

College of Arts and Sciences
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8 August 2006

Svend Hylleberg, Dean

Faculty of Social Sciences

University of Aarhus

Universitetsparken, Bygning1327

DK-8000, Århus C, Denmark

Dear Dr. Svend Hylleberg:

This is a letter of support on behalf of Dr. Helmuth Nyborg, Professor of Developmental Psychology at Aarhus University in Denmark. I have known Dr. Nyborg for several years now, both through his published work and through personal interactions at scientific conferences.

I have seen him present his work at various meetings of the International Society for the Study of Individual Differences (ISSID) and of the International Society for Intelligence Research (ISIR). In addition, he has edited a major volume in that field entitled *The Scientific Study of General Intelligence: Tribute to Arthur R. Jensen*.

I should point out that while I am not a full-time intelligence researcher, *per se*, I do have considerable expertise in research methodology and multivariate statistical models. My evaluation of Dr. Nyborg's work is therefore based more on the basis of the application of research methodology and multivariate analytical techniques than what my general familiarity with the specialty of intelligence research allows.

Having evaluated Dr. Nyborg's work in this manner, I can confidently conclude that his results appear to be scientifically sound. More than that, his methodological rigor and mastery of the relevant statistical theory are well above the standards of the average researcher. Therefore, whether any particular empirical finding turns out to be true or false in the long run only time and careful replication of results will tell, as is typically the case in science. However, given our currently available methods of data collection and analysis, my judgment has to be that Dr. Nyborg's conclusions are generally well-founded and based on a very rigorous and critical scrutiny of the data.

I found the report of the evaluation committee confusing. Why are they trying to *guess* what procedures Dr. Nyborg used, rather than ask him directly? It seems questionable to try to refute Dr. Nyborg's results based on guesswork! I, for one, am not convinced that the committee can refute his findings based upon their speculative reconstruction of his methods.

If I can be of any further assistance in discussing Dr. Nyborg's qualifications as a researcher, I can be reached by telephone at either 001-520-621-7444 (Work) or 001-520-744-6686 (Home) or by email at <ajf@u.arizona.edu>. Thank you very much.

Sincerely,

Aurelio José Figueredo

Aurelio José Figueredo, Ph.D.,

Professor of Psychology

Director, Ethology and Evolutionary Psychology