

Issues in Science Communication Series

Race, Biological Causation, and Science Communication

October 10, 2014

2-5:30PM

Newkirk Alumni Center

- Can myriad uses of statistics produce belief that genetics largely explain racial health disparities?
- Should ancestry models be used to assess whether “African Ancestry” may account for increased genetic risks in African-Americans?
- Do new studies using brain scans to detect individual perception of racial difference lead to understanding of racism itself as fundamentally a biological rather than a social phenomenon?
- Does information linking biological causation to race take on a particular life in the press?

A distinguished panel of speakers will discuss how the scientific act of establishing a biological cause for traits and the communication of that scientific information to the public might (mis)shape society’s concept of race. Panelists will discuss how reasoning on race travels in society broadly, and will examine cultural forces that constrain scientific communication.

Speakers

Jonathan Kahn, Hamline School of Law

Race, Law and Neuroscience: Some Explicit Problems with Implicit Bias

Duana Fullwiley, Stanford University

“So, My Cancer Came From Africa?” How Ancestry Genetics in Medical Research Shapes Ideas about Causality and Disease Risk

Jay Kaufman, McGill University

The Use of Negative Controls in the Genetic Epidemiology of Racial Disparities

Sally Lehrman, Santa Clara University

Taking up the Cry: When Genetics, Race, and News Print Meet

Aaron Panofsky, University of California, Los Angeles

How “Unscientific” Ideas about Race Contribute to the Scientific Authority of Behavior Genetics



Presented by:

Newkirk Center for Science and Society

Co-Sponsored by:

Program in African American Studies

UCI ADVANCE Program

Program in Literary Journalism

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Department of Logic and Philosophy of Science

Ayala School of Biological Sciences

School of Social Ecology

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More information- www.newkirkcenter.uci.edu

Parking provided free of charge

Newkirk Alumni Center is located at 450 Alumni Court, UC Irvine
at the corner of University Dr. and Mesa Rd.

Questions -



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