

Dean Svend Hylleberg
Det Samfundsvidenskabelige Fakultet
Nordre Ringgade
Bybning 327,3.
8000 Aarhus C.
Denmark

August 6, 2006

Dear Professor Hylleberg:

I am writing this letter in strong support of Professor Helmuth Nyborg, whose long and distinguished career and important contributions to psychology and evolutionary psychology are under assault from a purely politically correct mindset, apparently intent on using a kangaroo court procedure to procure disciplinary action against Professor Nyborg and force him into retirement for having found from his studies some evidence that the cognitive abilities between women and men might differ in some way, at least on the basis of aggregate statistics. If so, these are issues best played out with published studies showing contradictory results, and NOT pedantic knit-picking analyses of the merits or demerits of factor analytic techniques. I find it amazing, and an insult to my intelligence that this one study should be the sole basis for such suggested disciplinary action, at least in so far as your hand-picked committee has determined. I have seen no complaints regarding Nyborg's corpus of works, academic teaching, service to the university, or any other horrific behavior deserving of this treatment.

I find it particularly curious that given all the last two decades of neurological work (see for example some of the works of Pakkenberg, a Danish neuroscientist), using the most modern imaging techniques, demonstrating clearly that male and female brains differ in neuroanatomical and neurophysiological processing that there would be any question that minor differences might indeed exist in some aspects of cognitive processing. As someone who went through the politically correct harassment from 1981 to 1993 when we found differences in the relative size of the corpus callosum between human male and female brains (see one of the recent 2005 issues of **Current Anthropology** for vindication of these findings), I am all too familiar with the ramifications which can follow such findings, and such behavior which does not permit freedom of inquiry is despicable, whether in the US, or Denmark.

I am sure one of the editors for *Intelligence*, or *Personality and Individual Differences* can explain their rigid criteria for acceptance of manuscripts, and the length requirements all of us working in the sciences must face when we publish. Furthermore, I found Professor Nyborg's explanations in his responses to the three evaluations cogent and sufficient. I sincerely doubt that anyone of those evaluations could find publication in a serious scientific journal.

Next is the matter of Dr. Pia Ankersen's complaint, which seems to be without substance given Professor Nyborg's sending her the requested materials on more than one occasion. This matter simply adds to the ad hoc manner in which his career is being abused.

In sum, I believe your procedures are more than unfair: they smack of academic criminality. I sincerely hope you will examine the whole of his career, and rest assured that his contributions have been highly valued by many in the sciences, and that the

action you and your university are contemplating will not only injure a scientist far from deserving such treatment, but will reflect badly on Aarhus and Denmark herself.

I append my earlier letter of December 12, 2006. You will understand that I am on vacation and do not have access to formal stationery. Upon my return, I will put this on Columbia University stationery, where I am a Full Professor, and on the faculty for the past 42 years.

Sincerely yours,

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