Dog names are racist, according to scholars

Description

USA: Academics recently applauded a *Social Psychology Quarterly* study purporting to show a disparity in the time dogs were adopted based on racial associations with the animals' names.

"White" names, according to the study, resulted in shorter adoption times compared to "Black" names.

The correlations were largely concentrated around pit bulls, "a breed that is stereotyped as dangerous and racialized as Black," according to the study.

Below are examples of academics' reactions to the study.

Temple University

Timothy Welbeck, director of the Center for Anti-Racism Research and an assistant professor of instruction, retweeted the story, posing the rhetorical question "WhY iS EveRyTHingG aBOuT rACE?"

> "WhY iS EveRyTHinG aBOuT rACE?"
>
> Because everything is about race… https://t.co/T2t7LrTcWP
>
> — Timothy N. Welbeck, Esq. (@timothywelbeck) June 7, 2022

class="twitter-tweet">

He answers his own question with, "Because everything is about race…"

Welbeck told *Campus Reform* that "something as seemingly as [sic] innocuous as dog adoption can have lasting racial implications."

University of Texas at Austin

Assistant Professor of Sociology Chantal Hailey commented in a now-deleted tweet obtained by *Campus Reform*, "Anti-blackness is so pervasive it even expands to dog names."

Hailey conducts research "at the intersections of race and ethnicity, stratification, urban sociology, education, and criminology."

University of Akron

"Fascinating research! Amazing idea", Daniela Jauk-Ajamie tweeted regarding the study, an Assistant Professor of Sociology and Criminal Justice.

> Fascinating research! Amazing idea. https://t.co/ZTIKRfCOo3
>
> — Daniela Jauk-Ajamie (@DanielaJauk) June 7, 2022

class="twitter-tweet">

Jauk-Ajamie's work focuses on "gardening in incarcerated settings, women in the criminal (in)justice system, and qualitative methods."

Georgetown University

Don Moynihan, professor at Georgetown's McCourt School of Public Policy, opined that the study was an "[i]nteresting example of how racialized names still evoke bias even when dealing with non-humans."

> Interesting example of how racialized names still evoke bias even when dealing with non-humans. https://t.co/ef5wTvXfWk
>
> — Don Moynihan (@donmoyn) June 7, 2022

class="twitter-tweet">

Moynihan provided comments to *Campus Reform*, expressing his view that there exists "a relatively sophisticated body of work in this area that needs to be accounted for to understand the contribution."

University of Massachusetts Amherst

Chief Diversity Officer Nef Walker described the study as "Must read work", and "Fascinating research that supports the resiliency of racialized names and the pervasiveness of antiBlackness [sic]."

> Fascinating research that supports the resiliency of racialized names and the pervasiveness of antiBlackness. Must read work. https://t.co/5me6YhsbYh
>
> — Dr. Nef (@NefWalker) June 7, 2022

class="twitter-tweet">

Walker has written on [t]he intersection of race, gender, and sexual orientation in intercollegiate sports", and "[h]egemonic masculinity and the institutionalized bias of women in men's collegiate basketball."

Denison University

Shiri Noy, assistant professor of sociology, applauded the study's authors for their "cutting edge work".

> Natasha just doing her cutting edge work as usual, congrats to you and Bradley! https://t.co/9p9thvemL5
>
> — Shiri Noy (@shiri_noy) June 7, 2022

class="twitter-tweet">

"[C]ongrats," she added.

Campus Reform reached out to all parties mentioned here. This article will be updated accordingly.

by Terrance Kible '24

Category

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