

January 15, 2016

Dr. Richard Haier
University of California, Irvine
School of Medicine
Irvine, CA

Dear Dr. Haier,

I am pleased to submit an original research article entitled "Is the Link Between Intelligence and Age at First Intercourse Causal or Correlational?: A Cross-Generational Sibling Comparison Design Using the NLSY" by S. Mason Garrison and Joseph Lee Rodgers for consideration for publication in *Intelligence*. This research was originally presented by Joe Rodgers at ISIR in Albuquerque last October.

Several studies, including Halpern *et al.* (2000), have reported a positive relationship between age at first intercourse (AFI) and intelligence in s. Although this link between adolescent intelligence and AFI has face validity, and has been confidently asserted (or often implied) as a causal link, the causal mechanism has not been carefully investigated.

In this manuscript, we used an intergenerational sibling comparison design to investigate the causal link between intelligence and AFI, using the National Longitudinal Survey of Youth 1979 and the NLSY-Children/Young Adult data. Using a between-family design, we replicated earlier results. However, when we use a within-family design and compare offspring of sisters, and then compare the offspring themselves, the relationship between maternal/child intelligence and AFI virtually disappears.

We believe that this manuscript is appropriate for publication by *Intelligence* because it challenges the strong causal inference in past studies concerning the relationship between AFI and intelligence.

This manuscript has not been published and is not under consideration for publication elsewhere. We have no conflicts of interest to disclose.

Thank you for your consideration!

Sincerely yours,



S. Mason Garrison
s.mason.garrison@gmail.com
