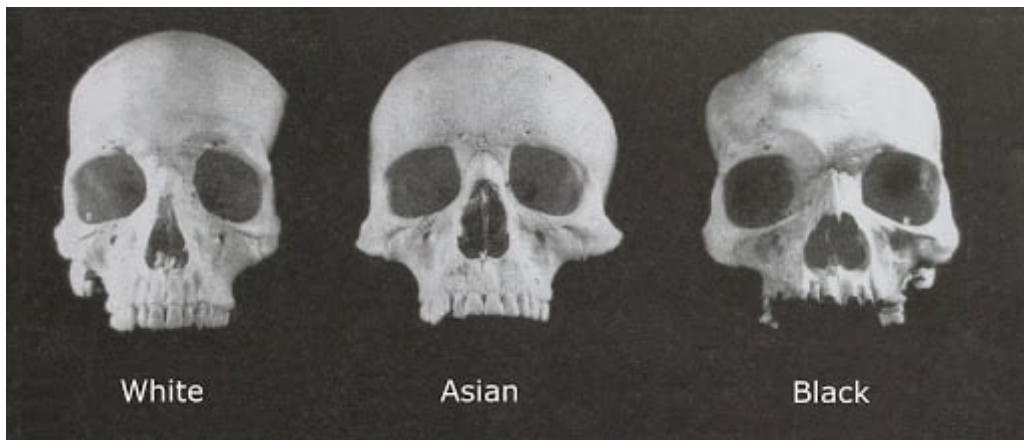


RACIALIZATION IN 2020

by Howard Rotberg



Have you noticed how various media are using the term “racialized” more often? Have you noticed that there is a lot of advocacy on the need to give special benefits, protections or privileges to “racialized” people? What does that mean?

And aren’t we supposed to act as individuals and judge people as individuals, not as part of a race or ethnicity? Don’t we in the west strive for a colour-blind society? And if we focus on the matters that divide us, how can we ever get along?

Webster-Merriam defines “racialized” as “the act or process of imbuing a person with a consciousness of race distinctions or of giving a [racial](#) character to something or making it serve [racist](#) ends”.

Does Black Lives Matter serve racist ends although it might seem a matter of racialized ends? Certainly when people are being disciplined at work for saying that All Lives Matter, we have become a racialized culture. Here is one example:

Leslie Neal-Boylan, the [Massachusetts](#)-Lowell, was allegedly fired after she received backlash from a student about an email to the campus community s for saying: “Recent events recall a tragic history of racism and bias that continue to thrive in this country. I despair for our future as a nation

if we do not stand up against violence against anyone. BLACK LIVES MATTER, but also, EVERYONE'S LIFE MATTERS."

"No one should have to live in fear that they will be targeted for how they look or what they believe," the email continues, urging the nursing school students to "care for *everyone* regardless of race, creed, color, religion, ethnicity, ability or gender preference."

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