

# Conspiracy, Misinformation, AND THE Infodemic

## CAS 2021–22 INITIATIVE

In the midst of the COVID-19 pandemic, Americans are facing another challenge—an “infodemic” of “fake news,” disinformation, and conspiracy theories spreading at an unprecedented rate, exacerbating anxiety and widening political divides. Dishonest communication has plagued democratic societies across the millennia, but new technologies broaden its reach, accelerate its spread, and demand new approaches to governing public discourse. The Center for Advanced Study invites you to participate in a series of public conversations about the origins of conspiracy theories; the dissemination of misinformation; rumors and fake news; the uses of propaganda; and other forms of information manipulation that change behavior and public opinion.

*CAS Director May Berenbaum and Deputy Director Masumi Iriye oversee this new initiative featuring UI faculty as well as invited guests.*

Co-hosted by the Center for Advanced Study and the Office of the Provost.

## Eugenics and Expertise: The “Science” of Race Crossing

Monday, November 1, 2021 | 2:00 pm CDT

**Rana Hogarth**

*Associate Professor of History*

This talk examines how ideas about race from the era of slavery propelled eugenicists to study race crossing in the early 20th century. In this talk Professor Hogarth will demonstrate how 20th-century eugenicists—namely Charles B. Davenport—branded mixed race people with African ancestry as threats to the public’s health. Davenport, and many of his ilk, relied on “precision” methods developed by anthropologists, physicians, and statisticians to prove the unfitness of people with African ancestry. Professor Hogarth argues that these methods were shaped by, and deployed, within contexts that took non-white bodies to be inherently unfit. Finally, this talk explores the misuse of medical expertise and challenges notions of inherent objectivity in scientific knowledge production.

Registration is required for this Zoom event.

Scan the code or visit

<https://cas.illinois.edu/node/2553>

For more information please consult [cas.illinois.edu](https://cas.illinois.edu)

