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## Deliberately Divided: The Controversial 1960s–70s Study of Twins and Triplets Adopted Apart

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### ABSTRACT:

An in-depth look at the controversial twin study conducted in New York City, in the 1960s-70s, is presented. Material for this talk is drawn from my forthcoming book, *Deliberately Divided: Inside the Controversial Study of Twins and Triplets Adopted Apart* (Segal, in press, October 2021). The riveting story of the study's origins, investigators, sealed files and questionable ethics will be described. Detailed life histories of the participating pairs will also be provided. It is not surprising that this study was not well-known among scholars or the general public until it became the focus of two recent documentary films, *The Twinning Reaction* (Shinseki, 2017) and *Three Identical Strangers* (Wardle, 2018); even now, many twin and adoption researchers are unaware of this work. That is because the few published case studies were largely limited to psychoanalytic journals and meetings, and described briefly as part of a book. Responses to the study and to the films from academic and non-academic audiences have varied from outrage and sadness to enthusiasm and support. Ethical and legal inquiries, conferences and discussion groups have followed, and others will take place later this year. However, these events cannot capture or convey the full history, complexities and consequences of this study that a book can accomplish.

Segal, N.L. *Deliberately divided: Inside the controversial study of twins and triplets adopted apart*. Lanham, MD: Rowman & Littlefield (in press, October 2021).

Shinseki, L. (2017). *The Twinning Reaction*. U.S.: Fire Horse Pictures.

Wardle, T. (2018). *Three Identical Strangers*. U.K.: Raw.