

Transcript

One minute methods – twin studies

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Twin studies provide a unique opportunity to explore the origins of our individual differences. Identical twins share all their genes with one another, because they have developed from a single egg and sperm. Non-identical twins share half their genes, like regular siblings, because they developed from two separate eggs and sperm. Twins also share many aspects of their environment, like their family, as well as experiencing events that are unique to just one of them, such as accidents. By using mathematical tools researchers are able estimate the relative influence of genetics, shared experience, and unique experience on development. For example, identical twins raised together tend to be more similar than those raised apart. Non-identical twins raised together are more similar than siblings raised together. And biological parents and offspring are more similar than adoptive parents and offspring.