

Philosophy 3334 Fall 2023
Reading questions #15
Due Tue, Nov 28

1) Read Harden chapter 8. Explain why it can actually be a good thing when environmental changes lead to increases in the heritability of particular outcomes like IQ or college completion. Why would we *want* genetics to be causally influencing these outcomes more?

2) It is often the case that across the board improvements end up helping people who are already advantaged more than those who need the most help (the Matthew effect). Right now there are racial gaps in average test scores in Texas (and most other states). Is this inequality itself a bad thing? What if an intervention (say free summer tutoring) could improve the average scores in every racial group but increased the gap distance? Would this intervention be a good thing or a bad thing? What if we restricted the benefit to only low scoring students and this reduced the gap, but did not improve the average scores as much. Would that be better or worse than the across the board benefit?

3) After reading the chapter, come up with a question that you want answered or a topic that you would like to be discussed. This could be something that the chapters forced you think about or it could be something that you thought was particularly confusing in the chapters.