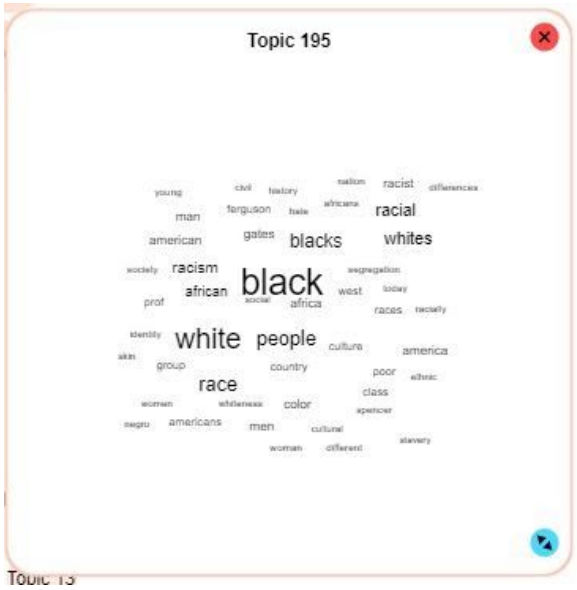
Public discourse as represented in the media treats humanists as authorities on cultural discourses about race, racism, and ethics.

WE1S's "Social Groups and the humanities" team focused on analyzing how links between identity categories (such as race and sexuality) and the humanities emerge in the language of articles discussing these subjects. Examining a topic model (200 topics) of WE1S's Collection 1 (82,324 articles from U.S. media), we found that race and ethnicity play a role in a number of topics associated with issues not directly related to the humanities, such as global governance, protest movements, and the Israel/Palestine conflict. But "humanities" appears in such topics only insofar as articles were written by humanists themselves or treated humanists as authorities on the subject.

Topics such as #195, for example, suggest that this occurs because race and ethnicity are culturally constructed in newspapers, magazines, and other media sources through the publication of humanist commentators' own opinions on these matters. Articles by or quoting humanists thus become sites where humanists directly influence public conversation about race/racial categories, while the media sources featuring such articles borrow authority and credibility from those humanists. Topic 195, for instance, contains a *Washington Post* article about the social construction of race. The article includes the following quote from NYU professor of philosophy and law Kwame Anthony Appiah:

> *[W]hile much of the scientific superstructure of race has been dismantled in the past century, the world outside the sciences hasn't taken much notice. Too many of us remain captive to a cartography of color.*

By including such humanistic commentaries on race and other cultural identity formations, *The Washington Post* and other publications use the authority of humanities writers and scholars to position themselves as credible reporters on the cultural aspects/ construction of race. This becomes a means for these publications to intervene within and shape such discussions.



Topic #195 viewed in TopicBubbles.

Document collection studied: Collection 1: U.S. News Media, c. 1989-2019

Topic model of this collection: C-1.200 (200 topics)

Interesting sample topics in the model: #122, #195

Representative articles: a, b, c

Evidentiary documentation for this key finding: WE1S report