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# Genetics and Human Behavior

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When Does Genetics Play a Role in Understanding Human Behavior?

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**'Make-up': English notions of inheritance, upbringing and character.**

This paper will examine what it means, in England, at the beginning of the twenty first century, to make-up a person.. Elements of inheritance and upbringing go in to the making of a person, and a person's behaviour, or character is commonly explained both in terms of what is 'passed on' to them **and** how they are 'brought-up'. The aim of the paper is to explore the relationship between the different strands of a person's 'make-up' and to address the question 'when does genetics play a role in understanding human behaviour' from the perspective of a particular 'public'. The ethnographic focus is on the way in which residents of a town in the north of England deploy the notion of 'make-up' when exploring the social implications of new reproductive and genetic technologies.