THINKING ETHICALLY/STRUCTURALLY ABOUT RACE & RACISM

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Central bioethical question

What is the relationship between social inequalities and biology?

Unethical answer: social inequalities are caused by innate, biological differences (e.g., race)

D. Roberts, UPenn
The Scientific Invention of Race/
The Racial Invention of Science

D. Roberts, UPenn
Racism is not the product of race
Race is the product of racism

D. Roberts, UPenn
Black women are 3-4X more likely than white women to die from pregnancy-related causes.
Test the hypothesis that “black race independent of other factors increases the risk of extreme preterm birth and its frequency of recurrence.”

Race isn’t a risk factor; racism is
Embodying Racism

“Race is not a biological category that naturally produces health disparities because of genetic differences. Race is a political category that has staggering biological consequences because of the impact of social inequality on people’s health”

Roberts, Fatal Invention, 129
We’re Sick of Racism, Literally

By DOUGLAS JACOBS
NOVEMBER 11, 2017

ANGIE WANG

D. Roberts, UPenn
Understanding race & racism matters!

- Research design
- Participation
- Structural change v. status quo

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