Review of: "The Convergence of Intelligence and Longevity"

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Potential competing interests: No potential competing interests to declare.

The paper under review provides a comprehensive analysis of the relationship between intelligence and longevity, delving into various aspects such as the correlation between higher intelligence and longer lifespan. The author discusses Ian Deary's study, which traced the life courses of individuals in Aberdeen based on IQ tests taken in 1932, showing a clear link between higher IQ and increased survival rates.

Moreover, the paper explores the heritability of intelligence across different age groups, highlighting how intelligence is influenced by genetic factors. It discusses the fundamental connection between mental powers, brain development, and the human genome, emphasizing how intelligence is a key factor in determining longevity.

The text also addresses the exceptional longevity of humans compared to other mammals, attributing it to the interplay between intelligence, good health, and a resilient soma. It challenges natural laws by showcasing how humans live well beyond their reproductive years, with life expectancy surpassing 80 years in developed countries. The discussion extends to historical perspectives on human longevity and how modern advancements have allowed humans to reach their genetic potential in terms of lifespan.

Furthermore, the paper touches on the metabolic and structural principles governing longevity across species, highlighting how humans defy these principles through their exceptional brain development and efficiency. It discusses the role of brain growth during gestation and fetal brain development in primates and humans, underscoring the significance of a complex and adaptable brain in human evolution.

In conclusion, this paper provides valuable insights into the intricate relationship between intelligence, longevity, and brain development. It offers a thought-provoking analysis of how humans have evolved to live longer than expected based on natural laws, attributing this exceptional longevity to the complexity and efficiency of the human brain.

The author's interpretation of the data is generally sound, but there are some potential criticisms that can be raised:

Historical Data Limitations: The reliance on historical data from individuals in Aberdeen who took IQ tests in 1932 may introduce biases related to demographics, socioeconomic status, and health conditions, potentially limiting the generalizability of the findings to contemporary populations.

Genetic Oversimplification: While the paper discusses the heritability of intelligence and its impact on longevity, it may oversimplify the complex interplay between genetic factors, environmental influences, lifestyle choices, and healthcare access in determining lifespan.

Limited Scope of Intelligence: The paper predominantly focuses on IQ as a measure of intelligence, potentially overlooking other aspects of cognitive abilities that could also influence longevity.

Historical Context: The paper's reliance on historical data and specific populations may raise concerns about its external validity in broader settings.

Biological Reductionist: The paper's emphasis on genetic and biological factors in explaining intelligence and longevity may overlook the broader social, environmental, and psychological determinants that also play significant roles in shaping human health outcomes and lifespan.