In their study of twins who were separated at birth and recently reunited, researchers at the University of Minnesota have found that genetics, more than environment, plays a significant role in determining intelligence and personality.

**Keywords**

Intelligence, Family, Twins, Environment, Nature Vs. Nurture, IQ Test, Dr. Thomas Bouchard, Separated At Birth, Dr. Paul Billings, University of Minnesota Twin Studies, Genetics, Diane Carr, Lucky Collins

**Citation**

**MLA**


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Transcript

The Role of Genetics in Determining Intelligence Properties

Tom Brokaw, anchor:
Here's a question that we've all wondered about: Are we born with a certain amount of intelligence and just enhance it along the way, or is intelligence shaped by environment and study habits? NBC's Robert Bazell tells us tonight the results of a controversial study finally have been published.

Robert Bazell reporting:
Heidi Seavers believes the attention she gives her year-old daughter Henley will help the child in many ways, including increasing her intelligence.

Heidi Seavers: I think envi--environment plays a key role in development of child.

Bazell: Is she right, or is Henley's intelligence determined mostly by genetics at the moment of birth? Dr. Thomas Bouchard thinks genetics plays a big role. `Seventy percent of IQ,' he says, `is determined at birth.' The conclusion comes from his comparison of more than 100 twins separated at birth and reared apart with twins raised in the same family.

Dr. Thomas Bouchard (University of Minnesota): It really shows dramatically that the differences between individuals are fundamental. They're not an accident of just where you happened to grow up or who you happen to have as a teacher at one point in time or the characteristics of your parents.

Bazell: Bouchard's research has produced memorable moments, including the reuniting of identical twins Diane Carr and Lucky Collins. The conclusions of the twin studies have elicited heavy resistance from other scientists.

Dr. Paul Billings (Pacific Presbyterian Hospital): I think that any research which supports the notion that genes determine personality,
determine IQ, is dangerous.

Bazell: For years, critics have chastised Bouchard for not publishing his results about IQ. Finally he has, in tomorrow's issue of the Journal of Science; but, seeing the details of the study, the critics remain critical. They say that for a series of technical reasons, Bouchard has not proved his point.

Billings: We now can finally evaluate the method, and the method is flawed.

Bazell: There is no sign this nature/nuture debate will be settled soon.


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