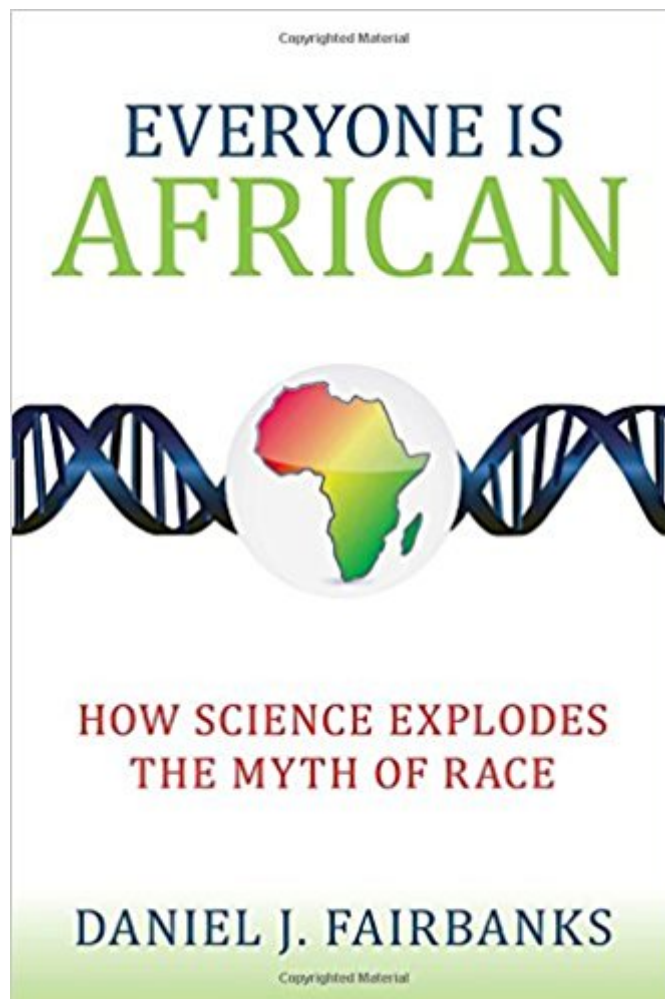




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Everyone Is African: How Science Explodes The Myth Of Race



Synopsis

What does science say about race? In this book a distinguished research geneticist presents abundant evidence showing that traditional notions about distinct racial differences have little scientific foundation. In short, racism is not just morally wrong; it has no basis in fact. The author lucidly describes in detail the factors that have led to the current scientific consensus about race. Both geneticists and anthropologists now generally agree that the human species originated in sub-Saharan Africa and darkly pigmented skin was the ancestral state of humanity. Moreover, worldwide human diversity is so complex that discrete races cannot be genetically defined. And for individuals, ancestry is more scientifically meaningful than race. Separate chapters are devoted to controversial topics: skin color and the scientific reasons for the differences; why ancestry is more important to individual health than race; intelligence and human diversity; and evolutionary perspectives on the persistence of racism. This is an enlightening book that goes a long way toward dispelling the irrational notions at the heart of racism.

Book Information

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Customer Reviews

“Few are aware that the best ammunition against racism comes from modern evolutionary biology and genetics, and this gap in the public understanding of science needs to be closed.” Daniel J. Fairbanks’s small but complete book provides clear explanations of the science behind human variation. I hope it is widely read. • “Eugenie C. Scott, chair of the Advisory Council, National Center for Science Education; author of *Evolution vs. Creationism: An Introduction*” In a masterful synthesis of biological, anthropological, and evolutionary evidence,

this book presents one of the most eloquent, insightful, and compelling arguments against the existence of biological "race." Fairbanks demonstrates that modern notions which seek to justify race and racism aren't just flawed—they're scientifically baseless. This book uncovers the true richness of human variation and the unfolding of the human story over the last 150,000 years. In a world that today seems to be slipping toward greater divisiveness and conflict, *Everyone Is African* unites us in our common ancestry and shared history, providing ways to grapple with the social inventions of race that challenge our society to its core. This book should be required reading . . . for everyone.

—Haagen D. Klaus, assistant professor of anthropology, George Mason University

This is an important book that brings forward an argument that is as clear and cogent as it is timely. Fairbanks reminds us that *Homo sapiens* is a single species whose populations' shared biological histories provide a unifying context for our varied and disparate social narratives. Stressing the differences among us is not only divisive, it's scientifically unjustified.

—Stephen M. Rich, professor of microbiology, University of Massachusetts Amherst

Praise for prior books by Daniel J. Fairbanks: "With so many books on evolution available, this one will definitely give readers a wonderful alternative, one that is easy to read and will be welcome by those both familiar with recent theories and arguments and those new to the area." --NSTA Recommends (reviewing *Evolving*) "One of the most insightful, easy-to-read, popular books on evolution. Highly recommended." --Choice (reviewing *Relics of Eden*)

Daniel J. Fairbanks is the dean of the College of Science and Health at Utah Valley University and a distinguished university professor, research geneticist, artist, and author. He is the author of *Evolving: The Human Effect and Why It Matters*; *Relics of Eden: The Powerful Evidence of Evolution in Human DNA*; and the coauthor (with A. Franklin, A. W. F. Edwards, D. L. Hartl, and T. Seidenfeld) of *Ending the Mendel-Fisher Controversy*, and (with W. R. Andersen) of *Genetics: The Continuity of Life*, in addition to numerous journal articles.

This was an easily accessible survey of recent genomic results describing what we know of human variation, what it tells us about our recent evolutionary past, and how little the variations we focus on for racial and racist discrimination have to do with who we are as humans. I appreciated the effort by a geneticist to write an anthropologically sensitive book. I have three short and relatively simple corrections: 1. On page 74, Nina Jablonsky and George Chaplin are from Penn State (my alma mater), not Penn. No change to the actual information is needed. 2. On page 77, the author says, "Although sickle-cell trait occurs in people with many different ancestral backgrounds, it is most

frequent in people with African ancestry." I would emphasize that this is true in the U.S., but in India it would not be an appropriate statement. It also uses the unfortunate concept of continental ancestry, and sickle cell is completely absent from large swaths of populations that have very long tenures in Africa.³ On page 103 in the discussion of illustrations in Gould's book, *Mismeasure of Man*, the claim is made that they are 18th century drawings, while most of the illustrations, including the most invidious from Nott and Gliddon's *Types of Mankind* come from the 19th century. These are extremely minor points, and do not detract from the overall message of the book.

Everyone should read this, it could really help with what is called "race relations". Since there is only one race - the human race - we should get over ourselves and stop allowing color, religion and national origin to be a problem.

Great book for understanding how the different people groups migrated over time to different areas and how the genetic similarities and mutations can be traced. Does a good job clarifying the existence of race as a social construct and not a genetic construct.

Book is relevant to today's world.

Great

Short book really sets out the evidence that race is more a social construct than a scientific one. Very readable.

Groundbreaking work. Highly recommended.

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