

Population Genetics and Belonging

Venla Oikkonen

Population Genetics and Belonging

A Cultural Analysis of Genetic
Ancestry

palgrave
macmillan

Venla Oikkonen
Helsinki Collegium for Advanced Studies
University of Helsinki
Helsinki, Finland

ISBN 978-3-319-62880-6 ISBN 978-3-319-62881-3 (eBook)
DOI 10.1007/978-3-319-62881-3

Library of Congress Control Number: 2017948382

© The Editor(s) (if applicable) and The Author(s) 2018

This work is subject to copyright. All rights are solely and exclusively licensed by the Publisher, whether the whole or part of the material is concerned, specifically the rights of translation, reprinting, reuse of illustrations, recitation, broadcasting, reproduction on microfilms or in any other physical way, and transmission or information storage and retrieval, electronic adaptation, computer software, or by similar or dissimilar methodology now known or hereafter developed.

The use of general descriptive names, registered names, trademarks, service marks, etc. in this publication does not imply, even in the absence of a specific statement, that such names are exempt from the relevant protective laws and regulations and therefore free for general use.

The publisher, the authors and the editors are safe to assume that the advice and information in this book are believed to be true and accurate at the date of publication. Neither the publisher nor the authors or the editors give a warranty, express or implied, with respect to the material contained herein or for any errors or omissions that may have been made. The publisher remains neutral with regard to jurisdictional claims in published maps and institutional affiliations.

Cover illustration: Mark Harmel / Alamy Stock Photo

Printed on acid-free paper

This Palgrave Macmillan imprint is published by Springer Nature
The registered company is Springer International Publishing AG
The registered company address is: Gewerbestrasse 11, 6330 Cham, Switzerland

Acknowledgments

This book is an outcome of my postdoctoral project, “The Politics of Belonging: National Narrative in the Genomic Age” (2011–2016). The project was funded by a three-year Academy of Finland Postdoctoral Researcher’s grant (grant decision number 256997) and Kone Foundation’s postdoctoral research grant. I finished the book manuscript while working as a research fellow at Helsinki Collegium for Advanced Studies. I thank the Academy of Finland, the Kone Foundation, and the Collegium for making it possible to engage in a multiyear project—a true privilege in today’s fast-paced academic world.

Part of the research was conducted during several research visits to the Centre for Gender and Women’s Studies at Lancaster University. I presented very early versions of some of the analyses during my visits and received insightful and helpful comments. Thank you Maureen McNeil, Celia Roberts, Lucy Suchman, Anne-Marie Fortier, and all you wonderful people. Special thanks to Maureen for hospitality and intellectual generosity and for introducing me to the Lake District.

Most of the book was researched and written while I worked in the Gender Studies unit at the University of Helsinki. Warm thanks go to my gender studies colleagues, many of whom I have known for years. Thank you Johanna Kantola, Marjaana Jauhola, Heini Kinnunen, Aino-Maija Hiltunen, Marjut Jyrkinen, and all of you.

This book was inspired by discussions with Finnish Science and Technology Studies scholars working on related topics. I want to thank Karoliina Snell, Heta Tarkkala, and Aaro Tupasela for their inspiration and for believing that it makes sense to approach population genetics from a cultural studies viewpoint. Very special thanks go to Mianna Meskus, who read drafts and pushed me to rethink my concepts and refine my arguments. Thanks also to Hanna Pihkola for numerous inspiring discussions on everything related to science and technology during our Sunday morning walks to yoga class.

My colleagues at the Helsinki Collegium for Advanced Studies have been absolutely wonderful and supportive. Thank you (in no particular order) Katja Ritari, Elina Hartikainen, Josephine Hoegaerts, Monika Krause, Barbie Zelizer, Ann Phoenix, Florencia Quesada, Mike Schmidli, Henning Trüper, Ilkka Lindstedt, Minna Palander-Collin, Maija Väättämoinen, and all of you for making sure there was always enough laughter and intellectual debate around. Also, thank you Taru Lilja for sorting out some very messy references.

As always, particularly heartfelt thanks go to family, parents, and friends, and especially to those nearest and dearest: Joseph Flanagan and Liam and Fiona. Thank you. You made this book possible.

* * *

Some of the chapters draw on my previously published work. Chapter 2 builds on “Mitochondrial Eve and the Affective Politics of Human Ancestry,” published in *Signs: Journal of Women in Culture and Society* 40.3 (2015): 747–772. Parts of Chaps. 3 and 4 develop analysis initially published in “Kennewick Man and the Evolutionary Origins of the Nation” in *Journal of American Studies* 48.1 (2014): 275–290. I thank the University of Chicago Press and Cambridge University Press for permission to include the work here.

Contents

1	Studying Population Genetics and Belonging	1
2	Mitochondrial Eve and the Affective Politics of Scientific Technologies	23
3	Imagining Origins Through Ancient Human DNA	73
4	Evolutionary Nostalgia and the Temporality of Belonging	131
5	Genetic Communities and the Boundaries of Belonging	173
6	Reflections on Methodology and Biotechnological Change	221
	Index	231