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Book reviews

What's the Use of Race? Modern Governance and the Biology of Difference. Edited by Ian Whitmarsh & David S. Jones. Pp. 303. (MIT Press, Cambridge, MA, USA, 2010.) £16.95, ISBN 978-0-262-51424-8, paperback. doi:10.1017/S0021932011000101.

By enabling precise documentation of human variation at the genomic level, recent advancements in genetics – and science more broadly – have enlivened race as a social, legal and medical construct. With a focus on nation-states, *What's the Use of Race* explores the problems and possibilities of enlisting genetics and race in projects of governance. The book emphasizes that the penetration of genetics and race into diverse institutions demands critical reflection, particularly given the historical misuse of race in social and public policy. Complementing past descriptive work on race in the era of genomics, *What's the Use of Race* strives to provide normative analyses, focusing on how race should be used in specific contexts. As the book explores these issues, the complexity of the nexus of genetics, race and governance becomes readily apparent, underscoring the editors' decision not to provide an overarching, normative framework.

The book, composed of twelve chapters, is organized into three thematic sections. The first section, 'Ruling', focuses on law and regulation, and takes a close look, in particular, at the incorporation of genetic technologies into the legal system. The second section, 'Knowing', discusses large-scale biomedical projects, documenting how race is enacted and employed in scientific research. And the third section, 'Caring', examines the use of racial categories – in the clinic, medical education and research – in efforts to address outstanding health inequities. The book begins with an introduction that provides an overview of the recent reinvigoration of race, and that sets the foundation for the subsequent sections, arguing the pertinent spheres of governance are ethically required to attend to difference. Finally, the book closes with a discussion about race as a key element in contemporary constructions of the biocitizen.

What's the Use of Race is an accessible and insightful contribution to the growing literature on race in the era of genomics. Simon M. Outram and George T.H. Ellison offer a comprehensive account of ongoing debates about the use of racial categories in science. Several of the chapters, moreover, provide pithy introductions to larger bodies of work developed over the last several years. Steven Epstein, for example, provides an introduction to his 'inclusion-and-difference paradigm', and Nancy Krieger outlines her 'ecosocial theory', replete with relevant findings. And given the international character of genomic initiatives, the inclusion of articles on Canada and the United Kingdom is laudable.

While the book brings together chapters on a range of important – and, in some cases, neglected – topics, highlighting the particularity of each situation, it would benefit from a more robust discussion about normative considerations. While an

overarching, normative framework might lack the nuance these issues demand, perhaps a discussion about guiding principles or ends would prove useful. How does one, after all, determine the benefits and harms of a particular application of race in governance? Moreover, with the widespread presence of genetics and race in other spheres (e.g. commercial, transnational), a comprehensive introduction to this field would require supplementary reading. Despite these caveats, *What's the Use of Race* is recommended reading for students, medical and legal practitioners, researchers and others hoping to better understand the promises and dangers of race in contemporary society.

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Technologized Images, Technologized Bodies. Edited by Jeanette Edwards, Penny Harvey & Peter Wade. Pp. 262. (Berghahn Books, Oxford, 2010.) £55.00, ISBN 978-1-84545-664-1, hardback. doi:10.1017/S0021932011000344.

Engaging readers with the ways that visualization technologies are crafted, used and imbued with meaning, *Technologized Images, Technologized Bodies* asks how ethnography can explore the issues that arise at the interface between the body and technology. The central themes of the book are how the body is 'mediated, imaged and imagined' in an increasingly digital era, and how new forms of data production and visualization give rise to new forms of embodiment, sociality and power. In their introduction, the editors situate these topics amongst other anthropological investigations of how changes in subjectivity are linked to developments in the biological and informational sciences, referring to seminal works by Paul Rabinow, Nikolas Rose, Donna Harraway and Michel Foucault.

The book begins with an introduction by the editors, who give an overview of works included in the book, and also a discussion of how the works relate to other social science studies of visualization technologies and the body. The book then continues, in the next eight chapters, with specific ethnographic accounts of visualization technologies by various authors. These chapters discuss the configuration of visualization technologies relative to technologized bodies in a variety of biomedical contexts, including a science museum exhibit of the brain (by Anne Lorimer), a gastroenterology ward in India (by Stefan Ecks) and a laboratory employing techniques of cryobiology and cell culture (by Hannah Landecker). The most notable works, in terms of the ethnographic complexity, include Joseph Dumit's discussion of the grammar of the 'at risk' body that emerges in direct-to-consumer advertisements for depression pharmacotherapy, Simon Cohn's account of how MRI brain scans of mental disorders are produced and imbued with different meanings for doctors and patients, and Griet Scheldeman's exploration of the way insulin pumps impact and configure the lived world of disease for children with diabetes. These three chapters succeed in providing a particularly detailed and contextual analysis of the meanings about the body and health that emerge from pharmaceutical advertisements, MRI brain scans and insulin pumps.