordial Idea	audited	evidence-for
P3a	Double Structure of the In-variant	audited	open-question

What was instructed. These propositions have been judged and carry a current statement: it is **that** statement the reading tested, not the founding one.

- **P1** – judged in Note 04 · current statement : 'form' means PRINCIPLE OF ORDER (the relation of parts to the whole), never figure, outline or image – under the figurative reading the statement is false; what precedes execution is a DIRECTION, not a figure
- **P3a** – judged in Note 05 · current statement : say GIVEN invariant and INSTITUTED invariant, never 'physical' and 'intentional' – the axis is MODE OF EXISTENCE, read as regime of access: the given is what a sensor measures on the surface WITHOUT the codex; the instituted is the rule that elects relations in that surface and that only the disclosed codex deciphers

Not evaluated (35) – P2, P3, P4, P5, P6, P7, P8, P9, P10, P11, P12, P13, P14, P14a, P14b, P15, P16, P16a, P17, P18, P18a, P19, P19a, P20, P21, P22, P23, P24, P25, P26, P27, P28, P29, P30, P31

Overall verdict: Bounded – taxonomy of the August 2026 pass, predating the move to relational verdicts. Kept as metadata: the gap between the two forms is data, not residue. This reading's judgement is in the grid above.

Reading of 2026-10-03 · model claude-sonnet-5 · source 96,364 chars · 2 attempt(s)

REFERENCES

[1] The Genotype/Phenotype Distinction. Stanford Encyclopedia of Philosophy, 2026-10-03. <https://plato.stanford.edu/entries/genotype-phenotype/>

[2] Quercy, A. (2026). The 31 Propositions of Ideamorphism. <https://ideamorphism.org/en/publications/2026/03/the-31-propositions-of-ideamorphism.html>

EPISTEMIC PROFILE

Claim type	boundary reading
Voice	third person analysis
Epistemic status	bounded grip
Methodology	Boundary-finding lens applied to one source, model claude-sonnet-5, 2 attempt(s), traceability check passed.

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e53fadd71e4381e9fc9bfafb4c25e6e70e23cf9a0331c0284ca619ec0845533b

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