



PERGAMON

Personality and Individual Differences 32 (2002) 1431–1433

PERSONALITY AND
INDIVIDUAL DIFFERENCES

www.elsevier.com/locate/paid

Book review

The Science of Human Diversity: A History of the Pioneer Fund. Changing the Face of Social Science

Richard Lynn, with a Preface by Harry F. Weyher, University Press of America, Lanham, MD, 2001, 648 pp., ISBN 0-7618-2040-X \$74.00 (hardback); ISBN 0-7618-2041-8 \$54.50 (paperback).

This book chronicles the activities of The Pioneer Fund, the New-York based charitable foundation that has done more to promote the study of the biology and social importance of IQ than any other agency in the world. The book is the story of its benefactors, its directors, and most of all, its academic researchers and their findings.

I first became involved with the Pioneer Fund in 1985 after my research had begun to move from the relatively safe area of the social origins of altruism to its heritable basis and then to the incendiary topic of race, evolution, and behavior. At that point, I was extremely grateful that an organization was willing to support my research just when others like the Social Sciences and Humanities Research Council of Canada had started to pull back. So the reader should understand, I am hardly a neutral party regarding an organization which has stood by me even as my own career became controversial.

I was aware of the Pioneer Fund's work in supporting two of psychology's "icebreakers." Arthur Jensen (1980) had carried out research on the importance of the general factor (*g*) in intelligence and restored the subject of the genetic causation for Black–White IQ differences to legitimacy. Thomas Bouchard et al.'s (1990) famous Minnesota Study of Twins Reared Apart had shown the role of heredity not only in IQ, but in personality, interests, and vocational aptitudes. But it wasn't until I read this most recent book by Richard Lynn that I realized just how much this rather small organization had done in supporting some of the most important research on the biological bases of human behavior, especially at a time when the *Zeitgeist* was against such approaches, and other funding organizations either sat on their hands or headed for the hills. Lynn, himself a fellow Pioneer Fund grantee, and largely responsible for four very important findings about human variation (the Asian IQ advantage, the effect of nutrition on IQ, the secular rise in IQ, and the low average African IQ of 70), has provided an invaluable insider's guide to the Fund's history and accomplishments.

Historical sections of the book set the stage. The Pioneer Fund was incorporated in New York in 1937. Its main benefactor was Wickliffe Preston Draper, heir to a fortune made in the textile machinery industry. Draper called his foundation the Pioneer Fund in honor of the early

pioneers who settled and built the United States. The Fund's first president was Harry H. Laughlin (1937–1941), the longtime superintendent of the Eugenics Record Office at New York's Cold Spring Harbor and later assistant director of the Office at the Carnegie Institution of Washington. The second president was General Frederick H. Osborn (1941–1958), who was also president of the American Eugenics Society, and later a member of the UN Atomic Energy Commission. The third president, Harry F. Weyher, a New York based lawyer, has served from 1958 until the present. Among other members of the Board of Directors were John M. Harlan, later to be named to the Supreme Court by President Eisenhower, John Woolsey, a Nuremberg tribunal prosecutor, and Henry Garrett, a president of the American Psychological Association.

Harry Weyher's extensive, informative, and at times amusing Preface to the book observed that even its severest critics pay Pioneer the compliment of having produced more intellectual "bang for the buck" than any comparable organization. The *Chronicle of Higher Education* observed that "whether people revere, revile or review the Pioneer Fund from a safe distance, most say that it has successfully stretched [its] dollars a long way." One long-time critic wrote that "The Pioneer Fund has been able to direct its resources like a laser beam." Indeed many of the Pioneer Fund's grantees have been of the highest caliber—two of its researchers are among the five most cited psychologists. Other grantees have been elected as the presidents of the American Psychological Association, the British Psychological Society, the Behavior Genetics Association, the Psychonomic Society, the Society for Psychophysiological Research, the Psychometric Society, and the National Council on Measurement of Education. One won a Nobel prize, two were Guggenheim Fellows, and three more were selected by the Galton Society of the United Kingdom to give the 1983, 1995, and 1999 annual Galton Lectures.

After the Preface and the two historical background sections, the contemporary research supported by the Pioneer Fund is described under four topics: The Nature of Intelligence; Behavioral and Medical Genetics; Race Differences; and IQ, Population, and Social Policy (which covers demographics, the importance of IQ in today's technological economy, and the potential policy implications of social science research). Before 1940, the Pioneer Fund was engaged in only one research project, but it was a landmark that contributed to the growth of psychology, beyond its original conception. The project, then referred to as the "Air Corps fertility study," was headed by John C. Flanagan. He later expanded the initial work and founded Project TALENT that followed 400,000 high school students and their vocational attitudes, abilities, and career objectives.

Beginning in the late 1950s, largely for egalitarian political reasons, many scientific untruths were being promulgated by the culture-only theorists who dominated American behavioral science. Those who believed in a genetic base for human behavior were often demonized, especially on matters of race. Support for such research dried up. That is, until the Pioneer Fund with Weyher at the helm, set sail into these stormy waters. One important project was Audrey Shuey's (1958) massive compilation of every study of Black–White IQ differences (later revised by her and then again, after her death, by Osborne and McGurk). Another pioneering effort was Frank McGurk's research showing that Black–White differences were *greatest* on the *least* cultural IQ test items. Other research included R.T. Osborne's (1980) analysis of a large enough sample of African American twins to show that heritabilities were essentially the same as in the White American population; work by Philip E. Vernon (1982) and later my own (Rushton, 1995), which built on that by Jensen and Lynn to make the race-IQ debate international in scope and extend beyond IQ scores, with findings that East Asians, Whites, and Blacks showed the same mean

ranking on over 60 different traits; Linda Gottfredson's (1997) and Robert Gordon's research documenting that IQ scores are among the very best predictors of a person's life outcomes, from work productivity to health and longevity; and the late Hans Eysenck's (1998) explorations of the functioning of the brain in relation to IQ.

This book also describes some of the indignities as well as the honors bestowed on these researchers as they pursued what became unpopular positions (Pearson, 1997). The researchers were subjected to armed guards on campus, forced teaching via videotapes, and general treatment as pariahs. Yet they persevered, and often won their acrimonious debates in the campus debating halls, on TV shows, and most of all in the scientific journals.

There is no doubt, however, that with relatively small assets the Pioneer Fund has had a substantial impact in changing the face of social science in the latter part of the 20th century. Both Richard Lynn and Harry Weyher are to be commended for telling the story of the Pioneer Fund's record of accomplishment and the fund itself for the research it has bravely supported.

References

- Bouchard Jr., T. J., Lykken, D. T., McGue, M., Segal, N. L., & Tellegen, A. (1990). Sources of human psychological differences: the Minnesota study of twins reared apart. *Science*, *250*, 223–228.
- Eysenck, H. J. (1998). *Intelligence: a new look*. New Brunswick, NJ: Transaction.
- Gottfredson, L. (1997). Foreword to "Intelligence and social policy". *Intelligence*, *24*, 1–12.
- Jensen, A. R. (1980). *Bias in mental testing*. New York: Free Press.
- Osborne, R. T. (1980). *Twins: black and white*. Athens, GA: Foundation for Human Understanding.
- Pearson, R. (1997). *Race, intelligence and bias in academe* (2nd ed.). Washington, DC: Scott-Townsend.
- Rushton, J. P. (1995). *Race, evolution, and behavior: a life history perspective*. New Brunswick, NJ: Transaction.
- Shuey, A. M. (1958). *The testing of Negro intelligence*. Lynchburg, VA: Bell.
- Vernon, P. E. (1982). *The abilities and achievements of the Orientals in North America*. New York: Academic.

J. Philippe Rushton
Department of Psychology
University of Western Ontario
London, Ontario, Canada N6A 5C2
E-mail address: rushton@uwo.ca