

History of Science 913  
Fall 2000  
V. Hilts

The Nature-Nurture Controversy in Historical Perspective

"Nature is all that a man brings with himself into the world; nurture is every influence that affects him after birth." – Francis Galton, 1874

Part I. Background Reading

Sept. 11 (Mon.) Organizational meeting.

Sept. 18 (Mon.) Introduction to the historiography of the Nature-Nurture Controversy.

Merle Curti, *Human Nature in American Thought*, 1980, pp., 273-312. Greta Jones, *Social Darwinism and English Thought. The Interaction between Biology and Social Theory*, 1980, pp. 75-120 (Theories of Heredity: Lamarckianism; "Theories of Heredity: The Eugenics Movement"). Hamilton Cravens, *The Triumph of Evolution, American Scientists and the Heredity Environment Controversy, 1900-1941*, pp. 157-190 ("Eugenics, Race, and Evolution") and pp. 191-223 ("Instinct"). Daniel Kevles, *In the Name of Eugenics*, pp. 268-301 ("Varieties of Presumptuousness" and "Songs of Deicide").

Sept. 25 (Mon.) Francis Galton and the "Nature versus Nurture" Idea.

Samuel Smiles, *Self-Help; with Illustrations of Character, Conduct, and Perseverance*, 1877, pp. 21-47. George Henry Lewes, "On Hereditary Transmission," 1856. Francis Galton, "Hereditary Talent and Character," 1865. Francis Galton, *Inquiries into Human Faculty*, second American ed., pp 149-155 ("Early Sentiments") and pp. 155-173 "History of Twins." Francis Galton, selections from *Hereditary Genius*, 1869. Lester Ward, *Applied Sociology. A Treatise on the Conscious Improvement of Society by Society*, 1906, pp. 95-169. Daniel Kevles, *In the Name of Eugenics*, 1985, pp. 1-113.

Oct. 2 (Mon.) Hereditarian Social Thought Before Galton

Robert Burton, *The Anatomy of Melancholy*, 1836 edition, pp. 87- 93 ("Parents a Cause by Propagation"). J. G. Spurzheim, *Education; or Elementary Principles, founded on the Nature of Man*, 7<sup>th</sup> American edition, pp. 37-53 ("On the Laws of Hereditary Descent"). O.S. Fowler, *Hereditary Descent: its Laws and Facts applied to Human Improvement*, 1844. Charles Rosenberg, *No Other Gods*, pp. 25-53 ("The Bitter Fruit: Heredity, Disease, and Social Thought." V.L. Hilts, "Obeying the Laws of Hereditary Descent: Phrenological Views on Inheritance and Eugenics," 1982 and V.L. Hilts, "Enlightenment Views on the Genetic Perfectibility of Man," 1984.

Oct. 9 (Mon.) Heredity and Crime.

Cesare Lombroso, *Crime, Its Causes and Remedies*, English trans. 1918, pp. 150-174 ("Heredity"). Havelock Ellis, *The Criminal*, 1903, pp. 102-106 ("Heredity"). Arthur E. Fink, *Causes of Crime. Biological Theories in the United States, 1800-1915*, 1938, pp. 151-187 ("Heredity"). Robert A. Nye, *Crime, Madness & Politics in Modern France. The Medical Concept of National Decline*, 1984, pp. 97-131 ("Heredity or Milieu: The Born Criminal Debate and the Foundations of Criminology")

Oct. 16 (Mon.) Instincts and Intelligence.

P. A. Chadbourne, *Instinct: Its Office in the Animal Kingdom, and Its Relation to the Higher Powers in Man*, 1872, pp. 279- ("Religious Instincts"). William James, *The Principles of Psychology*, 1890, vol. II, pp. 383-441 ("Instinct"). James Mark Baldwin, *Social and Ethical Interpretations in Mental Development*, 1902, pp. 66-90 ("Social Heredity"). L.S. Hearnshaw, *Cyril Burt, Psychologist*, 1979, ("Innate General Cognitive Ability") and pp. 227-261 ("Posthumous Controversies").

Oct. 23 (Mon.) The Historiography of Eugenics. Reviews of selected works, possibly including Mark Haller, *Eugenics, Hereditarian Attitudes in American Thought*, 1963; Donald K. Pickens, *Eugenics and the Progressives*, 1968; Kenneth Ludmerer, *Genetics and American Society: A Historical Approach*, 1972. How thoroughly we go into this will depend upon interests and time constraints.

Part II. Preliminary presentations with readings assigned by seminar participants.

Oct. 30 (Mon)

Nov. 6 (Mon.)

Nov. 13 (Mon.)

### Part III. Seminar Paper Reports

Nov. 20 (Mon.) We will possibly skip the meeting on Monday of Thanksgiving week

Nov. 27 (Mon.)

Dec. 4 (Mon.)

Dec. 11 (Mon.)