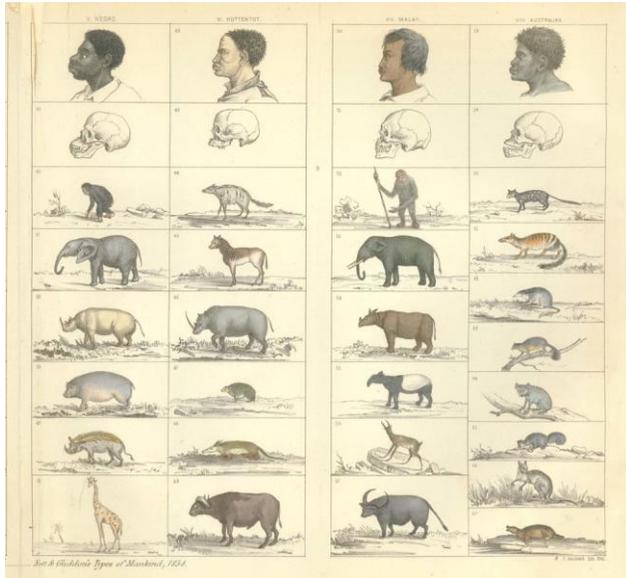


Bad Blood

Introduction Song: Deepwater



Show intro monologue:

Hello Everyone, My name is Rita. Today I decided to focus on the abstraction of scientific racism. Scientific racism involves a lot of unethical practices that were mandated. Some of these practices include Eugenics, Sterilization, IQ test, Medical practices and so forth. I Hope that by sharing this abstraction with you all today. You will understand that scientific racism does exist and that RACE is not an actual thing.

1. Throughout my philosophy of science course, we focused on the interplay between the creation of abstractions and the work that an abstractions does. In this case scientific racism sort of started off with Immanuel Kant, he encouraged the examination of men based on their physical features as a way to explain their behavior, culture, and genetics. He came up with four different categories of race to distinguish who was inferior and superior. He believed that due to environment and climate Blacks, Indigenous, Asians could not progress in society. Whereas he saw Caucasians/Europeans as the highest level of civilization. As a result of his views several elitists adopted his theories. Which is also how slavery came to be such a prominent thing.
2. Science is science. Scientist are trying to make sense of the world but at the same time they are trying to intervene. Science shapes the reality of the world around us. Racist theories gain credibility through scientific racism. Scientific racism is the pseudo scientific study of techniques and hypothesis used to support or justify the belief of racism, racial inferiority or racial superiority it is the practice of classifying individuals of different phenotypes or genotypes into discrete races.

Two of the scientific practices I will focus on are Craniometry and Tuskegee syphilis study.

- ❑ In 1800's Samuel George Morton a physician and scientist collected human skulls around the world. He believed that he could identify racial origin through craniometry. He also believed that by measuring the skulls he could determine their intellectual capacity. What he did was he would take these skulls measure them and develop a chart based on his research. He classified people with the larger skulls with bigger brains which meant they had a higher IQ. whereas people with smaller skulls had smaller brains and low IQ. This study conducted created a complex between those who are inferior and those who are superior. This research is a prime example of what can take a place when racist theories are influenced through science.
- ❑ The second case study, is the Tuskegee Syphilis study took place during 1932 until 1972, The Public Health Service began working with the Tuskegee institute they wanted to research the natural progression of untreated syphilis. They conducted the study on over 300 African American men. How did they get these men to participate? Well first off, its important to note that the participants they choose were poor. The researchers promised to compensate them with treatments, free health care, hot meals and funeral costs. Throughout the entire study these men went without treatment, were told that they were sick with "bad blood", given placebos, aspirin, or mineral supplements. This study is a prime example of how people can be held hostage to medicine, practices, have truth in physicians and experts, and what these institutions real intentions are.

Insert clip 23.34 deadly deception the Tuskegee experiment

Let me shift the conversation a little bit, Brian Blanchfield talked about proxies and its association to science. I thought it would be important to discuss because abstractions and proxies go hand in hand. Now you may be wondering what is a proxy? Well according to Blanchfield a proxy expresses the kind of concession to imprecision in other words it is a failure. In the case of the Tuskegee syphilis study "Bad Blood" is the proxy. I consider it a proxy because the researchers did not tell the participants what "bad blood" actually meant. Yes, it was accurate that they were ill, but they were wrong in not disclosing specifically what that bad blood was.

Insert Clip 24.19 in the document called the deadly deception the tuskegee experiment

3. Recalcitrance is a profoundly creative source of new knowledge. The way science is taught in practice is not actually saying “well we really want our research participants to disobey” because research participants are there to follow the protocol. From filling our questionnaire, to giving scientists the data that they want. Some of the questions to ask are why does better science happen when research participants disobey? What's the value of recalcitrance? Recalcitrance is the unwillingness to obey authority. It is a forceful kickback, that is greatly valued because it allows the ability to reevaluate. It enables knowledge and critique. Recalcitrance is a profoundly even creative source of new knowledge and that is what you call a form of kickback.

In 1972, Fred Gray filed a lawsuit on the public health service and other government institutes. He felt that the victims of the Tuskegee study had an absolute right 1. to know what the study was 2. To know that they were not being treated (he felt that they had every right to know what was wrong with them). 3. The researchers should have given a choice on consensus to the participants so that they could decide whether or not they wanted to be involved in the study.

When it came to the science community, there was controversy among them. Some felt as though it was important to inform the past participants of the truth behind the study. While on the opposition scientists felt like what was done was done and telling the participants forty years later would only bring more pain and make matters worse.

Craniometry and the Tuskegee study are just two examples of scientific racist practices. It created a distrust among African Americans with white physicians. On the other hand, it brought about security for experimental subjects and consent forms are now compulsory.

Controversial research programs, unethical experimentation, and human trials have all been a part of science and the medical field for centuries. It is important that we as humans do not mistake abstractions with facts. Scientists with questionable ethics have gotten away with a lot in the name of science.

15:25 in the document called the deadly deception the tuskegee experiment

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