

Handout III

In their textbook *Behavior Genetics* (fourth edition, 2001, p. 182) Robert Plomin J. C. Defries, G. E. McLearn, and P. McGuffin point out, “The evidence for a strong genetic contribution to general cognitive ability (*g*) is clearer than for any other area of psychology”; and (pp. 57-8)

“There is a wide gap between ... lay people ... and experts ... Lay people often hear in the popular press that the assessment of intelligence is circular – intelligence is what intelligence tests assess. To the contrary, *g* is one of the most reliable and valid measures in the behavioral domain ... It predicts important social outcomes such as educational and occupational level far better than any other trait.”

Nowhere is this gap wider than on the issue of racial and ethnic differences. In 1997 the *Journal Intelligence*, (24, 1, pp. 13-21) carried a declaration entitled “Mainstream Science on Intelligence”. In it 52 world-renowned experts on intelligence and intelligence testing stated unequivocally that it is “regarded as mainstream among researchers on intelligence” that, “The bell curves for some groups (Jews and East Asians) are centered somewhat higher than for whites in general. Other groups (blacks and Hispanics) are centered somewhat lower than non-Hispanic whites. ... Hispanics are roughly midway between ... whites and blacks.” Dinesh D’Souza observed in *The End of Racism: Principles for a Multiracial Society*, (1995, pp. 441, 452),

“Even as popular opinion in America has shifted decisively ... toward an assumption of inherent intellectual parity between the races, scholarly opinion ... shifted in the opposite direction. Within the community of social scientists ... who study racial differences, there is now a virtual consensus about the existence of substantial IQ differences between Asians, whites, Hispanics and blacks”

‘Although he has been attacked in the popular media as biased and bigoted, Arthur Jensen’s conclusion turns out to be true: “The handful of dissenters who argue that genetic factors play no part in IQ differences are not unlike the few persons living today who claim that the earth is flat.’ ”