

Race & Racism (F14)
October 29, 2014

Are Arabs a Race?

For the past two months we have explored different understandings of what *race* is. We have explored naturalist/essentialist, neo-naturalist, social constructionist, and eliminativist accounts. We have also explored some ways that race is related to ethnicity and concepts that attempt to capture a useful way of conceiving the relationship between the two: *ethnorace* (Alcoff) and *panethnicity* (Espiritu), in particular.

Today's reading provided a sketch of the history of how Arabs have been viewed and treated in relation to racial and ethnic discourses. In preparation for our discussion, complete the following questions:

1. Are Arabs a race?

List three criteria that have been used or could be used for claiming that Arabs *are* a race:

1)

2)

3)

2. List three reasons for thinking Arabs, in particular, *are not* a race:

1)

2)

3)

3. Are Arabs an ethnicity? Why or why not?

4. What term(s) would you recommend be used to characterize Arabs as a group (race, ethnicity, ethnorace, panethnicity, none of the above, other, etc.) Why?

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