

three identical strangers study released

Three identical strangers study released has captured the attention of the public and scientific community alike, raising profound questions about the nature versus nurture debate. This study revolves around a fascinating real-life case involving triplets separated at birth and reunited later in life. The implications of their experiences, as well as the ethics surrounding their separation and the study itself, have sparked intense discussions. This article delves into the origins of the study, the triplets' extraordinary journey, and the broader implications for psychology and ethics.

Origins of the Study

The story of the three identical strangers begins in 1961, when three boys—Robert Shafran, Edward Galland, and David Kellman—were born in New York. Due to an adoption agency's desire to study the effects of nature versus nurture, the boys were separated at birth and placed in different families. The study was conducted by Dr. Peter Neubauer, a psychoanalyst, who wanted to investigate how identical siblings raised in different environments would develop.

Separation and Adoption

- Birth and Adoption: The triplets were born to a teenage mother who felt unable to care for them. They were adopted by three different families who were unaware of the existence of the other two siblings.
- The Study's Purpose: Dr. Neubauer's study aimed to analyze the differing outcomes of genetically identical children raised in varying environments. The agency believed that understanding these differences could provide insights into child development and the importance of familial connections.

Reunion of the Triplets

The lives of the triplets took a dramatic turn in 1980 when they accidentally discovered each other at the age of 19. Robert Shafran was attending college when a classmate mistook him for Edward Galland, who had recently enrolled at the same institution. The two soon connected and realized they were twins separated at birth. Their joy was compounded when they later met David Kellman, completing their reunion.

- Media Attention: Their story captured significant media attention, leading to interviews and even a television appearance. The triplets became instant celebrities, showcasing the power of genetic ties and the uncanny similarities they shared, from mannerisms to physical traits.
- Emotional Impact: The reunion was not only a moment of joy but also raised questions about their individual identities and the lives they had lived apart. The emotional ramifications of their separation became evident as they navigated their newfound connection.

The Study's Findings and Ethical Concerns

While the story of reunion is heartwarming, the underlying study raises serious ethical questions. The triplets' experiences have led to a reevaluation of the methods used in psychological research, especially in cases involving human subjects.

Findings of the Study

- Behavioral Similarities: Early examinations showed that the triplets exhibited numerous similarities in behavior and personality traits. They shared interests, mannerisms, and even similar health issues, which suggested a strong genetic influence.
- Environmental Factors: Despite their similarities, the triplets also faced different challenges based on their distinct upbringings. Each was raised in a different socio-economic environment, which influenced their education, friendships, and worldviews.

Ethical Implications

The ethical implications of the triplet study and the separation of the boys have been heavily scrutinized:

- Informed Consent: The triplets were not informed of the study during their childhood, raising concerns about informed consent and the rights of the subjects involved.
- Psychological Impact: The emotional trauma of separation and the subsequent challenges of reconciling their individual identities with their collective identity were significant. The study's design did not take into account the psychological impact on the participants.
- Long-Term Consequences: The long-term effects on the triplets' mental health and familial relationships were not adequately addressed in the study, leading to questions about the morality of such research.

Public Reaction and Cultural Impact

The release of the three identical strangers study ignited public fascination and debate, leading to a broader discussion about twins, triplets, and the implications of genetic studies.

Documentary and Popular Media

In 2018, a documentary titled "Three Identical Strangers" was released, bringing the story to a wider audience. The film highlighted not only the triplets' reunion but also the ethical concerns surrounding their separation.

- Critical Acclaim: The documentary received critical acclaim, prompting viewers to reflect on the ethical dimensions of psychological research and the importance of familial bonds.

- **Educational Impact:** The film served as an educational tool, stimulating discussions in classrooms and among the general public regarding the nature versus nurture debate.

Broader Implications

The case of the three identical strangers has far-reaching implications for various fields:

- **Psychology:** It has prompted a reevaluation of research ethics and the treatment of human subjects in psychological studies. Many researchers now emphasize the importance of ethical standards in studies involving human participants.
- **Adoption Practices:** The story has led to discussions about the ethics of adoption practices, particularly concerning the rights of children and the responsibilities of adoption agencies.
- **Nature vs. Nurture:** The findings have reignited debates about the influence of genetics versus environment in shaping individual identities. Researchers continue to study these dynamics, seeking to understand the interplay between inherited traits and personal experiences.

Conclusion

The three identical strangers study released serves as a poignant reminder of the complexity of human identity and the ethical considerations inherent in psychological research. The story of Robert, Edward, and David is not just a tale of reunion; it is a cautionary tale about the responsibilities researchers have towards their subjects. As society grapples with these issues, the legacy of the triplets will undoubtedly continue to provoke thought and inspire further inquiry into the intricate relationship between nature and nurture.

Through their experiences, we are reminded of the profound impact that familial relationships have on our lives, and the importance of ethical practices in the pursuit of knowledge. The triplets' journey continues to resonate, not only in the realm of psychology but also within the broader context of human experience and connection.

Frequently Asked Questions

What is the 'Three Identical Strangers' study about?

The 'Three Identical Strangers' study examines the lives of triplets who were separated at birth and adopted by different families, exploring the effects of nature versus nurture.

Why was the study of the triplets controversial?

The study was controversial because it involved ethical concerns regarding the separation of the siblings and the intent behind the adoption agency's decision to study them.

What were the main findings of the 'Three Identical Strangers' study?

The study highlighted the significant influence of genetics on behavior and personality, but also raised questions about the importance of familial and environmental factors.

How did the reunion of the triplets impact their lives?

The reunion brought joy and connection but also led to emotional turmoil as they confronted the complexities of their separated lives and the circumstances of their adoption.

What psychological implications does the study raise?

The study raises important psychological implications regarding identity, the impact of separation on mental health, and the ethical considerations in psychological research.

How has the public responded to the revelations from the study?

The public response has been mixed, with many expressing outrage over the ethical violations and others being intrigued by the findings on nature versus nurture.

What role did the media play in the triplets' story?

Media coverage played a significant role in bringing the story to light, helping the triplets gain public attention and raising awareness about the ethical issues surrounding their separation.

Are there any ongoing discussions or research stemming from this study?

Yes, ongoing discussions focus on ethical standards in psychological research, as well as further studies exploring the implications of separation on identical twins and triplets.

[Three Identical Strangers Study Released](#)

Three Identical Strangers Study Released

Related Articles

- [theme of the pentateuch](#)
- [therapy activities for borderline personality disorder](#)
- [thomas jefferson worksheet](#)

[Back to Home](#)