# THINKING ETHICALLY/ STRUCTURALLY ABOUT RACE & RACISM

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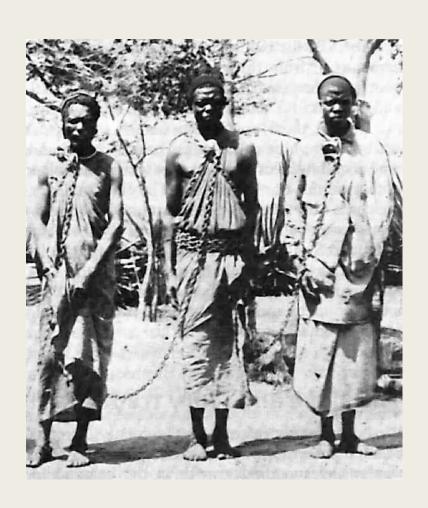
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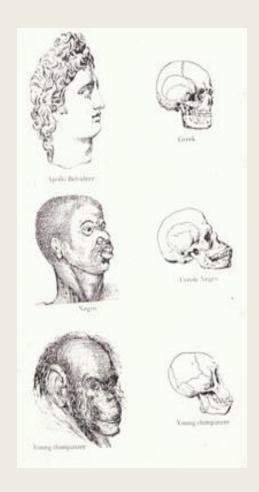
## Central bioethical question

What is the relationship between social inequalities and biology?

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

### The Scientific Invention of Race/ The Racial Invention of Science





# Racism is not the product of race Race is the product of racism

#### Maternal Deaths in the U.S. Are on the Rise Maternal mortality ratio (number of maternal deaths per 100,000 live births) United States Developed Regions 25 20 15 **Maternal Mortality Ratio** 10 1990 2013 World -45% 🚽 Developed Regions -38% **Developing Regions** 28 +136% United States 1990 1995 2000 2005 2013 Mashable statista 2 Source: World Health Organization

Black women are 3-4X more likely than white women to die from pregnancyrelated causes.

Test the hypothesis that "black race independent of other factors increases the risk of extreme preterm birth and its frequency of recurrence."

Zachary A.-F. Kistka, Lisanne Palomar, Kirstin A. Lee, et al., "Racial Disparity in the Frequency of Recurrence of Preterm Births," *American Journal of Obstetrics & Gynecology* 196 (2007): 131.e1.

# 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



## Understanding race & racism matters!

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

