



LET'S DEBUNK RACE!

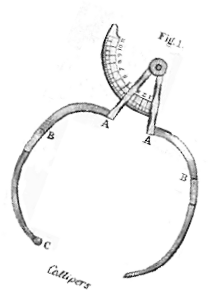
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HISTORY

- * There is no single origin of the term 'race' itself
- * The term 'race' has been used since the 15th century, but it has only come to be used as a tool to categorize humans starting in the 18th century (Banton, 2018)
- * Georges Cuvier (a 19th century French scholar on 'race') contributed to this use of the word by dividing humans into 3 subspecies (races): Caucasian, Mongolian and Ethiopian and used the term 'race' in place of variety (Banton, 2018)
- * Many people were writing about race by mid 19th century and the term was solidified and accepted by popular culture, used as a way of classifying and identifying human beings which contributed to great societal damage (Banton, 2018)

WHAT DO SKULLS HAVE TO DO WITH IT?

- * Historically (and still to this day) race is attributed to external features (ex. hair or skin colour), but an internal feature was introduced by Johann Friedrich Blumenbach (1752-1840), he is the founder of craniology, measuring and grouping skulls together (Jahoda, 2009)
- * In 1839, Samuel Morton published *Crania Americana* arguing that white people have the largest skulls and blacks the smallest (therefore having the most intelligence!) In 1854, George Giddon published *Types of Mankind* (Banton, 2018)
- * The accumulation of this information created the false conclusion that different racial types had been present throughout history, damaging the way society began to think about race



THE FACTS

- * Many people hold the assumption that race is a **natural** concept which works to divide people but... RACE IS A SOCIAL CONSTRUCT, meaning it is created by our society rather than real, factual based evidence (Herbes-Sommers et al., 2003)
- * The concept of race as a division of people is an idea that was never accepted in biological science. There are no known genetic markers that define race (Herbes-Sommers et al., 2003)
- * Measuring race is not possible, there is as much or more diversity within any 'racial' group as there is between people in different 'racial' groups (Herbes-Sommers et al., 2003)

CAUCASIAN? IS THIS REALLY WHAT YOU MEAN?

- * Christoph Meiners (1772) – was one of the earliest to accept scientific racism (Ramsey, 2016)
- * He believed that Caucasians (Europeans) had the best skin which made them the superior race and viewed all other non-Caucasians as lesser than, and even animalistic (Ramsey, 2016)
- * Blumenbach solidified Meiners' claims when he studied skulls, deciding that light skinned people from Europe belonged to the same race: Caucasian (Ramsey, 2016)
- * Blumenbach then delegated the rest of the world into 4 different races which he claimed to be degenerate (Ramsey, 2016)
- * This idea of degenerate races was adopted by the United States, which helped to perpetuate practices such as slavery and strict immigration policies (Ramsey, 2016)
- * Therefore using the term Caucasian allows the ideology of race to persist, implying that white-people may be different from other 'races' based on a deeper possibly biological connection... BUT THIS IS NOT TRUE! (Ramsey, 2016)

- ☐ Asian
- ☐ Black/African
- ☒ Caucasian
- ☐ Hispanic/Latinx
- ☐ Native American
- ☐ Pacific Islander
- ☐ Prefer not to answer

CHALLENGE YOURSELF TO:

- * Use this newfound knowledge to transform how you think about race and its significance in our society
- * Be aware of the language you use and how it affects other people!

DID YOU KNOW?



Fruit flies have 10 times the amount of genetic difference from one another than humans! We are the most genetically similar of all species (Herbes-Sommers et al., 2003)

References

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