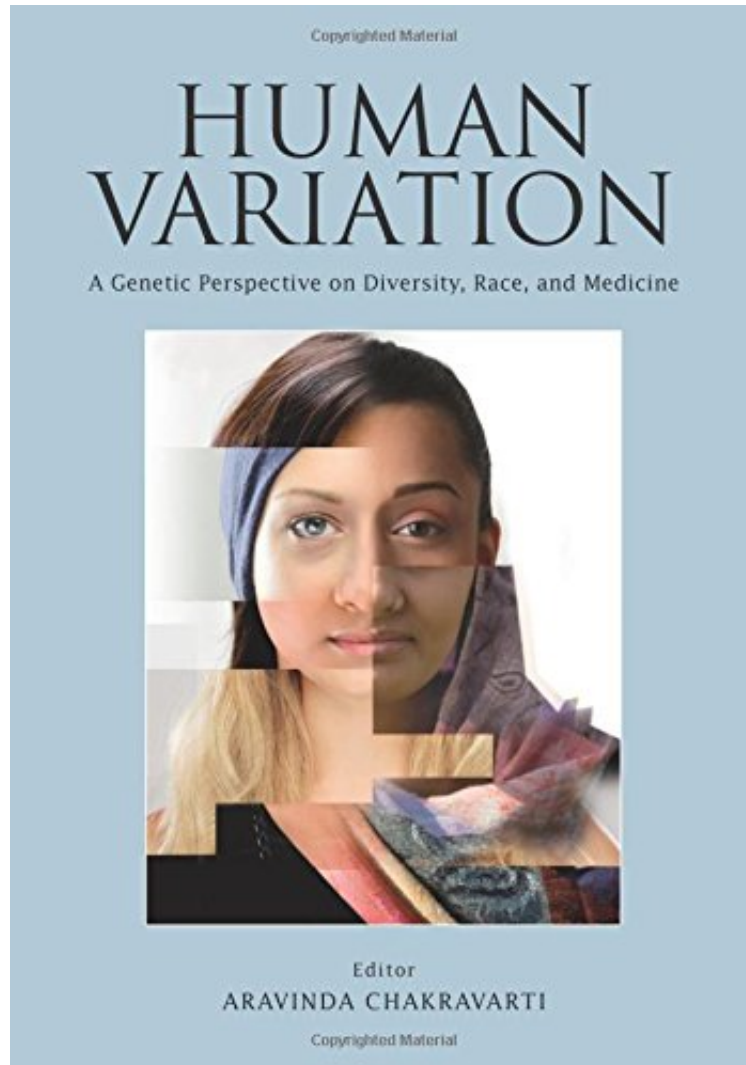


[Download] Human Variation: A Genetic Perspective on Diversity, Race, and Medicine

Human Variation: A Genetic Perspective on Diversity, Race, and Medicine

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From Cold Spring Harbor Laboratory Press : Human Variation: A Genetic Perspective on Diversity, Race, and Medicine before purchasing it in order to gage whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised Human Variation: A Genetic Perspective on Diversity, Race, and Medicine:

3 of 3 people found the following review helpful. Worth buying for excellent "perspectives" chaptersBy MollyThis is an edited book with chapters written by different experts and is uneven as such books usually are. As always in a fast-moving field, an edited book will already be out of date relative to publications (e.g. on Native American origins). My favorites were perspectives, not reviews, which don't date as quickly. Kenneth Weiss and Brian Lambert have a nice

chapter on the ability of admixture structure analysis to reproduce the assumptions of the investigators. They run simulations on unstructured data sets to show how easy it is to generate seeming patterns where there are none. Troy Duster has a useful chapter on how social definitions of race slip into personalized, racialized medicine. The chapter I found most interesting was by Romila Thapar ("Can Genetics Help Us Understand Indian Social History?" Some Indian geneticists have looked to population genetics to justify unscientific, racialized notions of the "purity" of caste and/or the "Aryan" myth of linguistic and historical origins. Thapar shows how these ideas are incongruent with what actually happened in history (Hindu castes, for instance, were much more porous than is usually assumed, and the ancient Harappan civilization of the subcontinent long predates the spread of Indo-European languages. Chakravarti's chapter covers some of the same ground in comparative terms.

Since the appearance of modern humans in Africa around 200,000 years ago, we have migrated around the globe and accumulated genetic variations that affect various traits, including our appearance, skin color, food tolerance, and susceptibility to different diseases. Large-scale DNA sequencing is now allowing us to map the patterns of human genetic variation more accurately than ever before, trace our ancestries, and develop personalized therapies for particular diseases. It is also reinforcing the idea that human populations are far from homogeneous, are highly intermixed, and do not fall into distinct races or castes that can be defined genetically. This book provides a state-of-the-art view of human genetic variation and what we can infer from it, surveying the genetic diversity seen in Africa, Europe, the Americas, and India. The contributors discuss what this can tell us about human history and how it can be used to improve human health. They also caution against assumptions that differences between individuals always stem from our DNA, stressing the importance of nongenetic forces and pointing out the limits of our knowledge. The book is thus essential reading for all human geneticists and anyone interested in how we differ and what this means.

About the Author Aravinda Chakravarti is Director, Center for Complex Disease Genomics, McKusick-Nathans Institute of Genetic Medicine, and Professor of Medicine of Johns Hopkins University. Dr. Chakravarti's is a human geneticist and a computational biologist renowned for his studies of predisposing genetic factors in complex human diseases as diabetes, heart disease and mental illness. He is the 2008 President of the American Society of Human Genetics (ASHG). Dr. Chakravarti is one of the Editors-in-Chief of Genome Research, and serves on the Advisory and Editorial Boards of numerous national and international journals, boards and societies. He is also a past member of the NIH National Advisory Council of the National Human Genome Research Institute, chaired the NIH Subcommittee on the 3rd 5-year Genome Project Plan, and continues to serve on several NIH panels.