

Fra: <larsh@psy.au.dk>
Til: <jens@psy.au.dk>
Dato: 18-12-05 23:31:30
Emne: [Fwd: Re: [evol-psych] Academic Persecution in Denmark]

og en til

----- Original Message -----
Subject: Re: [evol-psych] Academic Persecution in Denmark
From: "Joao Sousa" <j.d.sousa@sapo.pt>
Date: Fri, December 16, 2005 1:36 am
To: evolutionary-psychology@yahoogroups.com

It is outrageous that the author is being persecuted for just reporting results. While I deeply deplore that, and think no one should suffer that treatment (and I remember John Maynard Smith to have said that if any dean/rector did that to a scholar of his own institution, he would have to fire him next), I want to comment very briefly on the work itself. For me, it is acceptable that anyone reports empirical findings showing a 4 point IQ difference between the sexes, or between ethnic groups, etc. However, to take the following step of overinterpreting such results and affirm that they explain ANYTHING about sex differences in academic or economic achievement is just SILLY (unfortunately some Harvard professors took that step). Women are now the majority of academics in many fields, in the same fields where they were absent 100 years ago. Powerful differences in motivation explain why they prefer areas or professions involving social interaction rather than mathematics; IQ is likely irrelevant in explaining such difference. In Darwin's books, how many women figure as field naturalists? And nowadays, how many brilliant female field naturalists are widely known?

I don't know if this author took the wrong step, but the title of his paper "Sex-related differences in general intelligence g, brain size, and social status", could suggest that.

At 23:33 15-12-2005 +0000, you wrote:

>I am republishing this email from Helmuth Nyborg, the Danish
>psychometrician. He seems to have gotten into trouble with his
>university because of controversies related to his research.
>Letters from people with academic creds would help in resolving
>this positively for him, so if you are interested, please see
>below....

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>

>Dear Colleague. December 3rd 2005
>At the 2001 meeting of the International Society for Intelligence
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>intelligence. Upon my return to Denmark I was interviewed by a
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>institute. Consequently, a "Committee for Proper Research"
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>i.e. reporting in the media before a full publication in a
>peer-reviewed journal was at hand. I was called to several
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>paper was eventually published (See Nyborg, H. (2005)

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>In 2004 the director wrote to the dean, saying that he could not >evaluate my research contribution in his yearly report. In April >2005 he halted my ongoing 30 year longitudinal reseach project >by confiscating the research protocols and informing the Dean >he would setup a committee to re-examine my calculations and >the method (hierarchical factor analysis) used. As of december >3rd. 2005, I have not been notified who is on the committee.

>I am asking if you will write me a letter of support. If so, please address it "To Whom it may Concern," use official paper with you >professional affiliation stated, and send it to me at

>[[helmuthnyborg @ msn.com](mailto:helmuthnyborg@msn.com) -R] or to my private address: Adsløv >Skovvej 2, DK-8362, Hoerning, Denmark. Please feel free to >comment on any aspect of the academic freedom and >scholarship issues raised that you find relevant.

>I will then assemble the letters and use them in a defence of my >academic freedom.

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Fra: <larsh@psy.au.dk>
Til: <jens@psy.au.dk>
Dato: 18-12-05 23:30:44
Emne: [Fwd: [evol-psych] Academic Persecution in Denmark]

Her er flere

Lars

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----- Original Message -----
Subject: [evol-psych] Academic Persecution in Denmark
From: "Jason Malloy" <jmalloy@nyc.com>
Date: Fri, December 16, 2005 12:33 am
To: evolutionary-psychology@yahoogroups.com

I am republishing this email from Helmuth Nyborg, the Danish psychometrician. He seems to have gotten into trouble with his university because of controversies related to his research. Letters from people with academic creds would help in resolving this positively for him, so if you are interested, please see below....

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Fra: <larsh@psy.au.dk>
Til: <jens@psy.au.dk>
Dato: 18-12-05 23:28:19
Emne: [Fwd: Re: [evol-psych] Academic Persecution in Denmark]

-Kære Jens,

Denne fangede mit blik på en side jeg modtager mail fra "evolutionary psychology" - det er muligt du har den, men for god ordens skyld sender jeg den til din orientering.

K.h.

Lars

----- Original Message -----

Subject: Re: [evol-psych] Academic Persecution in Denmark
From: "Irwin Silverman" <isilv@yorku.ca>
Date: Fri, December 16, 2005 3:47 am
To: "Jason Malloy" <jmalloy@nyc.com>
Cc: evolutionary-psychology@yahoogroups.com

This should help resolve the recent debate on this list as to whether pressures for political correctness in academe were specific to North America (albeit sadly).

Helmuth Nyborg's contributions in the area of hormones and sex-related differences in spatial cognition are legend. He is an inspired theoretician and a meticulous researcher. I will certainly send a letter.

Irwin Silverman, Ph.D.
Emeritus Professor of Psychology
York University
4700 Keele Street
Toronto ON M3J 1P3
Canada

ph - 416-736-5115 x66213
fax - 416-736-5814

On Thu, 15 Dec 2005, Jason Malloy wrote:

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> psychometrician. He seems to have gotten into trouble with his
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Gene Expression

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Saturday, December 10, 2005

I am republishing this email from [Helmut Nyborg](#), the Danish psychometrician. He seems to have gotten into trouble with his university because of controversies related to his research. Letters from people with academic creds would help in resolving this positively for him, so if you are interested, please see below....

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I am asking if you will write me a letter of support. If so, please address it "To Whom it may Concern," use official paper with you professional affiliation stated, and send it to me at helmuthnyborg@msn.com -R] or to my private address: Adsløv Skovvej 2, DK-8362, Hoerning, Denmark. Please feel free to comment on any aspect of the academic freedom and scholarship issues raised that you find relevant.

I will then assemble the letters and use them in a defence of my academic freedom.

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Nedenstående er af Jens Mammen klippet fra www.jensmammen.com, hvor det fandtes til og med den 26. december 2005.

[...]

Relevant to the study of diversity:

I publish the following at the request of the undersigned. I am mildly familiar with his work, but we have never met. He is very highly regarded in his profession; <http://www.jensmammen.com>.

CHRISTMAS DAY, 2005: I have been told this is no longer needed. I could remove the letter entirely, but that would do little good given the caches that exist in many places. Better to note that it is no longer needed, and to ask those who read this to take no action.

I need support - as described in the letter below. If you want to defend academic freedom, please write a letter of support.

Best
Helmuth Nyborg

Dear Colleague. December 3rd 2005

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Please feel free to comment on any aspect of the academic freedom and scholarship issues raised that you find relevant.

I will then assemble the letters and use them in a defense of my academic freedom.

Yours sincerely.

Helmuth Nyborg - www.psychology.au.dk/~helmuth/

Professor, dr. phil., Department of Psychology, University of Aarhus, Denmark.

Every now and then papers come out showing that mean male IQ appears to be higher than mean female IQ. Interpretations of this vary, but it is consistent with the correlation between IQ and brain weight. Four points is not a large difference, and I don't find it very interesting or predictive, but that is hardly the point. It is not something rarely found: and why in the world should someone be penalized for publishing a politically incorrect finding, particularly one that confirms most other studies of the subject.

I thought the point of science was to be free of religious faith and anathema?

I note that a number of distinguished American professors are writing letters of support. Dr. Nyborg is world famous in psychometrics. One would think a university would be proud of having reporters want to interview one of their scientists.

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[...]

[...]

Support for Professor Nyborg grows.

This week:

Monday

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December 8, 2005.

To whom it may concern:

I am writing to express my shock and dismay at the harassment of Professor Helmuth Nyborg.

It is my understanding that the University has taken action against Dr. Nyborg for comments he made to a reporter in conjunction with a paper given at a conference in 2001. One would think the University would be proud that the reporter recognized Dr. Nyborg's expertise and sought to

interview him. Instead, it has accused Dr. Nyborg of acting improperly. This makes no sense whatsoever.

Dr. Nyborg's paper was accepted for presentation at the International Society for Intelligence Research and delivered to this elite group. To argue that his findings somehow required the eyes of two more reviewers before he could safely discuss them with a reporter is absurd. One can readily find examples of academics discussing their research with the media before publication—without being accused of wrongdoing. Indeed, university press offices sometimes send out news releases about unpublished findings by their faculty.

In light of these realities, it is clear that Dr. Nyborg did not violate any ethical principle. He merely violated the first commandment of political correctness: thou shall not report any finding that displeases radical feminists.

The University may claim that this apparent inquisition would have occurred regardless of what Dr. Nyborg said to the reporter. If so, it is deluding itself. There is no chance this would have happened if Dr. Nyborg told the reporter that the sexes do not differ in cognitive ability. Had he reported female superiority over males, he would have been treated to all manner of congratulation—perhaps even promoted.

Let me acknowledge that I am not a completely unbiased observer of this incident. In preparation for my doctoral dissertation about a decade ago, I undertook a comprehensive review of the literature on sex differences in cognition. In the process, it became clear to me that one individual was light-years ahead of the rest in understanding these differences and in having a conceptual model for explaining them. That individual was Dr. Nyborg; the model, his General Theory of Trait Co-variance (GTC Theory).

For my research, I modified GTC Theory slightly and tested it using data from the National Longitudinal Survey of Youth. The results yielded considerable support for Dr. Nyborg's model and some provocative findings regarding the evolutionary basis of sex differences in the ability pattern underlying success in certain physical sciences. I wonder how many of the individuals supporting the harassment of Dr. Nyborg have contributed a conceptual model to their disciplines and accomplished nearly as much as he during their careers.

The last thing the University of Aarhus needs is a committee to look after Dr. Nyborg's research—as if he were a doctoral student rather than a world-renowned scientist of extraordinary competence and accomplishment. One can have a school without academic freedom. But one cannot have a university.

Sincerely yours,

Patricia Hausman, Ph.D.

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