

## Dorothy Roberts



Dorothy Roberts is the 14th Penn Integrates Knowledge Professor and George A. Weiss University Professor of Law & Sociology at University of Pennsylvania, with joint appointments in the Departments of Africana Studies and Sociology and the Law School, where she is the inaugural Raymond Pace and Sadie Tanner Mossell Alexander Professor of Civil Rights. She is also Founding Director of the Penn Program on Race, Science & Society. An internationally recognized scholar, public intellectual, and social justice advocate, Roberts has written and lectured extensively on the intersection of race and gender in U.S. institutions and has been a leader in transforming thinking on reproductive health, child welfare, and bioethics. She is author of *Killing the Black Body: Race, Reproduction, and the Meaning of Liberty* (Pantheon 1997; Twentieth Anniversary Edition, Vintage 2017), *Shattered Bonds: The Color of Child Welfare* (Basic Books 2002), and *Fatal Invention: How Science, Politics, and Big Business Re-create Race in the Twenty-First Century* (New Press 2011) and more than 100 articles and book chapters, as well as co-editor of six books. She has served on the boards of directors of the American Academy of Political and Social Science, Black Women's Health Imperative, and National Coalition for Child Protection Reform and on the advisory boards of the Center for Genetics and Society, Family Defense Center, Generations Ahead, and Still She Rises. Her work has been supported by the American Council of Learned Societies, National Science Foundation, Robert Wood Johnson Foundation, Harvard Program on Ethics & the Professions, and Stanford Center for the Comparative Studies in Race & Ethnicity. Recent recognitions of her work include Columbia's 2017 Mamie Phipps Clark & Kenneth B. Clark Distinguished Lecture Award, Society of Family Planning 2016 Lifetime Achievement Award, and American Psychiatric Association 2015 Solomon Carter Fuller Award. In 2017, she was elected to the National Academy of Medicine.

Department of Africana Studies  
The 40<sup>th</sup> Annual W.E.B. Du Bois Distinguished Lecture  
Wednesday, November 14, 2018  
6:00 pm UC Ballroom

### “Race, Racism, and the New Racial Science”

Recent advances in scientific research have included a renewed interest in biological concepts of race and explanations of racial inequality. The science that emerged from sequencing the human genome has been marked by investigations of race-based genetic difference and the redefinition of race as a genomic category. The genomic era has generated collaborations between biological and social scientists that seek to link social outcomes to genetic traits. Yet even some researchers who study the impact of social inequality on biological outcomes have explained racial disadvantage in biological terms. The biological and social scientists developing a new racial science elide the political implications of their research by distinguishing their objectivity and socially beneficial aims from scientific racism of the past. This lecture will critically examine the new racial science and propose a more just way for social and biological scientists to study race and racism.

UMBC

AN HONORS UNIVERSITY IN MARYLAND