

Portland State University

PDXScholar

OHSU-PSU School of Public Health Faculty
Publications and Presentations

OHSU-PSU School of Public Health

7-2023

Z60.5/(En)Coded

Ryan Petteway

OHSU-PSU School of Public Health, petteway@pdx.edu

Follow this and additional works at: https://pdxscholar.library.pdx.edu/sph_facpub



Part of the [Medicine and Health Sciences Commons](#)

Let us know how access to this document benefits you.

Citation Details

Petteway RJ (2023) Z60.5/(en)coded, *Health Equity* 7:1, 790–792, DOI: 10.1089/hec.2023.0033.

This Article is brought to you for free and open access. It has been accepted for inclusion in OHSU-PSU School of Public Health Faculty Publications and Presentations by an authorized administrator of PDXScholar. Please contact us if we can make this document more accessible: pdxscholar@pdx.edu.

Open camera or QR reader and scan code to access this article and other resources online.



SPECIAL COLLECTION: RACE IN CLINICAL ALGORITHMS (#5/10) Open Access

Z60.5/(En)Coded

Ryan J. Petteway*

their children wear our jerseys

[they race adjust our brains]¹

they think we need attitude adjustment

they settle for statistical adjustment²

they can't control for justice

they can't control our edges

our knees (*their* knees)

[they race adjust our lungs]³⁻⁶

our hips (*their* hips)

our fists

our mouths

our lips on their daughters

their daughters on *TikTok*

their sons on sigs, glocks

their silence _____

our matter

our matters

our mattering

[they race adjust our pain]⁷⁻⁹

they can't control our anger

they think they know our rage

they settle

they: settler

they: eyes

our streets

our parks

our schools

our playgrounds

our grounds

our play

our joy unfiltered

[they race adjust our blood]⁹⁻¹⁴

our names they don't pronounce

they squiggly red line our names

they redlined our streets

they raced to scrub our names

from rivers

from mountains

from lakes

from stars

from murals

[they race adjust our homes]¹⁵⁻¹⁷

they search to find our magic

our glow

our radiance

they say they do not see

they look right through us

[they race adjust our bones]¹⁸

their hands held the compass

the maps

the pens

Community Health, OHSU-PSU School of Public Health, Portland State University, Portland, Oregon, USA.

*Address correspondence to: Ryan J. Petteway, DrPH, MPH, Community Health, OHSU-PSU School of Public Health, Portland State University, 1810 SW 5th Avenue, Portland, OR 97201, USA, E-mail: petteway@pdx.edu

© Ryan J. Petteway, 2023; Published by Mary Ann Liebert, Inc. This Open Access article is distributed under the terms of the Creative Commons License [CC-BY] (<http://creativecommons.org/licenses/by/4.0>), which permits unrestricted use, distribution, and reproduction in any medium, provided the original work is properly cited.



the gavels
the glocks
the signs in Little Rock –
their children love our dances
their faces look the same
their cameras track our faces
their mothers don't feel safe
our mothers: open casket
our faces make front page
our fathers fit descriptions
our daughters go unbound
our sisters ain't Serena

[they race adjust our births]^{19–21}

they say they ally
they say they here
they say they hear
they said that last year
they say they listen
to Kendrick
to Nina
to Toni
to Toni
to Audre
to James
to god
they love a soundtrack
they love to sound track

[they race adjust our cars?]²²

they good intention
they good intention real good
they well mean
they racist bone-free

[they be tryin' so hard]^{23–25}

their hands are not clean
their hands wrote the code
our hands get cuffed in labor
our hands cannot get soap
our lungs cannot get oxygen
their algorithms rope[†]
their software comes with “bootstrap”
and that's all you need to know

References

1. Carter TC, Chelsey R. The NFL's Racist 'Race Norming' Is an Afterlife of Slavery. *Scientific American*. 2021. Available from: <https://www.scientificamerican.com/article/the-nfls-racist-race-norming-is-an-afterlife-of-slavery/> [Last accessed: March 2, 2023].
2. Petteway RJ. Adjustment. *Health Promot Pract* 2022;23(5):761–763; doi: 10.1177/15248399221121119
3. Braun L. *Breathing Race into the Machine: The Surprising Career of the Spirometer from Plantation to Genetics*, 1st ed. University of Minnesota Press: Minneapolis, MN; 2014.
4. Sjoding MW, Ansari S, Valley TS. Origins of racial and ethnic bias in pulmonary technologies. *Annu Rev Med* 2023;74(1):401–412; doi: 10.1146/annurev-med-043021-024004
5. Edwards F, Lee H, Esposito M. Risk of being killed by police use of force in the United States by age, race–ethnicity, and sex. *Proc Natl Acad Sci* 2019; 116(34):16793–16798; doi: 10.1073/pnas.1821204116
6. Lett E, Asabor EN, Corbin T, et al. Racial inequity in fatal US police shootings, 2015–2020. *J Epidemiol Community Health* 2021;75(4):394–397; doi: 10.1136/jech-2020-215097
7. Hoffman KM, Trawalter S, Axt JR, et al. Racial bias in pain assessment and treatment recommendations, and false beliefs about biological differences between blacks and whites. *Proc Natl Acad Sci U S A* 2016;113(16): 4296–4301; doi: 10.1073/pnas.1516047113
8. Johnson JD, Asiodu IV, McKenzie CP, et al. Racial and ethnic inequities in postpartum pain evaluation and management. *Obstet Gynecol* 2019; 134(6):1155; doi: 10.1097/AOG.0000000000003505
9. Yearby R. Race based medicine, colorblind disease: How racism in medicine harms us all. *Am J Bioeth* 2021;21(2):19–27; doi: 10.1080/15265161.2020.1851811
10. Gamble VN. Under the shadow of Tuskegee: African Americans and health care. *Am J Public Health* 1997;87(11):6.
11. Washington HA. *Medical Apartheid: The Dark History of Medical Experimentation on Black Americans from Colonial Times to the Present*. Illustrated edition. Anchor: New York; 2008.
12. Tapper M. *In the Blood: Sickle Cell Anemia and the Politics of Race*, 1st ed. University of Pennsylvania Press: Philadelphia, PA; 1999.
13. James PA, Oparil S, Carter BL, et al. 2014 Evidence-based guideline for the management of high blood pressure in adults: Report From the panel members appointed to the Eighth Joint National Committee (JNC 8). *JAMA* 2014;311(5):507–520; doi: 10.1001/jama.2013.284427
14. Braun L, Wentz A, Baker R, et al. Racialized algorithms for kidney function: Erasing social experience. *Soc Sci Med* 2021;268:113548; doi: 10.1016/j.socscimed.2020.113548
15. Kent-Stoll P. The racial and colonial dimensions of gentrification. *Sociol Compass* 2020;14(2):1–17; doi: 10.1111/soc4.12838
16. Rucks-Ahidiana Z. Theorizing gentrification as a process of racial capitalism. *City Comm* 2021;15356841211054790; doi: 10.1177/15356841211054790
17. Fullilove MT, Wallace R. Serial forced displacement in American cities, 1916–2010. *J Urban Health* 2011;88(3):381–389; doi: 10.1007/s11524-011-9585-2
18. Bavli I, Jones DS. Race correction and the X-ray machine—The controversy over increased radiation doses for Black Americans in 1968. *N Engl J Med* 2022;387(10):947–952; doi: 10.1056/NEJMms2206281
19. Jahn JL, Wallace M, Theall KP, et al. Neighborhood proactive policing and racial inequities in preterm birth in New Orleans, 2018–2019. *Am J Public Health* 2023;113(51):S21–S28; doi: 10.2105/AJPH.2022.307079
20. Davis DA. Obstetric racism: The racial politics of pregnancy, labor, and birthing. *Med Anthropol* 2019;38(7):560–573; doi: 10.1080/01459740.2018.1549389
21. Roberts D. *Killing the Black Body: Race, Reproduction, and the Meaning of Liberty*, 64864th ed. Vintage: New York; 1998.
22. Kang EB, Hudson S. Audible crime scenes: ShotSpotter as diagnostic, policing, and space-making infrastructure. *Sci Technol Hum Values* 2022; 01622439221143217; doi: 10.1177/01622439221143217
23. AMA apologizes to black doctors for racism. *NBC News*. 2008. Available from: www.nbcnews.com/health/health-news/ama-apologizes-black-doctors-racism-flna1C9461472 [Last accessed: March 3, 2023].

[†]“Rope” is a technical term for a type of data structure, usually a (binary) “tree” data structure... Go figure.



24. JAMA [@JAMA_current]. Statement from Howard Bauchner, MD, Editor in Chief JAMA and The JAMA Network <https://t.co/A1AJNnMWB4>. Twitter. 2021. Available from: https://twitter.com/JAMA_current/status/1367546743789862912 [Last accessed: March 3, 2023].
25. Speaking out against structural racism at JAMA and across health care. American Medical Association. 2021. Available from: <https://www.ama-assn.org/about/leadership/speaking-out-against->

structural-racism-jama-and-across-health-care [Last accessed: March 3, 2023].

Cite this article as: Petteway RJ (2023) Z60.5/(en)coded, *Health Equity* 7:1, 790–792, DOI: 10.1089/hec.2023.0033.

