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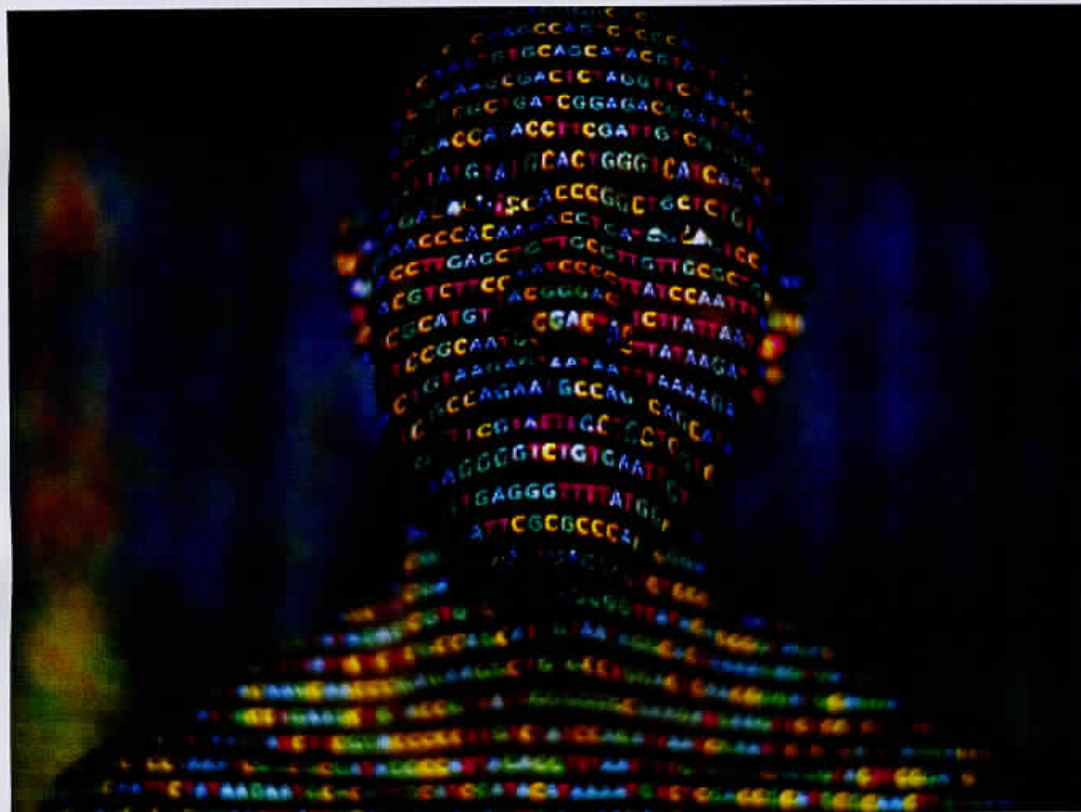
APRIL 2018 • VOL. 233 • NO. 4 • OFFICIAL JOURNAL OF THE NATIONAL GEOGRAPHIC SOCIETY

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## THE RACE ISSUE

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To mark the 50th anniversary of Martin Luther King, Jr.'s assassination, we explore what race means in the 21st century.



## 28 | SKIN DEEP

What is race? Science tells us there is no genetic basis for it. Instead it's largely a made-up label, used to define and separate us.

By Elizabeth Kolbert Photographs by Robin Hammond

## 46 | WHAT DIVIDES US

Human beings are wired at birth to distinguish Us from Them and to favor our own group. Can science help us bridge the divides?

By David Berreby Photographs by John Stanmeyer

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## ON THE COVER

**Marcia (left) and Millie Biggs**, both 11, say people are shocked to learn that they're fraternal twins. Marcia looks more like their mother, who's English, and Millie looks more like their father, who's of Jamaican descent. See more about the twins on page 12. *Photo by Robin Hammond*

**#IDefineMe** Science defines you by your DNA. Society defines you by the color of your skin. How do you define yourself?

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THE RACE ISSUE

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More than a thousand streets across the world bear Rev. Martin Luther King, Jr.'s name. How do these roads reflect the civil rights icon's values and teachings? *By Wendi C. Thomas*



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Traffic stops—the most common interaction between police and the public—are a flash point in the debate over race. *By Michael A. Fletcher*  
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The growing acceptance of relationships across racial and ethnic lines can be seen at a New York City marriage bureau. *By Patricia Edmonds*  
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*Photographs by Nina Robinson and Radcliffe "Ruddy" Roye*



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An artist reenacts historic scenes from the black struggle for freedom. The times and places differ; the resolve is the same. *By Maurice Berger*  
*Photographs by Omar Victor Diop*

COMING UP

DIVERSITY IN AMERICA

This year *National Geographic* will offer multimedia coverage of racial, ethnic, and religious groups and examine their changing roles in 21st-century life.

THE SERIES WILL INCLUDE:

MUSLIMS

In the United States, nearly 3.5 million Muslims from some 75 countries are experiencing opportunity—and opposition.

LATINOS

Latinos in the United States come from many races. Now at about 18 percent of the population, they're the nation's largest minority group.

ASIAN AMERICANS

South Asians are a major force in medicine, technology, and business. Today they're playing increasingly prominent roles in mainstream American culture. Also: We revisit some of the 120,000 Japanese U.S. citizens incarcerated during World War II.

NATIVE AMERICANS

Their culture at times erased or appropriated, Native Americans are rising up to fight the marginalization they've endured.



**STREETS IN HIS NAME**  
Wendi C. Thomas is editor and publisher of the website MLK50: Justice Through Journalism. She also writes for ESPN about racial and economic justice.



**WHAT DIVIDES US**  
David Berreby's award-winning latest book, *Us and Them: The Science of Identity*, explores the human instinct to separate into groups.



**A PLACE OF THEIR OWN**  
Writer and educator Clint Smith focuses on racism and inequality in the United States. His first book of poetry, *Counting Descent*, was published in 2016.



**WHITE AMERICA**  
Gillian Laub drew on more than a decade of photographing lingering racism in the U.S. South for her 2015 book and documentary, *Southern Rites*.

PHOTOS: IAN TEH (TOP LEFT); RADCLIFFE "RUDDY" ROYE (BOTTOM RIGHT)

**Corrections and Clarifications**  
Go to [natgeo.com/corrections](http://natgeo.com/corrections).