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Nature and Nurture: Twin Research and Human Genetics

Do twins hold the key to understanding complex human traits and diseases? Can they resolve the age-old debate between nature and nurture?

Course description

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We focus on twins to explore the interplay of genes and environment in determining behaviour, lifestyle, and health. Uniquely, you will gain hands-on access to the world-renowned Netherlands Twin Register at VU Amsterdam – one of the largest longitudinal databases of its kind. The tutors are scientists closely associated with this core asset, the people who collect the information and work with it on a daily basis to unravel the genetic etiology of a wide range of medical conditions and personal characteristics. They will train you in working with twin data and information from genomics and epigenetics. You will learn how to collect material on behaviour and health and how to use molecular data to better understand the path from genetics to medicine.

Naturally, we will also cover the theoretical and philosophical background to help you interpret genetic studies, understand effective methods and designs and increase your understanding of complex human traits.

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Team VU Amsterdam Summer School

We are here to help!

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