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TITLE: Dissecting genetic from environmental associations for well-being

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ABSTRACT:

Meta-analyses have shown that approximately 40% of individual differences in well-being can be explained by genetic factors (Bartels, 2015; Nes & Røysamb, 2015). This leads to questions about the extent to which environmental and genetic influences for

well-being are intertwined. We present two ongoing projects where we aim to get better insight into the complex interplay between genetic and environmental factors and well-being. First, we present an ongoing project where we use three methods (extended twin-family design, non-transmitted alleles polygenic scores and M-GCTA) to examine the potential presence of genetic nurture in Netherlands Twin Register (NTR) and Norwegian Mother, Father and Child Cohort Study (MoBa) participants. Second, we present another ongoing project where we aim to examine potential genetic components in phenotypic associations between well-being and a range of social factors. For this project, we examine monozygotic within-pair difference scores, bivariate genetic models, and within-individual difference scores across two time-points in NTR adolescents. By combining the knowledge of these two projects, we aim to achieve two important goals. First, it allows us to gain more insight into how genetic and environmental factors combine to influence individual differences in well-being. Second, these analyses provide insight in the potential bias that occurs when genetic and environmental factors are not both taken into consideration when studying well-being.

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