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## Socioeconomic status moderates heritability of entrepreneurial personality factor

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### ABSTRACT:

The entrepreneurship literature has generally assumed that the tendency to engage in entrepreneurial activity was driven by learning or situational factors. Recent twin and genetic studies have identified significant genetic influences on measures of entrepreneurship. However, to date few studies have examined the extent to which environmental factors might moderate genetic influences on entrepreneurship. Full occupational history was available for 569 individuals from the Swedish Adoption Twin Study of Aging, allowing for identification of entrepreneurs. Personality variables that differentiated entrepreneurs from non-entrepreneurs were identified (activity, extraversion, hard-driving, life direction, monotony avoidance, and sociability) and an entrepreneurial personality factor (EPF) was created. Four measures of environmental support (education, childhood SES, childhood urban/rural, adulthood urban/rural) were intercorrelated, but both education and childhood urban/rural contributed independently to the prediction of EPF. Moderation of genetic influences on EPF by environmental factors was examined in a sample of 210 MZ pairs and 366 DZ pairs aged 26-92. For all 4 environmental support variables, genetic variance was significantly lower (approximately 20% vs. 60%) in environments that provided less support for entrepreneurship: rural childhood, rural adulthood, lower education, and lower SES. The trend for lower unique environmental variance in environments supportive of entrepreneurship was significant for education and childhood SES. Thus, results provide support for a version of the diathesis-stress model of gene-environment interplay: both a genetic predisposition for entrepreneurship and an environment conducive to entrepreneurial activity are required to develop the phenotype.