

# "God, Sex and Politics: Unraveling the Effects of Genes and Culture"

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## **Abstract:**

Attitudes to religion, sex and politics are heterogeneous and socially divisive. They also present a model system for studying the biological and cultural inheritance of individual differences. The dominant paradigm in the social and political sciences assumes that attitudes are acquired by social learning.

The validity of this perspective is tested by studies of a variety of social attitudes, including those to abortion and gay rights, in large samples of adult and juvenile twins and their relatives from the Virginia 30,000 (NA30K), the MCV Cardiovascular Twin Study (MCVCTS) and the North Carolina Twin Study (NCATS).

In many respects, the transmission of social attitudes is more complex than that assumed in the social sciences. It is also more complex and, arguably, more interesting than that found in genetic studies of other aspects of human behavior and its disorders.