

Series Title: pgEd: Bringing together educators and researchers for conversations about the ethical, legal and social implications (ELSI) of genetics:

Session Title: What Genetic Ancestry Tests Mean (and What They Don't)

Date: Tuesday April 11, 2023 6-7 pm ET [with discussion from 7-7:30 pm ET led by Robin Bowman]

Speakers: Janina Jeff, PhD, MS & Jada Benn Torres, PhD

Moderators: Rob O'Malley, PhD & Nadine Vincenten, PhD

Biographies:

Panelist: Janina Jeff, PhD, MS

Biography: <https://www.iamascientist.info/janina-jeff>

Panelist: Jada Benn Torres, PhD

Biography: <https://my.vanderbilt.edu/benntorres/>

Moderator: Rob O'Malley, PhD

Biography: <https://elsihub.org/directory/robert-c-omalley>

Moderator: Nadine Vincenten, PhD

Biography: <http://pged.org/staff/>

Rob O'Malley, PhD

Link to Personal Genetics Education Project Homepage: <https://pged.org/>

Link to Information Page for “Exploring Difference in the Biology Classroom: How to represent wide-ranging family structures and personal identities using the latest pedigree nomenclature”:
<https://elsihub.org/video/exploring-difference-biology-classroom-how-represent-wide-ranging-family-structures-and>

Link to “Engaging with Genetic Disability and Difference”:
<https://elsihub.org/video/exploring-difference-biology-classroom-engaging-genetic-disability-and-difference>

Janina Jeff, PhD, MS

Link to Dr. Janina Jeff's "In Those Genes" Podcast: <https://inthosegenes.com/>

Jada Benn Torres, PhD

Link to 23andMe: <https://www.23andme.com/>

Link to Ancestry: <https://www.ancestry.com/dna/>

Link to MyHeritage: <https://www.myheritage.com/>

Link to "DNA for the greater good: Should the police have access to consumer DNA databases?" (2019):

<https://geneticliteracyproject.org/2019/06/04/dna-for-the-greater-good-should-the-police-have-access-to-consumer-dna-databases/>

Link to Parabon Snapshot: <https://snapshot.parabon-nanolabs.com/>

Link to Minnie's 23AndMe image:

<https://4.bp.blogspot.com/-6tFl4lPeBOw/VH0MQyNkIMI/AAAAAAAAAbA/gwg03sT23dM/s1600/Minnie's23andme.JPG>

Link to "It's Back, 23andMe Relaunches Its Consumer Gene Test" (2015):

<https://www.kqed.org/futureofyou/55240/its-back-23andme-relaunches-its-consumer-gene-test>

Link to DNA Story for Steven image:

<https://qph.fs.quoracdn.net/main-qimg-981e5fe557e3907291bdf3602687905e>

Link to article - "White Cop Who Says He Was Taunted For Being Part Black Gets \$65k Settlement From City:"

<https://www.ebony.com/white-cop-says-he-was-taunted-for-being-part-black-gets-65k-settlement-from-city/>

Link to article - "A Sergeant Who Learned He's Part Black Says He Faced Racist Taunts at Work:" <https://www.nytimes.com/2017/05/12/us/cleon-brown-black-lawsuit.html>

Link to Cleon Brown v. City of Hastings:

<https://assets1.cbsnewsstatic.com/i/cbslocal/wp-content/uploads/sites/15909782/2017/05/2017-04-11-brown-cleon-ecf-001-plaintiffs-complaint-and-jury-demand.pdf>

Link to “Genetic Ancestry Testing Among White Nationalists: From Identity Repair to Citizen Science” (2019): <https://doi.org/10.1177/0306312719861434>

Link to “White Nationalists Are Flocking to Genetic Ancestry Tests--with Surprising Results” (2017):
<https://www.scientificamerican.com/article/white-nationalists-are-flocking-to-genetic-ancestry-tests-with-surprising-results/>

Link to “How White Nationalists See What They Want to See in DNA Tests” (2019):
<https://www.nytimes.com/2019/07/12/us/white-nationalists-dna-tests.html>

Link to “When White Nationalists Get DNA Tests That Reveal African Ancestry” (2017):
<https://www.theatlantic.com/science/archive/2017/08/white-nationalists-dna-ancestry/537108/>

Additional Resources:

Link to Benn Torres (2021) - Genetic Ancestry: Our Stories, Our Pasts (co-authored with Gabriel A. Torres Colón):
<https://www.routledge.com/Genetic-Ancestry-Our-Stories-Our-Pasts/Torres-Colon/p/book/9780367566401>

Link to Bryc et al (2014): <http://dx.doi.org/10.1016/j.ajhg.2014.11.010>

Link to Benn Torres (2020): <https://doi.org/10.1002/ajpa.23979>

Free pgEd Resources

Find pgEd lesson plans here: <https://pged.org/lesson-plans/>

pgEd’s SNAPSHOTs are bite-size modules students can work through independently in 15-20 minutes. <https://pged.org/educational-resources-for-distance-learning/>

For the latest information on pgEd resources and events, join our mailing list:
<https://pged.us6.list-manage.com/subscribe?u=f35187c0d89a85435fe3981a6&id=50b463345a>

Curricula Related to Ancestry Testing:

“How Does Ancestry Testing Work? Exploring Admixture Testing”: pgEd’s full lesson on the science of genetic ancestry testing includes two animations and an activity, which asks students to play the role of a scientist and interpret a customer’s ancestry test results.
<https://pged.org/lesson-plans/#AncestryTesting>

Alternatively, pgEd offers a SNAPSHOT version of this lesson that students can work through independently in class or for homework: “**Admixture Testing: How Can Your DNA Provide Insights Into Your Ancestry?**” This module can be found on our [SNAPSHOT page](#) or via PBS Learning Media, where it is paired with a clip from *Finding Your Roots*:

<https://mass.pbslearningmedia.org/resource/admixture-testing-video/finding-your-roots-season-seven/>

“**The Common Thread: DNA and Human Variation**”: Students learn what genetic variation is, and consider the questions: How similar are two people’s DNA code? How much do they differ? What does human genetic variation look like across the world? This module can be found on our [SNAPSHOT page](#) or via PBS Learning Media, where it is paired with a clip from *Finding Your Roots*:

<https://mass.pbslearningmedia.org/resource/how-does-ancestry-testing-work-exploring-admixture/finding-your-roots-season-seven-video/>

Ancestry and Identity in the Genomic Age: Genetic ancestry tests can yield results that are surprising, or, warmly welcomed and might fill in missing pieces of a family story. This SNAPSHOT asks students to consider multiple perspectives as they shape their own views on this subject. This module can be found on our [SNAPSHOT page](#) or via PBS Learning Media, where it is paired with a clip from *The Gene: An Intimate History*:

<https://mass.pbslearningmedia.org/resource/e4445b52-18bd-48ab-8baf-c06119cfd33c/ancestry-testing-in-the-genomic-age-media-gallery-ken-burns-the-gene/>

Audience Discussion

Link to “Race, Racism, and Genetics” from the Fred Hutch Cancer Center:

<https://www.fredhutch.org/en/about/education-outreach/science-education-partnership/sep-curriculum/race-racism-genetics.html>

Link to “Afrofuturism Through the Power of the Genome” presented by Dr. Janina Jeff at TEDxFlatbush (2019): <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=mz2ZZJSs-Fo>

Link to “Letters: 23andMe and Your Biodata” (2023):

<https://www.thenation.com/article/economy/letters-23andme-and-your-biodata/>

Link to “46 Chromosomes and a Mule: Falsely Romanticizing Our Complex Genetic Identities for Profit” (2019):

<https://www.theroot.com/46-chromosomes-and-a-mule-falsely-romanticizing-our-co-1834228049>