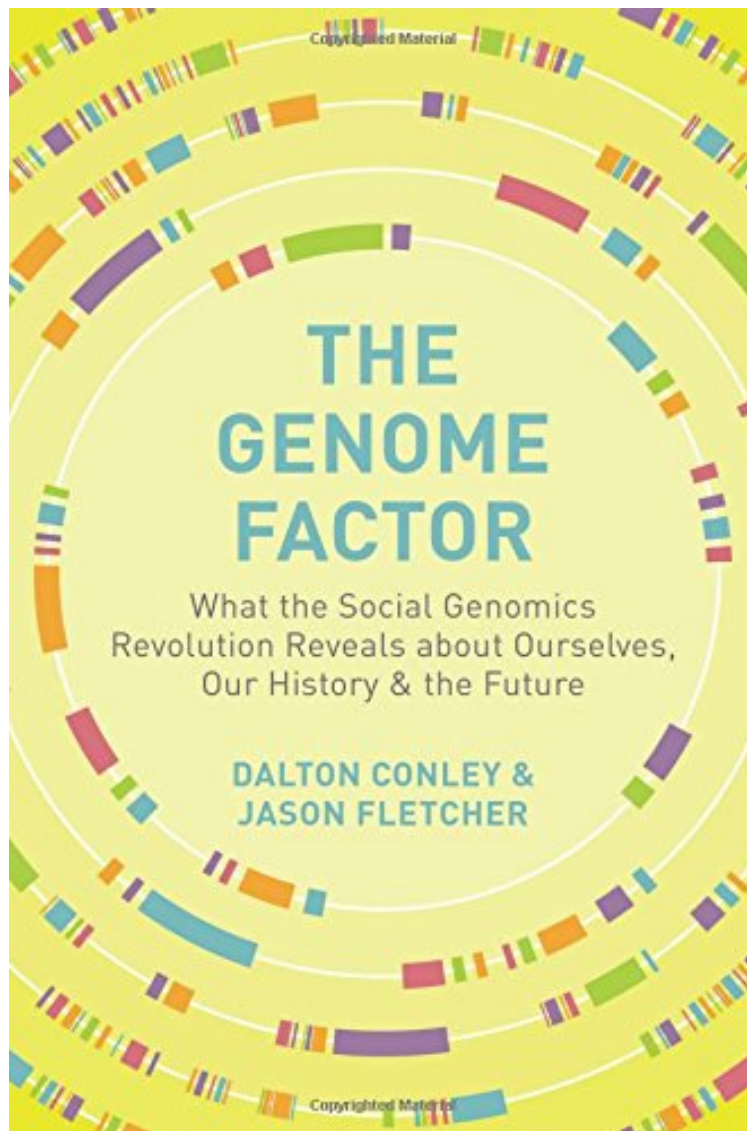


(Read free) The Genome Factor: What the Social Genomics Revolution Reveals about Ourselves, Our History, and the Future

The Genome Factor: What the Social Genomics Revolution Reveals about Ourselves, Our History, and the Future

Dalton Conley, Jason Fletcher

*ePub | *DOC | audiobook | ebooks | Download PDF*



[Download](#)

[Read Online](#)

#479643 in Books Conley Dalton 2017-01-24Original language:English 9.30 x 1.00 x 6.10l, .0 #File Name: 0691164746296 pagesThe Genome Factor What the Social Genomics Revolution Reveals about Ourselves Our History and the Future | File size: 37.Mb

Dalton Conley, Jason Fletcher : The Genome Factor: What the Social Genomics Revolution Reveals about Ourselves, Our History, and the Future before purchasing it in order to gage whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised The Genome Factor: What the Social Genomics Revolution Reveals about Ourselves, Our History, and the Future:

18 of 22 people found the following review helpful. Defending the SSSM in the age of GWAS By Nigel Seel Social scientists have mostly ignored the incoming tsunami of the social genomics revolution. But the genomic telescope has been invented; it's not going to go away. A more sophisticated strategy is deployed in "The Genome Factor" by Conley and Fletcher. The authors are sociologists by profession but investigate the social science implications of genomic surveys. They had a choice - to go with the trend of such research to supersede the Standard Social Science Model (SSSM) - or to find ever more intricate arguments to preserve it. In choosing the latter approach, their strategy is to freely accept the theoretical results of population genetics and the empirical data of GWAS (genome-wide association studies) where this does not threaten blank-slatism. They then labour to find fault in every study which might cast it into doubt while feeding plenty of slack to the many purported environment-only explanations of race and gender differences. You will see plenty of uncritical space given to: continuing discrimination and poor institutions (pp. 107 ff.); subconscious bias, priming and stereotype threat (appendix 5). In chapter 4, the authors address the claims of Herrnstein and Murray's seminal 1994 book, 'The Bell Curve'. The three theses they wish to 'take seriously' are (to summarise): (i) increasing genetic stratification due to cognitive meritocracy; (ii) increasing assortative mating for intelligence; (iii) cognitive dysgenics via reduced fertility in the cognitive elite. They announce, to their evident satisfaction, that none of these theses is born out by the evidence. But how convinced should we be by their arguments? The answer is, not very. There are many confounding variables - particular the massive changes in education and employment practices over the decades relevant to analysis - as Conley and Fletcher themselves spell out. In some cases the phenotypic attributes measured do, in fact, accord with Herrnstein and Murray's theses but the authors rapidly draw our attention to their underlying genetic correlates, as derived from GWAS. Here they find no such trends. But unfortunately, we do not yet know the genetic markers for the relevant cognitive traits. Instead, the genomic indicator the authors use is the incredibly noisy 'polygenic score' (PGS). All we can really conclude is that the effects are small, and that as far as Herrnstein and Murray's proposed theses are concerned, it's too early to be sure. Chapter 6, 'The Wealth of Nations', engages with Ashraf and Galor's 'Goldilocks' hypothesis of correlations between degrees of genetic diversity (too much in Africa?) and higher income and growth. Yet the correlations are poor (p. 124). I wish they had engaged with work such as Garrett Jones' 'Hive Mind: How Your Nation's IQ Matters So Much More Than Your Own', which focuses on ideas that country differences in IQ and size of the 'smart fraction' have something to do with it. Jones finds remarkably high correlations. But you can see the dangers. So this is a book with an agenda although I think it's subconscious bias. The authors take too much pleasure in 'refuting' challenges to the core doctrines of the SSSM to make me think they're just doing so to protect their positions. There are things to learn from this book. As critics they look for every conceivable flaw in twin and GWAS studies - this is socially useful. They also explain various techniques such as GWAS well, although the book is too technical and too dry for both the general public and mainstream social science academics. In all, I regard this book as a missed opportunity. 1 of 1 people found the following review helpful. To quote Steven Pinker: "An indispensable introduction to one of the most exciting frontiers in the social sciences" By Customer The Genome Factor presents new interdisciplinary research from the social and natural sciences in a clear and vivid way. It is evident that the authors have background in both biology, sociology and economics as topics are covered in a nuanced way. It also gives a refreshingly balanced view of new developments without falling into traditional pitfalls (e.g. "the standard social science model" or "gene determinism"). The book shows how new data from genetics can contribute to better understanding of central social phenomena in the social sciences. A great read. 3 of 3 people found the following review helpful. Four Stars By Irvine Family Interesting view to the future of genomics, but a tough read

For a century, social scientists have avoided genetics like the plague. But the nature-nurture wars are over. In the past decade, a small but intrepid group of economists, political scientists, and sociologists have harnessed the genomics revolution to paint a more complete picture of human social life than ever before. The Genome Factor describes the latest astonishing discoveries being made at the scientific frontier where genomics and the social sciences intersect. The Genome Factor reveals that there are real genetic differences by racial ancestry but ones that don't conform to what we call black, white, or Latino. Genes explain a significant share of who gets ahead in society and who does not, but instead of giving rise to a genotocracy, genes often act as engines of mobility that counter social disadvantage. An increasing number of us are marrying partners with similar education levels as ourselves, but genetically speaking, humans are mixing it up more than ever before with respect to mating and reproduction. These are just a few of the many findings presented in this illuminating and entertaining book, which also tackles controversial topics such as genetically personalized education and the future of reproduction in a world where more and more of us are taking advantage of cheap genotyping services like 23andMe to find out what our genes may hold in store for ourselves and our children. The Genome Factor shows how genomics is transforming the social sciences and how social scientists are integrating both nature and nurture into a unified, comprehensive understanding of human behavior at both the individual and society-wide levels.

"Too often, the debate over the ethics of genomics takes place behind closed doors--among scientists, doctors and

government officials. Members of the general public are left out or treated as an afterthought rather than placed at the center of the conversation. Scientific research is crucial, but the moral dilemmas raised by *The Genome Factor* belong to us all."--Amy Dockser Marcus, *Wall Street Journal*"A fresh look at the nature vs. nurture debate. . . . Illuminating."--KirkusFrom the Back Cover"An indispensable introduction to one of the most exciting frontiers in the social sciences, by two of its pioneers. *The Genome Factor* is filled with surprises, insights, and strokes of ingenuity."--Steven Pinker, Harvard University, author of *How the Mind Works*"Genomics has transformed many areas of science and promises to do the same for society as a whole. Conley and Fletcher provide an excellent introduction to genomics and a thoughtful analysis of its potential impact on our understanding of an impressive range of topics, including race, IQ, medicine, social policy, and international relations."--Gene E. Robinson, director of the Carl R. Woese Institute for Genomic Biology, University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign"Yes, social scientists need genomics, but they need a new genomics that respects the psychological complexities of the individual and cultural activities of human beings. This genomics doesn't fully exist yet, but *The Genome Factor* shines a bright light down the path that will eventually lead there."--Eric Turkheimer, University of Virginia"*The Genome Factor* is an exhilarating and accessible exploration of dangerous and disputed territory: the role of genes in economic and social life. For anyone interested in poverty, inequality, and social mobility, this will be a rewarding read."--Gregory Clark, author of *The Son Also Rises: Surnames and the History of Social Mobility*"Sophisticated, imaginative, and intellectually first-rate. I know of no other book that so accessibly pulls together such a vast array of complex material at the intersection of genetics and the social sciences."--Michael J. Shanahan, University of North Carolina, Chapel Hill"Novel and timely. Conley and Fletcher cover a wide range of topics in an accessible way, using recent studies and well-chosen metaphors and anecdotes. It is an excellent introduction to the growing area of sociogenomic research."--Colter Mitchell, University of MichiganAbout the AuthorDalton Conley is the Henry Putnam University Professor of Sociology at Princeton University. His many books include *Parentology: Everything You Wanted to Know about the Science of Raising Children but Were Too Exhausted to Ask*. He lives in New York City. Jason Fletcher is Professor of Public Affairs, Sociology, Agricultural and Applied Economics, and Population Health Sciences at the University of WisconsinMadison. He lives in Madison.