

South Korean twins separated early in life suggest environment may play larger role in human differences than previously thought

Researchers have taken advantage of a rare opportunity to study identical (aka monozygotic) twins who were separated early in life, before being raised in different countries by different families – and there are some surprising results to report.

Whereas IQ has been shown to be [up to 80 percent heritable](#) – with twins usually scoring roughly the same on cognitive tests – in this case there was a substantial 16-point difference between the siblings.

There were, of course, lots of similarities between the pair, but the differences were also notable, suggesting that there needs to be a rethink of how much of our intelligence is down to our genes and how much of it is down to the environment that we're brought up in.

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The pair of twins were born in South Korea in 1974, and were separated at the age of two after one of them got lost in a market... The lost sibling was eventually adopted by a couple in the US.

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While the scores are clear, however, the reason for them isn't. The US twin suffered three concussions as an adult, the researchers note, which made her feel like a "different person". However, it's impossible to say for sure whether this has affected the scores seen in the cognitive tests.

[This is an excerpt. Read the original post here.](#)