



QUANTITATIVE & SYSTEMS BIOLOGY COLLOQUIUM:

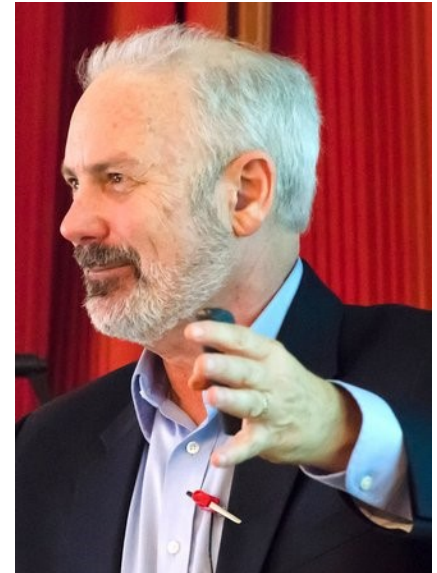
Systemic Racism, Systemic Sexism, and the Embryological Enterprise

Scott F. Gilbert

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About The Speaker:

Scott F. Gilbert is the Howard A. Schneiderman Professor of Biology, Emeritus, at Swarthmore College and a Finland Distinguished Professor, Emeritus, at the University of Helsinki. He is a leading authority on science education and his "Developmental Biology" textbook is now in its 12th Edition. Scott has received several awards, including the Service Award for Education and Outreach at the Pan-American Society for Evolutionary Developmental Biology, the Medal of François I from the Collège de France, the Choice Outstanding Academic Book Award, honorary doctorates from the University of Helsinki (Finland) and the University of Tartu (Estonia), and a John Simon Guggenheim Foundation Grant. He is also a recipient of the Viktor Hamburger Prize for Excellence in Education, the Kowalevsky Prize in Evolutionary Developmental Biology and he has been elected a Fellow of the American Association for the Advancement of Science.



Abstract:

Systemic racism and sexism is not merely an emphasis about human differences or thinking that another group of people is inferior to one's own. Rather, the institutional nature of racism or sexism establishes a permanent group hierarchy that is believed to reflect the laws of nature or the decrees of God. It thus becomes the norm of a culture to think and behave according to these rules. Notions of hierarchy became solidified into the Great Chain of Being during the Middle Ages, as did views concerning hereditary racial and sexual superiority. During the Enlightenment, such classifications became established by philosophy and science. Starting in the 1800s, embryology and anthropology were used as evidence for the unilinear progression of species and races. The first evolutionary schemes were not "branching trees." In these schemes, women and non-white races were seen as embryonic or juvenile forms of the adult white male, and they were often depicted as intermediaries between the fully human and the animals. Such linear schemes of evolution remain part of popular culture and even some science, promoting the racism and sexism associated with them.



Post-Lecture Discussion:

After Dr. Gilbert's talk we will be joined by Associate Chancellor and Chief Diversity Officer, Dania Matos, J.D., who will discuss efforts ongoing at UC Merced to address Equity, Diversity and Inclusion issues. We will have an open discussion and Q&A session about these issues. Ms. Matos joined UC Merced in 2019 and is working with campus stakeholders to create a campus vision and strategic plan focused on commitments to faculty, staff, and student diversity, the inclusion of diverse peoples and perspectives in all aspects of campus life, and fair and equitable treatment for all members of the campus community.

Date:

11/20/2020

Time:

10:30 AM-12:00 PM

Link:

Please email
snsgradstaff@ucmerced.edu
for Zoom link and passcode

For more information,
contact :

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