

A Dangerous Idea

Eugenics, Genetics and The American Dream



**A DANGEROUS IDEA
Eugenics, Genetics and The American Dream**

USA England – 102 Minutes – Color

Director / Producer: Stephanie Welch

Executive Producer: Mary R. Morgan

Producers: Andrew Kimbrell, Jed Riffe, Bertram Verhaag

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Logline: “A DANGEROUS IDEA” (35 Words)

“A Dangerous Idea” tells the untold story of how scientists and policymakers conspired to roll back gains toward race, class and gender equality, based on the mistaken belief that genes make us who we are.

Short Synopsis: “A DANGEROUS IDEA” (549 Words)

“A Dangerous Idea” tells the story of how powerful forces use biology as a social weapon to stall the advancement of equality and maintain the status quo. Claims about discoveries of genes for intelligence, poverty and crime offer pseudoscientific explanations for rising rates of inequality and discrimination. At the basis of this deception is the widespread belief that genes make us who we are. The film shows the harm inflicted by the concept of the gene and reveals how science demonstrates there are no biological barriers to a more equal society.

The concept of the gene came about during the Gilded Age. Scientists believed there was a powerful unit of heredity that determines our traits. The gene became the theoretical basis for a social movement that would influence American policy for decades: Eugenics. Headed by biologist Harry Laughlin at the Cold Spring Harbor Laboratory, eugenicists sought to improve the American population through a variety of “genetic” tools.

Among these tools was the sterilization of those deemed “genetically defective” in order to halt the proliferation of bad genes. **“A Dangerous Idea”** exposes how the eugenics movement began a 65-year forced sterilization program that—with the sanction of the Supreme Court—robbed over 60,000 of Americans of their ability to bear children. Laughlin and his associates also sought to purify the American gene pool by restricting immigration. Congress’s decision to obstruct the entry of Southern and Eastern Europeans in 1924 was greatly influenced by Laughlin’s claims. He falsely argued that, based on their IQ test scores, these groups were genetically unintelligent and should be barred from the U.S.

In 1953, James Watson and Francis Crick’s discovery of the structure of DNA spurred a “new genetics” that provided the basis for another wave of eugenics. The Nixon Administration used unsubstantiated claims about genetics to roll back gains made during the “Great Society” era and cut funding for Head Start education programs. The film also uncovers the Nixon Administration’s quiet reversal of a ban on federally funded sterilizations. Beginning in the early 1970s, hundreds of thousands of poor women—Native Americans, Latinas and African Americans in particular—were sterilized through coercion or without their knowledge at clinics originally created to provide poor families with access to voluntary birth control.

In the last decades of the 20th century, the Human Genome Project and investments in biotechnology helped to firmly establish the gene myth in the American imagination. A surprising scientific revelation brought about by the completion of the genome project itself finally proves that the concept of a “gene” has lost its meaning. The film concludes

with a cautionary note: the gene myth persists because there is a conspiracy of silence among many top scientists about the gains made by science to overturn the concept of the gene. Careers are at stake, as well as billions in research grant funding. Politically, the gene myth is more important than ever, as the country reels from the effects of social and economic inequality not seen since the Gilded Age.

The film unfolds through a weave of archival footage, compelling and original graphics, and interviews with a number of characters including highly regarded activists Van Jones and Robert Reich, sociologist Troy Duster, and renowned scientists Ruth Hubbard, Evelyn Fox Keller, Richard Lewontin, Agustin Fuentes and Robert Pollack.

Long Synopsis: “A DANGEROUS IDEA” (1092 Words)

“A Dangerous Idea” tells the story of how powerful forces use biology as a social weapon to stall the advancement of economic and social equality and maintain the status quo. Claims about discoveries of genes for intelligence, poverty and crime offer pseudoscientific explanations and justifications for rapidly rising rates of inequality and discrimination. The widespread belief that genes make us who we are is a deeply ingrained, convenient fiction that benefits the privileged and powerful. **“A Dangerous Idea”** shows the great injustices and human tragedies that have been perpetrated in the name of the “gene” over the last century. However, it ends with an empowering message as it reveals current discoveries in science, which demonstrate there are no biological barriers to a more equal society.

Throughout American history, efforts to advance equality have always been challenged by claims that there are genetic differences between genders, races and economic classes, and that programs intended to equalize social conditions are doomed to failure. Scientists and wealthy elites used biology to attempt to justify slavery, the destruction of Native American peoples, and the subjugation of women.

At the turn of the 20th Century as unregulated industrial capitalism created vast fortunes for families such as the Rockefellers and Carnegies, it also created mass poverty, child labor, increased crime, and unsanitary, overcrowded urban conditions. A theory was needed to justify the unprecedented inequality of this “Gilded Age.” It was at this time that the concept of the gene arose. The captains of industry used the concept to claim that evolution had given them superior genes, which enabled them to succeed and that the exploited and poor were in their social positions because they had inferior genetics.

The use of pseudo-scientific theories to blame the victim of the powerful continues to this day. The film tells the story of Steven Thomas, who was poisoned by lead paint when he was three and suffers from severe developmental problems caused by this toxin. When his family sued the lead pigment industry, company lawyers argued that Steven has difficulty learning because he inherited inferior intelligence genes from his family. The jury ruled in favor of the industry and its “gene” defense.

The gene became the theoretical basis for the American eugenics movement, led by biologist Harry Laughlin at the Cold Spring Harbor Laboratory in New York. Laughlin and other eugenicists sought to improve the American population through a variety of “genetic” tools, including segregation of “the unfit” to prevent them from reproducing; restricting

immigration to prevent the “deterioration” of American racial Nordic stock; and sterilizing the “genetically defective” to stop the proliferation of bad genes.

“A Dangerous Idea” exposes how the eugenics movement began a 65-year forced sterilization program that robbed hundreds of thousands of Americans of their ability to bear children, all based on their supposed genetic inferiority. The Supreme Court upheld Laughlin’s model law and provided the legal basis for the sterilization of more than 60,000 citizens against their will.

Laughlin also testified as an expert witness in Congress when they set racial quotas on immigration in 1924. Their decision to restrict the entry of Southern and Eastern Europeans, particularly Jewish immigrants, was greatly influenced by Laughlin. He claimed that IQ test scores showed these groups were genetically unintelligent and should be prevented from entering the country.

The movie shows how Laughlin and many of his colleagues were enthusiastic supporters of the Third Reich. The first sterilization laws passed after Hitler took power were based on Laughlin’s model law. The Nazis were so appreciative of Laughlin’s contribution that they awarded him and several other American eugenicists honorary degrees, which were gratefully accepted. In 1939, when it was clear that Jewish people were being persecuted by the Nazis, Laughlin and a coalition of eugenicists successfully lobbied against a bill that would have allowed the racial quotas to be relaxed, and to let in 20,000 German Jewish children who had foster families ready to take them in. Facing opposition from 100 nativist organizations, the bill never made it out of committee. Ninety percent of German children perished in the Holocaust. It was also the rejection by the United States and other countries of the supposedly inferior Jews that provided the Nazis with an added rationale for the Holocaust.

After the horrors of World War II, human genetics temporarily fell out of favor. But James Watson and Francis Crick’s discovery of the structure of DNA spurred a “new genetics” that provided the basis for another wave of eugenics.

“A Dangerous Idea” also reveals for the first time in any film the history of how the Nixon Administration reversed a ban on federally funded sterilizations, and then purposefully withheld guidelines to clinics that would have ensured informed consent of those being sterilized. This action resulted in hundreds of thousands of poor people -- especially Native American and African American women -- being sterilized through coercion or without their knowledge. Utilizing some newly released tapes from the Nixon White House, the film shows how this second wave of mass sterilizations in the U.S. was based in the eugenic thinking of Nixon himself and others in his senior staff.

In the film, North Carolinian Elaine Riddick tells her story of being sterilized without her knowledge and against her will in 1968 when she was 14, based on the claim that she had inherited inferior genes from her parents that made her “feeble-minded”. Social workers decided she would become an alcoholic and thus unfit to reproduce.

In the last decades of the 20th century, the Human Genome Project and investments in biotechnology helped to firmly establish the gene in the American imagination. A surprising scientific revelation brought about by the completion of the genome project

itself finally proves that the concept of a “gene” has lost its meaning, and that the claim that genes determine what we are cannot possibly be the case.

The film concludes with a cautionary note: The gene myth continues because there is a conspiracy of silence among many top scientists about the new science. Careers are at stake, as well as billions in research grant funding. Politically, **“A Dangerous Idea”** is more important than ever, as the country reels from the effects of social and economic inequality we haven’t seen since the Gilded Age.

The film unfolds through a weave of archival footage, compelling and original graphics, and interviews with a number of characters including highly regarded activists Van Jones and Robert Reich, sociologist Troy Duster, and renowned scientists Ruth Hubbard, Evelyn Fox Keller, Richard Lewontin, Agustin Fuentes and Robert Pollack.

Artistic Treatment & Style: “A DANGEROUS IDEA” (266 Words)

“A Dangerous Idea” deals with the interconnections of complex topics within the arena of science, history and politics. This complexity offered an opportunity to develop innovative ways of telling a far-reaching and important cultural story that has profound consequences.

We crafted a unique visual style, emphasizing how, as Mark Twain remarked, “History doesn’t repeat itself, but it does rhyme.” Design elements interwoven with interviews and archival material present a new reading of social issues that include immigration, welfare and eugenics. The film relies heavily on intertextuality transforming prior texts—headlines, documents, and quotes—to illustrate how the topics remain relevant today. Composite images and posterized hand colored photographs appropriated from earlier times are presented in a graphic novel non-fiction format. The sequential images in this approach give life to a history that strikes a familiar chord even today.

The story of the century-long “gene myth” is told through archival moving images, electronic media, contemporary graphic elements and original animation. This multi-layered approach guides viewers toward a crucial understanding of how scientific concepts have often been distorted and misrepresented. Inter-titles introduce each new chapter segment and visually invite the viewer into the next stage of the story. Our aim was to construct a cohesive look of the film that would intrigue the viewer and integrate science with the politically and emotionally significant ideas past to present.

The works of three composers, whose styles underscore various elements of the film, are woven together in a manner similar to that of the visual design. A sound landscape also adds texture to the graphics and animation in **“A Dangerous Idea”**.

Crew Bios



Director / Producer/ Outreach Director Stephanie Welch, trained in film and audio production, and has worked in film production for 15 years. Welch is emerging documentary filmmaker, and led the research, production, archival research, and editing of **"A DANGEROUS IDEA"**. She is also an award-winning producer for the Bioneers Radio Series, "Revolution from the Heart of Nature", and co-producer of the radio documentary "Biowars: First Do No Harm," which won an NFCB Silver Reel Award.

Executive Producer Mary R. Morgan is a psychotherapist, an author, an activist, and a donor. She is the Executive Producer of the documentary film **"A DANGEROUS IDEA,"** which busts the myth of the gene and explores the development of genetic determinism and its subsequent erosion of our American values of equality and equal opportunity. Morgan has been an activist and donor in the fields of equal opportunity and equal rights, environmental preservation, safe energy and a sustainable food system. She is a psychotherapist and author specializing in the field of bereavement and twins.



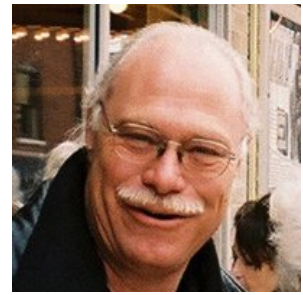
Producer/Writer Andrew Kimbrell is an internationally recognized public interest attorney, public speaker, and author. He is the founder and Executive Director of Center for Food Safety. He also is Director of the San Francisco based Center for Technology Assessment, co-founder of Foundation Earth, and President of the Board of Humane Farm Animal Care (that administers the Certified Humane label).

As an attorney, Kimbrell has successfully challenged federal agencies in several historic court cases. He initiated the court challenge that resulted in a U.S. Supreme Court victory forcing, for the first time, EPA regulation of greenhouse gases and their impact on climate change. He also pioneered the legal strategy that led to the Supreme Court ruling that DNA is not patentable due to being a "product of nature." Through his leadership at CFS, Kimbrell has been at the forefront of legal challenges to genetically engineered crops and lawsuits forcing FDA to adopt new food safety regulations. His legal work has also helped maintain the integrity of organic standards.

As an author and public speaker Kimbrell has been a leading proponent of regenerative forms of agriculture and organic policies. He is the editor of the nationally renowned book *Fatal Harvest, The Tragedy of Industrial Agriculture* and the author of *Your Right to Know: Genetic Engineering and the Secret Changes in Your Food*. Kimbrell's articles and editorials have appeared in *The New York Times*, *Harpers*, *USA Today*, and numerous other print and new media publications such as *The Huffington Post*.

Producer/post-production supervisor/marketing consultant Jed Riffe

is an award-winning film director, interactive producer and transmedia storyteller. Over the last twenty-five years, Riffe produced 11 nationally broadcast public television specials including the four-hour series *California and the American Dream*. He has produced over 150 short (5-15 minute) topic driven videos. He is best known as the director of the award-winning films *Ishi, the Last Yahi, Who Owns the Past?, California's "Lost" Tribes* and the first documentary on the medical marijuana movement *Waiting to Inhale: Marijuana, Medicine and the Law*. Riffe produced two of the four programs in the California and the American Dream series including "Ripe for Change" with Emiko Omori. Riffe recently executive produced *To Chris Marker, An Unsent Letter* and *Smokin' Fish* (PBS).



Riffe produced four interactive projects including the first interactive Africana Studies Center at Merritt College; an interactive multi-cultural history of California for the Oakland Museum and two other interactive media projects for Corporation for Public Broadcasting. Riffe is a 2009 Sundance Institute Documentary Fund Fellow/Alumni. He is honored to have been awarded a Gerbode Fellowship for excellence in non-profit management in 2001.



Final editor Maureen Gosling has been a documentary filmmaker and editor for more than thirty years and is best known for her twenty-year collaboration with acclaimed independent director, Les Blank (*Burden of Dreams, Always for Pleasure*). Gosling has also been sought after as an editor, working with such directors as Jed Riffe (*Waiting to Inhale, California's "Lost" Tribes, Smokin' Fish*), Tom Weidlinger (*Heart of the Congo, A Dream in Hanoi*), Shakti Butler (*The Way Home*), Ashley James (*Bomba: Dancing the Drum*), Amie Williams (*Stripped and Teased*) and Pam Rorke Levy (*The Mission District: The Hidden Neighborhoods of San Francisco*). Her work has often focused on themes of people and their cultural values, music as cultural expression and the changing gender roles of men and women. Her films have been seen in countless film festivals around the world, on national public and cable television, on television in Europe, Australia and Asia, and have been distributed widely to educational institutions.

Gosling's *Blossoms of Fire*, a feature documentary filmed and edited completely on 16mm, represents her debut as a Producer/Director. The film, distributed in the U.S. by New Yorker Films, is a celebratory tribute to the Isthmus Zapotec people of southern Oaxaca, Mexico. *Blossoms of Fire* has garnered rave reviews, charming audiences from San Diego to Marseille. Among its awards, the film won the Coral Award for Best Documentary by a Non-Latino Director about Latin America at the Havana International Film Festival. The film has also been broadcast on HBO Latino, Spanish, Swedish and Maori Television channels.

Gosling's current projects in development as Director/Producer include *No Mouse Music! The Story of Chris Strachwitz and Arhoolie Records* (with Chris Simon) and *Bamako Chic, Women Cloth Dyers of Mali* (with Maxine Downs). Gosling's story of becoming a filmmaker is included in the book for junior high school girls, *You Can Be a Woman Movie Maker*, published by Cascade Pass. The book includes a 15-minute video on DVD entitled *Maureen Gosling, Documentary Filmmaker*.



Editor Sara Maamouri is a documentary filmmaker and editor who has explored a diverse range of topics for over 14 years. Her work has touched on social, educational and political issues, from a teacher and students performing under extraordinary circumstances (*The Music's Gonna Get You Through*, 2010), and former enemies bound together through loss and discovery (*In This Waiting*, 2011) to rebuilding a life in a former war zone (*Amal's Garden*, 2012).

She co-produced and edited *A Revolution in Four Seasons*, which premiered at Hot Docs 2016. The film also received an honorable mention at Margaret Mead Film Festival 2016. Most recently, she edited *Twice Upon A Time*, which premiered at Edinburgh Film Festival and won Best Documentary at the Lebanese Film Festival. A multi-lingual Tunisian educated in New York and California, Ms. Maamouri brings international sensitivity to her editing, production and story development, while building transmedia narratives to enhance and further engage a constantly evolving audience base.

Consulting Producer and Additional Direction - Bertram Verhaag has been making documentaries through his own production company, DENKmal-Film for over 30 years. Those three decades have seen the production of around 140 films, including nine feature-length documentaries. As a producer, author and director, Verhaag has made a long-term commitment to focus exclusively on political, environmental and social issues.

In addition to 14 international awards, one of his best-known films – *Blue Eyed* (1996, 80 min.), about American teacher and anti-racism activist Jane Elliott – earned a nomination from the Academy of Motion Picture Arts and Sciences in Los Angeles as “One Of The Most Outstanding Documentaries Of The Year 1996”.

Over the last ten years, Bertram Verhaag has made nine films exploring aspects of genetic engineering. *Life Running out of Control* (2004, 95 min.) became a go-to work on GMOs within a few months. *Scientists Under Attack – genetic engineering in the magnetic field of money* (2010, 88 min.) is a documentary thriller on genetic engineering and the independence of science. The tenth film, *Code of Survival – or the End of Genetic Engineering*, is currently in production.

Associate Producer Ann Skinner-Jones, is the producer and director of award-winning videos for the educational market, including *The Great Divide* on LGBT rights, and *You Like Totally Have to Talk About It on young people and AIDS*. Her film work deals with creatively managing intractable and polarized issues. She teaches Visual Communication, Nonverbal Communication, Public Speaking and her signature course that is renowned among students, Women and Creativity. Ann teaches studio art classes in photography, film, and painting. She holds an MFA from the Art Institute in San Francisco, and an MA in Art Education from the University of New Mexico.

Cast Bios

Van Jones

Van Jones is a CNN political contributor, regularly appearing across the network's programming and special political coverage. Jones is a Yale-educated attorney. He is the author of two *New York Times* best-selling books, *The Green Collar Economy* (2008) and *Rebuild the Dream* (2012). The second book chronicles his journey as an environmental and human rights activist to becoming a White House policy advisor. He was the main advocate for the Green Jobs Act. Signed into law by George W. Bush in 2007, the Green Jobs Act was the first piece of federal legislation to codify the term "green jobs." During the Obama Administration, the legislation has resulted in \$500 million in national funding for green jobs training.



In 2009, Jones worked as the green jobs advisor to President Barack Obama. In this role, Jones helped to lead the inter-agency process that oversaw the multi-billion dollar investment in skills training and jobs development within the environmental and green energy sectors. Jones has been honored with numerous awards and spotlighted on several lists of high achievers, including: the World Economic Forum's "Young Global Leader" designation; Rolling Stone's 2012 "12 Leaders Who Get Things Done"; TIME's 2009 "100 Most Influential People in The World"; and the Root's 2014 "The Root 100." He is presently a fellow at the MIT Media Lab.

Barry Commoner



A renowned cellular biologist, Barry Commoner helped initiate the modern environmental movement. In the early 1950s, Commoner—then a professor at Washington University in St. Louis—became concerned about radioactive fallout spreading from nuclear-weapons tests in the Nevada desert. Finding that much of the data from the tests remained classified, he saw the need for citizen access to information about the results' implications for the environment. This led to the formation of the St. Louis Committee for Nuclear Information (CNI). Disputing the official government position that nuclear testing posed little health risk to humans, a CNI analysis of children's baby teeth demonstrated that such testing caused radioactive buildup in humans. This determination was one of the factors that led to the 1963 nuclear test-ban treaty, which phased out atmospheric testing. As Commoner's concerns broadened, he studied issues such as pollution and ozone-layer depletion and advocated the use of solar and other types of renewable energy. In 1970, a *Time* magazine cover story dubbed him "the Paul Revere of Ecology" for his early leadership in the field.

Commoner received his degree in zoology with honors from Columbia in 1937 and earned his doctorate from Harvard in 1941. In 1966, he established at Washington University the Center for the Biology of Natural Systems to study man's relationship with the environment. In 1981 the center moved to Queens College of the City University of New York, and Commoner now serves as a senior scientist and director emeritus. In 1980, he ran for president under the banner of the Citizens' Party. He has written nine books, including *The Closing Circle* (1971), one of the first books to point out the high environmental costs associated with American technological development.

Robert Reich

Robert B. Reich is Chancellor's Professor of Public Policy at the University of California at Berkeley and Senior Fellow at the Blum Center for Developing Economies. He served as Secretary of Labor in the Clinton administration, for which Time Magazine named him one of the ten most effective cabinet secretaries of the twentieth century. He has written fourteen books, including the best sellers "Aftershock," "The Work of Nations," and "Beyond Outrage," and, his most recent, "Saving Capitalism." He is also a founding editor of the American Prospect magazine, chairman of Common Cause, a member of the American Academy of Arts and Sciences, and co-creator of the award-winning documentary, *INEQUALITY FOR ALL*.



Ignacio Chapela



Ignacio Chapela is an Associate Professor of Microbial Ecology at the University of California, Berkeley. He is also a Senior Researcher at GenØk, the National Center for Biosafety, Norway. Ignacio has worked as a biologist at various levels of commitment with a large range of institutions including: indigenous communities in Latin America, public education and public research institutions (in Mexico, Wales, the US, Norway, Costa Rica and Venezuela), private industry (in Switzerland), public policy national and multinational bodies (UNDP, Panamerican Health Organization, World Bank), and multiple foundations and think-tanks. In ecology, he is committed to the synecological approach to story-telling, just as he is committed to the local approach to ecological policy-making. How to perform synecological research on microbes seems to have been his life-long occupation.

James LeFanu

James Le Fanu was born in 1950 and spent his childhood in Scotland, East Africa, Yugoslavia and Cyprus. He studied the Humanities at Ampleforth College before switching to medicine, graduating from Cambridge University and the Royal London Hospital in 1974. He subsequently worked in the Renal Transplant Unit and Cardiology Departments of the Royal Free and St Mary's Hospital in London. For the past twenty years he has combined working as a doctor in general practice with contributing a weekly column to the Sunday and Daily Telegraph. He has contributed articles and reviews to



The New Statesman, Spectator, GQ, The British Medical Journal and Journal of the Royal Society of Medicine. He has written several books including *'The Rise and Fall of Modern Medicine'* that won the Los Angeles Prize Book Award in 2001 and *'Why Us?: How Science Rediscovered the Mystery of Ourselves'* that was published in Britain and the United States in February 2009.

He has made original contributions to current controversies over the value of experiments in human embryos, environmentalism, dietary causes of disease and the misdiagnosis of Non Accidental Injury in children. He is married to the publisher Juliet Annan, has two children Frederick and Allegra, and lives in south London.

Robert Pollack



Dr. Robert Pollack is an American biologist who studies the intersections between science and religion. He currently works at Columbia University, where he serves as the director of the University's Center for the Study of Science and Religion and lectures for its Center for Psychoanalytic Training and Research. Additionally, he is a professor of religion at the Union Theological Seminary. From 1982 to 1989 he served as Dean of Columbia College. In addition to teaching, Pollack has authored more than one

hundred reviews, articles, and opinion pieces on molecular biology, medical ethics and science education.

Evelyn Fox Keller

Evelyn Fox Keller received her B.A. from Brandeis University (Physics, 1957) and her Ph.D. from Harvard University (Physics, 1963). She came to MIT from the University of California, Berkeley, where she was Professor in the Departments of Rhetoric, History, and Women's Studies (1988-1992). Professor Keller has taught at Northeastern University, S.U.N.Y. at Purchase, and New York University. She has been awarded numerous academic and professional honors, including most recently the Blaise Pascal Research Chair by the Préfecture de la Région D'Ile-de-France for 2005-07, which she spent in Paris, and elected membership in the American Philosophical Society and the American Academy of Arts and Science. In addition, Professor Keller serves on the editorial boards of various journals including the *Journal of the History of Biology* and *Biology and Philosophy*.



Keller's research focuses on the history and philosophy of modern biology and on gender and science. She is the author of several books, including *A Feeling for the Organism: The Life and Work of Barbara McClintock* (1983), *Reflections on Gender and Science* (1985), *The Century of the Gene* (2000), and *Making Sense of Life: Explaining Biological Development with Models, Metaphors and Machines* (2002). Her most recent book, *The Mirage of a Space Between Nature and Nature*, is now in press.

Richard Lewontin



Richard Lewontin is the Alexander Agassiz Research Professor at Harvard University, a position he took in 2003 after serving for over 20 years as the Alexander Agassiz Professor of Zoology and Professor of Biology at Harvard. He earned his Ph.D. at Columbia University and lectured at numerous universities before joining the Harvard faculty in 1973. Lewontin was a key figure in forming the “Modern Synthesis” which was the merging of evolutionary theory with techniques from molecular biology to bring evolutionary biology into the realm of modern quantitative sciences. His own research has specifically focused on developing a mathematical basis for the study of population genetics. He has also been a leading critic, along with the late Stephen J. Gould, of the “Adaptationist Program,” authoring many articles and books warning of its oversimplification of the description of evolved behaviors through adaptation and natural selection. Professor Lewontin has won many prestigious awards and fellowships including the Fulbright Fellowship (1961), the National Science Foundation’s Postdoctoral Fellowship (1961), the Sewel Wright Awards for the American Society of Naturalists (1994) and he is a former member of the National Academy of Sciences.

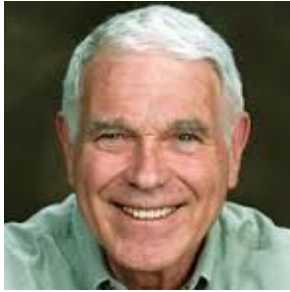
Ruth Hubbard

Ruth Hubbard was born in Austria and escaped Nazism as a teenager. She and her family moved to the Boston area where she started her career as a biologist. From the 1940's to the 1960's, she made important contributions to the understanding of the biochemistry and photochemistry of vertebrates and invertebrates. In 1967, she won the Paul Karrer Medal with her husband, George Wald for their work in this area. Ruth Hubbard was the first woman to be awarded a tenured biology professorship at Harvard University.



Ruth Hubbard is best known for her brilliant and courageous challenges to colleagues who promote sociobiology. The distinguished geneticist Richard Lewontin says, “No one has been a more influential critic of the biological theory of women's inequality than Ruth Hubbard.” Hubbard has written several books and articles for both scholarly journals and popular magazines on these issues. She has encouraged other scientists to question the validity of their profession's paradigms regarding gender issues. Her excellent grounding in the technical, philosophical, and sociological aspects of biology have compelled her colleagues to question their assumptions and even rethink their theories. Ruth Hubbard not only encourages female peers to move ahead in their careers, but has inspired laywomen to become scientifically literate.

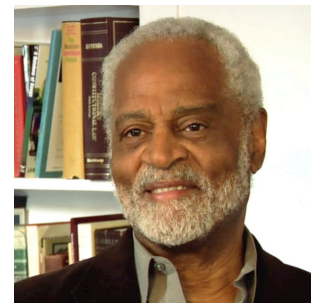
Garland Allen



Allen is a historian of science. The major focus of his present research is on the history of genetics and its relationship to eugenics and agriculture in the United States between 1900 and 1950. In addition to an interest in Mendelian genetics, agriculturists and eugenicists also believed that the principles of animal and plant breeding could be applied to managing human evolution. Allen is exploring the funding and institutional base for eugenics: who paid for it, what were their motives, and what was the sort of scientific (genetic) basis for eugenic arguments. The major goal of this work is to place eugenics in its historical context, and to explore its implications for society today.

Troy Duster

Troy Duster is a sociologist with research interests in the sociology of science, public policy, race and ethnicity and deviance. He is a Chancellor's Professor of Sociology at UC Berkeley and professor of sociology and director of the Institute for the History of the Production of Knowledge at New York University. He contributed to *White-Washing Race: The Myth of a Color-blind Society*. He is the grandson of civil rights activist Ida B. Wells-Barnett.



Oliver James



Oliver James is a Chartered Psychologist, registered with the British Psychological Society. He is registered as a Psychotherapist with the John Bowlby Centre and works as a psychodynamic psychotherapist in London and on Skype. Since 1988, he has worked as a writer, journalist (with columns in most of the national newspapers over the years). He writes primarily for the Guardian and Observer. He has had a career as a broadcaster and television documentary producer and presenter.

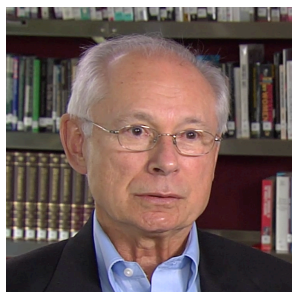
Agustín Fuentes

Agustín Fuentes completed a B.A. in Zoology and Anthropology, and an M.A. & Ph.D. in Anthropology at the University of California, Berkeley, and is currently a Professor of Anthropology at the University of Notre Dame. His current foci include cooperation and bonding in human evolution, ethnoprimateology and multispecies anthropology, evolutionary theory, and public perceptions of, and interdisciplinary approaches to, human nature(s). Fuentes' recent books include "Evolution of Human Behavior" (Oxford University Press, "Centralizing Fieldwork: Critical Perspectives from Primatology, Biological and Social Anthropology" (Co-edited, Berghahn press), "Biological Anthropology: concepts and



connections" (McGraw-Hill), "Monkeys on the Edge: ecology and management of long-tailed macaques and their interface with humans" (co-edited, Oxford University Press), and the forthcoming "Race, Monogamy, and other lies they told you: busting myths about human nature" (UC Press). Key recent articles include "Naturecultural Encounters in Bali: Monkeys, Temples, Tourists, and Ethnoprimatology" in *Cultural Anthropology* and "The New Biological Anthropology: Bringing Washburn's New Physical Anthropology into 2010 and beyond" in the *Yearbook of Physical Anthropology*. Current research projects include the ethnoprimatology of Singapore, interdisciplinary approaches to understanding human nature(s), and an evaluation of the roles of cooperation, community, and niche construction in human evolution.

Joseph J. Levin



Joseph J. Levin, Jr. co-founded the Southern Poverty Law Center in 1971. As legal director from 1971 to 1976, Levin worked on more than 50 major civil rights cases. He argued the landmark sex discrimination case *Frontiero vs. Richardson*, in which the U.S. Supreme Court struck down a federal law giving preferences to men in the military. In 1976, Levin joined the Carter administration, supervising the Justice Department's transition team before serving as special assistant to the attorney general and then as chief counsel for the National Highway Traffic Safety Administration. In 1979, he entered private practice in Washington, D.C., but continued his association with the SPLC by serving as its board chairman until 2003. Levin was also president of the SPLC from 1996 to 2003, when he became general counsel. He served as a board member from 1971 until 2009.

William H. Tucker

William H. Tucker is an American professor of psychology at Rutgers University and the author of several books critical of race science. Tucker received his bachelor's degree from Bates College in 1967, and his master's and doctorate from Princeton University. He joined the faculty at Rutgers University in 1970 and has been there since. Tucker a Psychometric Fellow for three years at Princeton, a position subsidized by Educational Testing Service.



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The majority of Tucker's scholarship has been about psychometrics, not in it. He currently sits on the advisory board of the Institute for the Study of Academic Racism. He has written critical commentaries on several hereditarian psychologists known for their controversial work on race and intelligence. He has received awards for his research on Cyril Burt and the Pioneer Fund.

According to his website, "My research interests concern the use—or more properly the misuse—of social science to support oppressive social policies, especially in the area of race. I seek to explore how scientists in general, and psychologists in particular, have become involved with such issues and what effect their participation has produced."

Fidelma Fitzpatrick

Fidelma Fitzpatrick represents people and communities in toxic tort and environmental matters, including property damage and personal injury claims. Her experience with complex civil litigation has led her to represent other victims of corporate malfeasance, including hundreds of women allegedly injured by medical devices such as Essure® and pelvic mesh/sling products.



Jay Joseph



Jay Joseph, PsyD, is a licensed psychologist practicing in the San Francisco Bay Area. Since 1998, he has published many peer reviewed articles and book chapters critically examining genetic theories and research in psychiatry and psychology. His first book, *The Gene Illusion: Genetic Research in Psychiatry and Psychology under the Microscope*, was published by Algora in 2004. His second book, *The Missing Gene: Psychiatry, Heredity, and the Fruitless Search for Genes*, was published in 2006 by Algora. His new book, *The Trouble with Twin Studies: A Reassessment of Twin Research in the Social and Behavioral Sciences* is available from Routledge.

