



Making social worlds

Classifying races

Prof. Deborah Posel, Director, Wits Institute for Social and Economic Research:

Immediately after the Population Registration Act was passed in 1950 teams of classifiers did go ranging around the countryside, especially to work places, to produce a classification of a person on the spot. And because it had to be done very quickly, there was no pretence of any science in this process.

Sheena Duncan:

And there were ghastly tests officials did, of sticking a pencil through your hair and if it was curly enough so that the pencil didn't fall out, you were black.