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**Título:** Nature Of Difference, The. Sciences Of Race In The United States From Jefferson

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**Sinopsis**

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The Nature of Difference documents how distinctions between people have been generated in and by the life sciences. Through a wide-ranging selection of primary documents and insightful commentaries by the editors, it charts the shifting boundaries of science and race through more than two centuries of American history. The documents, primarily writings by authoritative, eminent scientists intended for their professional peers, show how various sciences of race have changed their object of study over time: from racial groups to types to populations to genomes and beyond. The book's thematic and synthetic approach reveals the profoundly diverse array of practices\_countless acts of observation, quantification, and experimentation\_that enabled the consequential categorizations we inherit.

The documents\_most reproduced in their entirety\_range from definitions of race in dictionaries published between 1886 and 2005 to an exchange of letters between Benjamin Baneker and Thomas Jefferson; from Samuel Cartwright's 1851 "Report on the Diseases and Physical Peculiarities of the Negro Race" to a 1950 UNESCO declaration that race is a social myth; from a 1928 paper detailing the importance of the glands in shaping human nature to a 2005 report of the discovery of a genetic basis for skin color. Such documents, given context by the editors' introductions to each thematic chapter, provide scholars, journalists, and general readers with the rich historical background necessary for understanding contemporary developments in racial science.

About the Editors

Evelynn M. Hammonds is Dean of Harvard College, Barbara Gutman Rosenkrantz Professor of the History of Science, and Professor of African and African American Studies at Harvard University. She is the author of *Childhood's Deadly Scourge: The Campaign to Control Diphtheria in New York City, 1880-1930*.

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