

# Review of: "Exploring Historical and Contemporary Academic Disparities: A Comparative Study of Black and Non-Black Nova Scotians"

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Potential competing interests: No potential competing interests to declare.

"Exploring Historical and Contemporary Academic Disparities: A Comparative Study of Black and Non-Black Nova Scotians" is a well-written, intelligent treatment of a complex problem. It identifies well the difficulty of comparing Black and non-Black academic achievement, which involves first- and second-generation immigrants with "historical" Black and White populations. It also provides an impressive literature review and results from 19th century and very recent test score data. The article should definitely be published. My one critique is that it is limited to males, which I can understand in the case of the earlier 19th century results, but not for recent results. My suggestion is that--at least for recent results--the authors should provide the female differences, which may be smaller. In addition, it would be worthwhile to provide more information on attainment differences--the paper suggests that these are quite small--how small? Attainment is often a more important indicator of future life success than test scores.