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Review

Richard Lynn and the evolution of conscientiousness

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ABSTRACT

The scientific style of Lynn is described and includes his tenacity combined with his creativity, his research intuition, and his ability to politely correct the scientifically incorrect. His empirical and theoretical contributions to conscientiousness as a function of intelligence, race, and psychopathic personality in an evolutionary context are described and discussed. This is related to his work on pigmentocracy and to recent research showing more aggression in dark animals and humans. Suggestions for measurement of psychopathic personalities are offered.

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1. Introduction

1.1. The scientific style of Richard Lynn

Richard Lynn's work, the best known of which is on ethnic/national differences in intelligence, reflects seemingly incongruous characteristics. He is on one hand a methodical and tenacious assembler of facts and figures. At the same time, he is a highly analytical, creative, and insightful conceptualizer. He tantalizes his readers with vast information, his organization of which is more than the sum of its parts. He is to intellectual group differences as Charles Darwin is to biology.

Clinical psychologists talk about "clinical intuition". I believe there is also a "research intuition" that Lynn possesses in conjunction with his being both bold and pioneering. He was the first to assemble IQ's for almost all of the countries of the world, thus making both a scientific and methodological contribution (Lynn & Vanhanen, 2002). Over half of the IQ's were estimated on the basis of neighboring countries. It seemed predictable at the time that some persons would question the legitimacy of such estimation (Hunt & Sternberg, 2006). Lynn and Vanhanen (2006) subsequently correlated estimated IQ and later measured IQ in 25 countries and found a remarkably high correlation of .91. I would not have predicted that such estimation would provide such a great approximation of measured IQ. Lynn's researcher's intuition is uncanny.

Lynn writes with patience and calmness while presenting evidence in defending the truth against the well-intentioned but

scientifically incorrect. To use an example in the realm of antisocial behavior, Lynn (2009) first stated the position of an American Psychological Association Task Force that African American students do not engage in higher rates of disruptive behavior than Whites but are punished more because of lack of teacher training, classroom management, racial stereotyping, and lack of training in culturally competent practices. Lynn pointed out that there are grossly disproportionate Blacks in a variety of criminal and delinquent and other antisocial behavior. The descending order of suspension and exclusion rates of Blacks, Native-Americans, Hispanics, Whites, and East Asians has existed for many years. The grossly disproportionate crime rate of Blacks is found in a number of different countries. In spite of being a minority, East Asians consistently demonstrate a low rate of disruptive behavior both in school and the community.

2. Conscientiousness: the personality variable

Although personality and almost all human variables are conceptualized by researchers as continue ranging from very high to very low, when many lay persons use the word "conscientiousness" they usually are thinking of above-average levels and of situations of a school or work nature, e.g., Mary is a conscientious student in that she comes to school on time, does neat work, and keeps her desk clean. Conscientiousness in this chapter is conceptualized as extending from a high of giving to others, contributing to society, working hard, and being highly responsible to a low end of being dishonest, exploitative, parasitic, and violent. Conscientiousness is one of the widely cited "Big Five" dimensions of personality (Costa & McCrae, 1992a) and measured by the NEO-PI-R

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(Costa & McCrae, 1992b). The five dimensions are Neuroticism, Extraversion, Openness, Agreeableness, and Conscientiousness. In a study by Decuyper, DeFruyt, and Buschman (2008) using the NEO-PI-R, conscientiousness correlated most highly with two measures of psychopathic personality, one of which is based on the Diagnostic and Statistical Manual of the American Psychiatric Association (APA, 1994).

3. Race, IQ, and antisocial behavior

Lynn's (2002) most comprehensive work on conscientiousness is his article "Racial and ethnic differences in psychopathic personality" which presented numerous studies on undesirable behavior in a number of different countries, especially the United States. He provided information on conduct disorder, school suspensions and exclusions, attention deficit hyperactivity disorder, moral understanding, aggression, homicide, robbery, rape, spousal assault, not honoring financial obligations, inability to maintain long-term monogamous relationships, extramarital sex, multiple sex partners, inability to delay gratification, unemployment, reckless driving, recklessness in sex, unplanned pregnancies, precocious sexual activity, and irresponsible parenting. All over the world Blacks are the highest, East Asians the lowest, and Whites in between. In the studies in the United States, the ranking in descending order is Black, Native-American, Hispanic, White, and East Asian. The fact that Hispanics and Native-Americans score in a similar fashion should not be surprising. Most US Hispanics are Mexican and Mexicans have Native-American sanguinity. In Lynn's (2008) book "The Global Bell Curve: Race, IQ, and Inequality Worldwide," it is stated that 9% of Mexicans are European, 60–80% Mestizos, and 10–30% Native-American Indian (Flores-Crespo, 2007). It is entirely possible that Mexicans in the United States have even greater Native-American sanguinity than what exists in Mexico. It is sometimes said that the Mexicans who come to the US to work as farm laborers are those who are "not making it" in Mexico. Lynn pointed out that, not only in Mexico but throughout most of Latin America, those persons who are more European and have lighter skin color have higher IQ's and are better economically and politically situated. Lynn emphasized "pigmentocracy," social stratification on the basis of skin color.

Lynn (2002) is in agreement with Rushton (1995) that evolution accounts for the higher IQ's, larger brains, more stable family life, better cooperation, greater altruism, and better social organization in East Asians and Europeans. Both scholars agree that those characteristics are needed in colder environments where obtaining food and protection from the elements is more challenging. In support of this theory, research assessing skin color by two different methods converges to show very high correlation between IQ and skin color. Meisenberg (2004) used the 127 countries of Africa, Asia, and Europe that Lynn and Vanhanen (2002) had mean IQ's for. He used skin reflectance measured by Jablonski and Chaplin (2000) at 685 nm for 37 countries and extrapolated skin reflectance for the other 95 countries. The correlation between skin reflectance and IQ was .89. Templer and Arikawa (2006) also used Lynn and Vanhanen (2002) IQ's for 129 countries and used the skin color (from 1 = very light to 8 = very dark) from an international map in a physical anthropology book by Biasutti (1967). Because national boundaries were not delineated, three graduate students independently specified the predominant skin color in each country. The inter-rater reliabilities were .93, .95, and .95. The correlation coefficient between IQ and skin color was $-.92$. Jensen (2006) suggested that the high correlation could reflect pleiotropy, that is, a single gene having two or more phenotypically quite different effects.

Hunt and Sternberg (2006) criticized the "subjectivity" of the map ratings in the Templer and Arikawa (2006) study. Therefore, Templer (2010b) determined the correlation between Meisenberg

(2004) skin reflectance-based skin color and Templer and Arikawa (2006) anthropological map-based skin color. The Templer and Arikawa measure and the Meisenberg measure correlated .96 with the 37 countries with measured skin reflectance, .96 with the 95 countries with extrapolated reflectance, and .96 with all 127 countries. It is now apparent that any methodological problems in the measurement of skin color must be minor. Two different methods independently conducted provide almost identical findings.

4. Digression to Rushton's *K* differential theory

This is a digression that is not really a digression. It unites some of Rushton's *r-K* characteristics with Lynn's psychopathic personality dimensions. Rushton (1985a,b, 1987a,b, 1995) applied MacArthur and Wilson's (1967) *r* vs. *K* characteristics in animals to humans. The *r*-life history strategist has a smaller brain, lower intelligence, more offspring, more rapid maturation, earlier sexual reproduction, little parental care, shorter life expectancy (Ellis & Nyborg, 1992), lower social organization, lower altruism, more aggression, and more impulsivity. The *K* strategist has the converse of this behavior and life history and social organization pattern. Rushton maintained that in such conceptualization East Asians are the prototype of the *K* strategist and Blacks the prototype of the *r* strategist. Whites are at an intermediate level on almost all *r-K* continuum characteristics. Blacks tend to be high and East Asians low in activity level, aggressiveness, dominance, excitability, impulsivity, and sociability. It is apparent that Lynn's psychopathic personality characteristics are similar to Rushton's *K* differential theory behavioral and personality features (Templer, 1993).

5. Psychopathic personality

It is remarkable that the comprehensive review of Lynn (2002) showed that on a number of different antisocial/irresponsible behaviors the order Black, Native-American, Hispanic, White, and Asian consistently emerges. Also remarkable is the fact that the mean IQ's consistently rank in the same order. Lynn acknowledges that the material he covers and his inferences are very similar to those of Herrnstein and Murray (1994) and Rushton (1995). All four authors emphasize the great importance of IQ and the great importance of race. The differences between races can be largely accounted for by IQ. All four authors, however, recognize that IQ does not explain all the racial differences in disruptive behavior. Lynn goes further than the other racial realists in that he ascribes this difference to "psychopathic personality," otherwise known as antisocial personality.

Lynn (2002) gave some examples of racial differences in disruptive behavior remaining when IQ is controlled for, specifically for Whites, Hispanics, and Blacks, respectively. The crime differences are 13, 6, and 3, but with IQ controlled for are 5, 3, and 2. As another example, the respective race differences were 49, 30, and 13 for welfare but with IQ controlled were 30, 13, and 12.

6. Theoretical and empirical comprehensiveness

The works of Lynn, Rushton, and Herrnstein and Murray on intelligence, ethnic differences, and maladaptive behavior provides a solid racial realism perspective. Lynn's addition of psychopathic personality extends the conceptualization to an almost miniature theory of personality. It incorporates anthropology, history, race, criminology, sexual behavior, age, parenting, social psychology, personality theory, and education.

7. The evolution of conscientiousness

The same conditions conducive to the evolution of greater intelligence would appear to be conducive to greater conscientiousness. Cold climate is stressed by Lynn and by Rushton but it is unlikely that it is the only evolutionary soil conscientiousness grows from. I have previously said:

Neither Rushton nor Lynn has ever claimed that climate is the only variable in the evolution of intelligence. Both acknowledge that the high intelligence of Ashkenazi Jews could be a function of selection of those surviving maltreatment across centuries. If I had to use one word to describe the impetus for evolutionary increase in intelligence, it would be “challenge,” because that word implies both adversity and opportunity (Templer, 2010a, p. 103).

I will now give a couple of examples of how conscientiousness may evolve in situations not highly related to cold temperature.

The disruptive behavior of East Indians being comparable to Whites cannot be explained on the basis of IQ. The IQ of Indians is 81 for India, 87 for those living in Africa, and 89 for those living in Britain (Lynn, 2006). In a study using eight regions of the world, India with a mean IQ of 81 had an age-adjusted homicide rate of 7.2, which is similar to 7.5 in formerly Communist Europe with an IQ of 95 and to 7.5 in “Other Asian Nations” with an IQ of 92. The Latin American/Caribbean region had a comparable IQ of 84 but an age-adjusted homicide rate of 22.4. Just as adversity (cold climate) probably contributed to an evolutionary increase in intelligence in Europe and East Asia, it could be argued in Rushton–Lynn-type reasoning that adversity increased social organization and impulse control in India. The adversity is that a sixth of the world’s population is packed into a geographically disproportionately smaller area with limited natural resources and excess and deficits in precipitation. The Hindu religion may have evolved because of the need to control impulses and biological drives and to increase social harmony. A caste system in which some persons are relegated to extremely low status probably goes against the grain of most readers of PAID. Nevertheless, this social stratification may have contributed to social stability and violence control.

It is widely recognized that Jews have a low rate of crime and delinquency (Lunde, 1986). One study determined the differences between 13 Jewish inmates and the 1497 non-Jewish inmates in a prison (Templer & Jackson, 1992). A not-surprising finding is that Jews scored significantly higher on the Raven’s Standard Progressive Matrices. It was also found that the Jewish inmates endorsed traditional middle-class values and a high need for achievement. They did not have a family history of criminality. The high IQ and Jewish culture probably protect against criminality. However, the high conscientiousness of Jews may also be viewed in an evolutionary fashion just as their high IQ can be explained by only the brightest surviving hundreds of years of persecution. The Jewish religion is not a proselytizing one. It was not spread by the sword as were Islam and Christianity hundreds of years ago. There are not Jewish missionaries throughout the world. Since Jews do not actively encourage conversion, they could not rapidly replace the losses if Jews were frequently killing each other. Also, since Jews are a small minority, their chances of survival would be reduced by antisocial behavior.

Very relevant to the evolution of conscientiousness is the general factor of personality (GFP) which is to personality as *g* is to intelligence. Persons high on GFP are more agreeable and altruistic and conscientious (Figueredo & Rushton, 2009; Rushton et al., 2009; Rushton & Irwing, 2008; Rushton, Bons & Hur, 2008). It is apparent that the high GFP characteristics are similar to the *K* characteristics of the Rushton *K* differential theory. Also relevant is the work of Hrdy (2009), who contended that “cooperative breeding”

helped foster extended life spans, prolonged childhood, altruism, and larger brains. Larger brains are probably associated both with the evolution of greater intelligence and with greater conscientiousness. Greater brain size is found not only in species with higher intelligence but also in ethnic groups with higher IQ’s (Rushton, 2010). Furthermore brain degenerative disorders are associated not only with cognitive deficits but with personality changes such as impulsivity, emotional lability, irritability, impaired judgment, and deterioration of personal hygiene.

It is unlikely that climate will again be a major factor in the evolution of intelligence. People no longer freeze to death and starve to death in larger numbers because of extreme cold. Lynn wrote of dysgenic fertility in the United States and the world in which the less intelligent are having more offspring than the more intelligent (Lynn, 1999; Lynn & Harvey, 2008; Lynn & van Court, 2004; also see Nyborg, this issue). Since intelligence is positively related to conscientiousness, such a fertility pattern is not one that generates optimism. The incarceration and sterilization and execution of criminals at least theoretically increase conscientiousness. The death penalty is higher in the United States than in most other industrial societies. Nevertheless, a very small percentage of murderers are executed. China has the highest execution rate in the world. Common sense dictates that incarceration makes reproduction more difficult. Conjugal privileges lessen this effect.

8. Dark coloration and aggressiveness dimension

Where does the dark vs. light human and animal dimension fit into the race/IQ/psychopathic personality determination of disruptive behavior? Is it only a part of one or more of the above three or does it deserve a place of its own?

The article of Ducrest, Keller, and Roulin (2010) is too recent to know the magnitude of importance it will eventually be accorded, but it can unquestionably be viewed as having provocative implications. These authors did research on wild vertebrate species including fish, reptiles, birds, and mammals. Darker individuals are more aggressive, sexually active, more active in general, and have larger body size. Pigmentation of the skin, hair, cuticle, feather, and eye were related to adaptive function of melanin-based coloration. Greater melanin was associated with enhanced fertility and male sexual initiation and performance mediated through higher production of sexual steroids, including testosterone.

Templer (2008) determined the correlation between skin color (as reported by Templer and Arikawa, 2006) and violent crime in 57 countries. Skin color (darker) correlated .30 ($p < .05$) with murder, .27 with assault, and .39 ($p < .01$) with rape. Rushton and Templer (2009) with 113 countries found that skin color (a biological variable) correlated more highly with homicide, rape, and serious assault than with per capita income. Rushton and Templer (2010) found that within the 50 US states, total violent crime correlated .54 with skin color (a more biologically influenced variable) and $-.17$ with per capita income (a more culturally influenced variable). Rushton and Templer discussed the finding in an evolutionary perspective. They also related the finding to pigmentocracy-racial hierarchies as a function of intelligence and social status and skin color. Lynn (2008) strongly stressed pigmentocracy, especially in Latin America and Southeast Asia. Just as Meisenberg and Templer and Arikawa are recognized as major contributors to the relationship between skin color and intelligence on an international level, Lynn is arguably the number one authority in the world on the relationship between skin color and intelligence within individual countries.

Skin color and violence research with more than one race is recommended. It is also recommended that such research be carried out with only White people using skin color and hair color and

Table 1
MMPI-TRI Acting-Out (AO) Scale items.

1	T	If I could get into a movie without paying and be sure I was not seen I would probably do it
2	T	In school I was sometimes sent to the principal for bad behavior
3	T	At times I feel like picking a fist fight with someone
4	T	If several people find themselves in trouble, the best thing for them to do is to agree upon a story and stick to it
5	T	When people do me a wrong, I feel I should pay them back if I can, just for the principle of the thing
6	T	Some people are so bossy that I feel like doing the opposite of what they request, even though I know they are right
7	T	At times I have been so entertained by the cleverness of some criminals that I have hoped they would get away with it
8	T	When I was young I often did not go to school even when I should have gone
9	T	I was suspended from school one or more times for bad behavior
10	T	I can easily make other people afraid of me, and sometimes do it for the fun of it
11	T	I think nearly anyone would tell a lie to keep out of trouble
12	T	I am often said to be hotheaded
13	T	It is all right to get around the law if you don't actually break it
14	T	At times I have a strong urge to do something harmful or shocking
15	T	Sometimes when I was young I stole things
16	T	At times I feel like smashing things
17	T	I have at times had to be rough with people who were rude or annoying
18	T	When I get bored I like to stir up some excitement
19	T	I have never been in trouble with the law
20	T	When I am cornered I tell that portion of the truth which is not likely to hurt me

Note: Swanson et al. (1995).

eye color. Archival data such as possessed by the US Federal Bureau of Investigation may be useful. Some countries, especially the Scandinavian countries, have exhaustive birth-to-death information that may include both eye color and criminal history. Skin color (both within Hispanic and within White) can be determined by high school yearbooks. This can be related to criminal activity a few years later.

9. Research implications and suggestions

The MMPI (Minnesota Multiphasic Personality Inventory) is the most widely used clinical personality inventory on an international basis. Millions of MMPI's have been administered and there certainly must be hundreds of thousands available in files of psychiatric hospitals, mental health centers, college counseling centers, prisons and other forensic facilities, in the military and in the Veterans Affairs system. When the MMPI was constructed in the 1940's, projective techniques such as the Rorschach dominated psychological testing in the United States (but not so much in Britain). American clinical psychologists assumed that it was necessary to probe beneath the surface so that unconscious processes could be tapped and defense mechanisms could be overcome. Therefore, some of the MMPI scales contain what Templer and Arikawa (2002) call "junk items". This is not to say that the MMPI Psychopathic Deviate scale is not good and should not be used (The MMPI-TRI described below consists of all items that could be regarded as directly pertaining to the entity being assessed). An elevation in the Psychopathic Deviate Scale could be caused by a number of different factors. Templer and Arikawa (2002) said:

The Psychopathic Deviate Scale probably does not have the best possible name because it is not necessary to have the classical psychopathic personality features to have a high score. And it is common for a person to have a high Pd Scale without a history of crime or delinquency. The Pd Scale can be elevated by alienation, general dissatisfaction, general maladjustment, aggression, unconventional life style, an unhappy childhood, independent thinking, unconventional values, and paranoid tendencies. (p. 36).

The MMPI-TRI is the most exhaustively constructed and validated of any of the content scales or abbreviated scales of the MMPI (Swanson et al., 1995). It has three scales consisting of items of very high content validity. It has a 20-item Psychosis Scale, a 20-item Subjective Distress Scale, and a 20-item Acting-Out Scale that is of present interest. Table 1 contains the Acting-Out Scale items.

It is apparent that all of the items pertain rather directly to disruptive behavior. The clinician or researcher merely has to count the number of items endorsed.

It is recommended that race, IQ, and a measure of psychopathic personality (preferably the MMPI-TRI Acting-Out Scale) be employed with disruptive/conscientiousness dependent variables. Both basic research and selection-oriented research are recommended. It is not recommended that race be used in final selection decisions, e.g., suitability for parole. If, however, cognitive and/or personality measures resulted in racial disproportion, this would not necessarily constitute racism. Among the many ways that nature is cruel and that nature is unfair is that nature is racist. Lynn is best known as a creative and comprehensive researcher rather than one who constructs psychometric instruments. Nevertheless, he uses the optimal tools and methods of measuring the variables he is studying. His ultimate passion is the relentless and tenacious pursuit of truth.

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