

Review of: "Cross-national associations of IQ and infectious diseases: Is the prevalence of Corona an exceptional case?"

Marta Jablonska¹

¹ University of Lodz

Potential competing interests: No potential competing interests to declare.

The article addresses an important and intriguing issue concerning the associations between IQ and infectious diseases in the context of the SARS-CoV-2 pandemic. The aim of this study was to extend previous research findings on the relationship between IQ and the impact of infectious diseases to the specific case of the SARS-CoV-2 pandemic. To achieve this, the authors meticulously controlled for the effects of IQ on the impact of the pandemic, considering factors such as climatic conditions, air pollution, wealth, demographic factors, health burden, people's mobility, test coverage, and anti-Corona regulations in a sample of up to 207 countries. The results indicated that, in the context of the SARS-CoV-2 pandemic, the previous findings regarding the relationship between IQ and the burden of infectious diseases could only be partially replicated. The assumption of a weakening effect on the impact of the pandemic was confirmed, but only to a limited extent and through unidentified mechanisms. The study is methodologically sound. The review of existing research and the justification for undertaking the study were well executed, as were the study's organization and presentation of results. The bibliography is well-chosen and extensive. The study does not exhibit significant shortcomings, and I assess it positively.