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Genopolitics: The medicalization of political behavior

In the run-up to the recent presidential elections in the US, *Nature* published an article on the astonishing results of empirical studies demonstrating the crucial influence genes have on our political beliefs: “An increasing number of studies suggest that biology can exert a significant influence on political beliefs and behaviors. Biological factors including genes, hormone levels and neurotransmitter systems may partly shape people’s attitudes on political issues such as welfare, immigration, same-sex marriage and war. And shrewd politicians might be able to take advantage of those biological levers through clever advertisements aimed at voters’ primal emotions.” (*Nature*, 490 (2012), 466)

In this paper I want to discuss how sound the results of this branch of behavioral genetics, based mostly on old-fashioned twin-studies, are and explore not only on what anthropological presuppositions they rely, but also what political consequences this kind of Genopolitics may have if used to predict and influence political behavior.