Nieuwe rassen?
The White House, June 26, 2000

• Bill Clinton: “one of the great truths to emerge from this triumphant expedition inside the human genome is that in genetic terms all human beings, regardless of race, are more than 99.9 percent the same.”

• Craig Venter: “We have sequenced the genome of three females and two males who have identified themselves as Hispanic, Asian, Caucasian or African-American ... to help illustrate that the concept of race has no genetic or scientific basis”.
Armand Leroi, A Family Tree in Every Gene. *The New York Times*, March 14, 2005 wrote that:

- “The billion or so of the world’s people of largely European descent have a set of genetic variants in common that are collectively rare in everyone else: they are a race. At a smaller scale, three million Basques do as well; so they are a race as well. *Race is merely a shorthand that enables us to speak sensibly, though with no great precision, about genetic rather than cultural or political differences.*”
Armand Leroi, A Family Tree in Every Gene. *The New York Times*, March 14, 2005 wrote that:

- “Given the problematic, even vicious, history of the word "race," the use of euphemisms is understandable. But it hardly aids understanding, for the term "ethnic group" conflates all the possible ways in which people differ from each other.”
Armand Leroi, *A Family Tree in Every Gene.* *The New York Times,* March 14, 2005 wrote that:

- The recognition that races are real
- would remove the disjunction in which the government and public alike defiantly embrace categories that many, perhaps most, scholars and scientists say do not exist.
- may improve medical care and recognition of the fact that different races are prone to different diseases may affect treatment.
- Third, there is an aesthetic factor. We are a physically variable but do not know what makes us different. One way to find out is to study people of mixed race ancestry.
- A final reason is that it gives us reason—if there were not reason enough already—to value and protect some of the world's most obscure and marginalized people.
Vragen

• Laten resultaten van genetisch onderzoek opvattingen over ‘ras’ als sociale constructie ongemoeid of dwingen ze tot herziening van categoriseringen van bevolkingsgroepen?

• 1. Wat is ‘ras’ en hoe en waarom worden ‘raciale verschillen’ relevant? Met welke onderzoeksmethoden en op grond van welke interpretaties van genetische diversiteit worden oude ‘raciale verschillen’ in beeld gebracht en nieuwe ‘raciale verschillen’ in het leven geroepen?

• 2. Is het onvermijdelijk dat biologische classificaties behalve reële verschillen tussen mensen ook sociale ongelijkheid (mede) produceren?
President Barack Obama and Vice President Joe Biden having a beer with Harvard professor Henry Louis Gates Jr. and Cambridge police sergeant James Crowley in the Rose Garden of the White House, July 30, 2009
Discussie

• Is het mogelijk over raciale kenmerken te spreken zonder als vanzelf te vervallen in racisme?
• Kunnen we met nieuwe inzichten in biologische verschillen tussen mensen rekening houden zonder dat sociale processen van discriminatie en uitsluiting wetenschappelijk worden gelegitimeerd?
• Hoe kunnen eventuele negatieve effecten van biologische classificaties worden voorkomen?