

An Institute for Advanced Study Branigin Lecture
a Themester 2017 and CRRES Speaker Series event

Alondra Nelson



“Reconciliation Projects: The Vexed Racial Politics of Genetic Ancestry Testing”

In this lecture, Alondra Nelson will explain how cutting-edge DNA-based genealogical techniques are used in myriad ways to grapple with the afterlife of racial slavery. These reconciliation projects are cast against a historical backdrop of scientific racism and the myth of biological race as well as a contemporary politics of DNA-driven inequality in the criminal justice system. Nelson shows that science can be a crucial ally to activism to spur social change and transform twenty-first-century racial politics. But Nelson warns that the social repair we seek cannot be found in even the most sophisticated science.

Thursday, September 14 at 7PM, Grand Hall
of the Neal-Marshall Black Culture Center

Alondra Nelson is Professor of Sociology and Dean of Social Sciences at Columbia University. Beginning Fall 2017, she is the President of the Social Science Research Council. Nelson is widely known for her award-winning work on the intersections of science, technology and social inequality.

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