

Propositions

accompanying the dissertation

What makes us unique? Genetic and Environmental Drivers of Health and Education Inequalities

by:

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1. Genes explain a substantial part of many educational and health outcomes. (*Chapters 1-4*)
2. The effect of genes on health and educational outcomes is often environmentally dependent. (*Chapter 1*)
3. The child's birth weight polygenic score does not exacerbate or protect against the effect of maternal smoking on birth weight. In this case, the effects are additive. (*Chapter 2*)
4. The role of genetic advantage is crucial for equality of opportunity calculations, regardless of whether one considers it to be a fair or unfair source of advantage. (*Chapter 3*)
5. Including a direct measure of genetic advantage reveals a new layer of educational inequality that is independent of parental socioeconomic status or parental education. (*Chapter 4*)
6. The starting point of economics should be to understand the essence of humanity: what motivates and drives us, what makes us happy and fulfilled.
7. There exists some resistance to the study of genetics due to its misuse in the past. But being curious about a fundamental part of ourselves was never the problem; the problem was (and continues to be) the belief that different people have different worth.

8. "You cannot put a person's talent over somebody's humanity." - Tarana Burke
9. "I hope that people will finally come to realize that there is only one 'race' - the human race - and that we are all members of it" - Margaret Atwood
10. "Women belong in all places where decisions are being made. It shouldn't be that women are the exception." - Ruth Bader Ginsburg
11. Economics is a fascinating yet narrow discipline, as it reduces the world to numbers. There is beauty, art, and music; there is friendship and love; and there is an innate need for fairness. Those are fundamental parts of life that economics will never fully grasp. And for that, it will remain a narrow field that should not be used to justify all kinds of policies.