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Eugenics Impact on Society

Angela Phuong

Binghamton University--SUNY

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Buck v. Bell as Disinformation

PRESENTER: Angela Phuong

BACKGROUND:

My project showcased how eugenics impacted society psychologically especially as a result of the court case *Buck v. Bell*. This case legalized the forcible sterilization of “feeble-minded” women in order to prevent them from spreading their genes onto the next generation.

METHODS

The data for this project was collected through analysis of *Buck v. Bell* using a psychological theory, “seize” and “freeze” (Kruglanski and Webster 1996), and its effect within the information ecosystem.



Image By: Arthur Estabrook

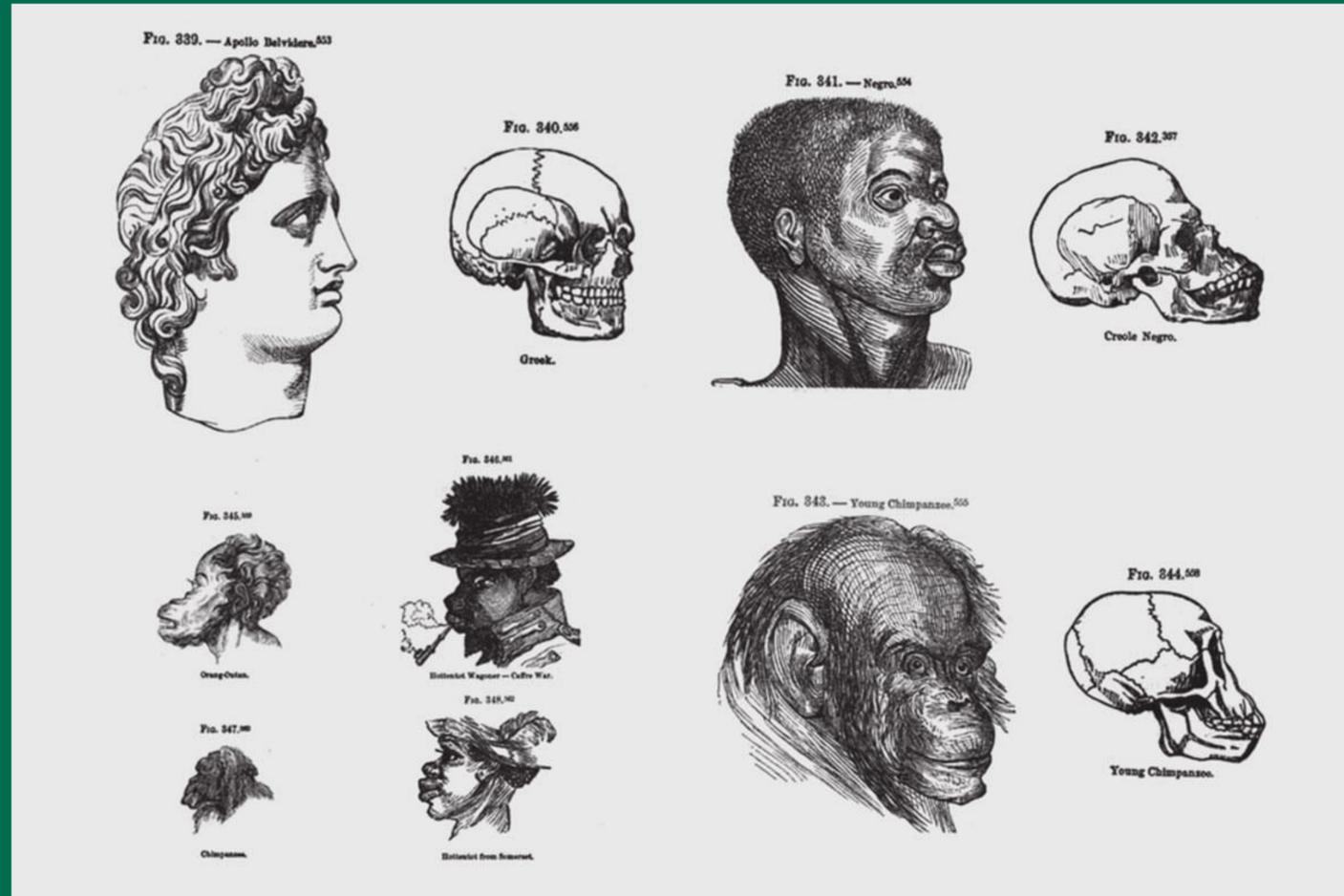


Image By: J.C. Nott and Geo. R. Gliddon

Instead of exploring rational arguments, individuals tend to seize and freeze their instinctual beliefs and find ways to support them.

RESULTS

When people are affected by the disinformation spread by the scientific community, they continue to spread it and some people will use it to their advantage. Disinformation becomes embedded in the legal system, especially with *Buck v. Bell*.

CONCLUSION

People tend to “seize” and “freeze” (Kruglanski and Webster 1996) ideas and this can cause harm to a lot of people. A few scientists observed and conducted whatever experiments they could in order to prove that eugenics was true from a scientific point of view.

People tend to follow their instincts more than reasoning. The reasoning will be used afterward to justify whatever conclusion they had reached (Haidt 2001).

