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The Nature-Nurture Controversy: History, Methods and Open Questions in the Genetics of Complex Traits

Human complex traits – from height to medical and psychiatric phenotypes – are shaped by the combined action of many genetic and environmental factors, a fact that has made their study a recurring site of scientific controversy for over a century. This talk traces the methodological foundations of quantitative genetics, from biometrics to modern genome-wide association studies (GWAS), asking what these methods can tell us about the genetic causes of individual differences. I also examine how methodological disagreements about such methods became entangled with ethical questions about eugenics and scientific racism – a pattern that continues in current discussions of genetics and society.



Thursday
September 24, 2026



TBA building
room TBA



4.30 pm
to 5.30 pm

Host:
Ronchi



The certificates of attendance for the seminar are also valid for the acquisition of CFU credits
For information, please visit the seminar's webpage

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