

Philosophy 3334 Summer 2020
Reading questions #17
Due Fri, June 26

1) Watch Dorothy Roberts' TED talk "The problem with race-based medicine." We know that some diseases occur more frequently in some self-identified racial groups than others. For example, David Reich points out that prostate cancer is 1.7 times more common in African-Americans than European-Americans. On the face of it, this is a reason for doctors to ask their patients what their race is. Does Dorothy Roberts disagree? Does she think that doctors should ask their patients what their race is? Why or why not?

2) Do you believe that there are meaningful average differences among human populations (races)?

David Reich says, "To insist that no meaningful average differences among human populations are possible is harmful. It is perceived as misleading, even patronizing, by the general public. And it encourages people not to trust the honesty of scholars and instead to embrace theories that are not scientifically grounded and often racist."

Do you think he is right about this? What if you change "the general public" to "Texas Tech undergraduates"? Does that make a difference?

3) After watching the video and reading the articles, come up with a question that you want answered or a topic that you would like to be discussed. This could be something that the articles forced you think about or it could be something that you thought was particularly confusing in the articles.