

Seminar by Prof. Kong: *The Nature of Nurture*

Friday, 2 March at 10.00 – 11.30 in room HG-05A36

Dear colleagues,

It is our pleasure to invite you to the seminar ***The Nature of Nurture*** given by Augustine Kong, Professor of Statistical Genetics from Oxford University. He will be visiting the VU as a guest of Prof. dr. Philipp Koellinger on **Friday, 2 March** to present his article '*The nature of nurture: Effects of parental genotypes*'. The seminar takes place in **HG-05A36 at 10:00-11:30 hr.** More information about Prof. Kong can be [found here](#). Please find the abstract of the seminar below:

Building on [our research publication](#) in Science, we will use logical reasoning, mathematical modelling, and empirical data to demonstrate that there is a genetic component to nurture. In particular, using results from a meta-analysis of educational attainment, the polygenic score computed for the non-transmitted alleles of 21,637 probands with at least one parent genotyped has an estimated effect on the educational attainment of the proband that is 29.9% ($P = 1.6 \times 10^{-14}$) of that of the transmitted polygenic score. Recognising this effect does not only affect how we think about the question of nature versus nurture, there are also serious implications for many areas of quantitative genetics. Topics touched on include the interpretation of GWAS results, parent-of-origin effects, pleiotropy, nurture from siblings, assortative mating, heritability, and selection and evolution.

Please find [here](#) an article about Prof. Kong's research by Philipp Koellinger (Economics department, SBE) published in *Science*.

Hope to see you all.

With kind regards,

Pienke Dekkers & Isabel van Winsen

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