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Discovering the genetic architecture of the mind

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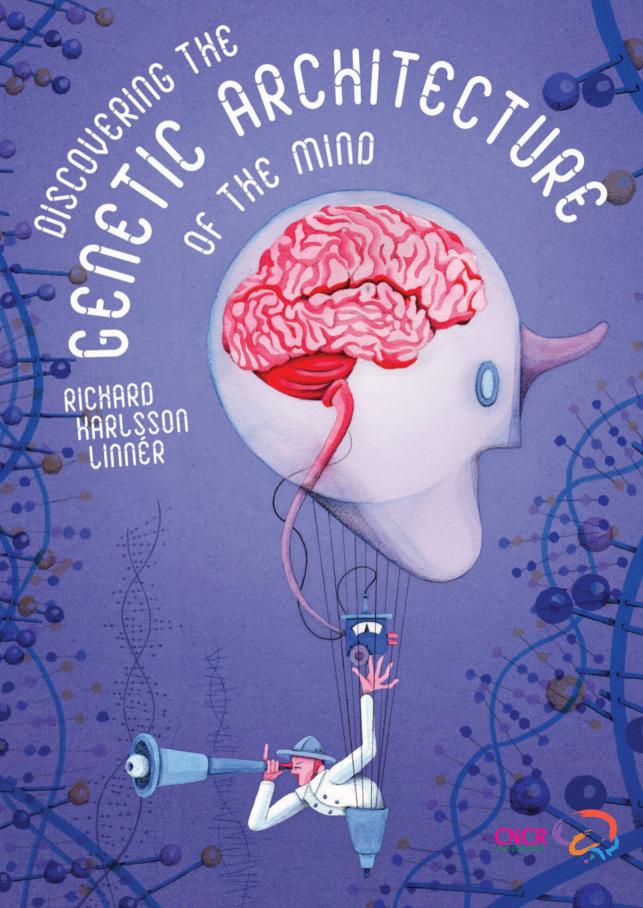
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The heritability of psychology and behavior has long been contested, while there is much evidence in support of the premise that mental traits are indeed transmitted from parents to offspring via the transfer of genetic material. Recent technological developments now facilitate researchers to discover which particular genetic variants are responsible for that transmission and genetic datasets are growing at a rapid pace. Thus, the time has come to perform adequately powered discovery analyses of the genetic architecture of the mind. This thesis is a collection of four empirical studies that aim to cast light on the genetic and epigenetic foundation of various measures of psychology and behavior. The studies reported here are all investigations of molecular genetic variants, some in hundreds of thousands up to a million individuals.

Richard Karlsson Linnér, the author of this thesis, has long been interested in the fundamental factors that influence individual differences in how humans think, feel, and act. He received his M.Sc. in economics from the Linköping University, Sweden. During his Ph.D. trajectory at the Vrije Universiteit Amsterdam, he was trained in social-science and behavior genetics. Through his training and research, Richard has extensive experience analyzing large genetic datasets.

