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Meta-analysis: How does the colour of the eyes matter?

- February 2010 - results of meta-analysis *How does the colour of the eyes matter?* published
- *American Sociological Review*, 65(2), pp. 159-183., SCl 1,73
- sums 36 research studies (1974 – 2009)

Meta-analysis: How does the colour of the eyes matter?

- *FACT: "The extensive research demonstrates that bright-eyed people when compared with dark-eyed clearly demonstrate measurable forms of underdevelopment in several fields."*

Meta-analysis: How does the colour of the eyes matter?

- Thesis: *The colour of the eyes affects students capabilities* (Dr. Luna T. Smith & Dr. Peter S. Bargold, anthropologists, Bamberg University, 1974)

Smith-Bargold's observations

- bright-eyed students achieved worse results than dark-eyed
- bright-eyed students needed more time to reach the basic levels of knowledge than dark-eyed
- bright-eyed students experienced more difficulties to remain focused than dark-eyed

Smith-Bargold's IQ testing (1974)

- 3 classrooms (30 students each), divided according to the colour of students' eyes, performed standardized IQ-tests
- remarkable results: "*Dark-eyed students had all higher IQ than bright-eyed.*"

Smith-Bargold's melaninodeficiency syndrome

- struggled to discover:
 - "Are bright-eyed people really less intelligent compared to dark-eyed?"
 - "What is causing bright-eyed people to be less smart than dark-eyed?"
- cause:
 - amount of melanin (eye colour) → amount of light in the eye → less strength of electrical impulse → causing brain damage → influence on IQ

Meta-analysis: How does the colour of the eyes matter?

- Dr. Sunrise & Dr. Lezar from NYU decided to analyse all available studies, researches, surveys on the findings of Dr. Smith, Dr. Bargold and other scientists
- analysed 36 published studies done between 1974 and 2009

How does the colour of the eyes matter? – findings

- all studies confirmed a statistically significant correlation between the colour of the eyes and the capability of persons
- the **darker** the **eyes** → the **more intelligent** the **person** (and vice versa)

Basic findings:

- blue-eyed babies learn to walk simultaneously with brown-eyed children, but they learn to talk later
- blue-eyed children experience speech disorders (stuttering) more often than brown-eyed

Basic findings:

- blue-eyed children start falling behind in the kindergarten
- specialized pedagogic trainings for teachers in US on how to assist children with special needs → the majority of assisted children are blue-eyed
- considerations about schooling blue-eyed children younger than 7 years

Basic findings:

- in high school the underdevelopment of blue-eyed pupils becomes more relevant
- blue-eyed scholars experience problems mostly with subjects that require use of logic (math)
- blue-eyed pupils also have problems with focus and concentration (tend to be hyperactive)

Basic findings:

- blue-eyed students need 0,9 year longer than brown-eyed to graduate
- 7 % more brown-eyed students graduate
- PHD: 11 % more brown-eyed
- the majority of top scientists and artists were brown-eyed

Basic findings:

- blue-eyed people usually work in less paid jobs
- blue-eyed less likely get promotion
- blue-eyed have frequently conflicting personalities
- US employers prefer to employ brown-eyed people

Basic findings:

- there are 17 % more blue-eyed prisoners than brown-eyed
- more blue-eyed persons commit hard crimes

Basic findings:

- blue-eyed have 1,2 more children than brown-eyed
- among mixed blue/brown-eyed couples → 8 % higher rate of divorce compared to pure brown-eyed couples
- among blue-blue-eyed couples → 12 % divorce rate
- blue-eyed families → worse environment to raise a child

Basic findings:

- higher rate of STDs (sexually transmitted diseases) among blue-eyed (HIV)
- mental diseases are more frequent among blue-eyed people

Basic findings:

- blue-eyed die 4 years earlier than brown eyed
- some American insurance companies consider to classify blue-eyed persons in higher-risk group

THANK YOU!