



Anti-Discrimination Working Group

Meeting #2

Wednesday, 17 May 2023

10.00, NCRR main meeting room (and online)

Agenda

1. Introduction round
2. Aims of the group
3. Adam Rutherford's podcast: History of eugenics
4. Legacy of eugenics in (psychiatric) genetics
5. Discussion: Are we already living in the Brave New World?
6. Ideas for next meeting



Introductions

On a 1-9 rubber duck scale, how are things going today?



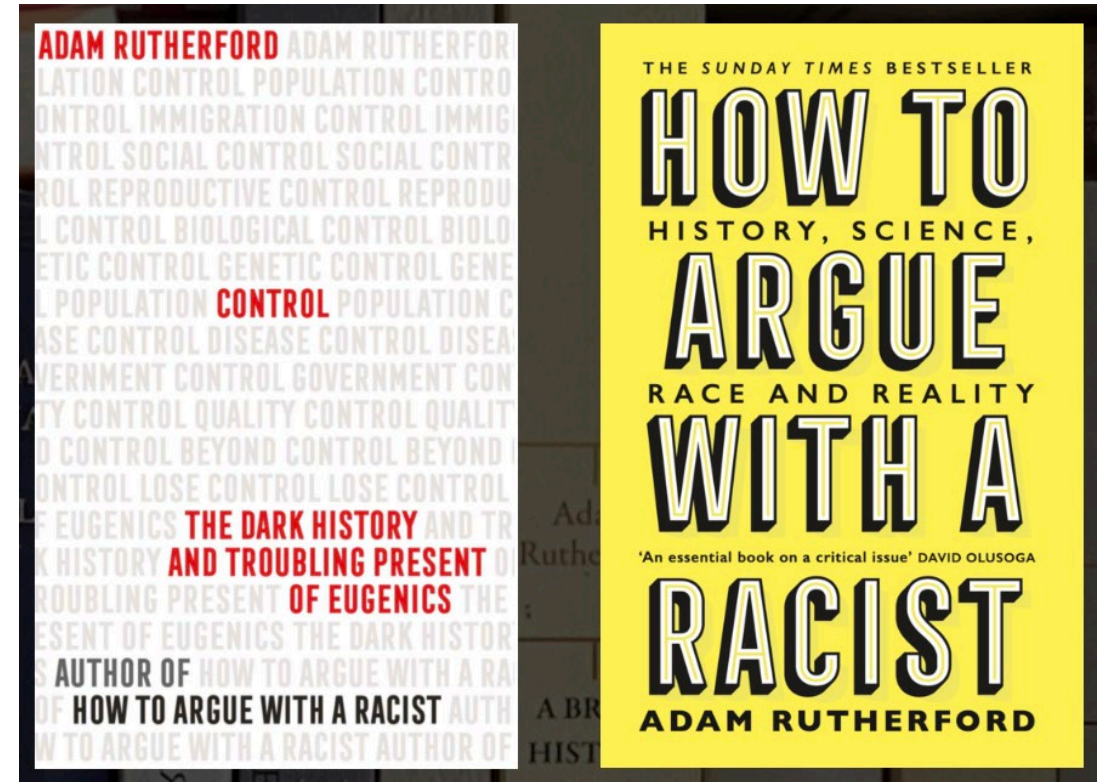
Aims of the group

1. To strive for **equality**
2. To strive for **diversity**
3. To be **open & transparent**
4. To be mindful that **the topics we discuss may be triggering and upsetting**, impacting on people in different ways.
 - This is not a passive intellectual topic. It takes time to install the correct support and find solutions. This is a learning process.
5. To discuss ongoing issues with **discrimination in research**
6. To recognize **harmful structures and practices** of discrimination in research
7. To **advocate for changes** that promote equity in research

Eugenics

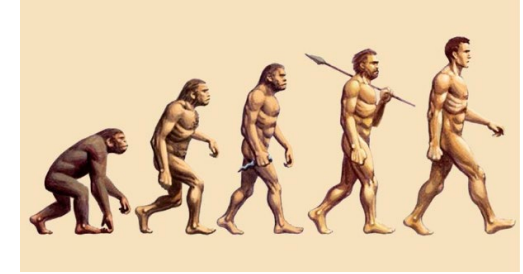
- the practice or advocacy of controlled selective breeding of human populations (as by sterilization) to improve the population's genetic composition *Merriam-Webster dictionary*

Adam Rutherford's Podcast

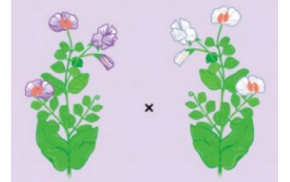


Eugenics forms as an ideology

- Ancient idea: Population control
 - Plato's utopian city-state
 - Infanticide (*e.g.*, Sparta)



- *Origin of Species* (1859) by Charles Darwin




- *Experiments on Plant Hybridization* (1866) by Gregor Mendel

- *Hereditary Genius* (1869) by Francis Galton
 - Distribution: "great men"—"degenerates"

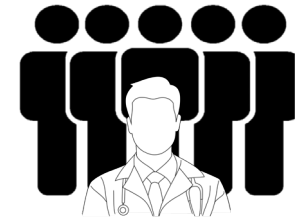


Eugenics is put into policy and practice

- Eugenics Record Office (1910–1939) by Charles Davenport 
 - Cold Spring Harbor Laboratory, New York, USA
 - H. H. Laughlin writes eugenics law template
- International Conference on Eugenics (1912–1932), journals, etc.
- 30+ countries passed eugenics legislation in the 20th century
 - Political figures: Teddy Roosevelt, Churchill, Hitler, Mussolini, and so on...

Eugenics in Denmark

- **1923:** “Mentally retarded” and seriously mentally ill need permission to marry
- **1929:** First sterilization law passed
- **1934:** Mentally Handicapped Act (revised 1935)
- **1923–1961:** Girl’s Home on Sprogø
- **1934–1967:** Mentally Handicapped Act leads to tens of thousands of sterilizations
- **1966–1974:** IUD campaign in Greenland



Christian Keller and
the Social Democrats



SERIE | 5 EPISODER

Spiralkampagnen

To journalister kommer på sporet en hidtil glemt "spiralkampagne", hvor danske læger i Grønland opsatte spiral på kvinder og piger helt ned til 13 år. Det viser sig, at historien om spiralkampagnen vokser og vokser, jo mere man graver sig ned i den. Op mod halvdelen af de fødedygtige grønlandske kvinder og piger fik i slutningen af 1960'erne til midt 70'erne opsat spiral, mange tilsyneladende uden at give samtykke. Og det fik store konsekvenser for kvinderne og for Grønland. Men hvem satte kampagnen i gang og hvorfor?

Produceret for DR af MonoMono.



Eugenics in Denmark



Personality and Individual Differences

Volume 53, Issue 2, July 2012, Pages 118-125



The decay of Western civilization: Double relaxed Darwinian Selection

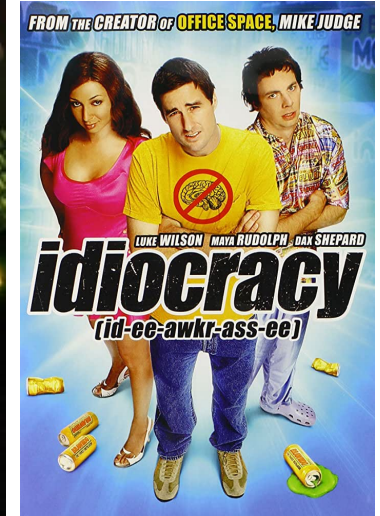
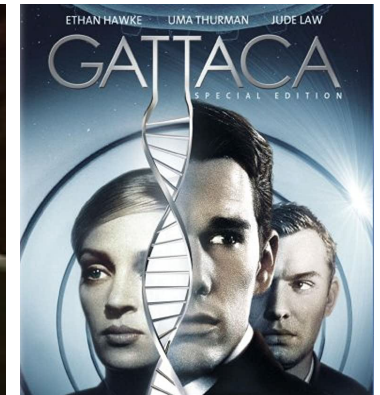
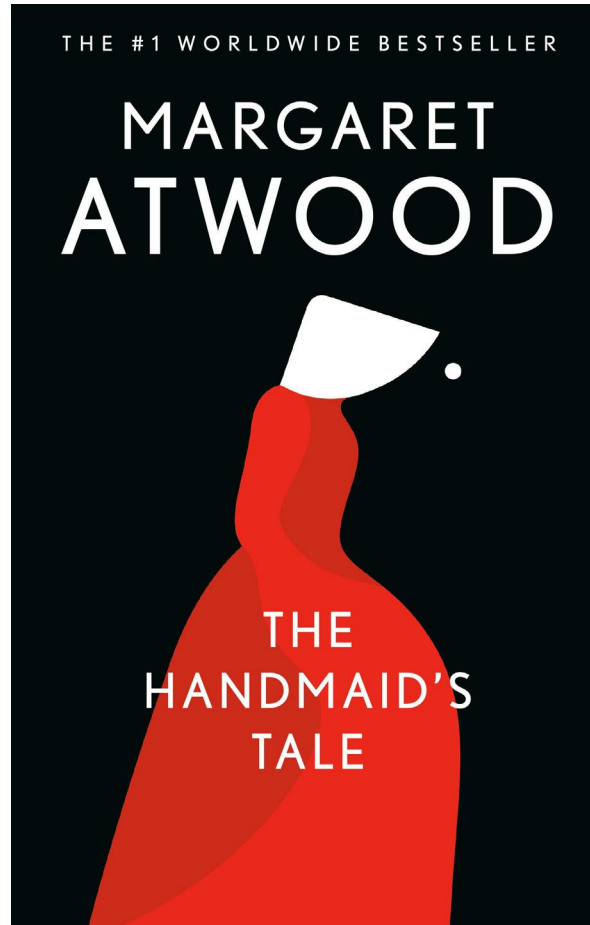
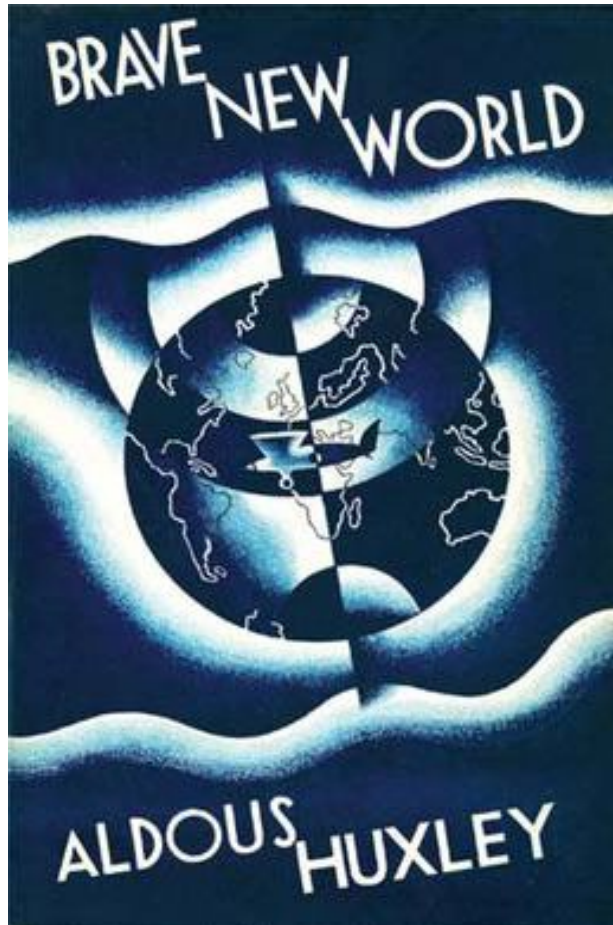
Helmuth Nyborg  

Will Intelligent Latter-day Saints and Smart Conservatives Inherit the Earth? Differential Selection for Intelligence in the USA Based on Religiosity and Conservatism		Emil O. W. Kirkegaard; Edward Dutton	Research paper	Evolutionary Psychological Science	Yes	2022-06-02
Europeans Have Larger Testes than Sub-Saharan Africans but Lower Testosterone Levels		Edward Dutton; Helmuth S. Nyborg, Emil O. W. Kirkegaard	Research paper	Mankind Quarterly	Yes	2022-03-01
Genetic ancestry and social race are nearly interchangeable		Emil O. W. Kirkegaard	Research paper	OpenPsych	Yes	2021-12-22

Legacy of eugenics in (psychiatric) genetics

- The study of human inheritance is the foundation of human genetics
 - Then: For “the betterment of human society”
 - Now: For pure science and development of treatment for medical conditions
- “Galton Laboratory” at University College London today
- Emil Kraepelin (1856–1926)
 - Founder of modern scientific psychiatry, psychopharmacology and psychiatric genetics
 - Eugenic views → Diagnostic classification system (DSM, ICD)

Are we already living in the Brave New World?



Are we already living in the Brave New World?

- Fertility control with/out consent
- Genetic screening and counseling for couples
 - *e.g.*, hemophilia, Tay Sachs
- Prenatal screening and termination of pregnancies
- Gene editing
- Treatment of adults suffering from hereditary disorders

Ideas for next meeting

- Historical perspective
 - E.g., parallel development of genetics and eugenics
- Book club
 - E.g., *The Immortal Life of Henrietta Lacks*
- How-to: Active anti-discrimination
 - E.g., “racefile” for PC plots in a published [bioinformatics tool](#) → here is how one reviewer addressed it:

Reviewer response for version 1

[Stephanie M. Gogarten](#), Referee¹

¹Department of Biostatistics, University of Washington, Seattle, WA, USA

Competing interests: No competing interests were disclosed.

Review date: 2021 Aug 26. Status: Approved with Reservations. doi: [10.5256/f1000research.57243.r91453](https://doi.org/10.5256/f1000research.57243.r91453)

Copyright : © 2021 Gogarten SM

This is an open access peer review report distributed under the terms of the Creative Commons Attribution Licence, which permits unrestricted use, distribution, and reproduction in any medium, provided the original work is properly cited.

The snpQT software is a useful resource for researchers working on Genome-Wide Association Studies (GWAS). It bundles a wide collection of software together and provides a clearly defined workflow based on best practices in GWAS quality control. It will be particularly useful for beginning researchers as it provides a straightforward entry point to learning how to work with GWAS data. The software is open source and comes with extensive documentation and tutorials, all available on the web.

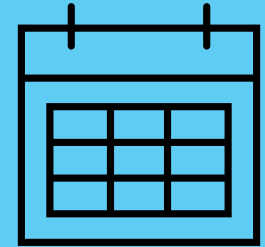
The manuscript is well written and clearly describes the use of the software and its benefits, with a few caveats as outlined below:

Major:

1) The term “**racefile**” as an argument name is inappropriate and should be changed. Race refers to a social category that is correlated with, but not the same as, genetic ancestry, and using it in this way goes against current recommendations in the human genetics community (Brothers, Bennett and Cho 2021 ¹; Birney *et al* 2021 ²). In fact, the allowed values in the “**racefile**” appear to be 1000 Genomes population labels, which are not races. A more appropriate term for this argument would be “popfile”, with the associated argument “racecode” instead called “popcode”.

2) Similarly, the term “ethnic outliers” should also be changed, both in the manuscript and in the snpQT online tutorial. Ethnicity is also a social category and its use is not appropriate in this context. The outlier removal performed by EIGENSOFT does not rely on any labelling of race, ethnicity, or population, but is instead described in the original publication (Price *et al* 2006 ³) as “Outliers were defined as individuals whose ancestry was at least 6 standard deviations from the mean on one of the top ten inferred axes of


Next meeting:
June ?



Thanks!

Jess Mundy
Hannah Chatwin
Alisha Hall
Jette Steinbach

 jmundy@clin.au.dk
hchatwin.ncrr@au.dk
alishasmhall@clin.au.dk
jst.ncrr@au.dk

 @jessmndy
@hannahchatwin2
@asmhall

Resources / Further information

- [Bad Blood: The Story of Eugenics](#) (BBC Radio 4 extended podcast by Adam Rutherford)
- <https://danskracismeforskning.dk/>
- Pige hjemmet på Sprogø / Kellersk Institut ([English article](#))
- [Danish podcast *Spiralkampagnen*](#) (DR “The IUD Campaign” in Greenland; + [English article](#) summarizing it)
- Has the "[London Conference on Intelligence](#)" moved to Denmark?

Resources / Further information

- Kemp, T. Danish experiences in negative eugenics, 1929-45. *Eugen Rev.* 1947 Jan;38(4):181-6. PMID: 20286619; PMCID: PMC2986383.
- *Eugenics and the welfare state, Norway, Sweden, Denmark, and Finland* by Gunnar Broberg and Nils Roll-Hansen
- Roelcke V. Eugenic concerns, scientific practices: international relations in the establishment of psychiatric genetics in Germany, Britain, the USA and Scandinavia, c.1910-60. *Hist Psychiatry.* 2019 Mar;30(1):19-37. doi: 10.1177/0957154X18808666. Epub 2018 Nov 1. PMID: 30382757.