

Handout II

“The only really natural experiment for separating genetic from environmental effects in humans [is] genetically identical individuals raised in disparate environments. Studies of identical twins raised apart should therefore hold pride of place in literature on inheritance of IQ.”

(Stephen Jay Gould in the Bible of anti-genetic determinists, *The Mismeasure of Man*, 1981, p. 234; and p. 264 of the second edition (1996). In the second edition Gould never mentions the project that Mischel describes in the last quotation below. Since he must have known about it, the only explanation is that he could not refute it.)

“Imagine the enormous differences that would be found in the personalities of twins with identical genetic endowments if they were raised apart in two different families. ... Through social learning, vast differences develop among people.”

(The third edition, 1981, p. 311, of Walter Mischel’s standard psychology textbook, *Introduction to Personality*)

“To separate the role of genetics and environment, it is especially interesting to examine identical twins who have been reared apart, preferably in extremely different environments. A large scale project now underway at the University of Minnesota ... is now beginning to provide much information. The subjects include thirty pairs of identical twins who had been separated on the average before the end of the second month of life ... The twins remained totally separated for many years and in some cases did not meet until the research project united them ... Preliminary reports suggest instances of dramatic psychological similarities within the twin pairs, even for twins who grew up in radically different environments.”

(The fourth edition, 1986, pp. 183-4, of Mischel’s *Introduction to Personality*)