

The definitive book for scholars; a bit labored for the casual reader

This book, which first appeared in 1995, is J Philippe Rushton's magnum opus. His introduction is an unusually personal story. Here is his biography in a nutshell.

He was born in England in 1943. He studied in England and Berkeley, coming up in what is called the London school of psychometricians, following in the steps of Francis Galton, Charles Spearman and Karl Pearson, who developed the science of statistics as much to research human intelligence as for any other reason. Working with Hans Eysenck and other scholars of the age, he embraced sociobiology from its inception with EO Wilson and Richard Dawkins in the 1970s.

Rushton's research into human differences brought him into conflict with the academic leftists who had ascended to leadership positions in the major universities. These included Stephen Jay Gould, Richard Lewontin, and Steven Rose. The cultural Marxists pursued and persecuted him everywhere, preventing his work from getting published, having him banned from conferences, and physically attacking him. Google "Resolute Ignorance on Race and Rushton" for a well written account of the abuse that he took.

This is a long book, laden with tables and accounts of statistical studies. This is as it must be in order to present a convincing argument. The human being is inherently difficult to measure. It is literally impossible to get a representative sample for any statistical study. The truth must lie in the correlation of many, many studies. In this instance, the correlation of studies of populations in the United States, the Caribbean and Africa. The correlation of people who are black by genetic analysis, self report, and skin color. Factoring in the admixture of other races. Using school samples that knowingly omit, must omit children who are not capable of performing schoolwork and children who have dropped out. Rushton writes extensively about his methodology, and extensively once again on the large numbers of studies that more or less concur in order to support his theses.

I recommend that the reader Google "rushton-the-great-theoetician.pdf" (with the misspelling intact) for a 20-page paper that quite aptly and fully summarizes his work. Turn to this complete book for the thorough analysis necessary to support his conclusions.

All the previous researchers in the London school, in fact all psychometricians, have observed that there are racial differences in average intelligence. Although there are geniuses in every population, such as Thomas Sowell, Paul Robison and Clarence Thomas among modern Blacks, the average measured intelligence of African Blacks, American Blacks, American Indians, Hispanics, Caucasian Americans, North Asians and Ashkenazi Jews is spread out over a wide spectrum. At the extremes, less than a 10th of one percent of black Africans would be smarter than the average Ashkenazi Jew. Joseph Conrad's portrayal of the races in "The Heart of Darkness" rings true.

Rushton advocates what he calls the life history approach to racial differences. Succinctly put, there are two broad reproductive strategies among sexually reproducing organisms. Aspens and oysters produce a vast number of fertile seeds which they disseminate into the water in the air. Only a very few grow, but it is enough to perpetuate those species. Avocados and orangutans invest a great deal in protecting their progeny. The avocado fruit and seed are very rich, and the orangutan bears a child only every three or four years, investing a great deal of maternal attention in that child. Baby avocados and orangutans have a good chance of reaching adulthood.

These divergent reproductive strategies are called r/K selection: r for rate of reproduction, K for carrying capacity. Researchers have found a high degree of correlation among many traits associated with r/K selection.

----- Family characteristics

Large litter size ----- Small litter size
Short birth spacing ----- Long birth spacing
Many offspring ----- Few offspring
High infant mortality ----- Low infant mortality
Little parental care ----- Much parental care
----- Individual characteristics
Rapid maturation ----- Slow maturation
Early sexual reproduction ----- Delayed sexual reproduction
Short life ----- Long life
High reproductive effort ----- Low reproductive effort
High energy utilization ----- Efficient energy utilization
Low encephalization ----- High encephalization
----- Population characteristics
Opportunistic exploiters ----- Consistent exploiters
Dispersing colonizers ----- Stable occupiers
Variable population size ----- Stable population size
Lax competition ----- Keen competition
----- Social system characteristics
Low social organization ----- High social organization
Low altruism ----- High altruism

Rushton found that these apply as well to human populations. Though all humans are highly K specialized, Mongoloids are the most, and Africans the least. This is the source of the controversy.

In summary, I recommend that the curious reader first look at the two articles I cite above, and buy the book if you want more. Also see The Ulster Institute web site for related publications. A group of highly talented academics is continuing his work and making his writings available.