The Whiteness of Milk: The High Stakes of Lactose (In)tolerance

Until a few years ago, being lactose tolerant or intolerant seemed fairly unremarkable. You were either one or the other. However, the ability to digest milk has recently been embraced by the alt-right as a sign of white superiority. Fanning this controversy of the “white milk gene” are the epic discoveries in archaeology and genetics providing evidence for the beginnings of dairying in prehistoric Europe. Even though experts in the hard and soft sciences decry the misuse of science, the ability to digest milk remains a persistent and real biological fact. This talk examines the “whiteness” of the dairy gene as a history of an idea to explore:

What is really at stake in the reality of dairy digestion?

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