

1013 Idlewilde Lane SE
Albuquerque
New Mexico 87108
USA

December 19th 2005

To Whom it May Concern

I understand that Helmuth Nyborg's research and standing are under investigation by a Committee for Proper Research following his report on sex-related differences in general intelligence.

I wish to comment on three aspects of this investigation: scientific, practical and personal.

The question 'do men and women perform differently on tests of general intelligence?' is a scientific question that has attracted over a century of published research. The studies conducted by Helmuth Nyborg should be judged according to the standard criteria of scientific publication: in terms of the adequacy of the data, the analyses and the interpretability of the results.

I imagine that the social consequences of this kind of work has alarmed some of Dr Nyborg's colleagues. What are those consequences?

An accurate assessment of sex differences in general intelligence is useful to policy-makers in exactly the same way as knowing sex differences in foot size is to shoe manufacturers. Designers of education policy will be armed by knowing more, not less, about the characteristics of the individuals and populations that they

serve. Average differences in general intelligence, if they exist, are part of that portfolio of useful information. A reported small mean difference, favouring males, in performance on a test of general intelligence is not a social catastrophe for females. It is simply a result from analyses of particular populations at particular times. It is causally neutral.

Scientific methods are the best way to establish whether this result is found in other populations or not. If this result turns out to describe many populations and, thus, describes the world as-it-is, then punishing the message bearer must be wrong. If the reported sex difference turns out not to be correct, it will do so through the efforts of other researchers who work, like Dr Nyborg, on sex differences. If sex differences research is proscribed in general, we will not find out the truth. The bigger social truth is that whatever average differences we find between the sexes, they are swamped by differences between individuals. The scientific evidence strongly directs us to treat one another as individuals whilst accommodating our differences.

My last comment is that in the years I have known Dr Nyborg I have found him to be collegial, open to discussion, respectful to me as a 'double minority' student (I am both female and very much older than is typical of students). Dr Nyborg has been professional, encouraging and courteous to me on every occasion that we have met or written to one another.

I very much hope that Dr Nyborg will soon be able to continue with his research supported by his host institution.

Sincerely,

Rosalind Arden
Graduate Student at King's College London
email: membrane@nm.net



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December 16, 2005

Prof. Helmuth Nyborg
Department of Psychology
Research Unit for Differential Psychology
University of Aarhus
8000 Aarhus C
Denmark

Dear Prof. Nyborg:

Dr. David Hardman brought to my attention the problems you are having as a result of your research on sex differences in intelligence. I am writing, at his suggestion, to offer my support. Although my present field of interest is judgment and decision making, I have done research in the area of intelligence and have written a theoretical book about it (*Rationality and intelligence*, Cambridge University Press, 1985).

It seems to me that your work was well done. The article in question was the lead article in what I take to be the major journal in this field, *Personality and Individual Differences*.

This is not to say that I have no objections. Given the fact that women do better on some items and tests and men do better on other items and tests, and the fact that the selection of items for tests, and selection of tests, is necessarily somewhat arbitrary, the results could depend on the choice of tests in your sample. I did not read enough of the article to discover how you would deal with this issue.

But this is beside the point. The methods you use are highly sophisticated, and the problems that people have with your work is surely not the result of faulty methodology. The kind of criticism that I just made is the kind that could be made of almost every study published in any scientific field. There is always a next question to ask, always a gap to be filled.

Rather, it seems from the description I read that questions are being raised by those who simply do not like the conclusion that you have drawn. Although in the 1960s I was somewhat drawn to the critics of Arthur Jensen, who also had a habit of drawing conclusions that people did not like, I now think that the much bigger problem is political correctness, and that is what is giving you problems.

The type of questions that are being raised about your work has the effect of turning researchers away from important questions, and of expunging real knowledge from society. For

example, students in introductory psychology do not seem to learn anymore about IQ testing, which is one of the great practical achievements of our field. When I mention that IQ is correlated with social class, they have not heard of this finding, although it is a huge effect (with many explanations). Likewise the findings of the relation between IQ and success, criminal behavior, and so on. These are important results, with real implications for the design of society.

The atmosphere that now exists in many universities, throughout the world, is much like what I suspect existed in communist countries or in Nazi Germany. There was a certain dominant ideology that could not be questioned. Everyone thought that everyone else believed the ideology, so that nobody really wanted to question it. They thought it was morally right to believe it, because everyone else believed it. This is what we are up against now. Political correctness has told us that we cannot say anything negative about any group of people.

In the 1960s, I thought that it was possible to reject ideas because the time was not ripe for them. It was argued that honest discussion of ideas about the heritability of IQ would provide ammunition to racists who would not understand the fine points. I now see that the attempt to suppress any scientific ideas is the real danger. It slows down or stops the progress of science, in certain fields, to the detriment of us all.

In sum, although I would probably disagree with your conclusions, I strongly support your right to state them and expose them to public criticism rather than to unthinking suppression.

Sincerely

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Jonathan Baron". The signature is written in dark ink and is positioned above the typed name.

Jonathan Baron, Professor

UNIVERSITY OF MINNESOTA

Twin Cities Campus

*Minnesota Center for
Twin and Adoption Research*

Department of Psychology

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E-Mail: bouch001@tc.umn.edu

December 10, 2005

To Whom It May Concern:

This is a letter in support of Prof. Helmuth Nyborg regarding his research on human individual differences.

As I understand it Prof. Nyborg is being investigated for "premature publication" of findings regarding sex differences in IQ – reporting in the media before a full publication in a peer-reviewed journal. The material he discussed with the press had been presented at the 2001 meeting of the International society for Intelligence Research (ISSIR). I also understand that a 30 year longitudinal study has been interfered with by confiscating the research protocols and setting up a committee to re-examine the calculations and methods.

My comments below regarding the treatment of Prof. Nyborg are influenced by my considerable familiarity with his scientific work. I have read many of his papers dealing with topics within my professional competence (individual differences and group differences). I also reviewed his recent edited book (Bouchard, 2004). In my opinion Prof. Nyborg is an outstanding scholar and scientist.

I find the behavior of the Director of his institute outrageous and a manifestation of the "Illiberal Liberalism" that currently permeates many institutions of higher education. It is a form of "soft" authoritarianism designed to suppress inquiry into topics considered too dangerous to know. I note here that this illiberal behavior on the part of universities is shared with many conservatives who are also afraid of knowledge and would suppress research of all sorts.

I believe it is unlikely that the University of Aarhus applies the "premature publication" standard to the vast majority of its faculty. This is a double standard designed to squelch research on unpopular topic. Most institutions, including my own, encourage the dissemination of knowledge and many institutions prepare press releases regarding findings long before publication. The meetings at which Prof. Nyborg presented his findings were open to the press. Does the policy prohibit dissemination of findings at open scientific meetings? There is no question that Prof. Nyborg may be wrong, as all scientific research is fallible. If he is wrong there are many scholars who will be willing to challenge him in scientific journals as well as the press. Reporters can easily find

people who are willing to challenge unpopular findings. Academic freedom has no meaning if directors of institutes simply cave in to politically correct pressures from interest groups with no interest in anything but their own ideological position, and interfere with ongoing research projects.

I am in strong agreement with my friend and former colleague Prof. Sandra Scarr who wrote:

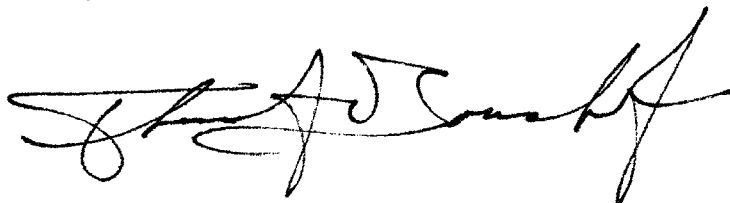
"In my view, there is no danger so great as the suppression of knowledge. There is nothing we could learn about ourselves that would justify abridgment of scientific inquiry. There are methods of investigation that pose unconscionable threats to the participants in research. Methods should be subject to regulation. But there should be no regulation of scientists' rights to think, propose, and conduct ethical investigations on any question, however, distasteful it might be to others." (Scarr, 1981, p. 513)

A similar view was put forth by another scientist who "tasted the forbidden fruit" of nuclear knowledge.

"There must be no barrier to freedom of inquiry. There is no place for dogma in science. The scientist is free, and must be free, to ask any question, to doubt any assertion, to seek for any evidence, to correct any error." (Robert J. Oppenheimer, *Life*, October 10, 1949)

Political decisions should be made at the level of funding. This is where society and institutions properly sets their priorities. Political decisions about individual projects and intervention at the individual project level once funding has been granted and research program approved is a perversion of academic freedom.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Thomas J. Bouchard, Jr.', with a stylized, cursive script.

Thomas J. Bouchard, Jr.
Professor of Psychology
Director, Minnesota Center for Twin and Adoption Research

Bouchard, T. J., Jr. (2004). Review of Nyborg, H. (2003) The scientific study of general intelligence: Tribute to Arthur R. Jensen. *Intelligence*, 32, 215-219.

Scarr, S. (1981). *Race, social class and individual differences*. Hillsdale, N. J.: Erlbaum.

To Whom it May Concern.

I write to confirm that Professor Helmuth Nyborg is a highly respected researcher in the field of Individual Differences and a longstanding senior member of the International Society for the Study of Individual Differences which has members from most of the developed countries of the world. Professor Nyborg's work is well-known and widely accepted as rigorous and unbiased. Any attempt to inhibit or suppress his research findings for political reasons would be unacceptable and would have the effect of damaging the reputation of the University of Aarhus in the eyes of those researching Individual Differences if it was involved in such suppression.

John Brebner, M. A, Ph.D.
Department of Psychology,
University of Adelaide,
Adelaide,
South Australia 5005.

19th December, 2005.

50 Walbridge Rd.
West Hartford CT 06119

December 13, 2005

Dr. Helmuth Nyborg

Dear Helmuth:

I am pleased to write a letter in support of your scientific integrity and of the importance of your research program. I feel that I am qualified to write as someone who is knowledgeable about research in Intelligence. Among the qualifications I have in support of my opinion are these: Past President of the International Society for the Study of Individual Differences; Member of the American Psychological Task Force on Intelligence; author of two books and many articles dealing with Intelligence; Fellow of the American Psychological Society and the American Psychological Association; and past and present member of the editorial boards of several research journals in Psychology including Psychological Science, Psychological Bulletin, Intelligence, Journal of Personality and Social Psychology, and Personality and Individual Differences. I have taught at Princeton University, the Graduate Faculty of the New School and since 1976 at Wesleyan University where I currently hold the position of Professor Emeritus of Psychology.

Research on Intelligence has been controversial since its inception in the 19th century. Research indicating that there are racial and gender differences in scores on measures of intelligence are particularly controversial. And researchers dealing with these topics are not infrequently criticized for racist and sexist attitudes. Some of this criticism may be justified and some of it may be no more than a case of "shooting the messenger who brings unwelcome information." As you know I have been generally viewed as a critic of those psychologists who have advanced views arguing that racial differences in intelligence are attributable to genetic differences. And, I suspect that you and I are not in complete agreement about many of the controversies surrounding research on group differences in intelligence (nor should we be). Notwithstanding our possible disagreements I believe that the field of intelligence has much to gain from the vigorous pursuit of research dealing with many controversial issues. I believe that research on intelligence in general and on group differences in particular has much to contribute to helping us understand important human differences. I believe that such research is profoundly important and that it may significantly contribute to human welfare.

I am not well informed about the controversies and difficulties you face with your University. I do however believe that you are a careful and competent scientist who is interested in the pursuit of knowledge on important topics. I respect your integrity and I wish to extend my unequivocal support for your right to pursue your research unfettered by constraints imposed by those who dislike the conclusions that you may reach. In the long run if you are right we will have learned something. If you are wrong the self-correcting nature of scientific research will discover the errors in your conclusions. I do

not worry about the possible errors you may make. I worry greatly about the attempt to persecute individuals whose research leads to unpopular conclusions. Such efforts diminish all of us and make a mockery of our attempts to obtain knowledge. They erode our academic freedoms and ultimately destroy the values of the University and of a liberal society.

Please feel free to share this letter with your colleagues and any members of the University administration. Let me know if you would like me to send you a copy of this letter on my University stationery or if you would like me to write a letter directly to a University official.

Good wishes for the continued pursuit of your research.

Sincerely,

Nathan Brody
Professor Emeritus of Psychology, Wesleyan University



Facultad de Psicología

FROM:

Roberto Colom

Facultad de Psicología

Universidad Autónoma de Madrid

28049 Madrid (Spain)

Voice: 91 497 41 14

Email: roberto.colom@uam.es

December 22 2005

To Whom It May Concern:

This letter is to strongly support Helmuth Nyborg's academic freedom.

The case is simply unbelievable. The "media storm", derived from an interview with this University Professor, have conducted the Director of his institute to make bizarre arrangements against this world-wide respected scientist, like confiscating his research protocols or trying to re-examine his calculations.

This is not the first time statements published in the media manipulates scientists' research efforts in order to create a biased public opinion. However, this should not happen in a democratic society. Academic freedom is of the foremost importance for the advancement of scientific knowledge.

I don't share Nyborg's conclusions regarding sex differences in the general factor of intelligence (g). The findings published by my own research group—as well as by other research groups—are contrary to those reported in Nyborg's 2005 PAID paper (see -- Colom, Juan-Espinosa, Abad and Garcia 2000; Colom, García, Juan-Espinosa and Abad 2002; Colom and Garcia-Lopez 2002; Colom, Escorial and Rebollo 2004; Dolan, Colom, Abad, Wicherts and Hessen in press; Van der Sluis, Posthuma, Dolan, de

Geus, Colom and Boomsma in press). BUT this discrepancy must be resolved on the scientific arena, not in the media or by means of absurd actions gratuitously taken by people unaware of the scientific issues at hand.

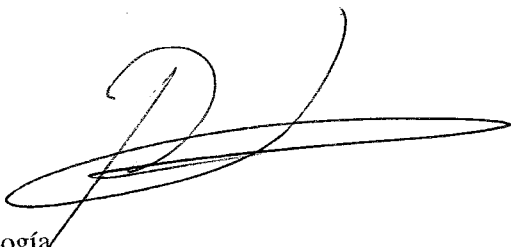
Nyborg's conclusions may or may not be correct at the end. There are some findings consistent with his view, whereas others are not. However, this has nothing to do with the demonizing process he is currently forced to live.

Unfortunately, journalists have the power to influence weakly-minded University authorities. Whereas these authorities should preserve scientists' academic freedom, they prefer to attend (and give credit to) the absurdities published by the media about sensitive topics they simply don't understand.

In conclusion, these episodes are not good for science, as well as for the international reputation of the University of Aarhus. I strongly recommend a quick returning of Professor Nyborg' protocols, a public apologize to him, and a public announcement that the University of Aarhus will never admit such violations of academic freedom.

Sincerely,

Roberto Colom
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28049 Madrid (Spain)
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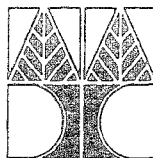




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UNIVERSITY OF CYPRUS

FACULTY OF HUMANITIES AND SOCIAL SCIENCES

15 December 2005

Professor Helmuth Nyborg
Adslev Skovvej 2,
DK-8362,
Hoerning,
Denmark.

Dear Professor Nyborg:


I was unpleasantly surprised to hear about the problems that you face in concern to the dissemination of the results of your research. This is due to the fact that I could not imagine that it would be possible, in a European country like Denmark, which is known for its sensitivity to issues of freedom and democracy, to have sanctions affected on a researcher simply because he publicly discusses the findings of his research, however unpopular this research or the findings might be. Therefore, I would like to express, both as a professor of psychology and as the Dean of the School of Social Sciences and Education of the University of Cyprus, my full support to you and your group. It is my strong belief that science, and by implication society as such, progresses only in an ambience of freedom and tolerance of opposing and unpleasant findings and ideas rather than in a frame of control and conformity. I trust that, in the end, wisdom will prevail in your Institution so that you are let free again to carry on your research on intelligence.

With my best wishes,

Yours sincerely,

Andreas Demetriou
Professor of Psychology
Dean of the School of Social Sciences
and Sciences of Education

J.M.G. van der Dennen <j.m.g.van.der.dennen@rug.nl>
Svar til: j.m.g.van.der.dennen@rug.nl
Sendt : 16. december 2005 11:22:21
Til: helmuthnyborg@msn.com
Emne: Support

 Indbakke

Dear Prof. Nyborg,

I object to this blatant infraction of academic freedom.

Yours sincerely,

--

Johan M.G. van der Dennen	University of Groningen
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CASE WESTERN RESERVE UNIVERSITY

December 10, 2005

Concerned Parties
University of Aarhus
Aarhus, Denmark

Dear Sirs and Madams,

I am the Editor of the journal *Intelligence* and am director of the conference held yearly by the International Society for Intelligence Research. I am writing concerning the reports I have recently heard concerning Helmuth Nyborg. It has been reported to me that he has been "investigated" by university authorities concerning the work he has been doing on sex differences and that his data have been seized and have been held for nearly a year now. While I hope these reports are untrue, I wanted to give you my view of the situation in case they are.

We know quite a bit about sex differences. We have known for decades that men are superior to women by about one standard deviation in spatial ability particularly in tasks involving visual rotation. We have also known for some time that men are more variable than women in general intellectual ability. There are more men than women with very high IQs and very low IQs. More recently, research suggests that the mean level of men's IQ is about 4 to 6 points higher than women's after both groups reach maturity. While this is not yet an established fact, a good deal of evidence currently supports this position. These findings are of particular interest to evolutionary psychologists because they give us hint about how the human species evolved and may be useful in developing theories about how general intellectual ability, itself, evolved.

I know that any discussion of differences in general intellectual ability is likely to arouse passions. However, people should be aware that the average expected difference between siblings is approximately 10 IQ points. Most of the group differences in IQ that we know about are smaller than this. Placed in this context, the group differences between sexes are relatively small. This is not to say that these differences don't have practical implications because they do. But the practical implications are at the group level and nearly everyone in my field agrees that individuals should each be treated fairly.

With respect to the seizure and holding of data, I can only say I was disappointed. I have a view of Scandinavia and particularly Denmark as a bastion of academic freedom. You have had that reputation at least since the Reformation. Perhaps I am guilty of thinking in stereotypes. Nevertheless, it was a particular shock to me to find that Nyborg's academic freedom had been so grossly and obviously violated. In my opinion, this kind of action does more damage to the reputation of your University than it will ever do to Nyborg.

Department of Psychology

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It seems to me that it is in the best interest of your University to resolve this issue as quickly and equitably as possible. Prof. Nyborg was carrying out research valuable to the field despite the misunderstanding in the popular press. If I were in your position, I would return Prof. Nyborg's data, apologize for the inconvenience, and put the matter behind you.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in dark ink, appearing to read 'D. Detterman', with a horizontal line extending from the end.

Douglas K. Detterman
Editor, Intelligence
Director, ISIR
Louis D. Beaumont University Professor
of Psychology



To Whom It May Concern,

I write this letter in support of Prof. Helmuth Nyborg, and refer to the attached description Prof. Nyborg provided of his current situation. Taking his version of events as accurate, such treatment is entirely inappropriate, and not merely because Prof. Nyborg is a scholar of international repute (which he is). And also not because the methods applied in Prof. Nyborg's article, "Sex-related differences in general intelligence g, brain size, and social status," are in no way controversial. [This article is available in its entirety via Science Direct at <http://dx.doi.org/10.1016/j.paid.2004.12.011>; I have read it and, speaking as a statistician, find it entirely sound, even if various interpretations of its conclusions do not accord with my personal politics. Fortunately, I can recognize the difference between serious research and propaganda.]

Rather, it seems that researchers are enjoined from discussion of the contents of their research if some feel it might be put to non-progressive social ends, and to have certain strictures enacted against them. It is difficult to begin to list the ways in which this is pernicious, but it is more reminiscent of the 19th century than the present one.

Please do know that many are watching the outcome of this case. Censors win only short-term victories, and history has an odd way of rewarding those who sought truth over repression. Although academic freedom is not absolute, what Prof. Nyborg has done is dramatically distant from any practice deserving the treatment he has received. I, along with every other colleague I've spoken to about this, find this abrogation of Prof. Nyborg's basic rights to speech and academic freedom highly distressing, and hope the University will immediately restore all his prior privileges and institutional affiliations.

Most Sincerely,

Fred M. Feinberg

Hallman Fellow and Bank One Corporation Chair
Stephen M. Ross School of Business
University of Michigan
701 Tappan St., E5609
Ann Arbor, MI, 48109, USA
feinf@umich.edu

1 March 2006

To Whom It May Concern:

This is a letter of support on behalf of Dr. Helmuth Nyborg, Professor of Developmental Psychology at Aarhus University in Denmark. I have known Dr. Nyborg for several years now, both through his published work and through personal interactions at scientific conferences.

I have seen him present his work at various meetings of the International Society for the Study of Individual Differences (ISSID) and of the International Society for Intelligence Research (ISIR). In addition, he has edited a major volume in that field entitled *The Scientific Study of General Intelligence: Tribute to Arthur R. Jensen*.

I should point out that while I am not a full-time intelligence researcher, *per se*, I do have considerable expertise in research methodology and multivariate statistical models. My evaluation of Dr. Nyborg's work is therefore based more on the basis of the application of research methodology and multivariate analytical techniques than what my general familiarity with the specialty of intelligence research allows.

Having evaluated Dr. Nyborg's work in this manner, I can confidently conclude that his results appear to be scientifically sound. More than that, his methodological rigor and mastery of the relevant statistical theory are well above the standards of the average researcher. Therefore, whether any particular empirical finding turns out to be true or false in the long run only time and careful replication of results will tell, as is typically the case in science. However, given our currently available methods of data collection and analysis, my judgment has to be that Dr.

Nyborg's conclusions are generally well-founded and based on a very rigorous and critical scrutiny of the data.

If I can be of any further assistance in discussing Dr. Nyborg's qualifications as a researcher, I can be reached by telephone at either 001-520-621-7444 (Work) or 001-520-744-6686 (Home) or by email at <ajf@u.arizona.edu>. Thank you very much.

Sincerely,

Aurelio José Figueredo

Aurelio José Figueredo, Ph.D.,

Professor of Psychology

Director, Ethology and Evolutionary Psychology

December 12, 2005

To whom it may concern:

Now let me get this straight.

An administrator who lacks even rudimentary knowledge of the relevant methodology terms one of the world's two or three leading researchers in his area, Helmuth Nyborg, a "fool" for releasing flawless research that is concordant with, and more rigorous than, similar research.

This is beyond bizarre. Even were the research not so estimable, and the researcher not so justifiably renowned, this sort of attack would represent the most odious anti-scientific incursion of the political on the scientific.

When the research is that in question, and the researcher is Helmuth Nyborg, it is simply indefensible.

Steven Goldberg

Steven Goldberg is the retired Chairman of the Dept. of Sociology, City College, City University of New York. He has published numerous books and articles on sex differences.



December 12, 2005

Letter of Support for Professor Helmuth Nyborg

To Whom It May Concern:

I have known Professor Nyborg for over 15 years, during which time I have read his publications and attended many of his conference presentations in the USA and Europe. I have written extensively on sex and race differences in abilities and interests, and can testify that he is a careful, highly productive, and much respected empiricist in this area. I also greatly respect his willingness to follow where the data lead—and all-too-rare trait in these politically correct times.

He has presented his research on intelligence, sex differences, and related topics at every meeting of the International Society for Intelligence Research (ISIR) since its founding in 2000. I serve on both ISIR's Board of Directors and its journal's (*Intelligence*) Editorial Board, and I was present when Professor Nyborg reported his findings on sex differences in IQ in 2001. His data-rich presentation raised important questions, and, following his lead, many ISIR presentations now focus on sex differences in cognitive abilities, including their magnitude, developmental trajectory, manifestations in brain function, and evolutionary origins.

I am also on the Board of Directors (as has been Professor Nyborg) of the international society which publishes *Personality and Individual Differences* (PAID), the journal in which Professor Nyborg later published the article based on his 2001 ISIR presentation. Like the other scientific journals in which he publishes, PAID publishes only papers that have survived the peer review process. When the University of Aarhus suggests that his peer-reviewed articles are unworthy until re-examined in-house, it insults the expert reviewers, denies Professor Nyborg due credit for his exceptional accomplishments, and impermissibly imposes a special burden on him that other faculty do not share—a clear violation of academic freedom.

That the University of Aarhus has also confiscated Professor Nyborg's research materials is truly astounding—and despicable. With only the thinnest pretense of cause, it has smeared his good name and halted his research. This action is unprecedented, the misbehavior extreme.

The University can regain its claim to scholarly integrity only by swiftly returning Professor Nyborg's materials, publicly apologizing to him, publicly admonishing the perpetrator(s), and announcing that it will never tolerate such violations of academic freedom. Unless it does so, the University of Aarhus may suffer the same fate as my university, the University of Delaware, when it persisted in harassing me in the 1990s (for example, by trying to block my research funding, also on specious grounds). Among other embarrassing consequences, a national arbitrator ruled against the university, the university had to offer me an out-of-court settlement, and it garnered much bad publicity. The university had encouraged the press to demonize me, but ended up, fittingly, being ridiculed by it.

Sincerely,

Linda S. Gottfredson, Professor

<http://www.udel.edu/educ/gottfredson>

COLUMBIA UNIVERSITY

IN THE CITY OF NEW YORK

DEPARTMENT OF ANTHROPOLOGY

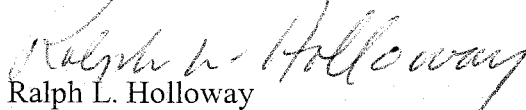
To whom it may Concern:

December 8, 2005

I find it very distressing that Professor Helmut Nyborg, whose works I have long admired, should be the target for some dubious reason of political correctness, that in no scientific way indicates either the incorrectness of his studies, nor permits him to answer his critics. As an anthropologist with a highly regarded reputation as someone who has spent 40+ years studying the evolution of the human brain, I find it outrageous that a scientist such as Dr. Nyborg, with an exceptionally fine record of good solid research and an excellent record of publications should be under indictment for studying human brain variation. How can one sensibly study human brain evolution without knowing how those organs vary? That there should be any question regarding the fact that sexual dimorphism exists in the human brain, and that behavioral consequences, whether trivial or not can be expected strikes me as outlandish. Having studied sex differences in the human corpus callosum, and having published such findings in *Science* (1981), a journal I trust you know, I am well aware how opinions stemming from so-called "political correctness" can inhibit ongoing research, and I have had to suffer both my reputation and further research from moronic colleagues who prefer that sex differences could just be shoved under the proverbial rug. That academic authorities could do the same in Denmark, particularly given the fine neurological work done by the Pakkenberg on sex differences in Danish brains, is upsetting, to say the least.

I sincerely hope you and other members of scholarly communities will have the good sense to recognize that Dr. Nyborg is one of your most highly valued scholars, known throughout the world for interesting and vital (whether provocative or not) studies on individual differences, and that interfering with his research and freedom to discuss it is in fact not only heinous with regard to so-called freedom of speech, but a exercise in true criminality.

Sincerely yours,



Ralph L. Holloway

Professor of Anthropology
Columbia University
New York, New York, 10027



The University of Oklahoma

Health Sciences Center

COLLEGE OF MEDICINE

February 24, 2006

To Whom it May Concern,

I am writing on the matter of Helmuth Nyborg. I have heard that he has lost his position at a research institute because the findings of his research are not consistent with the comfortable ideology of our day.

These are times of competing ideologies and we all must accept the expression of views inconsistent with our own. A college president has been forced to quit because, in part, he speculated logically on the topics of gender differences. His conflict interfered with his ability to lead and raise money, perhaps. However, he was allowed to keep his academic position and salary.

A group of cartoonists made clever jokes about the founder of a religion, who is frequently cited as inspiration by people who commit murder. Lo, intolerant people of that religion commit murder. Does this mean that we should stop thinking thoughts and recognizing the role of that ideology on the part of some individuals in creating murder? No. Should those cartoonists be fired for having explored ideas that have an artist's truth? No.

So, it is difficult to see any justification for why Helmuth Nyborg should lose his job, his access to his data, or his ability to continue with his project.

Yours truly

Robert M. Hamm, PhD

Professor, Department of Family and Preventive Medicine

Thursday, December 8, 2005

To whom it may concern:

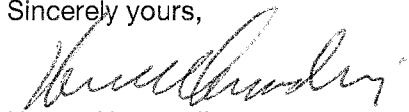
I am writing to protest that the treatment that Helmuth Nyborg is receiving at the University of Aarhus. I am an anthropologist with interests in molecular evolution, human evolution, and contemporary human diversity. I have published some but not much on IQ testing and I am familiar with the literature in the area. I am a member of the United States National Academy of Sciences.

Nyborg is an eminent and valuable contributor to this field. I am appalled that anyone would think his work on sex differences in IQ controversial. My naive understanding has been that males and females differ strongly in their patterning of sub-test scores and that the overall score is arranged such that mean IQ comes out to be the same for each sex. Modern developments in neurobiology and in multivariate analysis ought lead to better understanding, and Nyborg is on the cutting edge in this area.

It is true in North America that public discussion of IQ testing has been nearly completely suppressed since the 1970s because it yields politically unacceptable answers. Meanwhile in the military, business, and government there is nearly universal use of standardized tests and a thorough and well established knowledge of their uses. This remarkable "disconnect" between what journalists and public intellectuals know and what academics and practitioners know is not stable, and I do not like to think about what will soon happen here when the curtain of silence is ripped.

I lecture about sex, class, and race differences in performance in my introductory Human Evolution course. I recently told them that IQ testing was forbidden in the former Soviet Union, Nazi Germany, and in our state of California (for Black children.) In each case testing was forbidden because it gave politically unacceptable answers. My class broke out in laughter. I am sure you will agree that a modern liberal democracy such as Denmark has no place in such disgusting company.

Sincerely yours,



Henry Harpending
Distinguished Professor of Anthropology

COLUMBIA UNIVERSITY

IN THE CITY OF NEW YORK

DEPARTMENT OF ANTHROPOLOGY

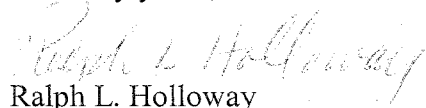
To whom it may Concern:

December 8, 2005

I find it very distressing that Professor Helmut Nyborg, whose works I have long admired, should be the target for some dubious reason of political correctness, that in no scientific way indicates either the incorrectness of his studies, nor permits him to answer his critics. As an anthropologist with a highly regarded reputation as someone who has spent 40+ years studying the evolution of the human brain, I find it outrageous that a scientist such as Dr. Nyborg, with an exceptionally fine record of good solid research and an excellent record of publications should be under indictment for studying human brain variation. How can one sensibly study human brain evolution without knowing how those organs vary? That there should be any question regarding the fact that sexual dimorphism exists in the human brain, and that behavioral consequences, whether trivial or not can be expected strikes me as outlandish. Having studied sex differences in the human corpus callosum, and having published such findings in *Science* (1981), a journal I trust you know, I am well aware how opinions stemming from so-called "political correctness" can inhibit ongoing research, and I have had to suffer both my reputation and further research from moronic colleagues who prefer that sex differences could just be shoved under the proverbial rug. That academic authorities could do the same in Denmark, particularly given the fine neurological work done by the Pakkenberg on sex differences in Danish brains, is upsetting, to say the least.

I sincerely hope you and other members of scholarly communities will have the good sense to recognize that Dr. Nyborg is one of your most highly valued scholars, known throughout the world for interesting and vital (whether provocative or not) studies on individual differences, and that interfering with his research and freedom to discuss it is in fact not only heinous with regard to so-called freedom of speech, but a exercise in true criminality.

Sincerely yours,



Ralph L. Holloway
Professor of Anthropology
Columbia University
New York, New York, 10027

Lakeside Consulting

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December 8, 2005.

To whom it may concern:

I am writing to express my shock and dismay at the harassment of Professor Helmuth Nyborg.

It is my understanding that the University has taken action against Dr. Nyborg for comments he made to a reporter in conjunction with a paper given at a conference in 2001. One would think the University would be proud that the reporter recognized Dr. Nyborg's expertise and sought to interview him. Instead, it has accused Dr. Nyborg of acting improperly. This makes no sense whatsoever.

Dr. Nyborg's paper was accepted for presentation at the International Society for Intelligence Research and delivered to this elite group. To argue that his findings somehow required the eyes of two more reviewers before he could safely discuss them with a reporter is absurd. One can readily find examples of academics discussing their research with the media before publication—without being accused of wrongdoing. Indeed, university press offices sometimes send out news releases about unpublished findings by their faculty.

In light of these realities, it is clear that Dr. Nyborg did not violate any ethical principle. He merely violated the first commandment of political correctness: thou shall not report any finding that displeases radical feminists.

The University may claim that this apparent inquisition would have occurred regardless of what Dr. Nyborg said to the reporter. If so, it is deluding itself. There is no chance this would have happened if Dr. Nyborg told the reporter that the sexes do not differ in cognitive ability. Had he reported female superiority over males, he would have been treated to all manner of congratulation—perhaps even promoted.

Let me acknowledge that I am not a completely unbiased observer of this incident. In preparation for my doctoral dissertation about a decade ago, I undertook a comprehensive review of the literature on sex differences in cognition. In the process, it became clear to me that one individual was light-years ahead of the rest in understanding these differences and in having a conceptual model for explaining them. That individual was Dr. Nyborg; the model, his General Theory of Trait Co-variance (GTC Theory).

For my research, I modified GTC Theory slightly and tested it using data from the National Longitudinal Survey of Youth. The results yielded considerable support for Dr. Nyborg's model and some provocative findings regarding the evolutionary basis of sex differences in the ability pattern underlying success in certain physical sciences. I wonder how many of the individuals supporting the harassment of Dr. Nyborg have contributed a conceptual model to their disciplines and accomplished nearly as much as he during their careers.

The last thing the University of Aarhus needs is a committee to look after Dr. Nyborg's research—as if he were a doctoral student rather than a world-renowned scientist of extraordinary competence and accomplishment. One can have a school without academic freedom. But one cannot have a university.

Sincerely yours,

A handwritten signature in cursive script, appearing to read "Patricia Hausman".

Patricia Hausman, Ph.D.



Arthur Jensen

30 Canyon View Dr.
Orinda, CA 94563-1504

BERKELEY, CALIFORNIA 94720

To Whom It May Concern

I am writing in defense of Professor Helmuth Nyborg, my having heard that academically unfavorable and unjust treatment has been accorded him because of his published research and public comments on sex differences in mental abilities, particularly in general ability, technically referred to as psychometric g, or the g factor.

If this critical action against Professor Nyborg weren't so ludicrous, occurring now in the Twenty-first century, it would warrant utter contempt. Scientific interest in sex differences in mental ability is as old as empirical psychology itself, beginning in the Nineteenth century with the research of Sir Francis Galton, the venerable founder of differential psychology.

To the best of my knowledge, Professor Nyborg's empirical research on the question of whether an appropriate statistical analysis of a variety of mental tests indicates an average statistical difference in g between males and females was first presented in his lectures delivered at the 2001 and 2002 conventions of the International Society for Intelligence Research. These studies culminated in a book chapter [Nyborg, H. (2003). Sex differences in g (Pp.187-222). In H. Nyborg, Ed, *The Scientific Study of General Intelligence: Tribute to Arthur R. Jensen*, New York: Pergamon.] This work stands out as perhaps the methodologically most important and theoretically comprehensive scientific article that presently exists on the subject of sex differences in intelligence, especially with respect to psychometric g. If similar results were found in a number of such studies based on different population samples and diverse samples of psychometric tests, Nyborg's conclusion would be generally considered as definitive as are several other generally established and no longer seriously disputed facts concerning sex differences in cognitive abilities. These have their largest loadings on factors other than g, such as visual-spatial reasoning and clerical speed and accuracy. There is also a male-female difference in the variance of certain abilities. Although little is yet established concerning the causal basis or evolutionary significance of these cognitive sex differences, some plausible theories have been proposed. Nyborg's research holds a respected position in this arena. Condemning or restricting his particular research activity not only obstructs a larger field of research, but most especially it is absolutely wrong in principle.

Arthur R. Jensen
Professor Emeritus
Educational Psychology
University of California, Berkeley

From: Paul Irwing (Dr.)
Senior Lecturer in Organizational Psychology,
University of Manchester

To whom it may concern

Recently, a report has come to my notice concerning the treatment of Helmuth Nyborg by the University of Aarhus, or more particularly by specific individuals within that university. Firstly it seems that a "Committee for Proper Research" reprimanded Professor Nyborg for premature publication. Subsequently, research protocols were seized and a committee was set up in order to re-examine Professor Nyborg's calculations and method (i.e. hierarchical factor analysis, I assume using the Schmid-Leiman method, which Professor Nyborg generally favours). If these statements are true, and it is surprising to hear of such behaviour in a civilized European country, then I can only say that in England the individuals concerned would be guilty of harassment and bullying, and that the legal consequences could be very serious.

In the first place, releasing stories to the media concerning papers delivered at major conferences is standard practice in England, and in many other parts of the world. I don't see that the University of Aarhus is in a position to reverse this practice, but if it wishes to do so, the proper course of action is to do so through expressing its views to professional associations and conference committees, not by victimizing a single individual. The second offence of seizing someone's research protocols and hence halting their research is a direct attack on freedom of the individual. It means that important research is halted, with consequences both to Professor Nyborg and to the international community of scholars. We probably expect such behaviour in communist China, but not in a democratic country.

There are massive ironies in this matter. One of Professor Nyborg's most noted contributions concerning the issue of sex differences in cognition (Nyborg, 2003) was to write a paper, which explicates the methodological deficiencies of previous attempts to address this question, and to identify the type of studies potentially capable of resolving it. Necessarily, the debate has now moved on, but of course each time Professor Nyborg publishes, his methods are subject to scrutiny by the leading researchers in the world who review his papers. It seems to me nonsensical for the University of Aarhus to believe that it can somehow overcome an international consensus of the leading scholars in this field that Professor Nyborg's research is both methodologically sound and of considerable importance. I am perfectly willing to act as an expert witness on this matter. I have myself co-authored a number of papers on this issue, which have appeared in leading international journals (e.g. Lynn & Irwing, 2004a, 2004b; Irwing & Lynn, 2005). In fact, we used somewhat different techniques to those adopted by Professor Nyborg, but came to virtually identical conclusions, i.e. a difference in general cognitive ability of 5 IQ points in favour of males amongst adult populations. There are at least four other studies, which when properly interpreted, also support his conclusion (Colom, Juan-Espinosa, Abad & Garcia, 2000; Colom,

Garcia, Juan-Espinosa & Abad, 2002; Abad, Colom, Rebollo & Escorial, 2004; Rushton & Jackson, in press). However, the issue is not whether Professor Nyborg is right in his conclusions, but rather whether he has made an honest and scholarly attempt to address the issue. His publication track record attests to this. I strongly recommend to the University of Aarhus, that the individuals who have acted in the manner described above, on the assumption that it is true, face a disciplinary hearing before the university becomes an international disgrace.

1. Irwing, P. & Lynn, R. *Br. J. Psychol.* **96**, 505-525 (2005).
2. Lynn, R. & Irwing, P. *Intelligence*, **32**, 481-498 (2004).
3. Lynn, R.; Allick, J. & Irwing, P. *Intelligence*, **32**, 411-424 (2004).
4. Colom, R.; Juan-Espinosa, M.; Abad, F. & Garcia, L. F. *Intelligence*, **28**, 57-68 (2000).
5. Colom, R.; Garcia, L. F.; Juan-Espinosa, M. & Abad, F. J. *Span. J. of Psychol.*, **5**, 29-35 (2002)
6. Nyborg, H. Sex differences in *g*. In H. Nyborg (Ed), *The Scientific Study of General Intelligence*. (Amsterdam: Elsevier, 2003).
7. Abad, F. J.; Colom, R.; Rebollo, I. & Escorial, S. *Pers. & Ind. Diff.*, **36**, 1459-1470 (2004).
8. Rushton, J. P. & Jackson, D. N. *Intelligence* (in press).

FROM:

Doreen Kimura,
Department of Psychology,
Simon Fraser University,
Burnaby, BC, Canada V5A 1S6

TO:

Rektor
University of Aarhus
Denmark

It is my understanding that the administration of your university has publicly criticized Prof. Helmuth Nyborg for carrying on research, and publishing the data, on the topic of sex differences in intelligence; and that his research protocols have been seized.

If these are the facts, I express my astonishment and disapproval in the strongest terms. These would be acts in complete violation of every principle of academic freedom and it is almost inconceivable that a university would be guilty of them.

Prof. Nyborg has studied the biological mechanisms of individual differences for many years. The idea that there might be a significant difference between the sexes in intelligence favouring men is not new; nor is it incompatible with many findings showing other sex differences in cognition, some favouring women. I myself have done research for many years on some of these differences.

Nevertheless, had this been an entirely new and radical idea, and even if it were ultimately found to be wrong, it would still be inappropriate to harass anyone for researching this topic. Academic freedom explicitly includes the right to do research on, publish, and defend ideas that clash with prevailing wisdom and ideology. "Academic freedom" is meaningless if one defends only ideas that people are comfortable with.

The university has the important role of promoting balanced discussion of any idea, however unpalatable. The University of Aarhus should be publicly proclaiming its unequivocal support for Prof. Nyborg's right to do research on the topic of his choosing.

I look forward to such a declaration from you.

Sincerely,

Doreen Kimura, PhD, FRSC, LLD (Hon)
Visiting Professor

www.sfu.ca/~dkimura

Doreen Kimura's book Sex and Cognition may be ordered from MITPress.com or from BarnesandNoble.com. It has been translated into French, Japanese, Swedish, Spanish and Portuguese, forthcoming in Polish. Her earlier book Neuromotor Mechanisms in Human Communication, Oxford 1993, can also be obtained new or used through bn.com



*Honoring Yesterday
Creating Tomorrow*

Indiana University of Pennsylvania

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Fax: 724-357-2214
Internet: <http://www.iup.edu>

Dasen Luo, PhD
Associate Professor
Department of Psychology
Indiana University of Pennsylvania
Indiana, PA 15705
USA

December 10, 2005

To Whom It May Concern

During the 2005 International Society of Intelligence Research conference, Professor Nyborg told us about the treatment from his institution that he had experienced after he commented on sex differences in intelligence. If what he told us is true, and there does not seem to be any rational reason why he should be untrue about this, I believe the treatment he described is very unfair on a personal level, and is an outright violation of the freedom of expression on the level of the academic society. This is particularly alarming to me, because I came from a country ruled by a communist regime and had traumatic memories of the harsh treatment of those who dared to voice their dissenting opinions. People in western societies have heard a lot about those who were simply executed or thrown into labor camps because of their opinions under the communist regimes, but less known to the outside world were that a much larger number of people were punished in subtler, although still very devastating ways. I know these subtler ways quite well, as I was a victim of such seemingly lesser punishments and the punishment was to ban me from some important life opportunities that I deserved. The punishment almost ruined my whole life, and I have since appreciated freedom of expression so dearly after I had a chance to move to the west. The western societies are certainly not perfect, and I am not so naïve as to think such bad things never happen in western societies. In fact, since I am specialized in intelligence research, a field where seemingly dissenting academic opinions are likely to occur, I have seen such unfair treatments quite a few times. Although I am not a person who easily gets excited on these unfair matters, having experienced similar or worse treatments myself in my home country, I nevertheless feel strongly that such practices should be stopped wherever they arise.

I know Professor Nyborg mostly through his academic work, and he is to me foremost a fellow scientist. His opinions on a legitimate scientific matter, no matter how unpleasant they might sound to others, should only be dealt scientifically, not politically. Differences in intelligence, whether between groups or between individuals, whether genetically based or environmentally rooted, are scientific issues, and can only be settled on scientific forums, but not otherwise. The only legitimate way to discredit Professor Nyborg's views is to come up with strong, convincing scientific evidence to prove that his are wrong. Any other lesser means, including that of institutionalized punishments, can only be considered cheap shots, and will in the long-run cause consequences undesirable even to the other side. Such terrible consequences happened under

communist regimes, where many originally legitimate academic disputes were politically settled, and the winning sides in such settlements only won their battles for the time being. Eventually all sides lost their freedom and the whole academic society was reduced to such a miserable, secondary existence that, many years later, those who experienced the process are still ashamed of their inaction or inappropriate actions at the time.

I'd rather believe that the improper decisions regarding Professor Nyborg have been made out of imprudence, not out of a malicious motive. I sincerely hope the institution or the administrative branch that made the decisions will consider the harm it could do not only to Professor Nyborg, but to the general academic community as well. Additionally, to help place in perspective the specific disputes that Professor Nyborg has been involved, it is worth noting that many of the seemingly intractable issues about human intelligence are approaching their ultimate solutions, what with the rapid development of research technologies in recent years. As many of us are likely to see these solutions in our lifetime, it will be wise for all sides concerned to handle these disputes respectfully and with a degree of humility.

Sincerely yours

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Dasen Luo". The signature is fluid and elegant, with the first name "Dasen" and the last name "Luo" clearly distinguishable.

Dasen Luo

14 December, 2005

I write in support of Professor Nyborg's work on sex differences in intelligence. I advanced the theory that men have a higher average IQ than women by 4/5 IQ points in 1994 and have published eight subsequent papers confirming this. Professor Nyborg is one of several reputable experts in this field who have come to the same conclusion. I append below a letter I had published in *The Psychologist* (August, 2005) which summarizes this work. I am shocked to learn that Professor Nyborg's work is being investigated. It appears that Hamlet predicted the future "*Something is rotten in the state of Denmark*" and, in particular, at the University of Aarhus. If you pursue this vendetta you will harm Denmark's reputation as a liberal democracy. If necessary I am willing to come to Aarhus to testify on Professor Nyborg's behalf.

Richard Lynn

Professor Emeritus of Psychology

University of Ulster

Letter published from Richard Lynn in *The Psychologist* (August, 2005)

You invite views on the question *Are there sex differences in intelligence?* (June, p.354). Up to end of the nineteenth century it was widely believed that men are, at least on average, more intelligent than women. In the twentieth century this view became rejected and it became almost universally asserted by major authorities, including Terman, Spearman, Cattell, Brody, Jensen and Mackintosh, that there is no difference in the average intelligence of men and women.

In 1994 the wheel came full circle when I proposed that the historical view was right. Men have larger brains than women by about 10 per cent and larger brains confer greater brain power, so men must necessarily be on average more intelligent than women. I showed that this is so on any reasonable definition of intelligence. If intelligence is defined as the IQ on the Wechsler tests, men have obtained higher average means than women on a number of standardisation samples. Men also have higher average IQs than women if intelligence is defined as reasoning ability or as the sum of verbal, reasoning and spatial abilities (Lynn, 1994).

This conclusion was disputed by Mackintosh (1996), who argued that non-verbal reasoning measured by the Progressive Matrices is the best measure of intelligence and that there is no sex difference on this test. To examine this objection I carried out (with the assistance of Paul Irwing) a meta-analysis of studies of sex differences on the Progressive Matrices. We found that among adults the average IQ of men exceeds that of women by approximately 5 IQ points (Lynn and Irwing, 2005). There is no difference among children up to the age of 15.

A consensus paradigm is not easily overthrown no matter how strong the evidence against it, as Galileo famously found, so I have not been surprised to find people are still asserting that there is no sex difference in intelligence, e.g. "the psychometric evidence that there is no sex difference

in general ability is overwhelming (Anderson, 2004, p. 829). However, some of those who have examined the evidence have begun to accept my conclusion. The first of these was Hans Eysenck (1998, p.76), who was always open to new ideas. He was followed by Roberto Colom in Madrid who puts the male advantage among 18 year olds at 4.3 IQ points (Colom and Lynn, 2004). Another is Nyborg (2003) in Denmark, who has however contended that I erred in estimating the intelligence advantage of men at 5 IQ points and that the correct figure is 5.55 IQ points. Yet another who has reached the same conclusion is Baron-Cohen (2003) in Cambridge, although he prefers the terminology that men have greater "systematising ability" (aka intelligence: a distinction without a difference). Supportive evidence of a different kind has come from Furnham (2001) who has found that lay people consistently rate their fathers as more intelligent than their mothers, although he has forborne to mention that this happens to be correct.

Richard Lynn

University of Ulster

Anderson, M. (2004) Sex differences in intelligence. In R.Gregory (Ed) *The Oxford Encyclopedia of Mind*. Oxford: Oxford University Press.

Baron-Cohen, S. (2003) *The Essential Difference*. London: Penguin/Perseus.

Colom, R and Lynn, R (2004) Testing the developmental theory of sex differences in intelligence on 12-18 year olds. *Personality and Individual Differences*, 36, 75-82.

Eysenck, H.J. (1998) *Intelligence*. New Brunswick, NJ: Transaction.

Furnham, A. (2001) Self-estimates of intelligence. *Personality and Individual Differences*, 31,1381-1405

Lynn, R. (1994) Sex differences in intelligence and brain size: a paradox resolved. *Personality and Individual Differences*, 16, 363-364.

Lynn, R. and Irwing, P. (2004) Sex differences on the Progressive Matrices: a meta-analysis. *Intelligence*, 32, 481-498.

Mackintosh, N.J. (1996) Sex differences and IQ. *Journal of Biosocial Science*, 28, 559-571.

Nyborg (2003) Sex differences in g. In In H. Nyborg (Ed) *The Scientific Study of General Intelligence*. Amsterdam: Elsevier.



CALIFORNIA STATE UNIVERSITY, LONG BEACH

DEPARTMENT OF PSYCHOLOGY

December 12, 2005

To Whom It May Concern:

I am writing in support of Helmuth Nyborg's academic freedom. There is a fundamental problem with the way Professor Nyborg has been treated since reporting a 4-point IQ difference between men and women: This treatment never would have happened if he had been reporting on a non-controversial topic. Nor would it have happened if he had found no differences between men and women. Nor, I suppose, would it have happened if he had found that women had higher IQ's than men. Commenting on presentations at academic conferences prior to publication is a common practice. In fact, that is why so many conferences draw the interest of the media.

This means that the harassment that he has endured has been politically motivated. The belief that certain opinions in psychology must be subject to political witch-hunting reminds me of the atmosphere of the Spanish Inquisition, or of Soviet Communism. It is not appropriate in a modern liberal democracy.

The finding of sex differences in intelligence remains controversial. The way these issues should be addressed is by continuing to research the topic and publish findings that appear to have methodological credibility as determined by peers who review papers for publication in journals. It is not the job of a university committee to pass judgment on this matter.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in dark ink, appearing to read "Kevin MacDonald", is written over a light blue horizontal line.

Kevin MacDonald
Professor



Dartmouth College

Hanover, New Hampshire 03755

Department of Government, 6108 Silsby Hall

Professor Roger D. Masters
Research Professor of Government
& Nelson A. Rockefeller Professor Emeritus
President, Foundation for Neuroscience & Society
310 Gerry Hall - HB 6108
Office telephone: (603) 646-1029
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E-mail: Roger.D.Masters@Dartmouth.Edu

Dec. 12, 2005

TO WHOM IT MAY CONCERN

As one who has been engaged in research on the relationships between findings in the life sciences and the study of human behavior, I am now (sadly) aware of many cases of outrageous hostility to good scientific work based on ideological preferences or other politically motivated beliefs. Few, however, are as nasty as the reported attacks by academic officials on the research of Prof. Helmuth Nyborg for reporting small gender differences in standardized IQ tests.

It is clear that the development of birth control pills has led to a sharp change in attitudes toward gender equality in all Western societies. This is healthy and normal, leading to the opening of many careers and positions of responsibility to women who were long unfairly excluded on grounds of gender. None of these developments require or justify assertions that all males and females are exactly equal in all social and intellectual respects. That humans differ on many dimensions of personality and skill should be self-evident. That there can be some gender differences in the statistical distribution of extremely high abilities on specific skills (such as highly abstract reasoning or verbal social competence) is readily explained by an understanding of natural selection. Moreover, awareness of such differences permits an **IMPROVED** respect for individual abilities, not a morally degrading hostility to one group compared to another.

To cite another example on which I have done research, the condition known as Attention Deficit Hyperactivity Disorder (ADHD) – which some social scientists have claimed is merely a demeaning “social construction” – has been linked to specific genes (dopamine receptor mutations) that modify the function of the neurotransmitter dopamine. Although lead is a neurotoxin that can have similar effects (providing concrete evidence challenging the rigid “nature-nurture” dichotomy that has long dominated research in the behavioral sciences), the genetics of ADHD indicate that it is probably **NOT** a learning disability at all, but rather a highly adaptive phenotype among hunter-gatherers or farmers for much of human evolution. Today, although ADHD is a

set of behavioral traits and learning abilities that is not well suited to many educational settings, there are careers and activities in which those with these traits are exceptionally well suited.

This example illustrates how scientific research of the sort conducted by Prof. Nyborg can improve the decency and respect we show to human differences. If his findings are in error, the appropriate response should take the form of peer-reviewed scientific publications that demonstrate specific flaws in his methods and conclusions. I therefore strongly urge that all administrative steps taken to hinder Prof. Nyborg's scientific research be rescinded at once, and that an inquiry be undertaken to determine what established legal and administrative rules were violated by the university officials responsible for these actions.

Sincerely yours,

Roger D. Masters

Michael A. McDaniel
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PO Box 844000
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Voice: 804-827-0209
e-mail: mamedani@vcu.edu

December 25, 2005

To Whom It May Concern::

RE: Helmuth Nyborg

It is Christmas Eve. It is a time to spend time with one's family. So why am I taking time away from my family to write a letter of support for Dr. Nyborg? I hardly know the man. I am writing because I believe that scientific debates are best settled in open forums and not through university censorship.

My understanding is that Dr. Nyborg was reprimanded for talking with a reporter about a paper presented at the 2001 meeting of the International Society of Intelligence Research. It is a common practice for some conference papers to attract media attention. A sex difference would certainly attract attention. It appears that you seek to punish the messenger for the message.

It has been reported to me that Dr. Nyborg's research materials have been confiscated by a university administrator. Is this not a bit extreme? One way past governments have cleansed away incorrect thoughts was to confiscate incorrect books. Does the university really want to be associated with book burners?

Scientific findings are occasionally upsetting (consider Galileo, Darwin). Whether Dr. Nyborg's findings are sound or incorrect is best evaluated through open scientific debate not through university censorship. The actions of the administrators of the University of Aarhus are an embarrassment.

Sincerely,

(delivered by e-mail)

Michael A. McDaniel
Professor

MSN Startside | Min MSN | Hotmail | Shopping | MSN Penge | Personer & Grupper

Log Af

Websejning:



Hotmail

I dag

Post

Kalender

Kontaktpersoner

helmuthnyborg@msn.com

Messenger: Online

Svar | Svar til alle | Videre send | Slet | Uønsket | Anbring i mappe | Udskriftsvisning | Gem adresse

Indbakke

Fra: Angus MacDonald III <angus@umn.edu>
 Sendt : 14. december 2005 16:46:24
 Til: helmuthnyborg@msn.com
 CC: Angus MacDonald <angus@umn.edu>
 Emne: Welcome and Unwelcome truths

Dear Dr. Nyborg,

I should make clear that it is rare for me to weigh-in on political matters. Academics today have so many competing demands that we are often silent when our sensibilities are offended. We move on and forget. We do not contact our public officials or administrators when we see something going astray. However, the case that you describe is such an outlandish example of what can happen if we remain silent that I felt compelled to weigh in.

Although I am not a scholar of intelligence, I am considered an expert on prefrontal cortex -- likely the seat of reasoning -- and have published on intelligence in the past. I have been hired by the public to do this, and in my capacity as a professor and a researcher I do my best to hold true to that public trust. In the course of my duty I have discovered a number of different facts, some of which are welcome (for example when a prediction is confirmed) and some of which are unwelcome (for example when my expectations are violated). There is no good a priori reason to believe that all facts that luck within nature will be to our liking. Indeed, it is the height of hubris to assume that nature is as we should like it. As scientists our charge is to describe nature so that the public can then grapple with those truths in a manner that maximizes the public good.

My understanding of the condemnation that has motivated you to solicit letters of support from colleagues is that you are tacitly accused of wishing for this result and faking your data and analyses to produce it. I cannot speak to event which took place an ocean away, but I can unequivocally state that even when completely impartial -- or resistant -- to a given outcome, when completely principled in collection and analysis, scientists will discover unwelcome facts. Doing so is no indication of perfidy. Making such findings public is no breach of the public trust. It is, in fact, what we have been hired to do. We've been hired to do this because society generally appreciates that its goals should not be based on white lies (the denial of global warming by the current American administration is one notable exception). Scientists, and their unwelcome findings, allow a society to understand its various goals as being either impossible or merely very difficult.

I hope this letter finds you healthy, with my wishes for a amicable outcome that cleaves to the truth,

Angus MacDonald, III, Ph.D.
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January 26, 2006

To Whom It May Concern

Dear Sir or Madam:

I just have learned that the Administration of the University of Aarhus has recently censored Professor Helmuth Nyborg's research on sex differences in cognitive abilities and halted his related longitudinal research project by confiscating the research protocols.

If this is, indeed, what happened, it would constitute a blatant form of political censorship that is unworthy of a free democratic society. After Nazi-German and Soviet totalitarianism and its devastating impact on the social sciences, one should expect better from western-European countries.

As a researcher and clinician in the field of gender variations, I am very much aware of the fact that Professor Nyborg published in a controversial area, and that his findings will be unwelcome to many. However, the appropriate response is not administrative interference but to let science take its course, with critical examination of concepts and methods, and subsequent multiple replications by qualified independent investigators. Academic freedom unfettered by political correctness but exposed to open and rigorous conceptual and methodological examination is an essential component of a free society, and necessary for evidence-based policy development in education, law, health, economics, etc.

If Professor Nyborg's research findings are refuted on the basis of conceptual and methodological examination and subsequent replication attempts, then the matter is settled. If they are held up, some current theoretical positions may have to be revised. If these findings and the underlying research are simply suppressed for political reasons, the questions will not be settled until the scientific process resumes at a later stage.

A university's role is not to censor research but to provide the forum for its rigorous public discussion, including its political and ethical implications. I strongly recommend that the University of Aarhus take a public stance in defense of the scientific process based on the concept of academic freedom, lift its censorship of and interference with Professor Nyborg's research, and issue written declarations on both points.

Sincerely,

Heino F. L. Meyer-Bahlburg, Dr. rer. nat.
Director, Program of Developmental Psychoendocrinology
Associate Director, HIV Center for Clinical and Behavioral Studies
Professor of Clinical Psychology (in Psychiatry)

Columbia University Medical Center

SKEPTIC MAGAZINE

A QUARTERLY PUBLICATION OF THE SKEPTICS SOCIETY
DEVOTED TO SCIENCE AND CRITICAL THINKING

12 December, 2005

To Whom It May Concern:


I am writing to express my support for Professor Helmuth Nyborg specifically and for the principles of freedom of expression and open academic inquiry in general.

As a published science writer and senior editor of SKEPTIC Magazine these ideals are at the heart of my work. In the United States the First Amendment to our constitution protects the freedom of the press. With that right comes a responsibility — to inform the public. Censorship, including self-censorship, is an attack on the citizens' right to know.

Professor Nyborg's conclusions have significant support from other experts in this area and, most importantly, the empirical data. It must be left to open academic debate and the free marketplace of ideas to determine the extent to which his interpretation is correct. In the end, all interpretations must be revised as new information becomes available and better analytical procedures are developed.

Seeking to silence or dishonor Prof. Nyborg will not only deprive psychology of one of its most productive contributors but have a chilling effect on all those, regardless of their academic discipline, performing cutting-edge research, whether or not they agree with him on this particular issue.

Respectfully,



Frank Miele

Senior Editor,

SKEPTIC Magazine

(The opinion expressed is mine and not the official position of
SKEPTIC Magazine.)

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Edward Miller

Research Professor of Economics and Finance (for identification only, message may not be university business or related to them).

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301-652-7608, 504-247-8478 cell, 240-455-0858 Vonage

To

> Whom it may Concern:

I am a University of New Orleans professor (this is on personal paper because I am temporarily evacuated from New Orleans due to a house flooded by Hurricane Katrina and a temporarily closed University office due to the same cause) of Economics and Finance (MIT PhD) who also publishes in the area of intelligence (and have even won a small cash prize from Mensa for the quality of my work in the area). The phrase Research Professor in my title is a honor conferred by my University reflecting accomplishments beyond what is required for tenure (and probably related to the over 200 papers I have published). A recently compiled list of the most prolific 50 authors in finance included my name.

I am professionally acquainted with Professor Nyborg and over the years have

read many papers of his and met him at several meetings. I have been impressed by the quality of his work and feel it is a real contribution.

For him not to have access to his longitudinal data is a real loss to him, but more importantly to the world since many of us were looking forward to further results from this long term research.

While I did not make it to the Intelligence meeting he spoke at (I did meet him at the previous one), it is traditional for scientists to present their results at such meetings. Publication lags are long and it is desirable for others to know of results earlier. Also, valuable comments and insights are often gained from such discussions. Although it is not the custom in psychology, in many of the economics and finance meetings I attend getting feedback prior to publication is regarded as a major function of the presentation, and a discussant is assigned to comment and point out any weaknesses in the research that might exist. The majority of research is first presented at such meetings and only later published.

While there is some debate about whether there are intelligence differences between the sexes. Some respected professionals believe there are not, such as Jensen. Others such as Lynn believe there are. It would be quite plausible for them to exist given known differences in brain size, brain organization, and hormones. Research on the topic has gone on for years and there are regularly papers presented dealing with the subject. Typically, on any one test, differences are found (unless the test was designed not to show such differences).

You should be aware a gene was recent identified which appears to affect intellectual performance in males but not females and to have a major effect. The same gene also appears to have a male specific effect in ice. Incidentally, this research was presented at a meeting prior to publication. It is extremely common in medical fields and others for research to be presented at meetings prior to publication.

Sincerely yours:

Edward M. Miller

Research Professor of Economics

and
Finance

To the authorities looking into the work of Prof. Nyborg:

I will make this brief, because I do not think the issues are complicated. You already know—it is impossible that you *not* know—that none of the allegations about technical deficiencies in Prof. Nyborg's work would have been raised if he had not been writing on politically sensitive topics. You already know—it is impossible to review more than a few of Prof. Nyborg's published works and *not* know—that Prof. Nyborg is a careful and accomplished scholar who easily meets traditional standards of professional conduct.

Given those two plain facts, what is left? Prof. Nyborg is coming under intense professional pressure because his views are politically unacceptable. A university cannot survive if this is permitted. Everything that a university stands for is supposed to protect scholars like Prof. Nyborg, not persecute them. What is happening to Prof. Nyborg is a threat to a tradition of academic freedom that has, without exaggeration, underwritten the creation of the Western intellectual edifice. It is, without exaggeration, an outrage.

Sincerely,

Charles Murray

W.H. Brady Scholar

American Enterprise Institute for Public Policy Research

Washington, DC

Amsterdam, December 22nd, 2005

To whom it may concern - Letter of support for the harassers of Professor Helmuth Nyborg

Harsher treatment required

Professor Nyborg publicly complained of being harassed by the administration of the University of Århus concerning his research on sex differences in cognitive ability, but I think that calling him a 'fool' is an understatement.

I am shocked by the lenient treatment professor Helmuth Nyborg is receiving. His behaviour is so outrageous and unheard of, that simple harassment is not sufficient, but only the harshest punishments are in order.

This man is clearly a disgrace to science and should be kicked off the University of Århus without a second of delay.

The brave administrators at the University of Århus who have the courage to point out that Professor Nyborg is a shame for his university deserve my and everybody's full support. The episode with Professor Nyborg will go into history as one of glory for the University of Århus because of the rigid adherence to standards of scientific quality.

Questions by the press

It is probably the first time in the history of science that a scientist is being asked questions by the press and that the scientist actually answers these questions. I cannot emphasize enough that this is totally objectionable. Just imagine what would happen when scientists were to answer questions from journalists. This is unheard of. Every reasonable person will agree with me that Professor Nyborg deserves to lose his professorship on account of this action alone.

Judgment by committee

Professor Nyborg has published an empirical paper in the high-impact scientific journal *Personality and Individual Differences*. I applaud the establishment of a committee to judge the scientific quality of this work. It is a well-known fact that 100% of the reviewers for PAID, the associate editors, and the editors are completely incompetent and don't know the first thing about personality and individual differences. It is an understatement to classify them all as fools. I applaud this new development of completely bypassing the international system of peer judgment and sincerely hope that it leads to all publications by staff of the University of Århus being judged by in-house committees. I think this would dramatically increase the quality of research at the University of Århus, and it would be worth the immense investment of time. The people involved in setting up the present committee for the assessment of Professor Nyborg's published articles are to be given full credit for their innovative contribution to scientific assessment. This is a glorious day for science. This is a glorious day for the University of Århus. This is a glorious day for the harassers of Professor Helmuth Nyborg.

Sincerely,

Dr. Jan te Nijenhuis

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STEVEN PINKER

Johnstone Family Professor



DEPARTMENT OF PSYCHOLOGY
HARVARD UNIVERSITY

December 14, 2005

To Whom it May Concern,

I am writing to protest the shocking and disgraceful treatment of Dr. Helmuth Nyborg following publication of his report on possible gender differences in average IQ scores. Dr. Nyborg may be mistaken, but the issue he is addressing is a factual one, and can only be evaluated by an open examination of the evidence. To "investigate" him, shut down his research, or otherwise harass him because his findings are politically incorrect is unworthy of an institution dedicated to the understanding of reality. It is reminiscent of the persecution of Galileo, the crippling of Soviet science and agriculture under Lysenko, and the attempt of the American religious right wing to inhibit the teaching of evolution in the schools.

No one has the right to legislate the truth. It can only be discovered by free inquiry, and that includes investigations that may make people uncomfortable. This is the foundation of liberal society, and it is threatened by attempts to interfere with Dr. Nyborg and his research. If he is incorrect, that will be established by a community of scholars who examine his evidence and arguments and criticize them in open forums of debate, not by the exercise of force to prevent him from pursuing his research. These are the tactics of a police state, and bring shame on any institution that uses them.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Steven Pinker".



Faculty of Social Science • Department of Psychology

December 12th 2005

To Whom It May Concern,

I am writing to express my astonishment at the way the administration at the University of Aarhus is currently treating Professor Helmuth Nyborg, surely one of the foremost scholars in Denmark.

I should say that I have been a friend and colleague of Professor Nyborg for over 20 years. I first met him at the 1983 inaugural meeting of the International Society for Individual Differences (ISSID) in London and continued thereafter to know him through various meetings of that society including the memorable one he organized in Aarhus in 1997. We also met at several meetings of the Behavior Genetics Association (BGA), and also those of the International Society for Intelligence Research (ISIR) including the one in 2001, where the findings he presented apparently became a cause of dispute at the University of Aarhus, and finally the most recent one (2005) in Albuquerque, New Mexico. I have the highest regard for Professor Nyborg's integrity as an individual as also for his scientific work, as do the great majority of our colleagues in these societies, several of who will be writing letters on his behalf.

For over twenty years, Prof. Nyborg has been conducting research on the biological basis of individual and group differences in cognitive performance and social behavior. He has put forward a variety of models to integrate and explain the facts as they arise. Prof. Nyborg is well known for his General Theory of Trait Co-Variance as set out in his 1994 book, *Sex, Hormones, and Behavior*, which I have cited. Prof. Nyborg has continued to develop this theory by adding an evolutionary life-history perspective. He is also well-known for two edited volumes he compiled, published by Elsevier, which celebrate the work of two of the most eminent scholars in our field: Hans J. Eysenck (in 1997) and Arthur R. Jensen (in 2003). I was honored to be invited to contribute to both these volumes.

I should say something about myself. I am a Professor of Psychology at the University of Western Ontario in Canada, hold two doctorates from the University of London (Ph.D. and D.Sc.), and am a Fellow of the John Simon Guggenheim Memorial Foundation, as well as many professional societies. I have written 6 books and nearly 250 articles in peer-reviewed journals. I work in the same research area as Prof. Nyborg, which is to say, individual and group differences in cognitive ability and in personality and social behavior. I too adopt a biological, genetic, and evolutionary perspective.

In the hope that it will help your deliberations, I will describe some of the intellectual background for the current controversy on sex differences in IQ in which Prof. Nyborg has become embroiled. His claim that men average 4 to 5 IQ points higher than women is very much

under appreciated. It is not altogether surprising that many believe Prof. Nyborg has become a maverick. In fact, as I hope to show, he is a pioneer and on the cutting edge of this particular area of science.

For nearly 100 years, ever since IQ tests were invented, there has been a consensus among psychologists that men and women average the same. For decades, however, psychologists have also accepted that men and women differ in their test "profiles," with males averaging higher on tests of spatial ability and females higher on tests of verbal ability. These differences were assumed to average out. This was the position that Prof. Nyborg held for many years (this writer too).

Three sets of observations have called this consensus into question.

The first is the finding of a sex difference in brain size. In the 1992 issue of the journal *Intelligence*, Davison Ankney re-analysed 1,000 brain weights at autopsy and found males averaged 100 grams more than females, even after adjusting for body size (140-grams before adjustments). My own research in the same journal corroborated Ankney with an analysis of cranial capacity from 6,325 U.S. military personnel with individual adjustments made for body size. Ankney's findings were considered "revolutionary" at the time because prior studies of sex differences in brain size argued they "disappeared" when adjusted for body size. But, as Ankney showed, these had used a faulty adjustment procedure. Other data have since corroborated Ankney. In Denmark, Pakkenberg and Gundersen (1997) found men have 15% more neurons than women (22.8 versus 19.3 billion).

The second finding is on the relation between brain size and general intelligence. Over 20 brain size studies using magnetic resonance imaging have confirmed that there is a 0.40 correlation between brain size and IQ, in both men and women.

The final set of observations is that *g* -- the general factor of mental ability -- has been shown conclusively to permeate ALL cognitive tests to a greater or lesser extent, as initially proposed in 1904 by British psychologist Charles E. Spearman. More than any other factor, the magnitude of the test's *g* loading best determines a test's power to predict academic achievement, creativity, career potential, and job performance. Thus, a "spatial" test may be relatively high on *g* (mental rotation) or low (perceptual speed), a "verbal" test may be relatively high (reasoning) or low (fluency), as might a "memory" test be high or low. The question of sex differences in general intelligence can therefore be formulated more precisely than previously: "Are there sex differences on the *g* factor?"

Putting these three sets of observations together in a 1994 paper, British psychologist Richard Lynn hypothesized that men have a higher IQ. In a 1999 paper he set about to explicitly solve what he dubbed "the Ankney-Rushton anomaly." He reasoned that if men average larger brains than females, and if brain size is linked to IQ, then it follows that men should have higher average intelligence than women. He suggested that because girls mature faster than boys, the sex difference is masked during the school years but can be found after maturation. This, he

suggested, explained why the sex difference had been missed for 100 years. Almost all the data showing no sex differences were gathered on school children.

In a series of meta-analytic reviews and new empirical studies, especially those in 1994, 1999, 2004, and 2005, Richard Lynn, later with colleague Paul Irwing at the University of Manchester, showed that on a number of intelligence tests such as the well-standardized highly-g-loaded Wechsler Adult Intelligence Scale (WAIS), and the Raven's Progressive Matrices, and in countries as varied as Belgium, Greece, China, Israel, the Netherlands, Norway, Sweden, Japan, India, and Indonesia, as well in Britain and the United States, adult men consistently average 4 to 5 IQ points higher than do adult women.

Not every study and every analysis found the sex difference in general ability. Prof. Roberto Colom in Spain, for example, published one negative instance using the standardization of the WAIS-III in Spain to make his point.

It was around this juncture that Prof. Nyborg became involved. He began to present extensive new analyses of his own to confirm that, at least by the age of 17 years, males had a slightly higher IQ than females. In one analysis he suggested that Prof. Colom had made an error of interpretation in his data and that even the WAIS-III in Spain showed the sex difference.

I might add that for me, even though my research had corroborated Ankney's finding of a sex difference in brain size, at first I remained neutral on the question of sex differences in g. I was a great admirer of Prof. Lynn's work but not completely convinced, perhaps because of various technical flaws one can always point to in this or that study. As time went on, however, and Prof. Lynn continued to accumulate more and more data, and as others too added their analyses, I became convinced. In fact, it was Prof. Nyborg's disputed 2001 ISIR presentation that helped to convince me, just as it also did Prof. Arthur Jensen, who was for a long time the biggest holdout against Lynn's thesis (see his 1998 book, *The g Factor*).

Most recently, my late colleague Douglas N. Jackson and I have corroborated the Lynn-Nyborg hypothesis of sex differences in general IQ by analyzing the 145 items from the Scholastic Assessment Test (SAT) based on 46,509 male and 56,007 female 17-year-olds (total $N = 102,516$). We found (1) the male and the female g factors are congruent on both the SAT Verbal and the SAT Mathematics scales in excess of .99; (2) there are male-female differences in g favoring males equivalent to 3.63 IQ points; (3) male-female differences in g are present throughout the entire distribution of scores; (4) male-female differences in g are found at every socioeconomic level; and (5) male-female differences in g are found across several ethnic groups.

Although it now appears that Prof. Nyborg's claim of a sex difference in general IQ is correct, this is, of course not the main point. It should not matter if he were dead wrong. If academic freedom is to mean anything it must mean that he is free to express thoughts with which others disagree violently. Freedom also means that he may do so without fear of reprisal in any form such as threats of forced early retirement, loss of Emeritus status on retirement, seizure of data, or having to go through extra effort to explain himself and stay published. It also

means protection from any form of harassment, intimidation, or ostracism by university authorities.

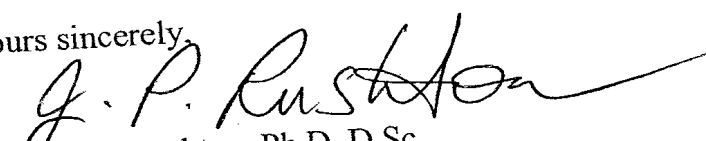
I feel sure that you will agree that the primary purpose of a university remains the pursuit of free intellectual enquiry in order to enhance the discovery, systematization and transmission of knowledge. If your university comes to be seen as one that gives in to administrative whim, it can only mean the severe loss of your university's good reputation, as well as that of academic freedom in Denmark. If Prof. Nyborg's views are found to be illogical or to be missing some important ingredient, these should be noted by academic rebuttal in a sober manner in a scholarly format.

Prof. Nyborg has told us that he first got into trouble with the administration because of a story by a journalist that appeared in a newspaper. The university complained that he should not have agreed to be interviewed before his findings had appeared in a peer-reviewed journal. Can this be true? Surely administrators at the University of Aarhus know that many scientific conferences make media rooms available in an attempt to get journalists to take an interest in their presentations. Most conference papers are given prior to formal publication. Don't they know that Prof. Nyborg is an acclaimed international scholar who brings credit to his university and country?

I have urged Prof. Nyborg to seek legal redress for what on the surface must be construed as one of the clearest cases of arbitrary harassment and bullying I have heard of. Administrative action appears to have been taken in the absence of any bill of particulars setting out the university rules Prof. Nyborg is alleged to have violated, or any evidential basis for why action was taken. To an outside observer the story so far strikes as a grievous overstepping of administrative authority. I don't know what legal recourse is available in Denmark, but if this were happening in North America, Prof. Nyborg might be encouraged to pursue a claim of harassment and personal damage centering on loss of reputation, loss of work output, and emotional suffering for self and family. It is one of the most outrageous cases I have ever come across -- and I have come across many! I will be more than willing to come to Denmark as an expert witness if this should become necessary. What is happening is a stink in the nostrils.

I have troubled to write a lengthy letter in order to set out more of the research background than your administrators may be familiar with. I can only hope that someone sensible in authority will take charge of this situation before any further harm occurs. I will be circulating this letter to academic colleagues, including those in academic freedom societies who take an interest in these matters.

Yours sincerely,


J. Philippe Rushton, Ph.D, D.Sc.

cc Society for Academic Freedom and Scholarship (Canada) <http://www.safs.ca/>
National Association of Scholars (USA) <http://www.nas.org/>



Andechs, 19 December 2005

To Whom It May Concern,

I write in support of Dr. Helmuth Nyborg's academic freedom.

Dr. Nyborg has described an escalating series of administrative harassment all stemming from his disclosure of research findings to a journalist in 2001. Beginning in that year, Dr. Nyborg has been insulted by his Institute's director, reprimanded by a faceless "Committee for Proper Research", and called to several meetings with his Dean and University President. Dr. Nyborg's director did not evaluate his research for 2004. His 30-year longitudinal research project has been disrupted by the director's confiscation of the research protocols. Now a committee has been set up by the director to examine his methods and calculations, without Dr. Nyborg being informed of the committee's membership.

If this description is even half accurate, then Dr. Nyborg is the victim of harassment. It would seem that it is Dr. Nyborg's research findings that have caused this aggressive response, not his speaking with journalists, since this is an everyday event. Universities around the world consider it a mark of social responsibility for scientists and other experts to speak publicly about their fields of specialization. If Dr. Nyborg's director and others disagree with his findings, they should express their opinions or, preferably, do the research necessary to test the relevant findings.

Is it an established rule at the University of Aarhus that academics should not give their ideas the imprimatur of science unless those ideas have been published in a peer-reviewed journal? I hope not, because such a rule would be open to abuse, thus endangering the

basic civil liberty of free speech. Peer-reviewed journals differ widely in quality, so cannot be held up as some golden standard. I doubt very much that many critics of Dr. Nyborg's analysis will feel it necessary to first publish their ideas in a peer-reviewed journal. Where is the justice? If the University of Aarhus damages one individual's research, reputation and peace of mind for breaking this silly rule, how can it justify not doing so to all such rule-breakers under its authority? Consistent application of the rule would likely be unworkable and make the University a laughing stock. But inconsistency would expose the treatment of Dr. Nyborg to be persecution pure and simple, rather than the disinterested application of ethical standards.

For the sake of Dr. Nyborg, the reputation of the University of Aarhus, and the principle of academic freedom, I urge those in positions of authority to cease this harassment of a distinguished scientist, restore his research materials and dignity (which would necessitate a public apology at least), reprimand those who have victimized him, and make the procedural changes necessary to ensure that this outrageous situation never reoccurs.

Yours sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script, appearing to read "F. Salter", with a long horizontal flourish extending to the right.

Frank Salter



MAX-PLANCK-INSTITUT
für Ornithologie
Gruppe Schiefenhövel (Humanethologie)
und
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To Whom it May Concern

With this letter I want to voice my strong protest against the way Dr. Helmuth Nyborg is treated by his university and to express my deep concern over academic freedom in Denmark.

Dr. Nyborg is an internationally recognized and respected scientist whose work on intelligence has been seminal for modern research. It is extremely dangerous and a deathblow to science, if academics are punished for publishing, after careful and up to date research, results which are not in line with present-day political correctness.

It is adamantly clear that women and men have evolved to fulfill partly different functions. Their biology, including emotional, perceptual and cognitive functions, reflects this by showing differences of various degrees in specific realms. That one gender scores higher or lower in solving specific tasks, physical or mental, is no value judgement. Academic freedom is, as past history has painfully demonstrated, an extremely important element in a free and democratic society. Political correctness can and must not be the guideline by which scientific research is judged. Only a pluralism of ideas and insights is safeguarding present and future academic freedom, it is the cornerstone of our societies. Do not interdict research results, repeat the study and either falsify or verify the outcome. This is the golden and well proven rule of science.

I urge the ones responsible for interfering with Dr. Nyborg's research and depriving him of the support an internationally wellknown outstanding scientist is entitled to, to reverse their decision and fully reinstall him at his university.

Andechs, 17.12.2005

(Univ.-Prof. Dr. Wulf Schiefenhövel)

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16 December 2005

TO WHOM IT MAY CONCERN:

I have known the work of Dr Helmuth Nyborg for approximately thirty years. His research has been meticulous, careful, well-thought-out, and in accordance with the highest standards of scientific objectivity. It has made numerous important contributions to the study of sex differences.

Dr Helmuth Nyborg has been respected in his field and by his colleagues. I am dismayed to hear that a committee has been appointed to investigate his research. I hope that the work of this committee will quickly be resolved, and Dr Nyborg will be able to continue pursuing his important research.

Dr Michel Treisman M.B, B. Ch., M.A., D. Phil.

Emeritus Reader in Experimental Psychology

Personality and Individual Differences

Founding Editor: Professor H. J. Eysenck

Editors-in-Chief

Professor G. H. GUDJONSSON and Dr. S. B. G. EYSENCK

December 20, 2005

Lektor, Cand. Jur. Tom Latrup-Pedersen, Dean
Faculty of Social Sciences
Aarhus University

Dear Dean Latrup-Pedersen:

We are writing to protest the treatment that Dr. Helmuth Nyborg has been subjected to for his research into sex differences in general intelligence. Dr. Nyborg is a highly-regarded research psychologist who enjoys a well-deserved international reputation for his work. He has published numerous research articles and book chapters dealing with sex differences in cognitive abilities and is one of a handful of scholars world-wide who is regarded as a definitive expert in this area.

As co-editors-in-chief of the journal *Personality and Individual Differences*, which published the article that you have created an anonymous committee to investigate (Nyborg, H. (2005). Sex-related differences in general intelligence, g, brain-size, and social status. *Personality and Individual Differences*, 39, 497-509), we have to put forward that, before it was accepted for publication, Dr. Nyborg's paper was reviewed by two other scientists who are themselves experts in the areas of sex-differences and statistical data-analysis. Without revealing their identities, here are some quotes from their reviews: "The authors present convincing evidence of i) brain size-IQ and brain size-g correlations and ii) present data that the sex difference in brain size may explain some of the variance in sex difference in IQ and g"; "This manuscript will be important to the study of individual differences in human intelligence, and may spark additional research in the area of sex differences"; and both reviewers noted that the paper contains important new material, is original and creative, and has no serious faults in statistical treatment or in methodology. Apparently Aarhus University seems to question the scientific standards and qualification of our journal, which we highly regret.

We understand that Aarhus University, as employer of Dr. Nyborg, is free to form a committee to re-examine this paper and to judge its merits, but it gives us the impression that there is no justification for this other than that Dr. Nyborg has chosen to research a topic that some consider to be controversial. However, as academics yourselves, you will evidently also support the right of your faculty members to academic freedom, no matter how controversial their interests may be viewed by others. We can only emphasize the fact that, if Dr. Nyborg's research were flawed, it would not make it through the rigorous peer-review system that our journal employs.

We hope that you will see that the treatment of Dr. Nyborg has no place in a setting that professes to call itself an academic institution.

Sincerely,

Tony Vernon, Sybil Eysenck, and Gisli Gudjonsson
Co-Editors-In-Chief, *Personality and Individual Differences*



FACULTY OF SOCIAL AND BEHAVIOURAL SCIENCES

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Amsterdam, January 25, 2006

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To whom it may concern:

It has come to our attention that the work of Prof. Nyborg of the Department of Psychology, University of Aarhus, Denmark, is currently under the scrutiny of a committee, at the behest of the director of this institute.

The work in question concerns sex differences in IQ, which Prof. Nyborg has demonstrated to equal 4 IQ point IQ favoring males. The work has been published in the scientific (peer-reviewed) journal *Personality and Individual Differences* (2005).

As scientists in the area of differential psychology, we are interested, *inter alia*, in the nature and the causes of group differences in IQ. Many such group differences have been established. These include sex differences in spatial IQ test scores, differences between US Afro-American and Caucasian American in a variety of IQ test scores, and cohort (generational) differences in full scale IQ test scores. The fact that these group differences in IQ test scores exist, is beyond any reasonable doubt, as one can read in any good introductory textbook. However, the scientifically important issues are: what is the exact nature of the group differences (including the hypothesis that they are due to measurement bias), how exactly do the groups differ, and what are the causes of these differences. In his scientific, peer-reviewed work, prof. Nyborg has attempted to address these issues, specifically with respect to sex differences in IQ test scores.

For the record, we would like to express our dismay at the fact that this work of Prof. Nyborg is subject to the scrutiny of a committee. The fact that Prof. Nyborg's work has been published in a mainstream, peer-reviewed journal implies that this work has already been carefully scrutinized by his peers (reviewers) and by the editor of the journal. His subject matter, sex differences in IQ remains an important and poorly understood subject in field of differential psychology.

Of course, one may disagree with Prof. Nyborg's statistical methods and his conclusions, but such disagreement is part and parcel of any scientific endeavor. More importantly, the scientific evaluation of Prof. Nyborg's work can and should be left to the scientific community. The instatement of a committee to this end seems to us to be pointless, and needlessly damaging to the good reputation of Prof. Nyborg.

Yours sincerely,

Dr. Conor V. Dolan

Jelte M. Wicherts, MSc

