Beverly Daniel Tatum on Teaching Race
Racism as Smog
Smog Affects All of Us
Race Isn't Real
For You, Right Now, How Many Races are There?
Racial Categories are Wildly Inconsistent Across both Time and Space.

The Evolution of Identity

Decade to decade, the U.S. census has changed its classifications of race and ethnicity. Partially, this reflects the growing diversity of the country. It also reveals the nation’s evolving politics and social mores. When the first census was taken in 1790, enumerators classified free residents as white or “other,” while slaves were counted separately. By 1860, residents were classified as white, black or mulatto. Hispanic origin first became a category in 1970. Here are the categories used in the decennial counts from 1860 to 2000, as presented by AmeriStat (www.ameristat.org).

Filipino Hawaiian | Hawaiian | Hawaiian | Hawaiian | Hawaiian | Hawaiian | Hawaiian | Hawaiian | Hawaiian | Hawaiian | Hawaiian | Hawaiian | Hawaiian | Hawaiian | Hawaiian | Hawaiian
Aleut Eskimo | Aleut Eskimo | Aleut Eskimo | Aleut Eskimo | Aleut Eskimo | Aleut Eskimo | Aleut Eskimo | Aleut Eskimo | Aleut Eskimo | Aleut Eskimo | Aleut Eskimo | Aleut Eskimo | Aleut Eskimo | Aleut Eskimo | Aleut Eskimo | Aleut Eskimo
Navajo Other Native | Navajo Other Native | Navajo Other Native | Navajo Other Native | Navajo Other Native | Navajo Other Native | Navajo Other Native | Navajo Other Native | Navajo Other Native | Navajo Other Native | Navajo Other Native | Navajo Other Native | Navajo Other Native | Navajo Other Native | Navajo Other Native |Navajo Other Native
Other | Other | Other | Other | Other | Other | Other | Other | Other | Other | Other | Other | Other | Other | Other | Other
1 In 1860, mulatto was defined as a person who was three-eighths to five-eighths black. A quadroon was one-quarter black and an octoroon one-eighth black.
2 American Indians have been asked to specify their tribe since the 1900 Census. Bold letters indicate first usage since 1860.

NOTE: Before the 1970 Census, enumerators wrote in the race of individuals using the designated categories. In subsequent censuses, respondents or enumerators filled in circles next to the categories with which the respondents identified. Also, beginning with the 1970 Census, people choosing American Indian, other Asian, other race, or for the Hispanic question, other Hispanic categories, were asked to write in a specific tribe or group. Hispanic ethnicity was asked of a sample of Americans in 1970 and of all Americans beginning with the 1980 Census.

Racialization
The one-drop rule or multiraciality?

**HAPA NATION**
States with the highest populations of Americans identifying themselves as “two or more races.”

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>State</th>
<th>Number in millions</th>
<th>% of total state pop.</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Calif.</td>
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<td>4.7</td>
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<tr>
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<td>2</td>
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<tr>
<td>N.Y.</td>
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<tr>
<td>Tex.</td>
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<tr>
<td>Fla.</td>
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<td>2.4</td>
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<tr>
<td>Hawaii</td>
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<tr>
<td>Ill.</td>
<td></td>
<td>1.9</td>
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<tr>
<td>N.J.</td>
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<td>2.5</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Wash.</td>
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<td>3.6</td>
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<tr>
<td>Mich.</td>
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<td>1.9</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Ohio</td>
<td></td>
<td>1.4</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Source: 2000 Census
Chart by Charles M. Blow

**Are Blacks Still a Single Race?**

- Single Race: 53%
- Not a Single Race: 37%
- Neither/Both: 3%
- Don’t Know: 7%

**Question Wording:** Which of these statements comes closer to your view: Blacks today can no longer be thought of as a single race because the black community is so diverse OR Blacks can still be thought of as a single race because they have so much in common.
There are no clear dividing lines in skin color or race in the human population.
Race is a particularly poor predictor of genetic variation.
Myths of Biological Advantage Based on Race
Lumping and Splitting
Figure 10: Poverty Rates for Asian Persons (Percent)

- Total Asian: 14.0
- Hmong: 63.6
- Cambodian: 42.6
- Lao: 34.7
- Vietnamese: 25.7
- Chinese: 14.0
- Korean: 13.7
- Thai: 12.5
- Asian Indian: 9.7
- Japanese: 7.0
- Filipino: 6.4
- Other Asian: 18.2
Race is not Based on any Biological Fact.

Instead, Race is Socially Constructed.
Socially Constructing Race
Racism isn’t about individual acts of meanness, it is about structural advantages and disadvantages placed on people based on perceptions of their race.
Figure 2: Share of Population in Poor Areas, Metro and Nonmetro, 2000

- Total Metro
- Total Nonmetro
- Poor Metro
- Poor Nonmetro

Percentage:
- White
- Black
- Hispanic
% of Illicit Drug Users in America*

% of Drug War Prisoners in America**

*Source: SAMHSA 2001 National Household Survey on Drug Abuse

**Source: The Sentencing Project
Number of Sentenced Federal Offenders 1991-2007

Source: Pew Hispanic Center
Racism Without Racists
Colorblind Racism as a Tool for Denying Privilege
Ethnic Options: both the cost and privilege of being “white”
Privilege as Brain Rotting
The Politics of Silencing People
Privilege and Anger
Sample Question

- The following is NOT a good argument for the social construction of race:
  
  a) There are no clear dividing lines in skin color to demarcate race.
  
  b) Racial categories are inconsistent and dependent on time and place.
  
  c) “New” racism relies on cultural acquisition theories, proving that previous racial categories are used less frequently and are replaced by ethnic categories.
  
  d) More genetic variation exists within racial groups than between them.