



# Community Screening & Discussion Guide

## A DANGEROUS IDEA

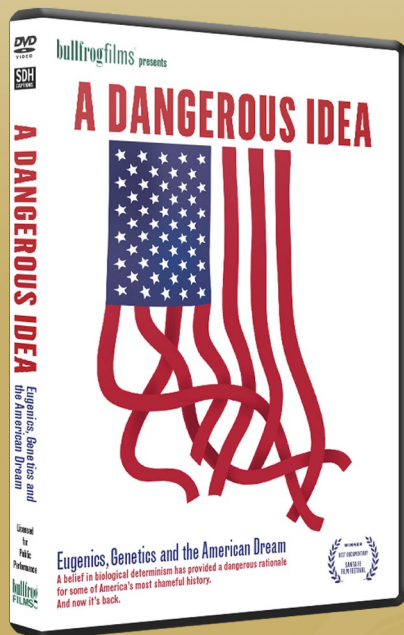
Use your film screening of **A DANGEROUS IDEA** as a tool for educating your community about the history of the eugenics movement and its affect on social, health and political policies in the United States, both past and present. This guide offers some background information, helpful tips & discussion questions for an informative, rewarding screening. **Good Luck!**

### what you'll find inside!

- about the film & filmmaker
- ready to watch! screening guide
- ready to act! handout

### About the film

A dangerous idea has threatened the American Dream from the beginning – the belief that some groups and individuals are inherently superior to others and more deserving of fundamental rights. Such biological determinism provided an excuse for some of America's most shameful history. And now it's back. The documentary **A DANGEROUS IDEA** reveals how biologically determined politics has disenfranchised women and people of color, provided a rationale for state sanctioned crimes committed against America's most vulnerable citizens, and now gains new traction under the Trump administration.



### About the filmmaker

Stephanie Welch is a documentarian and executive director of Paragon Media, a nonprofit media organization that is the co-producer of **A DANGEROUS IDEA**. Welch is also the senior producer of the award-winning syndicated program *Bioneers Radio: Revolution from the Heart of Nature*. She co-produced the radio documentary *Biowars: First Do No Harm*, which won a NCFB Silver Reel Award. Welch is also audio engineer for Women Rising Radio.

# ready to watch!

## Ideas and best practices to help make your community screening a success!

- 1. Publicize Your Event!** This is the most important step because it not only tells the world what you're up to, but it lets the Bullfrog Community team know what your plans are so we can help you publicize your event. Visit [http://www.bullfrogcommunities.com/a\\_dangerous\\_idea](http://www.bullfrogcommunities.com/a_dangerous_idea) to register and get the word out about your upcoming screening. You can also email us at [info@bullfrogcommunities.com](mailto:info@bullfrogcommunities.com) if you need help getting started!
- 2. Visualize Your Goal!** What do you hope to achieve with your screening? Your goal could be to generate a lively post-film discussion about issues raised in the film, gain support or recruit volunteers for a local grassroots campaign, or raise funds for a group on your campus or in your community. Or, you can simply use the screening to provide an opportunity for your audience to watch and learn together.
- 3. Where To Host?** Consider which locations in your area would be ideal for accommodating a community film screening of the size you anticipate: downtown movie theaters, churches and synagogues, town halls, community centers, public libraries, school auditoriums, university and college venues, warehouses at a business and outdoor screenings at parks and playgrounds, and even private homes have been venues for many successful community screenings.
- 4. Find A Partner!** Give some thought to who is already working on this issue in your community. Can they help sponsor the event? Spread the word? Speak on a panel discussion after the screening? Some potential partners include: student groups at universities and colleges; a local public or campus library; representatives from local religious congregations or faith-based community groups; local chapters of national/global activist or grassroots organizations; faculty members at nearby universities and colleges; reporters/journalists from local news publications such as newspapers and magazines; local nonprofits; and any community organizations that share goals or views with the film you are screening.
- 5. Invite A Guest Speaker!** Guest speakers and panelists are a great way to encourage discussion and debate after a community screening. When people are engaged and thinking about the issues they will stay engaged long after the screening has passed. Contact representatives of local non-profits, faith groups, journalists and reporters from local media outlets, or teachers and professors who have expertise and/or insight into the issues raised by the film, and invite them to attend your screening and participate in a discussion or Q&A session with your audience.
- 6. Engage Your Audience!** Use this discussion guide to engage your audience. Included in this guide is a section called Ready to Act!, — which can be used as a handout — listing additional resources for further investigation about key issues raised in the film.

**7. Spread The Word!** Think about the best methods available to you for publicizing your film screening to people in your community. Sending emails to a contact list, creating event notifications on Facebook, Google+, Eventbrite or an online community calendar, using Twitter to announce your event, and placing screening announcements in local newspapers and newsletters is a good start. In addition to this guide, you can find and download a screening poster and press photos at [http://www.bullfrogcommunities.com/a\\_dangerous\\_idea](http://www.bullfrogcommunities.com/a_dangerous_idea) that can be used to help publicize your event.

**8. Tell Us How It Went!** Visit [http://www.bullfrogcommunities.com/a\\_dangerous\\_idea](http://www.bullfrogcommunities.com/a_dangerous_idea) to tell us about your event. Contribute to the film's discussion page to help other student groups, universities, non-profits, congregations and community groups further the discussion and put on successful screening events of their own. Where was your screening held? Who attended? What went well, and what was challenging? What did you discuss? Your feedback will help others to organize their own events, and will energize Bullfrog Communities as a whole.

# ready to act!

handout

## General Resources

[Genetic Explanations: Sense and Nonsense](#) (edited by Sheldon Krimsky and Jeremy Gruber, including articles from Ruth Hubbard, Evelyn Fox Keller, and Jay Joseph)

## Works by Garland Allen

Essays on Science and Society: Is a New Eugenics Afoot? *Science* 294, October 5, 2001; 59-61.

The Ideology of Elimination: American and German Eugenics, 1900-1945. In: Francis R. Nicosia and Jonathan Huener, eds. *Medicine and Medical Ethics in Nazi Germany* New York: Berghahn Books, 2002: 13-39.

DNA and Human-Behavior Genetics: Implications for the Criminal Justice System. In: Lazer, David (ed) *DNA and the Criminal Justice System*. MIT Press, Cambridge, MA; 2004: 287-314.

Mendelian Genetics and Postgenomics: The Legacy for Today. In: Ayala, Francisco J. (ed) *Ernst Mayr Centennial Volume, Ludus Vitalis XII*. MIT Press, Cambridge, MA; Summer 2004: 213-236.

A Century of Evo-Devo: The Dialectics of Analysis and Synthesis in Twentieth-Century Life Sciences. In: Maienschein, Jane and Laublicher, Manfred (eds) *Evo-Devo, Past and Present*. MIT Press, Cambridge, MA; 2006: 123-167.

## Works by Barry Commoner

[Unraveling the DNA Myth](#), Harper's Magazine, February 2002

[Is DNA the Secret of Life?](#), *Clinical Pharmacology & Therapeutics*, May 1965

[Why Genetic Engineering is So Dangerous](#), November 2001

## Works by Troy Duster

*Backdoor to Eugenics* (2. ed.). New York [u.a.]: Routledge. 2003. [ISBN 0415946743](#). This book talks about the social and political implications of genetic technologies.

Brown, M. K.; Carnoy, M.; Currie, E.; Duster, T.; Oppenheimer, D.B.; Schultz, M.M.; Wellman, D. (2005). *Whitewashing Race: The Myth of a Color-Blind Society*. Berkeley: University of California Press. [ISBN 0520244753](#). The book is an analysis of the political and economic status of minorities in the United States, specifically African-Americans.

## Works by Agustín Fuentes

[The Creative Spark: How Imagination Made Humans Exceptional](#), Dutton, 2017

*Race, Monogamy and Other Lies They Told You: Busting myths about human behavior*, UC Press, 2012.  
[ISBN 9780520269712](#)

## Works by Ruth Hubbard

*Exploding the Gene Myth: How Genetic Information Is Produced and Manipulated by Scientists, Physicians, Employers, Insurance Companies, Educators, and Law Enforcers*, Ruth Hubbard and Elijah Wald, Beacon Press, 1993. [ISBN 0-8070-0431-6](#), [ISBN 978-0-8070-0431-9](#)

*The Politics of Women's Biology*, Rutgers University Press, 1990. [ISBN 0-8135-1490-8](#), [ISBN 978-0-8135-1490-1](#)

*Profitable Promises: Essays on Women, Science & Health*, Common Courage Press, 1995. [ISBN 1-56751-041-8](#), [ISBN 978-1-56751-041-6](#)

Pitfalls of Genetic Testing, Hubbard and R.C. Lewontin, [New England Journal of Medicine](#), Volume 334:1192-1194, Number 18, May 2, 1996

[Race & Genes](#), in *Is Race Real?*, a web forum sponsored by the [Social Science Research Council](#), June 7, 2006

## Works by Oliver James

*Not In Your Genes: The Real Reasons Children Are Like Their Parents*. Vermilion, March 2016. [ISBN 9780091947668](#).

[Sorry But You Can't Blame Your Children's Genes](#), The Guardian, March 2016

## Works by Jay Joseph

[The Trouble With Twin Studies: A Reassessment of Twin Research in the Social and Behavioral Sciences](#) (2015)

[The Gene Illusion: Genetic Research in Psychiatry and Psychology Under the Microscope](#) (2004)

[The Missing Gene: Psychiatry, Heredity, and the Fruitless Search for Genes](#) (2006)

## Works by Evelyn Fox Keller

[Tanner Lecture – Rethinking the Meaning of Genetic Determinism](#)

[The Century of the Gene](#), Harvard University Press, 2003

[The Mirage of the Space Between Nature and Nurture](#), Duke University Press, 2010

### Works by Andrew Kimbrell

[The Human Body Shop: The Engineering and Marketing of Life](#), HarperCollins, 1994

[Your Right to Know: Genetic Engineering and the Secret Changes in Your Food](#),  
Earth Aware Editions, 2007

### Works by James Lefanu

[The Rise and Fall of Modern Medicine](#), Basic Books, 2002

[Why Us?](#), HarperPress, 2001

### Articles

### Works by Richard Lewontin

[Tanner Lecture – Biological Determinism](#)

[Not in Our Genes: Biology, Ideology and Human Nature](#) (with [Steven Rose](#) and [Leon J. Kamin](#)), 1984.  
[ISBN 0-394-72888-2](#)

*The Dialectical Biologist* (with [Richard Levins](#)), Harvard University Press, 1985. [ISBN 0-674-20283-X](#)

*Biology as Ideology: The Doctrine of DNA*, 1991. [ISBN 0-06-097519-9](#)

*It Ain't Necessarily So: The Dream of the Human Genome and Other Illusions*, New York Review of Books, 2000

*Biology Under The Influence: Dialectical Essays on the Coevolution of Nature and Society* (with Richard Levins), 2007

### Works by Robert Pollack

["Natural Design and the Necessity for Moral Constraints in Science."](#) *Genewatch* 19.4 (July-August 2006).

Commentary to ["We have been around only a very short time."](#) Art by Amy Pollack. *Cross Currents* 57 (Spring 2007): 136-7.

[Letter to the Editor](#), Williams, P. and Pollack, R, *Commentary* July/August 2007.

[“Thoughts on Human Genetics.”](#) Review of *Davenport’s Dream: 21st Century Reflections on Heredity and Eugenics*, Jan A. Witkowski and John R. Inglis, eds. *Science* 321 (25 July, 2008): 492-3.

[“Jews & IQ—an Exchange.”](#) commentary on Jewish Genius by Charles Murray, Pollack, R. and P. Williams, 2008. Submitted to *CommentaryMagazine.com*.

[Natural Selection, the Human Genome, and the Idea of Race](#), (Abridged.) *GeneWatch*. 7, May 2009

*Signs of Life: The Language and Meanings of DNA*. Pollack, R., with frontispiece by Amy Pollack, 1994. Boston: Houghton Mifflin. Paperback edition 1995.

### Works by Robert Reich

*Saving Capitalism: For the Many, Not the Few*, 2015. [ISBN 978-0385350570](#)

*Beyond Outrage: What Has Gone Wrong with Our Economy and Our Democracy, and How to Fix It*, 2012. [ISBN 978-0345804372](#)

*Aftershock: The Next Economy and America’s Future*, 2010. [ISBN 978-0-307-59281-1](#) (updated edition 2013)

[Supercapitalism: The Transformation of Business, Democracy, and Everyday Life](#), 2007. [ISBN 0-307-26561-7](#)