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Dean Svend Hylleberg
Det Samfundsvidenskabelige Fakultet
Nordre Ringgade
Bygning 327, 3.
8000 Aarhus C , **Denmark**

Dear Prof. Hylleberg,

As one who has been engaged in research on the relationships between findings in the life sciences and the study of human behavior, I am now (sadly) aware of many cases of outrageous hostility to good scientific work based on ideological preferences or other politically motivated beliefs. Few, however, are as nasty as the reported attacks by academic officials on the research of Prof. Helmuth Nyborg for reporting small gender differences in standardized IQ tests.

It is clear that the development of birth control pills has led to a sharp change in attitudes toward gender equality in all Western societies. This is healthy and normal, leading to the opening of many careers and positions of responsibility to women who were long unfairly excluded on grounds of gender. None of these developments require or justify assertions that all males and females are exactly equal in all social and intellectual respects. That humans differ on many dimensions of personality and skill should be self-evident. That there can be some gender differences in the statistical distribution of extremely high abilities on specific skills (such as highly abstract reasoning or verbal social competence) is readily explained by an understanding of natural selection. Moreover, awareness of such differences permits an **IMPROVED** respect for individual abilities, not a morally degrading hostility to one group compared to another.

To cite another example on which I have done research, the condition known as Attention Deficit Hyperactivity Disorder (ADHD) – which some social scientists have claimed is merely a demeaning “social construction” – has been linked to specific genes

(dopamine receptor mutations) that modify the function of the neurotransmitter dopamine. Although lead is a neurotoxin that can have similar effects (providing concrete evidence challenging the rigid “nature-nurture” dichotomy that has long dominated research in the behavioral sciences), the genetics of ADHD indicate that it is probably NOT a learning disability at all, but rather a highly adaptive phenotype among hunter-gatherers or farmers for much of human evolution. Today, although ADHD is a set of behavioral traits and learning abilities that is not well suited to many educational settings, there are careers and activities in which those with these traits are exceptionally well suited.

This example illustrates how scientific research of the sort conducted by Prof. Nyborg can improve the decency and respect we show to human differences. If his findings are in error, the appropriate response should take the form of peer-reviewed scientific publications that demonstrate specific flaws in his methods and conclusions. I therefore strongly urge that all administrative steps taken to hinder Prof. Nyborg’s scientific research be rescinded at once, and that an inquiry be undertaken to determine what established legal and administrative rules were violated by the university officials responsible for these actions.

Sincerely yours,

Roger D. Masters
Nelson A. Rockefeller Professor Emeritus
Research Professor

P. S. For evidence of my competence to write the above letter, you may consult the entry under my name in *Who’s Who in the United States*.