Clarence C. Gravlee, Ph.D.

Sick of race:
How racism harms health and misleads medicine

Social scientists commonly assert that race is a cultural construct, not a biological reality. This refrain is correct in spirit, but it has proven to be an ineffective response to the persistence of racial-genetic determinism in medicine, science, and everyday life. What’s more, it creates a blind spot, deflecting attention from the biological consequences of cultural constructs like race. In this talk, I show how hidden assumptions about race, genes, and biology infect contemporary medicine and how integrating theory and methods from the social and biological sciences clarifies the health effects of systemic racism.

Monday
February 5, 2018
4:00 PM

Anthropology Building
1557 Dickey Drive
Atlanta, GA 30322

Lecture in room 303
Reception following in room 206

Clarence (Lance) Gravlee is Associate Professor in the Department of Anthropology at the University of Florida, where he also holds affiliate appointments in the Center for Latin American Studies, the African American Studies Program, and the Department of Behavioral Science and Community Health. Gravlee is a medical anthropologist who takes a critical biocultural approach to health and human development. His research focuses on the social and cultural context of racial inequalities in health, with an emphasis on stress and racism in the African Diaspora. Gravlee is former Editor of Medical Anthropology Quarterly (2013–2016) and co-editor (with H. Russell Bernard) of the recent Handbook of Methods in Cultural Anthropology. He received the 2010 Rudolph Virchow Award from the Society for Medical Anthropology for his paper, “How Race Becomes Biology: Embodiment of Social Inequality.”

Co-sponsored by the Emory College of Arts & Sciences Hightower Fund