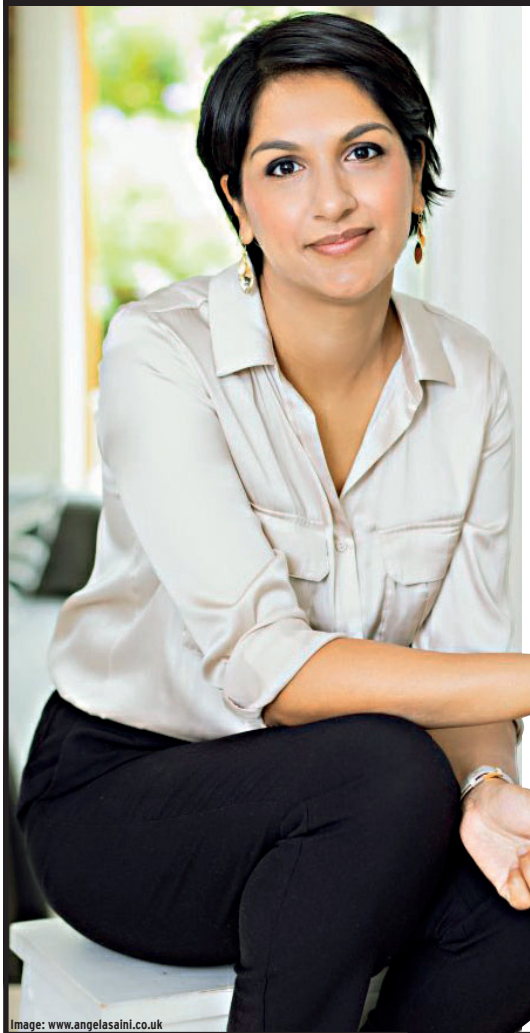


Inequality is a social construct, not a genetic one: Angela Saini



What is race science?

It is the biological study of differences between so-called racial groups. In the past, this kind of work not only categorised people in spurious ways but also reinforced the idea that there is a such a thing as a racial hierarchy.

Was that the trigger for the book?

The reason I wrote the book now is that the world is seeing a resurgence in right-wing populism and the ethnic nationalism. Issues of race have zoomed up the agenda, and I wanted to explore the way biological notions of race play into politics and identity. It's as important to call out pseudo-scientific racism now as it was in the 1930s, when the Nazis were developing their theories of racial hygiene. These are dangerous times we live in, and science is a target of abuse by those with political agendas.

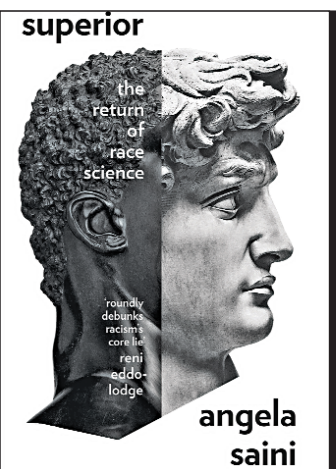
Does this mean inequality has nothing to do with our genes?

There are individual differences between us, in appearance, natural talent, skill and intellect, but these are not the same as population-level group differences. Inequality between social and racial groups is the product of history, politics and power, not our genes.

Does ancestry testing work?

Many scientists have called out an-

In her new book, 'Superior: The Return of Race Science', the British writer and journalist debunks the notion that race-based social inequality is the product of our genes, and tells us why the whole world needs to pay attention to rising racial biases



expect given the amount of genetic commonality between all humans.

Do you think the notion of some races being superior to others stem from India's colonial hangover?

I do think that the rest of the world inherited some of its ideas about racial superiority from white Europeans, but I also think there are local dynamics. British colonialism rule certainly introduced, hardened and reinforced certain ideas about racial difference in India in deeply damaging ways, which people still live with.

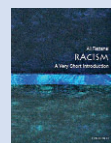
What can we all do to not be racist?

The one thing I do is to try and approach every new person I meet without prior assumptions or stereotypes – to get to know them on their own terms as a unique individual with their own particular interests, skills and experience. I don't have a problem with self-deprecating humour, or laughing at silly stereotypes. But when a joke reinforces a stereotype, that's not funny, it's just cheap and lazy. **TNN**

Read more...

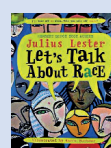
RACISM: A VERY SHORT INTRODUCTION | Ali Rattansi

A simple book to start with. It demystifies the subject of racism and explores its evolution through history, science, and culture.



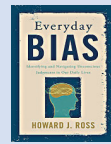
LET'S TALK ABOUT RACE | Julius Lester

The author brings up questions about why we think race is important and what it means to have a racial identity. Ideal for any age group.



EVERYDAY BIAS | Howard J Ross

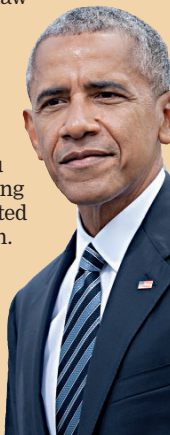
If you are human, you are biased. From this fundamental truth, diversity expert Howard Ross explores the biases we each carry within us.



FOLLOW OBAMA'S READING LIST

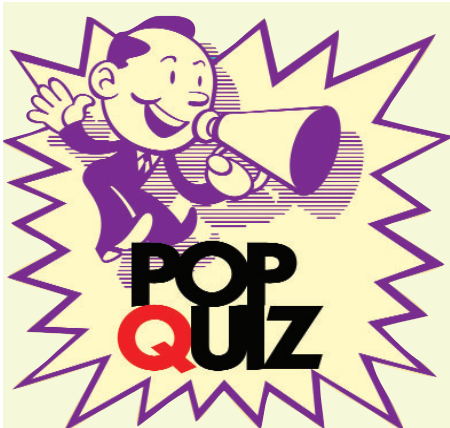
Former US President Barack Obama shared his summer reading list on social media, offering a mix of novels, short story collections and non-fiction for anyone "looking for some suggestions".

The list covers both new releases and older works from authors such as Téa Obreht, Colson Whitehead, Ted Chiang, Haruki Murakami, Dinaw Mengestu and Hilary Mantel. He begins the note on his Facebook page with a tribute to Toni Morrison, the recently-deceased Nobel Laureate. "To start, you can't go wrong by reading or re-reading the collected works of Toni Morrison. 'Beloved', 'Song of Solomon', 'The Bluest Eye', 'Sula', everything else – they're transcendent, all of them. You'll be glad you read them," he says.



OBAMA'S LIST

- THE COLLECTED WORKS OF Toni Morrison
- THE NICKEL BOYS by Colson Whitehead
- EXHALATION by Ted Chiang
- WOLF HALL by Hilary Mantel
- MEN WITHOUT WOMEN by Haruki Murakami
- AMERICAN SPY by Lauren Wilkinson
- THE SHALLOWS by Nicholas Carr
- LAB GIRL by Hope Jahren
- INLAND by Téa Obreht
- HOW TO READ THE AIR by Dinaw Mengestu
- MAID by Stephanie Land. **NYT**



Which book has this quote?

- "I was within and without, simultaneously enchanted and repelled by the inexhaustible variety of life."
- "Maybe everyone can live beyond what they're capable of."
- "Heard melodies are sweet, but those unheard, are sweeter."
- "There is nothing either good or bad, but thinking makes it so."
- "Without music, life would be a mistake."
- "I started my life with a single absolute: that the world was mine to shape in the image of my highest values and never to be given up to a lesser standard, no matter how long or hard the struggle."

ANSWERS

1. The Great Gatsby by Fitzgerald F. Scott
2. I Am the Messenger by Markus Zusak
3. Ode on a Grecian Urn and Other Poems by John Keats
4. Hamlet by William Shakespeare
5. Twilight of the Idols by Friedrich Nietzsche
6. Atlas Shrugged by Ayn Rand

Here's why the mosquitoes will always haunt us

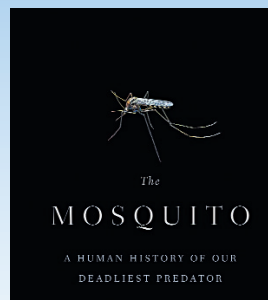


Timothy C Winegard's 'The Mosquito: A Human History of Our Deadliest Predator' chronicles the role the pest has played in shaping our world

BOOK REVIEW

Since the dawn of humankind, mosquitoes have been around to pester us, buzzing in our ears before selecting a blood vessel to feast. But these tiny, disease-transmitting bugs are more than a summertime nuisance; they have played a significant role in shaping our world today.

"The Mosquito: A Human History of Our Deadliest Predator", by Timothy C Winegard, chronicles the pest's role from the fall of the Roman Empire to the rise of Christianity... to the end of the American Civil War. "As the pinnacle purveyor of our extermination, the mosquito has consistently been at the front lines of history as the grim reaper, the harvester of human populations, and the ultimate agent of historical change," writes Winegard, a professor of history and political science at the Colorado Mesa University.



Winegard traces the history and science will enjoy Winegard's unique take on the ever-present pest. If you can't get away from mosquitoes in your backyard, then immerse yourself in this book and get a new perspective on this seemingly insignificant part of summer. **AP**

mosquito through history, starting with the dinosaurs up to present day. It's when humans began to cultivate farm animals in close proximity about 10,000 years ago that the mosquito really flourished. With the bug's ubiquity, it's no surprise that even ancient philosophers such as Homer have touched on the mosquito's disease!

Readers of non-fiction, history and science will enjoy Winegard's unique take on the ever-present pest. If you can't get away from mosquitoes in your backyard, then immerse yourself in this book and get a new perspective on this seemingly insignificant part of summer. **AP**

TIPS

How to create your own creative space

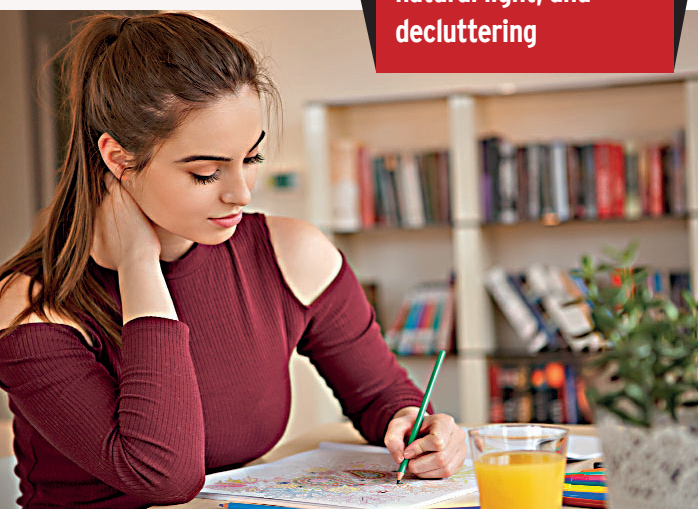
How do you create a space conducive to creative thinking? "They are spaces that reflect the real lives of people," says Ted Vadakan, co-author with Angie Myung of the new book, 'Creative Spaces: People, Homes, and Studios to Inspire'. The authors talked with 23 creative people in a range of disciplines to come up with their work. "One common thread we found (among all creative people) is that things (their workspace) were always in a state of progress; the space changes over time as they grow and change and explore," Vadakan says.



character," creative director David Irvin says in the book.

Get green

An abundance of plant life is also a common feature in creative spaces, as are displays of eclectic objects that trigger ideas or memories. "If you have things that inspire you, like a large bulletin board with inspiring photos, or shelves with inspiring objects, whether natural objects or things that someone has made, it



For spaces conducive to creative thinking, consider plants, natural light, and decluttering

can really help the creative process," says Lorna Aragon, home editor at 'Martha Stewart Living' magazine. "Having natural elements in your space is also crucial. A view of greenery is important, if that's possible, or bring plants into your space," she says.

Light it up

Creative spaces also should be orderly, Aragon says, with lots of natural light. "Clutter does not help you

to focus. You want your space to have some order," she says. And lighting, is very important. It helps productivity and improves moods.

Go neutral

For colours, Aragon favours a light touch. "I think neutrals are always good because they are not a distraction, but soft blues and greens also are supposed to help with productivity," she says. **AP**

AUGUST 21, 2019

MUST SEE

MUST DO



TELEVISION



■ **SNAKE SQUAD, ANIMAL PLANET, 3.00 PM:** In Goa, Alex Carpenter meets Aaron Fernandes who is up against a deadly Russell's viper in a beachside restaurant. Later, Aaron has to tackle a venomous cobra on the roof.

■ **SCIENCE ICONS, DISCOVERY SCIENCE, 5.00 PM:** Scientists are now

certain there is far more matter in the dark portions of the universe.

■ **MAN VS. WILD, DISCOVERY CHANNEL, 7.00 PM:** Bear Grylls survives the Pacific Ocean, encountering coral reefs, rip currents and relentless surf before coming face-to-face with sharks.

■ **WILDLIFE: ANIMALS GONE WILD, NATIONAL GEOGRAPHIC CHANNEL, 8.00 PM:** From the depths of the deep blue sea to the untamed jungles and rainforests, animals, birds and marine life pull off outrageous stunts and moments to survive various environments.



MOVIES ON TV

■ **THE EMOJI MOVIE, MNX, 3.40 PM:** Gene, a multi-expression emoji, gets sentenced to be deleted after he messes up a message his user Alex sends to his crush. Gene escapes the agents sent to destroy him and accepts his uniqueness.

■ **THE TRANSPORTER, STAR MOVIES, 4.21 PM:** An ex-soldier turned mercenary 'transporter' moves goods, human or otherwise, from one place to another. Complications arise

when a job goes astray and he has to save the life of his female cargo.



■ **IP MAN 3, WB, 7.12 PM:** Ip Man must help the police guard his son's school from a corrupt property developer. In the meantime, he has to look after his terminally ill wife and defend his title.

1541: Ottoman Turks under Suleiman the Magnificent captured Buda, the capital of the Hungarian Kingdom and went on to dominate central Hungary for 150 years.

1841: A patent for venetian blinds was issued to John Hampton.

1888: The adding machine was patented by William Burroughs.

1972: Wildlife Protection Act was passed in India.

1973: Sergey Brin who co-founded Google with Larry Page, was born in Moscow, Soviet Union.

1986: Usain Bolt, Jamaican sprinter, was born in Sherwood Content, Jamaica.

1989: Voyager 2, a US space probe, got close to the Neptune moon called Triton.

1993: NASA lost contact with the Mars Observer spacecraft. The fate of the spacecraft was unknown. The mission cost \$980 million.

2018: Water-ice first detected on the Moon by India's Chandrayaan-1 spacecraft (2008-9) in findings published by scientists.

THIS DAY THAT YEAR