

Reading Questions for March 18

These questions cover excerpts from a book by David Boonin called *Should Race Matter? Unusual Answers to the Usual Questions*. The answers do not have to be turned in. You will probably have to read more than once to get the answers.

*Background:*

We are now looking at debates regarding racial profiling. Because our class tended to agree that racial profiling is not morally acceptable (almost everyone said this, with the remaining few undecided), I thought it would be helpful to look at some arguments challenging this claim. So we are going to spend Monday and Wednesday examining arguments by Boonin that racial profiling is both rationally acceptable and morally acceptable. In the context of arguing that it is morally acceptable, he surveys a number of arguments, so his piece should be helpful in laying out the terrain, even if you do not ultimately agree with his arguments. Today we'll be looking at his argument that it is morally acceptable.

*Questions:*

1. In his section titled "Unreasonable Searches and Seizures" (24-27) Boonin considers an objection to racial profiling that it violates people's rights to be free from unreasonable searches and seizures. His discussion of this objection is somewhat complicated. How does it proceed? Is what he has to say plausible?
2. In his section titled "Equal Protection Under the Law" (27-30) Boonin considers an objection to racial profiling that it violates people's right have equal protection under the law. His discussion of this objection is somewhat complicated. How does it proceed? Is what he has to say plausible?

3. What is the objection Boonin considers in the section titled “The Costs of Racial Profiling”? (30-33) What is his second response to it (you can skip the first one)? Is it plausible?