The observations of embryology/ developmental biology render plausible an **alternative picture** to genes controlling development:

i) The organism is a composite of coherent processes.

Changes, e.g. produced by mutations, can yield significant (or trivial) but still integrated change in the organism.

ii) Development is a complex process of structures arising out of structure, and so

a change in genes does not necessarily imply a change in some characters.

a change in genes can sometimes result in a discrete change in some characters.

iii) Although development is complex, this doesn't imply the need for a controlling center. Local rules of interaction can yield larger scale co-ordination.

Development of social characters will be similarly complex and difficult to tie down to genes, but even more so because
a) post-embryonic development involves more extensive interaction with the environment and
b) social characters involve interaction among individuals.