

'Race', Forensics and the Politics of Prediction

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Building on previous work

'Mobile Identities and Fixed Categories: Forensic DNA and the Politics of Racialised Data' in Rottenburg, Schramm and Skinner (eds) *Identity Politics After DNA: Re/Creating Categories of Difference and Belonging* (Berghahn 2012)

"'The NDNAD has no ability in itself to be discriminatory" ethnicity and the governance of the National forensic DNA database' *Sociology* 47(5): 976-992 (2013)

(With Amade M'Charek and Katharina Schramm) 'Technologies of Belonging: The Absent Presence of Race in Europe' Special Issue of *Science, Technology & Human Values* 39(4) (2014)

With Amade M'Charek and Katharina Schramm) 'Topologies of Race: Doing Territory, Population and Identity in Europe' *Science, Technology & Human Values* 39(4): 468-487 (2014)

'Race', Forensics and the Politics of Prediction

- NDNAD: talking about race and ethnicity, not talking about racism?
- Third Wave Forensics and 'race': practical and political challenges
- What is happening to 'race'? Datafication and visualization

The racialization of the NDAND:

- in the over-representation of black people in the database population;
- in the classification of all DNA profiles according to ‘ethnic appearance’;
- in the use of profiles for experiments to determine the ethnicity of crime scene DNA;
- in the monitoring and auditing of the database;
- in the focus on race and racism in public debate about the database;
- [NA17 Profiling: match probabilities against racialized reference database.]

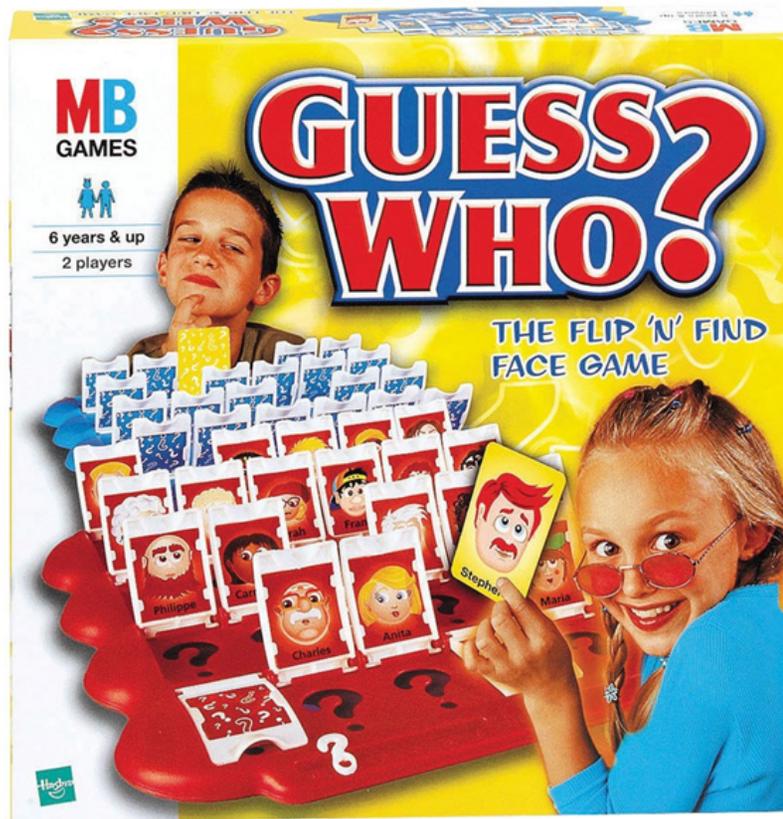
Talking about 'race', not talking about racism?

- Adopt a biomedical model of ethical governance
- Discuss and monitor the problem of overrepresentation
- Question the reliability and suitability of currently available monitoring data
- Focus on questions of categories and categorization
- Transpose inequality issues to identity issues
- Argue that the disproportionality in the population of the database is a reflection of other inequalities
- Engage with advocacy and community groups

Third wave forensics and 'race'

- The dangers of over-selling the science i.e. exaggerating its reliability and utility
- The repurposing of data collected for other reasons.
- The reproduction and reinforcement of existing divisions and inequalities:
 - The practicalities and politics of constructing and using categories.
 - The stigmatization of groups and communities by association
 - The distortion of policing practice e.g. by encouraging racialized offender profiling and dragnets

Example: the politics of guess who?



Lessons from ancestry testing in other contexts

- Dependent on pre-established categories and population groupings
- Open to a variety of (re) interpretations by users and the public
- Sometimes confirms and sometimes confounds lay understandings and ancestry, identity and belonging
- Complex relationship between data and everyday understandings of ethnicity, identity and embodied difference

**See Alondra Nelson,
Catherine Nash, Katharina
Schramm etc.**

The informationalization of 'race'

“ ... information becomes the material by which racial meaning is worked on. As cultural code meets computer code, analogue systems enter the digital world producing new modalities as well as reproducing old ones.” (Peter Chow-White 2009: 221)

The twenty-first century race object

- Emerges out of networked data systems
- Is a bio-social-information hybrid: at once discursive, digital, and corporeal
- Is used alongside continuing debate about the reliability, validity, and ethics of race data
- Is multiple, contingent, and deniable: every expert is a constructionist; every expert engages in 'doubled practice'
- Is topological: it flows, stalls, and translates across multiple sites, institutions, and locations
- Raises new questions about performativity: what is race data for?

Datafication and visualization

- The 'racial-visual' logic of digital culture (Nakamura)
- Large projects of visual data collection, management, and dissemination
- Attempts to make facial identification systematic and scientific e.g. software, 'super recognisers'



The screenshot shows the website of the British Psychological Society. The header includes the logo, the name 'The British Psychological Society', and the tagline 'Promoting excellence in psychology'. There are links for 'How we use cookies', 'Contact details', 'Shop', 'Advertise', and 'Join BPS'. A search bar is also present. The main navigation menu includes 'Home', 'Psychology & the public', 'News', 'What we do', 'Member networks', 'Careers, education & training', 'Publications', 'Events', and 'Jobs'. The 'News' section is active, showing a list of news items: 'BPS News', 'News from The Psychologist', and 'Research Digest'. A sidebar on the left lists 'Most Read' items: 'Subscriptions' (223855 reads), 'Register of Applied Psychology Practice Supervisors' (193922 reads), and 'Raising awareness of adult autism' (96137 reads). The main content area features an article titled 'How to recognise the super-recognisers' dated 30/08/2012. The article text states: 'Some police officers are far better than others at recognising people glimpsed in CCTV footage, research presented at a Society Conference today will show. Dr Josh Davis from the University of Greenwich is speaking about his work at the Annual Conference of the British Psychological Society's Cognitive Psychology Section. The Conference is being held at the Menzies Hotel in Glasgow. Dr Davis and his colleagues Karen Lander and Ray Evans from the University of Manchester have been testing a sample of about 20 officers from the Metropolitan Police who between them have identified around 600 suspects. One officer identified over 180 rioters from August 2011, often depicted in extremely poor footage with faces covered by disguise. The researchers found, from a battery of six tests, that these 'super-identifiers' are better on tests of both familiar face and unfamiliar face recognition than controls, particularly when attempting to name highly degraded celebrity images that were more than 10 years old. Performance was also highly correlated with a second test which required participants to identify from an array of 10 unfamiliar faces a different photograph of a target face'.



London Disorder - Operation Withern

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Operation Withern is investigating the serious disorder and violence that has been affecting parts of London.

Operation Withern's priority is to bring to justice those who have committed violent and criminal acts. As the detailed and thorough investigation progresses we will be issuing photographs of people we want to speak with.

If anyone recognises individuals in the photographs or has any information about the violence and disorder that has occurred they should contact the Major Investigation Team on 020 8345 4142. Alternatively anyone can report crime and provide information anonymously to Crimestoppers on 0800 555 111.

More more information please visit www.met.police.uk

203 張相片, 6 視頻; 518,766 次檢視

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