



# **INTRODUCTION TO SOCIOLOGY**

**Soc 1101: Summer 2023**

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# Race & Ethnicity

## Lecture 8

# LECTURE OUTLINE

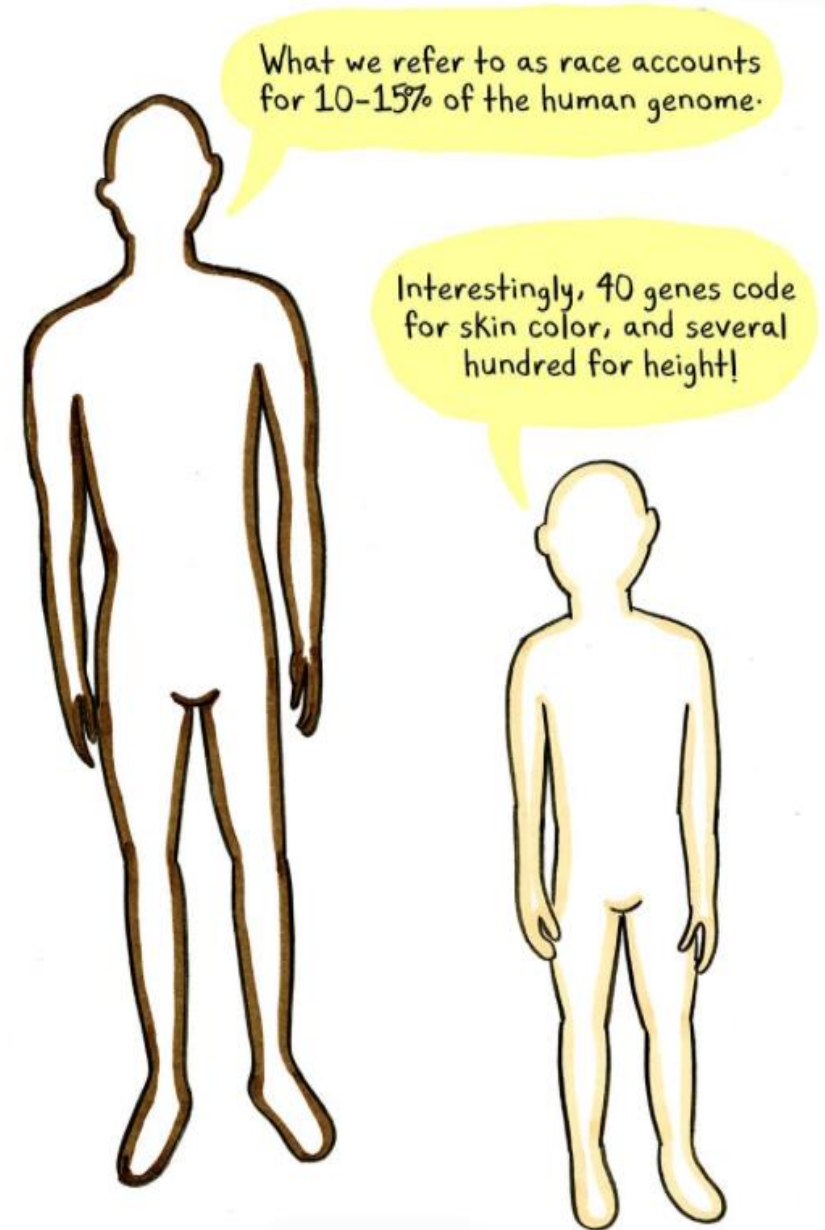
- **Race and social construct**
  - **What is race?**
  - **Why do we say that race is socially constructed?**
- **Race and ethnicity**
- **Race and social reality**
  - **Racialized history of the US**
  - **Contemporary sociological research of race**
- **Next lecture: Colonialism and global racism**

# WHAT IS RACE?

- A matter of physical appearance and descent?

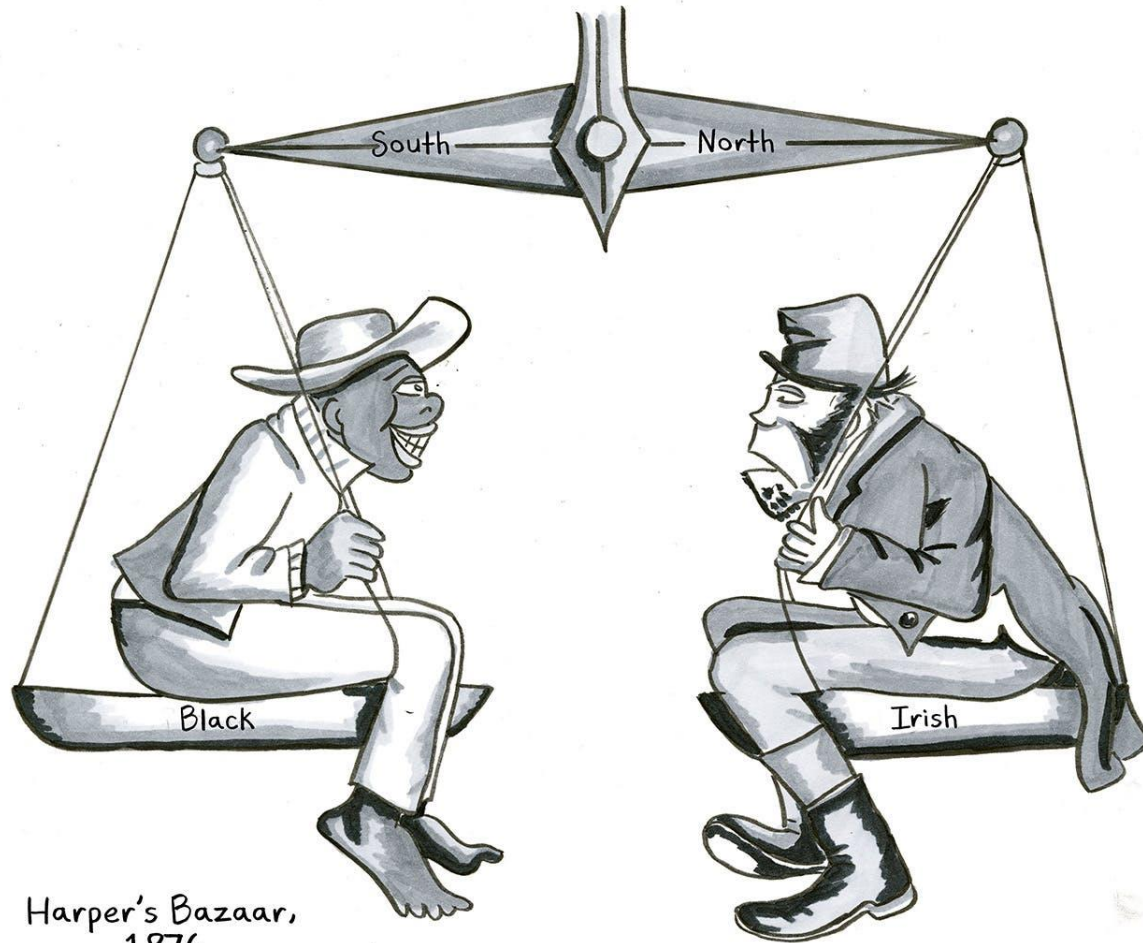
**YES *and* NO**

- Phenotype related but no “natural” basis in biology





Race is not a unit of human biology, but a social construct that changes over time.



Harper's Bazaar,  
1876

Source: <https://thenib.com/what-is-race>

# WHAT DOES IT MEAN FOR SOMETHING TO BE *SOCIALLY CONSTRUCTED*?

- **A social invention that changes as political, economic, and historical contexts change (American Sociological Association, 2003)**
- **The social construction of race**
  - **The very NATURE of race!**

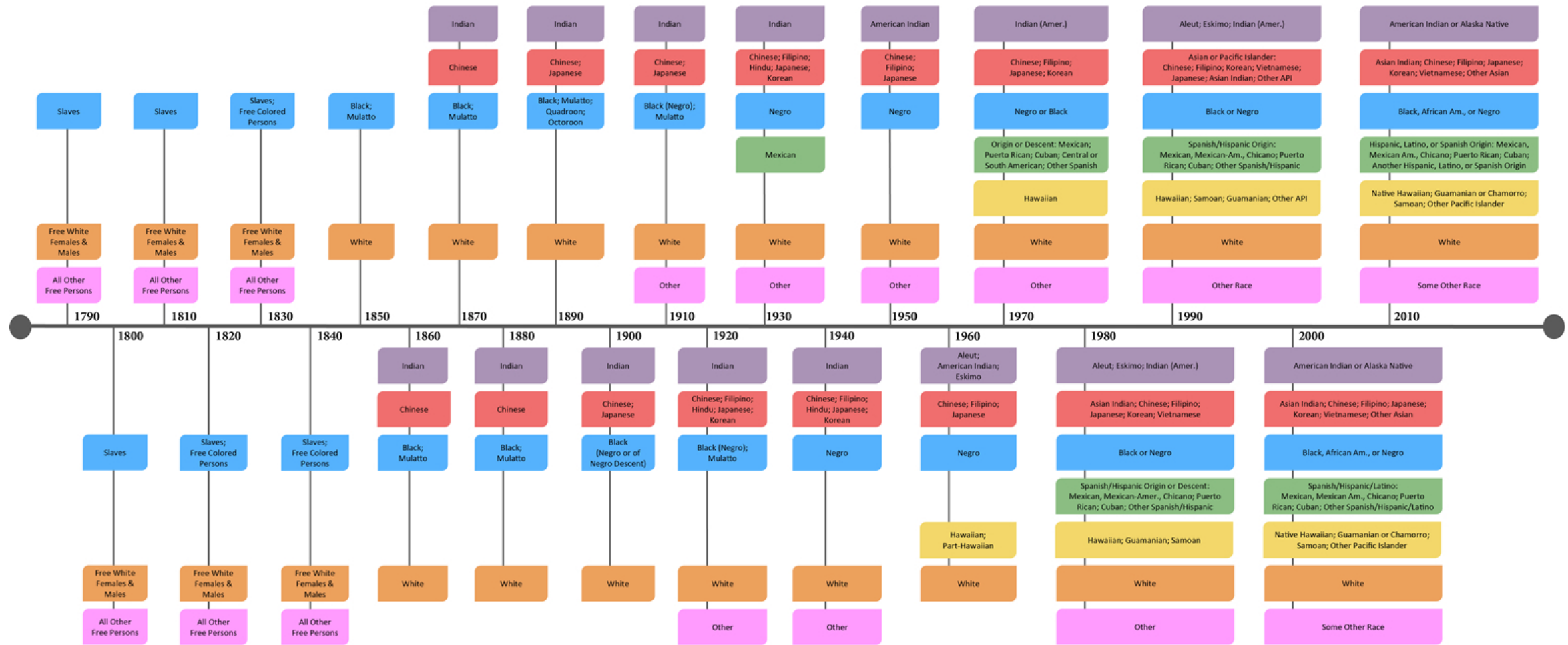
- **One example: how the U.S. government has defined and measured race over the years**

# CONTEMPORARY U.S. CENSUS CATEGORIZATION OF RACE

**“The racial categories included in the census questionnaire generally reflect a **social definition of race** recognized in this country and not an attempt to define race biologically, anthropologically, or genetically.”**



# U.S. Census Bureau Measures of Race and Ethnicity Across the Decades: 1790-2010



# 1790 US Census

Free White Males		Free White Females Including Heads of Families	All Other Persons	Slaves
16 & up incl. heads of families	Under age 16			

[2000 - History - U.S. Census Bureau](#)

# 1890 US Census

**“Whether white, black, mulatto, quadroon, octoroon, Chinese, Japanese, or Indian.”**

INQUIRIES.	
1	Christian name in full, and initial of middle name.
	Surname.
2	Whether a soldier, sailor, or marine during the civil war (U. S. or Conf.), or widow of such person.
3	Relationship to head of family.
4	Whether white, black, mulatto, quadroon, octoroon, Chinese, Japanese, or Indian.
5	Sex.
6	Age at nearest birthday. If under one year, give age in months.
7	Whether single, married, widowed, or divorced.
8	Whether married during the census year (June 1, 1889, to May 31, 1890).

# 1930 US Census

“Color or race”

White, Negro,  
Mexican, Indian,  
Chinese, Japanese,  
Filipino, Hindu,  
Korea, Other races

PERSONAL DESCRIPTION						
	Sex	Color or race	Age at last birthday	Marital condition	Age at first marriage	
Col. 12—White						Fill
Negro	11	12	13	14	15	Hin
Mexican		Mex				Kor
Indian		In				
Chinese		Ch				Other races, spell
Japanese		Jp				out in full



# 2000 US Census

→ NOTE: Please answer BOTH Questions 5 and 6.

5 Is this person Spanish/Hispanic/Latino? Mark ☒ the "No" box if **not** Spanish/Hispanic/Latino.

- ☐ No, not Spanish/Hispanic/Latino
- ☐ Yes, Mexican, Mexican Am., Chicano
- ☐ Yes, Puerto Rican
- ☐ Yes, Cuban
- ☐ Yes, other Spanish/Hispanic/Latino — *Print group.* ↗

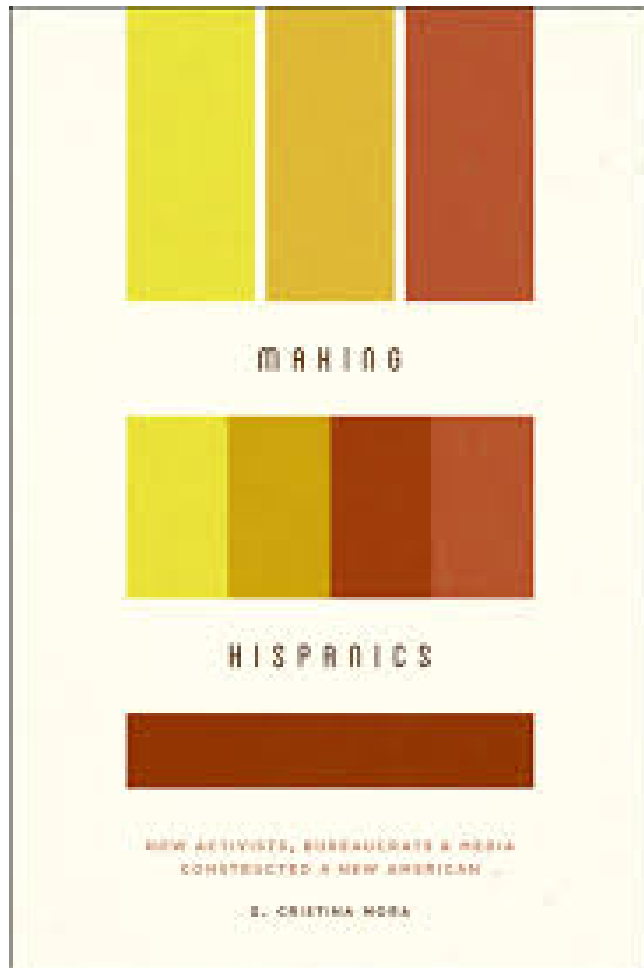

6 What is this person's race? Mark ☒ one or **more races** to indicate what this person considers himself/herself to be.

- ☐ White
- ☐ Black, African Am., or Negro
- ☐ American Indian or Alaska Native — *Print name of enrolled or principal tribe.* ↗


- |                                                             |                                                                        |
|-------------------------------------------------------------|------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Asian Indian                       | <input type="checkbox"/> Native Hawaiian                               |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Chinese                            | <input type="checkbox"/> Guamanian or Chamorro                         |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Filipino                           | <input type="checkbox"/> Samoan                                        |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Japanese                           | <input type="checkbox"/> Other Pacific Islander — <i>Print race.</i> ↗ |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Korean                             |                                                                        |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Vietnamese                         |                                                                        |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Other Asian — <i>Print race.</i> ↗ |                                                                        |


- ☐ Some other race — *Print race.* ↗



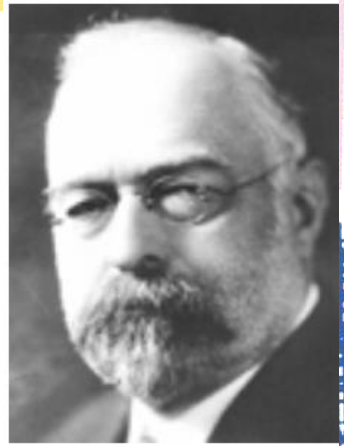



## ***Cristina Mora, *Making Hispanics****

**Hispanic activists, U.S. Census, and media crucial to creating a new American group**

# EXAMPLE OF SCIENTIFIC RACISM

- **F.H. Giddings' (1855-1931) "social marking system"**
- **Native-born of native white parents (scale position 0), native-born of foreign-born white (1), foreign-born, English-speaking (2), northwestern Europeans (3), southern Europeans and Latin American white (4), eastern Europeans (5), all other white (6), civilized yellow (7), civilized dark (8), uncivilized dark (9)**



President of  
American  
Sociological  
Association 1910-  
1911;  
Inaugural fellow of  
American  
Statistical  
Association

# WHAT IS RACE?

**“Race can be defined as a concept that signifies and symbolizes sociopolitical conflicts and interests in reference to different types of human bodies.”  
(Winant 2000, ARS )**

# CLASSIFICATION REGIMES

- **The classification, sorting, naming**
- **Who controls the power of naming?**
- **What's the impact of the classification and naming on those who are classified and named?**

# **RACIALIZATION AS A CLASSIFICATION REGIME**

**A process whereby**

- **1) people use socially invented racial categories to classify individuals or groups of people; and**
- **2) people who are classified come to see the race they are classified into as constitutive of their subjectivity ("self").**
- **e.g., the Muslims in the United States post 9/11**
- **e.g., race in France vs US**



# RACE: A SOCIAL CONSTRUCT *AND* A SOCIAL REALITY

- Race is a social construct
  - No biological basis
  - Categories are symbolic and constructed within specific social, political, and historical contexts
- But still a social reality with REAL social implications

# ARE RACE AND ETHNICITY THE SAME?

- **Similarities:**
  - **Both are classifications of human groups related to socially constructed beliefs about the group's descent.**
  - **Both are usually hierarchical & externally imposed, although ethnicity can be more self-identified, fluid and multiple (depending on the socio-political context).**
- **Terms of race/ethnicity to describe specific groups may overlap and differ overtime & depending on contexts.**

# ARE RACE AND ETHNICITY THE SAME?

- **Similarities:**

- Both are classifications of human groups related to socially constructed beliefs about people's descent
- Both are usually hierarchical & externally imposed throughout history, although ethnicity can be more self-identified, fluid and multiple (depending on the socio-political context).
  - e.g., Malaysia, China, Ireland, Western Europe

- **Differences:**

- **Race:** The classification appeals to phenotype differences.
- **Ethnicity:** The classification appeals to shared language/culture and/or national origin.

# **RANGE OF SOCIOLOGICAL WORK ON RACE/ETHNICITY**

- **Disparities across social outcomes**
  - **Residential segregation; socioeconomic, health, criminal justice system and cultural industry inequalities.**
- **Bias / Attitudes / Stereotypes/ Discrimination**
- **Experiences of racial-minority persons**
- **Historical constitution and legacies of racism**

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# Race and sports

- **Kanazawa and Funk 2001**
  - **Viewership of televised NBA basketball games increases with higher participation White players**
  - **Higher advertising revenues of White players -> Explains also the Black-White gap in salary**
  - **Explanations?**
- **Foy and Roy 2020**
  - **Skin-tone differences in in-game commentary of NCAA men's college basketball**
  - **Mental abilities; performances; physical abilities**

# McMillan Cotton 2019

- **How is the essay's genre and style different than the other readings (except Fanon) we've assigned so far?**
- **What constitutes valuable sociological insights? Personal story-telling or detached "scientific" explorations?**

# NEXT CLASS

- **Colonialism and global racism**
- **Readings**
  - **Fanon [1952] 2008;**
  - **Dixon & Telles 2016**