

Firstly, behavioral genetics research has shown that while genetic factors play a role in determining behavior and development, they are not the sole determinants. However, environmental factors, such as exposure to language-rich environments, can also play a crucial role in language development, highlighting the intricate interplay between nature and nurture. Overall, the evidence from behavioral genetics, epigenetics, and the recognition of the interaction between nature and nurture supports the argument that nurture (the social environment) is more important than nature (genetic factors) in shaping behavior and development. Studies of twins and adoptees indicate that environmental factors also significantly contribute to psychological traits. The reading emphasizes the complex interplay between genes and the environment, highlighting the crucial role of the social environment in influencing individual differences. For instance, studies on rat pups have shown that the amount of maternal care they receive can alter their epigenetic marks and influence their stress responses in adulthood. Instead of defending extreme nativist or nurturist positions, researchers are interested in investigating how nature and nurture interact in a variety of ways.