

November 9, 2023

Dear editor,

We would like to submit the enclosed paper, “Race Science in Mainstream Psychology, 1960-2010,” for consideration by *Nature Human Behavior*. The paper uses a combination of bibliometric data and a text mining method (topic modeling) to examine the prevalence of race science — defined as scientific and/or pseudoscientific research that can be utilized to (purportedly) justify racial inequality and colonialism — across a fringe journal (*Mankind Quarterly*) and five mainstream journals in behavioral science (psychology, behavior genetics, cognitive science), over the time period 1960-2010. We find that two mainstream psychology journals, *Intelligence* and *Personality and Individual Differences*, played the most prominent role in publishing a specifically psychological form of race science.

Previous work on the history of race science has generally used qualitative methods, such as archival historiography ¹, interviews ², and manual text coding ³. Our use of computational methods enables us to cover a broader scope, detecting the presence of race science within a corpus of about 34,000 documents. Between the use of emerging computational methods, the multidisciplinary scope of the corpus, and a general interest in understanding the history of scientific racism across the social/behavioral/human sciences, we believe the manuscript will be of interest to many readers of *Nature Human Behavior*.

We note that the text of the Discussion section departs from a posture of strict neutrality on the legitimacy of scientific racism. We have tried to avoid excessive editorializing, but colleagues who read a draft of the manuscript encouraged us to make our value commitments explicit and offer a constructive path forward. If you or the reviewers judge that this section goes too far in these respects, we would greatly appreciate the opportunity to rework this section.

No related manuscripts are currently under review at any other journal. A paper on the package used for topic modeling has been posted on the arXiv ⁴.

No presubmission inquiry was submitted to *Nature Human Behavior*.

¹ e.g., John P. Jackson Jr., *Science for Segregation: Race, Law, and the Case Against Brown V. Board of Education* (NYU Press, 2005).

² Aaron Panofsky, *Misbehaving Science: Controversy and the Development of Behavior Genetics* (Chicago, IL: University of Chicago Press, 2014).

³ Donovan Adams and Marin Pilloud, “The (Mis)Appropriation of Biological Anthropology in Race Science and the Implications for Forensic Anthropology,” *Forensic Anthropology*, December 30, 2021, <https://doi.org/10.5744/fa.2021.0010>.

⁴ Daniel J. Hicks, “Tmfast Fits Topic Models Fast” (arXiv, May 2, 2023), <http://arxiv.org/abs/2305.01535>.

Author information for anonymous review:

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Acknowledgments text:

Thanks to Emily Merchant and John Jackson for some initial discussions that helped clarify the scope of the project and identify some key resources related to the Pioneer Fund and *Mankind Quarterly*. Thanks to Anthony Sainez for help retrieving the *Mankind Quarterly* articles. Thanks to Derek Devnich and James Dooley for their work attempting to secure the APA-published articles. Thanks to Kevin Bird, John Jackson, and Manuela Fernández Pinto for comments on a draft of this paper.

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Author contributions: DJH (conceptualization, data curation, formal analysis, investigation, methodology, project administration, software, validation, visualization, writing-original draft, writing-review & editing); EJCL (conceptualization, methodology, software, validation, visualization, writing-original draft, writing-review & editing)

Competing interests: The authors have no competing interests to declare.

Data and materials availability: Web of Science search results and article fulltext are not publicly available due to intellectual property restrictions. Preprocessed analysis data (document-term counts and article metadata) and analysis scripts are available at *[doi to be filled in at acceptance]*.

Excluded reviewers: Kevin Bird (UC Davis), John P. Jackson, Jr. (Michigan State), and Manuela Fernández Pinto (Universidad de los Andes, Colombia) provided comments on a draft of this manuscript.

Suggested reviewers:

- Aaron Panofsky: history and sociology of behavior genetics, esp. regarding race science (UCLA, apanofsky@ucla.edu)
- Emily Klancher Merchant: history of eugenics (UC Davis, ekmerchant@ucdavis.edu)
- Christophe Malaterre: computational methods in history and philosophy of science, esp. topic modeling (UQAM, malaterre.christophe@uqam.ca)
- Charles Pence: computational/digital humanities methods in history and philosophy of science (UCLouvain, charles@charlespence.net)
- Andrew Winston: history of race science, esp. in psychology (Univ. Guelph, awinston@uoguelph.ca)

Sincerely,
Daniel J. Hicks
Emilio J.C. Lobato