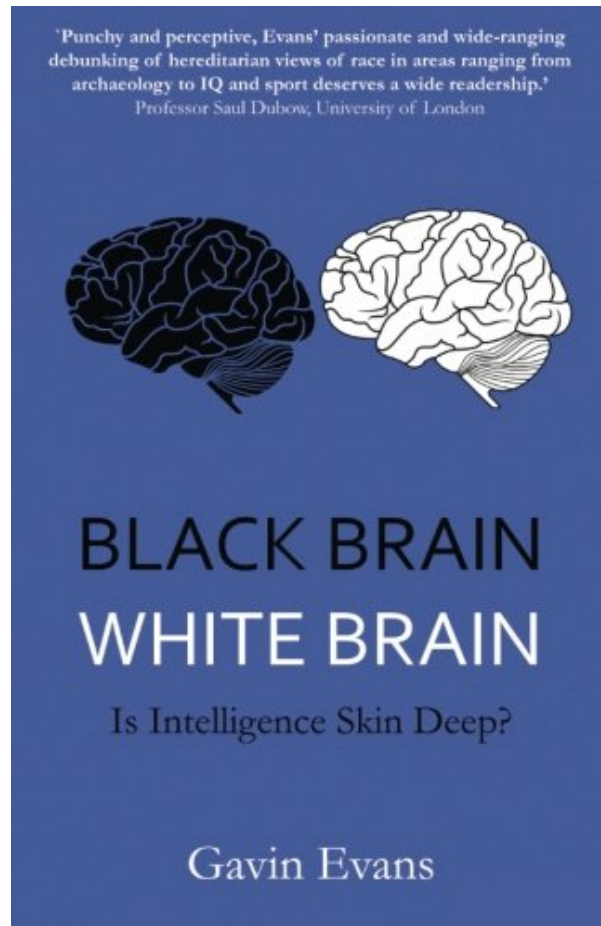


BLACK BRAIN, WHITE BRAIN BY GAVIN EVANS



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'Punchy and perceptive, Evans' passionate and wide-ranging debunking of hereditarian views of race in areas ranging from archaeology to IQ and sport deserves a wide readership.'

Professor Saul Dubow, University of London



BLACK BRAIN WHITE BRAIN

Is Intelligence Skin Deep?

Gavin Evans

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About the Author

Gavin Evans was born in London but grew up in South Africa where he became involved in the anti-apartheid campaign while working as a journalist and completing degrees in economic history, law and a PhD in politics. He returned to London 22 years ago and teaches at Birkbeck College while writing for several UK newspapers. This is his fifth book.

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Professor Saul Dubow, University of London

‘Smart, accessible and stimulating, Black Brain White Brain is by far the most important book yet written to systematically debunk society’s lingering attachments to race science and its pet topics of intelligence, genetics and civilization. Black Brain White Brain should be required reading in every undergraduate university course, in every high school and in every home.’

Professor Jonathan Jansen, University of the Free State

Over the last decade the media have given new life to an old idea – one at least as old as colonialism and slavery: that intelligence is defined by race and, more specifically, that white and Asian people are innately smarter than black people.

The prime sources for these successive waves of publicity are psychologists but a handful of renegade scientists, pop science writers and journalists have joined the throng.

Gavin Evans demonstrates why they are wrong – that their ideas are based on an out-of-date understanding of genetics, on a profound ignorance of the African anthropological record and a misplaced faith in the idea that IQ tests measure hardwired general intelligence, and that average IQ scores of different populations can be fruitfully compared.

Black Brain, White Brain shows that there are no hardwired differences in intelligence or character between the races, and that human brainpower has probably not evolved for 100,000 years.

‘Gavin Evans studied economic history and law, has a PhD in politics and has worked as a journalist for 25 years. He has read widely on evolutionary biology, palaeontology, biological anthropology, archaeology, neuroscience and evolutionary psychology. He needed all this for his latest book, Black Brain, White Brain. It plunges deep into the world of racist science and demolishes its myths quickly and smartly.’

Rehana Rossouw, Business Day

‘The title of Gavin Evans’ new work, Black Brain, White Brain: Is intelligence skin deep? is seemingly problematic. Surely we know the answer to that question? Evidently not. Spend a few moments with this valuable and indeed welcome work and it becomes quite clear there are a lot of supposedly learned folk out there who, frankly, should know better.’

Andrew Donaldson, The Times

‘Gavin Evans, journalist and author of Black Brain, White Brain: Is intelligence skin deep? is more au fait with scientific racism, having grown up and worked in apartheid South Africa where "science" was used to justify white superiority. ... Evans lays out the reason he believes science does not support the idea that intelligence is determined by race, with an impressive list of scientific references and interviews to back up

his rationale.'

Sarah Wild, Mail & Guardian.

'A new book by Hornsey author, journalist and Birkbeck media studies lecturer Gavin Evans is aiming to debunk the idea that white and Asian people are innately smarter than black people. *Black Brain, White Brain: Is intelligence skin deep?* took two years to write and is partly inspired by his experiences of growing up in South Africa where he fought against apartheid.'

Laura Enfield, This is Local London

'Over the course of 300 well-written and accessible pages [this book] answers its own subtitle in the negative. Intelligence is definitely not a matter of skin tone, hair texture or any of the other phenotypical features used to classify human beings into race groups.'

T O Molefe, <http://africasacountry.com>

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The book really exposes the subtle and not-so-subtle racism and prejudice that ran like a seam through the scientific community

By gillyhaag

Despite the dense and complicated subject matter of this book, it is written in a fluid and engaging style that makes it eminently readable. And it is very thought-provoking. guaranteed to make us all to some degree, re-examine our perceptions of science and scientists. The book really exposes the subtle and not-so-subtle racism and prejudice that ran like a seam through the scientific community about the supposed differences in intelligence between the races. Watson, Crick, all the notables held some pretty dubious views. One of my own 'heroes' has been Carl Jung, who I studied in Psychology at university. So it has been an eye-opener to read in this book that Jung was influenced by the writings of a racist German biologist called Haeckel, and that his theories of the unconscious also explored the 'primitive' nature of Africans.

This book really is fascinating and I can't imagine anyone reading it without some of their opinions being changed. It is very well researched and I've certainly learnt a lot more than I knew before. I've always thought IQ testing was flawed and this book has highlighted that. This book obviously needs time set aside to read it but it is well worth it.

1 of 1 people found the following review helpful.

He really gets his teeth into race science

By Barry Root

I approached this book with some trepidation after reading an article by the author in the New Internationalist, but I was very pleasantly surprised. It is very readable, full of illustrative anecdotes and it is also extremely thoroughly researched. He really gets his teeth into race science, and, in particular, its faux-scientific version that comes from the pens of evolutionary psychologists. I also enjoyed the earlier chapters dealing with African pre-history and history, which show very clearly that people with modern intelligence have been around for a lot longer than I previously thought.

0 of 0 people found the following review helpful.

Africa has a glorious history.

By Karen Jack

Gavin Evans' book blows a lot of theories out of the water, theories that have led to the justification of racism. But to me, the most interesting part of the book is the unearthing of Africa's prehistory. As a South African myself, I know that Africa has always been depicted as the "dark continent" and developmentally backward. But there is an amazing history of Africa that should be shouted from the rooftops, so to speak. For example, did you know that the Kingdom of Nubia lasted about 5000 years? It spanned Sudan and colonised Egypt for 100 years. Nubia emerged 5300 years ago. Archaeological sites indicate a society that developed its own writing with a 23-sign alphabet, and they were the first Africans to use the wheel (from 400-BC). There appears to have been a cattle cult as well as Stonehenge-type astronomical devices, predating Stonehenge by 2000 years. All this while Britain was nowhere, developmentally.

There was also a Mali Kingdom, the Kingdom of Benin, Buganda, Great Zimbabwe and Mapungubwe with iron production being traced back more than 3000 years. Iron was smelted at 1535 degrees Celsius in Southern Africa in about 500 BC. Gold, tin and copper were mined from about 1200. Other objects found at Mapungubwe include locally produced pottery, glass, ceramics, gold, ivory and iron and copper wire and objects traded with China dating 1000 and 1300. Explorers, and later historians, spun an elaborate tale of who built the Zimbabwe ruins. How could they explain that in the 11th Century the Shona people had extracted 20 million ounces of gold?

The point is that there is more work for the archaeologists to do to uncover Africa's amazing history. Gavin Evans explains how this changed, and the tables turned when racism became the dominant ideology that led to a misrepresentation of Africa and indeed whole groups of people. There is no genetic difference between races - in fact race is a misnomer. We are all the same, albeit with environmental differences. The book is illuminating and makes absolute sense about race and genetics. We are all guilty of discrimination, but do we have a genetic basis for our theories? Black Brain White Brain will challenge your uncovered discriminations and show they are baseless.

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