

Review of: "Facing the Facts About Test Score Gaps"

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The paper does not provide a complete nor thorough review of the clearly relevant literature on the molecular genetics of intelligence, and in particular, why between-group comparisons are in the general case not scientifically sound. The author selectively cites outdated papers on population structure from the early 2000s that support his point of view that self-reported race almost perfectly overlap with self-reported ancestral categories, while ignoring a large body of more recent literature that shows, with better methods and larger data, that the overlap is, in fact, far from perfect (and certainly worse than the cited 0.12% misclassification). None of the lines of evidence presented by the author shows with a causal research design that “the differences in average intelligence test scores between racial groups are partly attributable to genetic variation”, but only provide a selection of weak indirect suggestive evidence, most not even coming from genetics journals but from psychology research. Especially, the argumentation of lines 2.5 and 2.7 is flawed and misportraits the methods, as the author ignores methodological issues like the fact that admixture scores are confounded by environmental circumstances (thus, do not identify independent, orthogonal variation in genetic variants in support of genetic effects), and that polygenic risk scores are not valid for between-group comparisons. Basically any argument given by the author stating that the current public dogma is to selectively ignore evidence can be reapplied to this piece of work.