

The Misuse of Race in Medicine: How The Combination of Society and Doctors is Growing Health Disparity Gaps

Throughout the history of medicine, there has always been a conversation about how race should be used when diagnosing patients. This paper uses research from a variety of medical journals to show that the use of race as a biological factor in diagnosing patients is an improper way to use race in medicine. Through the scholarship of Amutah et al., this paper begins by explaining how medical schools have embedded race as a biological factor into their curricula for future doctors. Then, in tandem with Arline Geronimus's theory of weathering and different studies regarding health disparities in terms of race, this paper continues on to explain how this current use as race as a biological factor is only widening the gap of health disparities. Through the work of various researchers, the theory of weathering is applied to show how negative social interactions have a negative effect on a person's psychological and physiological health. Additionally, the theory of weathering is applied to two personal essays that recount times when African American adolescents and adults have felt failed by the system. Through these examples, the theory of weathering, combined with the arguments highlighted by Amutah et al. and Ioannidis, shows how the use of race as a biological factor is detrimental to the health of society. Finally, this paper wraps up by proposing the next steps that society as a whole must take to lessen the health disparity gaps that have been created over the years.