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## Genetic and environmental etiology of political sophistication in Japan: A study of adolescent twins and their parents

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### ABSTRACT:

This study examined genetic and environmental etiology of Japanese adolescents' political sophistication by utilizing an extended twin-family design. A data of 751 twins, 402 mothers, and 318 fathers from 424 families were collected by a cross-sectional survey in March 2010. Univariate analyses revealed that individual differences in political knowledge and interest were explained by shared and nonshared environmental influences ( $c^2 = .49$  and  $.31$ , respectively). Multivariate genetic analyses revealed that political interest, parental political knowledge, and political conversation with parents together explained 43% of shared environmental variance of adolescents' political knowledge, where fathers than mothers played a greater role in the effects of both knowledge and conversation. These results suggested that familial resemblance of adolescent's political sophistication in Japan was due not to genetic but to cultural transmission of parental political sophistication.

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