“Transmuting” women into men: Galton’s data on human stature

Sir Francis Galton, F.R.S.
1822-1911

Data Collection

Galton tried several means to collect data on family stature, but “tried in vain for a long and weary time to obtain it in sufficient abundance.”

In 1879, Galton made an effort to go for Family Records, which was largely responded and turned into last year with what wanted. Imprecise, hurried and especially guarded in reading any parts like particular inquiry in my perspective, but a bias should be given to the stature. In all, records were received from 205 families.

Role of Stature in Marriage Selection

The 205 Families

The 205 Families

NUMBERS OF... Sons Daughters Total

Sons 0 10 467 2.4
Daughters 0 9 476 2.3
Total 9 19 943 4.6

NUMBERS FOR WHOM HEIGHT REPORTED AS A NUMBER.

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PRELIMINARY ANALYSIS

The 205 Families

Role of Stature in Marriage Selection

Table 9: Maximum Relation of Stature to Stability.

Mean (±1 σ) ±STDE (±1 σ) ±STDE

F 5.44 1.08 0.08
M 7.01 1.08 0.08

The correlations of equal frequency in the two-way frequency table (see right) led Galton to the conclusion that the normal Gaussian distribution from this, Karl Pearson developed a full treatment of correlation, multiple and partial. Pearson’s early work relied on these family data, which “Mr. Galton, with his accustomed generosity,” had placed at Pearson’s disposal.

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Biometrika, Then and Now

In 1901, Galton helped launch Biometrika, with the following words: “...This journal, it is hoped, will partly its existence by supplying those requirements either directly or indirectly. I hope messures that same news can be found through its efforts, or forming a manuscript library of original data. Experience has shown the advantage of occasionally reclassifying statistical conclusions, by working on the same documents in their author. I have begun to think that no one ought to publish biometric results, without lodging a well arranged and well bound manuscript copy of his data in some place where it should be accessible, under reasonable restrictions, to those who desire to verify his work.”

1. pp 5-6, 1901

Galton, with his flair for the technological, would have welcomed the interest, comments that follow. He was as interested in the mechanical as in the psychological. He wrote, “...I have always been pleased that, with the approval of University College, London, digital photographs of the records of the المباراة, which have been sent to me, with an electronic copy of the numbers in my book, and some other related photographs, are available online at www.sirfrancisgalton.org.”

We see the other article, “Transmuting” women into men: Galton’s data on human stature” by James H. Hanley.

Acknowledgements

Stephen Higher helped me to the Galton, and his photography was not permitted, so the first photos below, Galton's head are of the Salkin, with images, and some other related photographs. You can see us by directional.” The caption is the Galton photograph, and a link to his website in the literature.

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