Class 2 - SEPTEMBER 28, 2016  BIOMEDICINE AND RACE

MEET THE SPEAKERS:

Sharon Ashok  
**Undergraduate Student in Anthropology and French and Francophone Studies**  
*University of Pennsylvania*

As an undergraduate student, Sharon has taken courses on human evolution, disease, and human osteology. Since the summer of 2015, she has worked as an intern in the Penn Museum’s Physical Anthropology Section. Her undergraduate thesis will explore the work of French physician and anthropologist, Paul Broca, as it relates to hybridity and scientific racism.

Janet Monge, Ph.D.  
**Curator-in-Charge of the Physical, Anthropology Section in the Penn Museum and Adjunct Professor in Anthropology**  
*University of Pennsylvania*

The Museum collection is extensive and includes both historic and archaeological skeletal collections with all skeletons 3D digitized using computed tomography. Monge’s research interests include human evolution, human skeletal biology, bioarchaeology, and life history/paleodemography. In addition, she offers research experiences in applied anthropology within forensic science and museum studies (emphasizing NAGPRA) and teaches classes in all of these topical areas. She is Director of the Museum’s Fossil Casting Program that produces over 3000 bones representing all phases of human and primate evolution—fossil casts and human skeletal materials form the core of all of her classes and are integrated into all aspects of graduate student education.

Taunya English  
**Senior Health Writer, WHYY**  
**Moderator, Biomedicine and Race**

Taunya English is a senior writer for “The Pulse,” WHYY’s weekly radio show on health, science and innovation. In recent years, she’s covered the influence of neighborhoods, social policy and economics on wellbeing. Before joining WHYY, Taunya worked for the public radio station in Baltimore and as a science writer in Washington, D.C. She holds a masters degree from Northwestern University’s Medill School of Journalism.

Martha Farah, Ph.D.  
**Annenberg Professor of Natural Sciences and Director of the Center for Neuroscience & Society**  
*University of Pennsylvania*

Farah is a cognitive neuroscientist who works on problems at the interface of neuroscience and society. Her areas of interest include the effects of socioeconomic adversity on children’s brain development and emerging ethical, legal and social issues in neuroscience (“neuroethics”). She also teaches, advises graduate students and postdoctoral fellows, and directs the Center for Neuroscience & Society and the SCAN graduate certificate program.
MEET THE SPEAKERS:

John L. Jackson, Jr., Ph.D.
Richard Perry University Professor, Penn Integrates Knowledge (PIK) Professor, Dean of the School of Social Policy & Practice, University of Pennsylvania

Dr. Jackson’s research examines racial and class-based differences in contemporary urban environments, including a focus on how urbanites themselves theorize and deploy those differences in everyday interactions. He uses ethnographic research methods to extend and expand Critical Race Theory as an analytical and explanatory framework for understanding contemporary social conflicts. He examines how contemporary urban religions are being mobilized to improve health literacy and health outcomes in poor and underserved communities in Philadelphia and around the world. Dr. Jackson’s also explores how film and other non-traditional or multi-modal formats can be most effectively utilized in scholarly research projects, as a founding member of CAMRA and PIVPE, two Penn-based initiatives organized around creating visual and performative research projects—and producing rigorous criteria for assessing them.

Jay Kaufman, Ph.D.
Faculty of Medicine, Department of Epidemiology & Biostatistics, McGill Centre on Population Dynamics, McGill University
Visiting Professor (2015), Penn Programs on Race, Science, and Society, University of Pennsylvania

Dr. Kaufman’s work focuses on social epidemiology, analytic methodology, causal inference and on a variety of health outcomes including perinatal outcomes and cardiovascular, psychiatric and infectious diseases. He is an editor at the journal “Epidemiology” and an associate editor at “American Journal of Epidemiology”. With J. Michael Oakes he is the co-editor of the textbook “Methods in Social Epidemiology”. He has over 200 publications in peer-reviewed journals.

Dorothy Roberts, Ph.D.
George A. Weiss University Professor of Law and Sociology
Raymond Pace and Sadie Tanner Mossell Alexander Professor of Civil Rights
Director, Program on Race, Science and Society

An acclaimed scholar of race, gender and the law, Roberts joined the University of Pennsylvania as its 14th Penn Integrates Knowledge Professor with a joint appointment in the Department of Sociology and the Law School where she also holds the inaugural Raymond Pace and Sadie Tanner Mossell Alexander chair. Her pathbreaking work in law and public policy focuses on urgent contemporary issues in health, social justice, and bioethics, especially as they impact the lives of women, children and African-Americans. She is the author of more than 100 scholarly articles and book chapters, as well as a co-editor of six books on such topics as constitutional law and women and the law.

Carolyn Rouse
Professor and Chair, Department of Anthropology, Princeton University

Rouse is a cultural anthropologist who focuses on how evidence and authority are used to validate truth claims and calls for social justice. Grounding her work is her interest in racialization or how race is understood, categorized, and made real within the domains of religion, medicine, development, and education. Her work in medicine explores how statistical evidence is used to make claims about health care and social justice. She focuses on uncertainties around what constitutes a racial health disparity, and the evidence-based research used to assert particular narratives of injustice and calls for reparations.

THE PUBLIC CLASSROOM
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Class 2 – SEPTEMBER 28, 2016

BIOMEDICINE AND RACE

Does racial background have an effect on the health of individuals or communities? Race has made its way into medical practice. This class will explore how, or if racial differences contribute to disease susceptibility within biomedical practice.

CLASS SCHEDULE:

6:30 – 6:35 PM  Introduction,  
Kate Quinn, Director of Exhibitions and Public Programs, Penn Museum

6:35 – 6:45 PM  Glossary Review with Sharon Ashok

6:45 – 7:10 PM  Collections Workshop with Janet Monge
7:10 – 7:15 PM  Workshop Q&A

7:10 – 7:30 PM  Short Break

7:30 – 8:45 PM  Panel discussion with:  
Martha Farah, University of Pennsylvania
John Jackson, University of Pennsylvania
Jay Kaufman, McGill University
Dorothy Roberts, George A. Weiss University
Carolyn Rouse, Princeton University
Taunya English, Moderator

8:35 – 9:45 PM  Q&A

8:45 – 9:00 PM  Closing remarks with Taunya English and panelists

This class will be live-streamed, and class recordings will be posted at  
www.penn.museum/sites/pmclassroom

Please share your thoughts on the class with us by completing a survey on the Public Classroom website:  
http://www.penn.museum/sites/pmclassroom/classes/biomedicine-and-race/
READING LIST:

Continue your exploration of this topic with the following readings, recommended by our panelists.

ADULT:

Uncertain Suffering: Racial Health Care Disparities and Sickle Cell Disease
by Carolyn Rouse
http://neuroethics.upenn.edu/martha-j-farah-phd/research/socioeconomic-status-and-brain/

A Definition: Neuroethics
by Martha J. Farah

News Feature: The Neuroscience of Poverty
by Alla Katsnelson

The Problem with Race-Based Medicine [TedMed Video]
Featuring Dorothy Roberts
https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=tx2j_nMubX4

Solving the Riddle of Race: Studies in History and Philosophy of Biological and Biomedical Sciences
by J. Marks (2016, in press)
http://www.sciencedirect.com/science/journal/1369848

Scientists Seek Genetic Clues To Asthma’s Toll On Black Children [NPR Audio]
by Lesley McClurg
http://www.npr.org/sections/health-shots/2016/06/07/481092103/scientsts-seek-genetic-clues-to-why-asthma-is-deadlier-in-blacks This story

YOUTH:

I Don’t See Race [MTV Video]
Featuring Franchesca “Chescaleigh” Ramsey
https://www.facebook.com/MTV/videos/10153804468581701/
ACADEMIC:

Uncertain Suffering: Racial Health Care Disparities and Sickle Cell Disease (1st Edition)
by Carolyn Rouse
https://www.amazon.com/Uncertain-Suffering-Racial-Disparities-Disease/dp/0520259122

An Ethics Toolbox for Neurotechnology
by Martha J. Farah
http://repository.upenn.edu/neuroethics_pubs/138/

Socioeconomic Status and Neurocognitive Development: Executive Function
by Gwendolyn M. Lawson, Cayce J. Hook, Daniel A. Hackman & Martha J. Farah

Mapping The Trajectory Of Socioeconomic Disparity In Working Memory:
Parental And Neighborhood Factors
by Daniel A. Hackman, Laura M. Betancourt, Robert Gallop, Daniel Roner, Nancy L. Brodsky, Hallam Hurt, and Martha J. Farah
https://www.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/pmc/articles/PMC4107185/

What’s Wrong with Race-Based Medicine? Genes, Drugs, and Health Disparities
by Dorothy Roberts

Fatal Invention: How Science, Politics, and Big Business Re-create Race in the Twenty-first Century
by Dorothy Roberts [for purchase]
https://www.amazon.com/Fatal-Invention-Politics-Re-create-Twenty-first/dp/1595588345/ref=sr_1_1?ie=UTF8&qid=1471211115

Killing the Black Body: Race, Reproduction, and the Meaning of Liberty
by Dorothy Roberts
https://www.amazon.com/Killing-Black-Body-ReproductionMeaning/dp/0679758690/ref=sr_1_1?ie=UTF8&qid=1471211059&sr=8-1&keywords=killing+the+black+body

Debating the Cause of Health Disparities – Implications for Bioethics and Racial Equality
by Dorothy Roberts
http://scholarship.law.upenn.edu/cgi/viewcontent.cgi?article=1572&context=faculty_scholarship

Race, Gender, and the Conflation of Biological and Social Issues
by Dorothy Roberts
SCIENCE AND RACE:
HISTORY, USE, AND ABUSE

Is Race-Based Medicine Good for Us?: African-American Approaches to Race, Biotechnology, and Equality
By Dorothy Roberts

What’s the Use of Race? Modern Governance and the Biology of Difference
Edited by Ian Whitmarsh and David S. Jones

Chapter: The Use of Racial/Ethnic Categories in Medical Diagnosis and Treatment
by Richard Cooper and Jay Kaufman
https://mitpress.mit.edu/sites/default/files/titles/content/9780262514248_sch_0001.pdf

Epidemiologic Analysis Of Racial/Ethnic Disparities: Some Fundamental Issues And A Cautionary Example
by Jay Kaufman

Racial Categories in Medical Practice: How Useful Are They?
by Lundy Braun, Anne Fausto-Sterling, Duana Fullwiley, Evelyn M. Hammonds, Alondra Nelson, William Quivers, Susan M. Reverby, and Alexandra E. Sheilds
https://www.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/pmc/articles/PMC1989738/
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ACTIVITY:

Watch Dorothy Robert’s 2015 TEDMED talk, “The Problem with Race-Based Medicine” alone or with friends, family, classmates or colleagues, then answer the following questions.

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=tx2j_nMubX4

WRITING EXERCISE

1. Have you ever been asked to check a box for your race at a doctor’s office, hospital, or medical institution? What happened? How did that make you feel?

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2. How would you react if your doctor prescribed a race-specific medication for you on the basis of your self-identified race?

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3. Do you think that race-based medicine is an effective way of treating people?

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BIOMEDICINE AND RACE

GLOSSARY TERMS:
Tonight’s class presents topics related to the study of biomedicine, which is a medical science that uses the foundations of biology and natural sciences to medical practice. You may hear terms that are unfamiliar to you, some of them are listed below. Please take notes on these terms during class. Definitions will be posted on the Public Classroom website after class.

1. **EUGENICS**
2. **DNA**
3. **GENE**
4. **ALLELE**
5. **HOMOZYGOUS**
6. **HETEROZYGOUS**
7. **GENOME**
8. **HEREDITARY**
9. **ENVIRONMENT**
10. **EPGENETICS**
11. **MICROBIOME**
12. **ANCESTRY**
13. **RACE**
14. **ETHNICITY**
15. **PHRENOLOGY**
16. **BIAS**
17. **SOCIAL IDENTITY**
18. **POLYGENESIS**
19. **MONOGENESIS ACTIVITY**
SAVE THE DATE

OCTOBER 26 | 06:30PM - 09:00PM
Public Classroom: Genetics and Race

NOVEMBER 09 | 06:30PM - 09:00PM
Public Classroom: Geography, Culture and Race

NOVEMBER 16 | 06:30PM - 09:00PM
Public Classroom: Violence and Race

Visit the website: http://www.penn.museum/sites/pmclassroom for the Public Classroom @ Penn Museum to view the recorded classes as well as additional resources, activities, and information.

THANKS FOR ATTENDING!