

# Race, Genes, and IQ test scores

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Science, Technology & Values Program  
Science in a Changing World graduate track

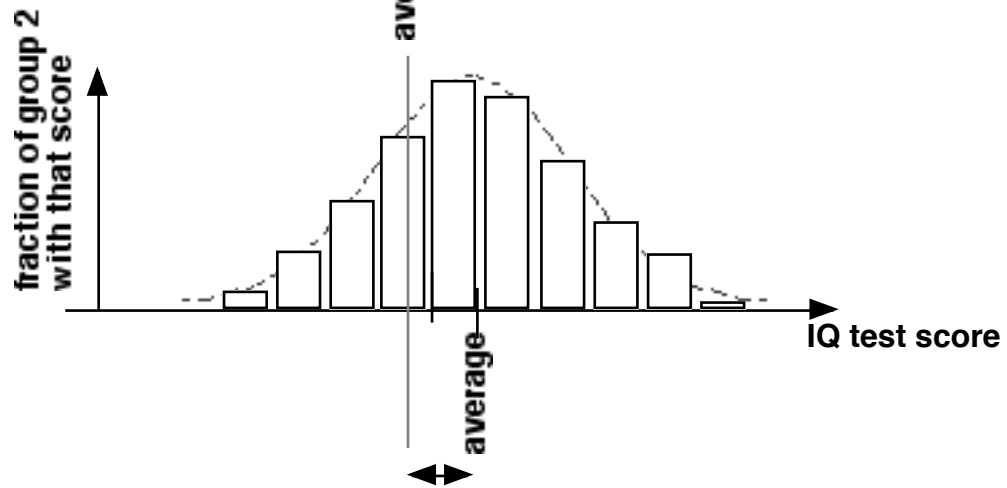
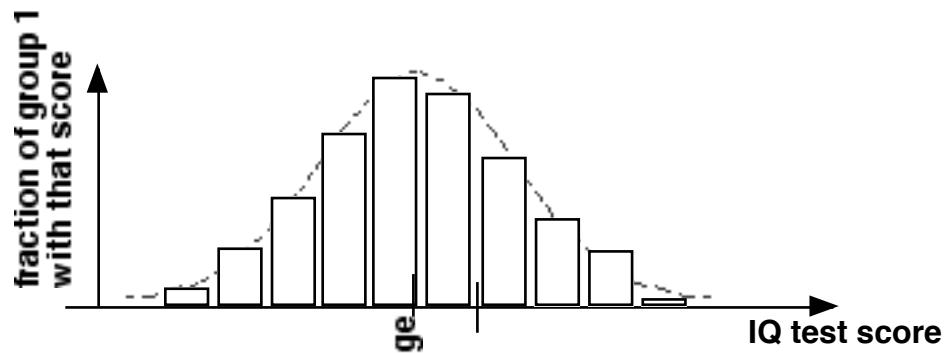
University of Massachusetts Boston

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Take home lesson:

*The world is not that simple.*

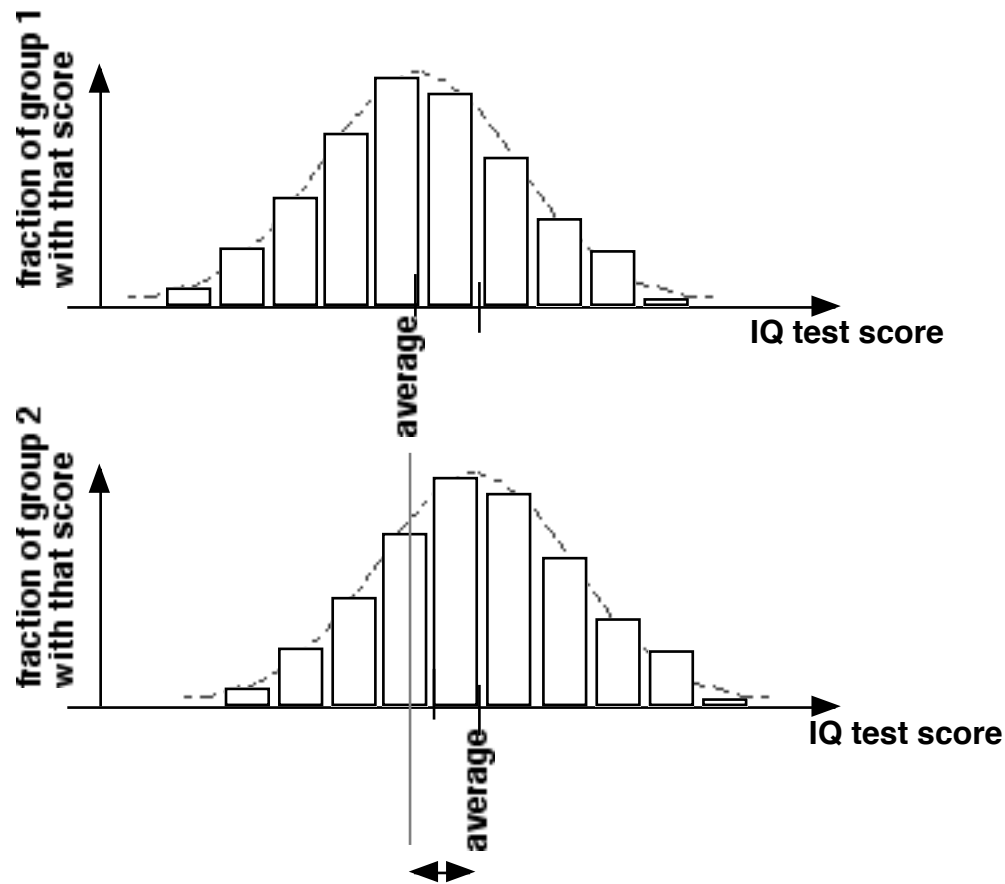


What would you **do** on the basis of these patterns?

Group 1 community leader: Push for better schools? Get depressed because Group 2 will stay ahead...?

What more would you **want to know** about these patterns  
before you decided what to do?

IQ researcher: Work with geneticist to look for genes that group 2 have that group 1 doesn't...



Imagine you are.... (see *your card to find out who*):  
**How would you react to these patterns in IQ test scores?**

Question: What would you **do** on the basis of these patterns?  
 OR Question: What more would you **want to know** about these patterns before you decided what to do?

## What would you **do** on the basis of these patterns?

Group 1 community leader: Push for better schools? Get depressed because Group 2 will stay ahead? Create different tests?

Government policy-maker: Accept income inequality because it comes from IQ inequality?

Teacher: Make more effort to teach people in group 1?

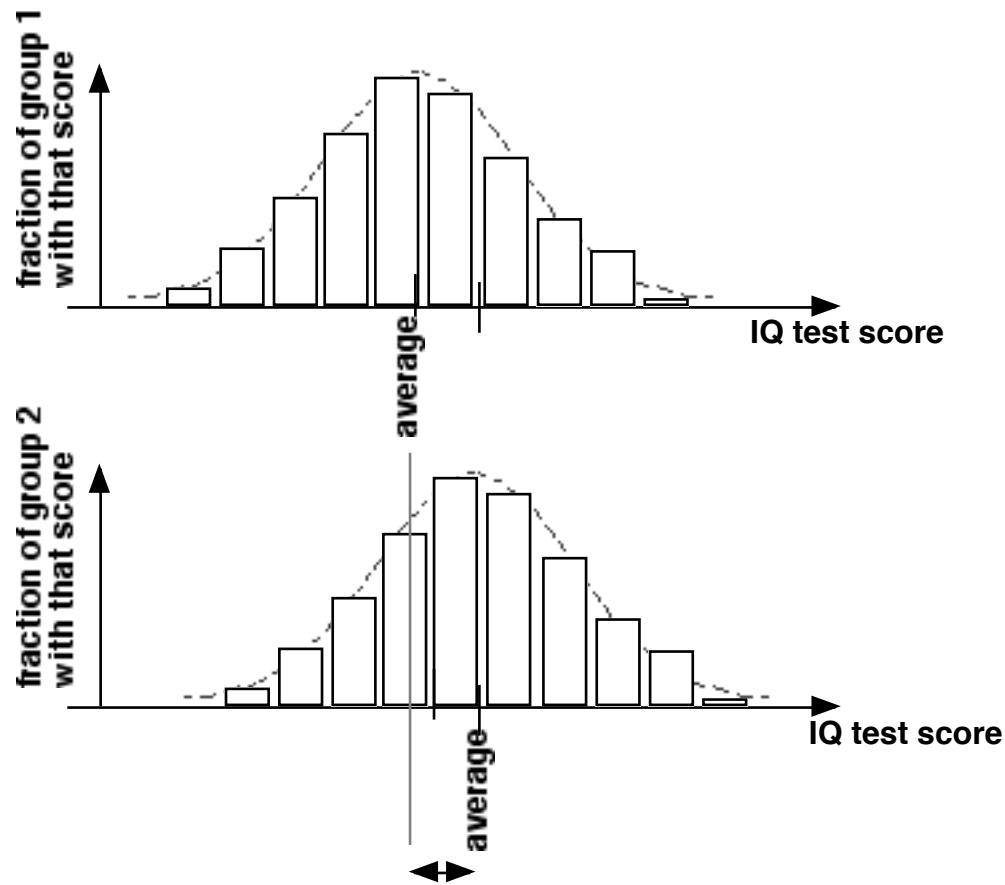
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## What more would you **want to know** about these patterns before you decided what to do?

Government policy-maker: Look for situations in which group 1 and group 2 are more equal and learn from that?

IQ researcher: Work with geneticist to look for genes that group 2 have that group 1 doesn't?

.....



**New information:**

Group 1 = people who were adopted by poor families.  
Group 2 = people who were adopted by well-off families.

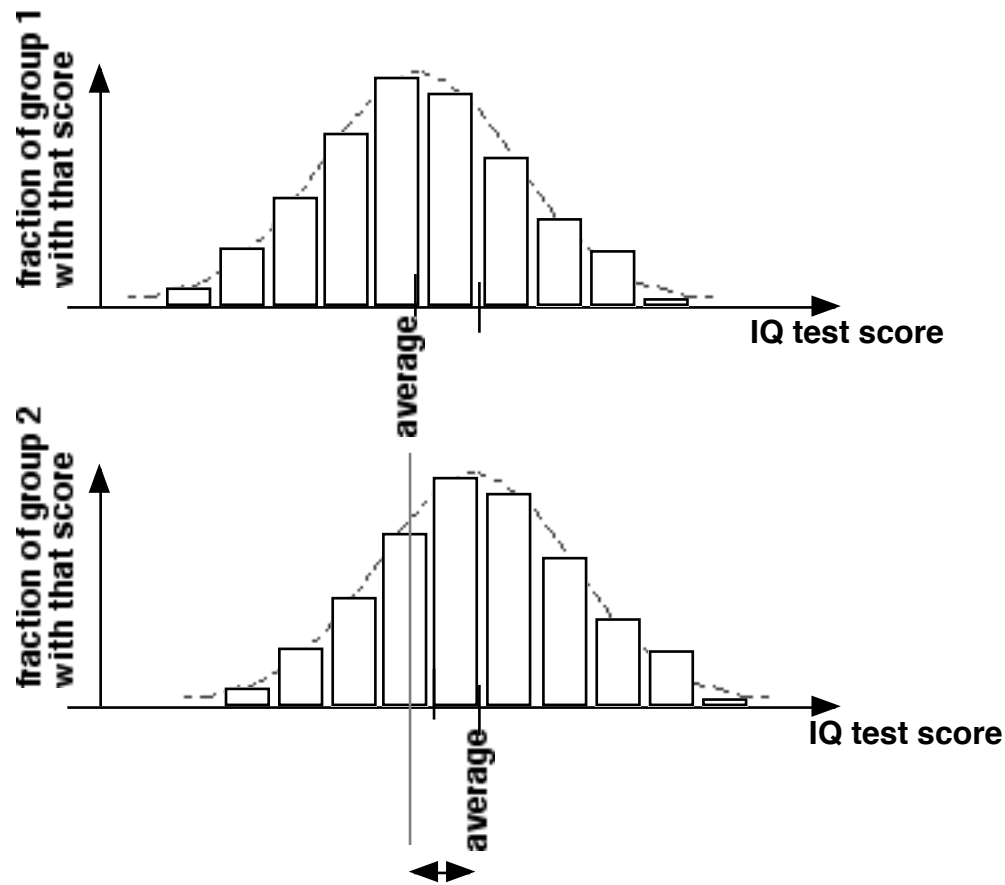


What would you **do** on the basis of these patterns?

What more would you **want to know** about these patterns  
before you decided what to do?

IQ researcher: Work with geneticist to look for genes that group 2 have that group 1 doesn't.

Look for social conditions that group 2 experiences that group 1 doesn't...

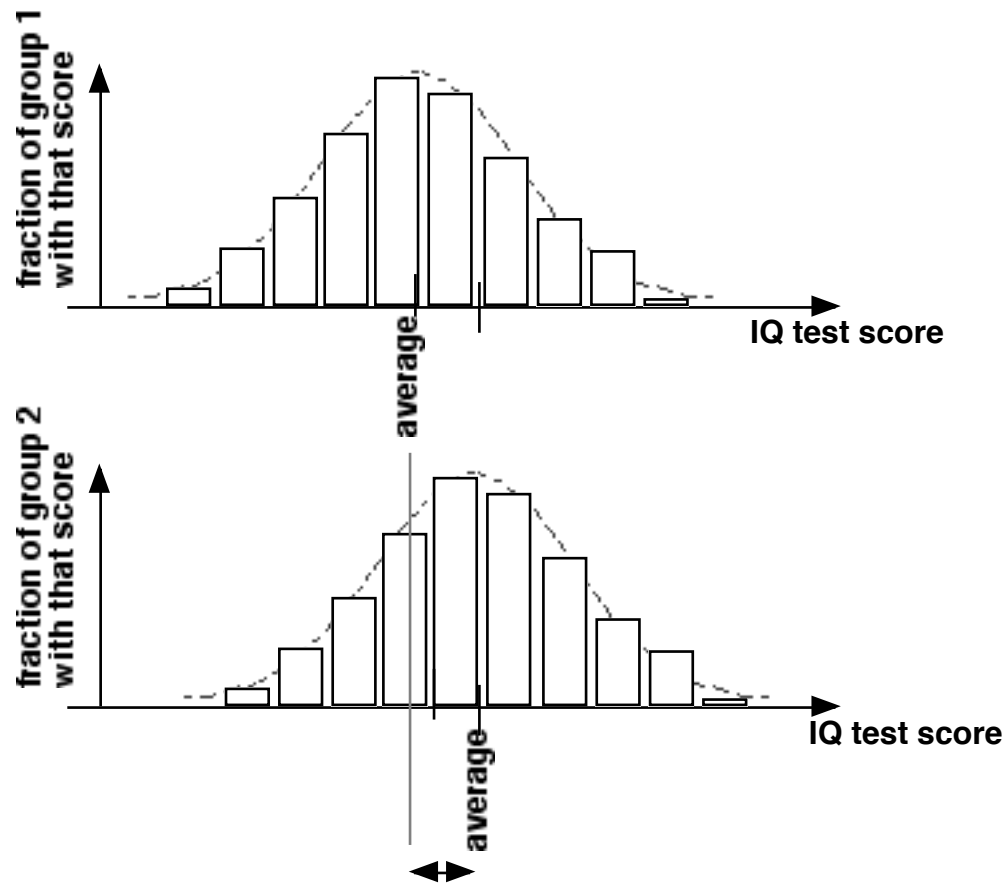


**New information:**

Group 1 is your grandparents' generation.  
Group 2 is your parents' generation.

What would you **NOW do** on the basis of these patterns?

**OR** What more would you **NOW want to know** about these patterns before you decided what to do?



**New information:**

Group 1 are African-Americans in the USA.

Group 2 are Euro-Americans (“whites”) in the USA.

What would you **NOW** do on the basis of these patterns?

OR What more would you **NOW** want to know about these patterns before you decided what to do?

Differences in Generations => ~~Differences in~~  
~~Genes~~ -> Differences in IQ test scores

Differences in Generations => ~~Differences in Genes~~ -> Differences in IQ test scores

*so*

Differences in Races -> Differences in Genes -> Differences in IQ test scores *Still plausible?*

*Why?*

## Take home lessons:

The world is **not a simple matter** of genes explaining anything and everything.

Be **skeptical** of anyone who wants you to think it could be **simple**. (They are not being true to the science of average group differences.)

**Ask questions**—dig deeper into the complexity.