Abstract:

This book presents work that addresses both historical and novel approaches to the study of genetic and environmental influences on behavior. Contributors to this volume use behavior genetics as a means for understanding the etiology of mental illness as well as normal development. They ask, What genes predispose a person to develop a specific personality trait? What about an inclination to a psychological disorder? How do environmental factors enhance or mute genetic factors? Do they regulate inherited individual differences in behavior and personality throughout a lifetime? This book explores the many connections between genes, personality, development, and psychopathology. It focuses on research influenced by Irving I. Gottesman, a pioneer in behavioral genetics research. As a mentor and a colleague, Gottesman has worked to examine the role of genes and environmental factors using both traditional and novel study designs and analytic methods. This stimulating volume, by colleagues who have helped shape the field of behavioral genetics, presents cutting-edge work that carries on his legacy. This volume should interest researchers, practitioners, and students alike.