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Danish Professor of Psychology Helmuth Nyborg gets Watson'd

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Today, 06:42 AM

#1

White Federalist

Forum Member

Join Date: Sep 2007

Posts: 466



Danish Professor of Psychology Helmuth Nyborg gets Watson'd

From the Psychological Comments blog, [Helmuth Nyborg gets Watson'd](#):

Quote:

Originally Posted by **James Thompson**

Helmuth Nyborg is a Professor of Psychology in Denmark who does psychometric research and publishes widely (about 97 papers) in peer-reviewed international journals. He is a firm proponent of the genes plus environment view of human behaviour. He has fallen foul of the environment-only view, to which I will give the appellation "blank slate-ism".

He has just been stitched up by three critics in one of the [The Danish Committees on Scientific Dishonesty](#) which lurk in The Ministry of Science, Innovation, and Higher Education. In the midst of all this horrible nonsense, which has already caused him a lot of trouble and cost him his Emeritus status, I cannot help but be distracted by the funny names education departments give themselves. Innovation? I suppose a Committee for Public Safety is an innovation for Denmark, but the Jacobin terror got there first.

The three pursuers have found him guilty of two crimes: "that the defendant had committed scientific dishonesty by appearing as the sole author of an article and by including a reference which did not support the data it indicated to support." There is no appeal allowed. Helmut writes to me, in great detail poor fellow, showing that he offered co-authorship to a colleague who did not accept it, and that the reference was to the correct dataset, but should have included a note on a technical correction about birth rate projections which makes no real difference to the results. You can get the very much fuller account from him (see email address below). I shudder to think what this committee could do to any authors of any published paper if it classifies omissions of this sort as "scientific dishonesty".

Is there a back story? Yes, Helmut got on the wrong side of a colleague at his university. They applied for the same job years ago. The other guy got the job. Helmut, who had 40 publications at that stage, which was far more than the other candidate, protested. They have been on very poor terms ever since. Incredibly, this guy was one of the three members of the committee. The other two are also

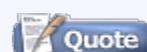
on public record as being hostile to him. Publication rates for two of them are 0 and 0, and 32 for the other one, so he is hardly up against stellar scholars.

More of a back story? Helmuth thinks we are going to the dogs in a hand cart, and that we are showing dysgenic fertility in the sense of reverse Darwinian selection. All this is possible, and the impact on nations depends on assumptions about birth rates and intelligence in the next decades, but it is not a popular story in some quarters.

[...]

This hasn't really reached the English press, though it has been reported in [Danish outlets](#) in a typically slanted way.

I've been following [Nyborg's work](#) for a while now, and it has always been top-notch. The festschrift's he edited dedicated to [Hans Eysenck](#) (PDF) and [Arthur Jensen](#) (PDF) are especially worth reading. There is also a soon-to-be-released [festschrift dedicated to Richard Lynn](#) he also edited.



Today, 07:12 AM

#2

[WhiteRights](#)
"Friend of Stormfront"
Sustaining Member



Join Date: Jun 2004
Posts: 50,398



Re: Danish Professor of Psychology Helmuth Nyborg gets Watson'd

There are identical twin studies where they've been separated at birth.

As long as the twins got reasonably decent White parents, the twins had an amazing number of similarities, which must be due to genetics.

In other words, genes are the dominant factor in determining how someone turns out with the environment being secondary.

Quote:

[Identical twins who were separated at birth: Amazing similarities](#)
...

lornareiko.wordpress.com/.../identical-twins-who-were-separated-at-birth...

Oct 8, 2009 - *Identical twins who were separated at birth: Amazing similarities ... and there are forces which move to stop the studies that go in that direction.*

In the most widely publicized study of this type, launched in 1979, University of Minnesota psychologist Thomas Bouchard and his colleagues have chronicled the fates of about 60 pairs of identical twins raised separately. Some of the pairs had scarcely met before Bouchard contacted them, and yet the behaviors and personalities and social attitudes they displayed in lengthy batteries of tests were often remarkably alike.

The first pair Bouchard met, James Arthur Springer and James Edward Lewis, had just been reunited at age 39 after being given up by their mother and separately adopted as 1-month-olds. Springer and Lewis, both Ohioans, found they had each married and divorced a woman named Linda and remarried a Betty. They shared interests in mechanical drawing and carpentry; their favorite school subject had been math, their least favorite, spelling. They smoked and drank the same amount and got headaches at the same time of day.

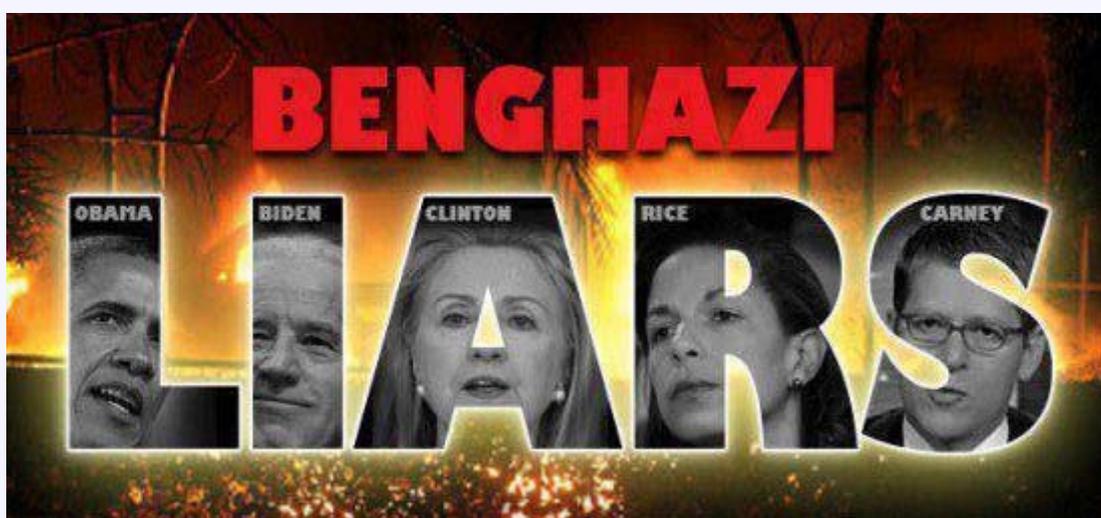
[Another source](#) says:

The twin boys were separated at birth, being adopted by different families.

Unknown to each other, both families named the boys Jim. And here the coincidences just begun. Both James grew up not even knowing of the other, yet both sought law-enforcement training, both had abilities in mechanical drawing and carpentry, and each had married women named Linda. They both had sons whom one named James Alan and the other named James Allan. The twin brothers also divorced their wives and married other women – both named Betty. And they both owned dogs which they named Toy. Jim Lewis and Jim Springer finally met in February 9, 1979 after 39 years of being separated.

.....

Check out what someone who remembers young Barack Obama has to say about him: <http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Uy2K5SIuK2E>



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Today, 10:22 AM

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White Federalist

Forum Member

Join Date: Sep 2007

Posts: 466



Re: Danish Professor of Psychology Helmuth Nyborg gets Watson'd

More from Psychological Comments, [My letter to Scientific Dishonesty Minister](#):

Quote:

Originally Posted by **James Thompson**
Dear Minister Morten Østergaard

I write to you in some alarm, hearing that in Denmark there is a procedure in which your Ministry establishes committees which judge whether a researcher is behaving in a scientifically proper manner, and that these committees may demand the recall of published papers.

The usual practice is to debate these matters in scientific journals, in

which critics make their points and the author can make their replies. As part of this process authors may alter their views, correct errors, and provide further explanations and data. Critics may concede that they have misunderstood a point, may alter their criticisms, or may reserve judgment until the finding has been replicated. This may require many exchanges of views, many publications, and many years. As part of this process other researchers gradually come to their own conclusions as to which findings can be relied upon. Typically, arguments about major issues in social science may last for decades.

It is unusual in academic circles for one scholar to accuse another of scientific dishonesty. There is a strong preference for testing one argument against another, and assessing the arguments without attacking the person. When much of what we research is uncertain and subject to different interpretations we need to be respectful of different opinions, particularly when those opinions are opposed to our own preferences and beliefs. We want scientific debates, not religious ones.

Sadly, there are occasions when a researcher fabricates results. When this is suspected then a most careful academic enquiry is carried out, excluding any persons who are known to be involved in arguments with the scholar, and with the accused person being given every opportunity to explain themselves. It is usual for them to have legal representation, and a right of appeal if they can find procedural or evidential flaws in the decision. If such fundamental dishonesty is proved then it is usual for the Journal to withdraw the paper. Their University or Institution may then decide to take disciplinary action against the dishonest author.

In summary, both Journals and Universities have procedures to deal with the rare cases of scientific dishonesty.

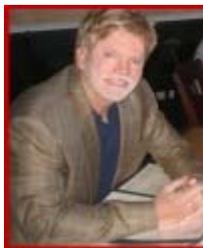
Appointing a Committee in a national Ministry seems an unwise and potentially dangerous precedent. Ministers will have to ensure that they appoint experts of very high standing in the very many fields of academic endeavor for which there are scientific journals. That will not be an easy task for any national Ministry since research is now international, and many fields of research are extremely specialized. There is also the problem of ensuring that the committee members are not compromised by prior disagreements and conflicts. Journals usually draw upon an editorial board and a set of agreed reviewers, setting aside any who are known to have an adversarial history as regards the scholar in question. The accused person must have legal representation, and there must be recourse to appeal for procedural and evidential shortcomings.

[...]



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All times are GMT -4. The time now is 06:01 PM.

-- White Liquid

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