

She Has Her Mother's Laugh! The Powers, Perversions, and Potential of Heredity - Carl Zimmer.

Carl Zimmer eloquently describes the origin of the concept of heredity starting from Samoan villagers who have very different views towards heredity compared to modern ones in this day and age.

Carl then pivots towards the origin of modern heredity and genetics, starting with farmers, in the late 1800s and early 1900s who were the first to implement leverage these hereditary properties in a systematic and scientific way.

Zimmer also goes over the various cultural predicaments that came from the prominence around the subject area of genetics and how this led to the formulation of some very racist ideologies which were utilized to divide groups of people.

He also goes over the ~~very~~ long history of how heredity has been used colloquially when looking at genetic patterns. This includes human attributes such

intelligence and height. He talks about how many of these traits are generally very complex and multivariate genetic structures which determine these traits. In fact one of the first traits which were attempted to solve was that of height. This endeavour though ended up being a lot more complex than initially thought. As to date there have been thousands of genes related to height found.

Another topic in which Zimmer touches on is the affect your environment can have upon heredity due to the changes in epigenetics - due to which can have deleterious effects upon offspring.

Zimmer then finishes off the book with a discussion on the various ethical and cultural struggles with the new prominence of technologies such as in vitro fertilization as well as the countless dystopian possibilities due to the advent of technologies like CRISPR and the wide reaching possibilities that these technologies could allow for and the wide changes that have already happened due to these techniques which leverage

Genetics.