

UNIVERSITY of **HOUSTON**

# ETHICS IN SCIENCE

Lecture Series

## Classifying People by Color: How Racial Categories Change Over Time

Alberto Martinez, Ph.D., University of Texas at Austin



**Monday, February 29, 2016**  
**11:00 A.M. - 12:30 P.M.**  
**University of Houston**  
**232 Philip G. Hoffman Hall**



Although skin tones are not the most scientific way to classify people, such classifications are among the most pervasive ways in which people think about others. Even scientists, physicians, and statisticians end up using such traditional and problematic categories. Martinez argues that we should stop utilizing traditional racial categories, demonstrating how they have changed over time, to illustrate their arbitrariness. He maintains that it is unethical for scientists to reify traditional racial classifications and that we should devise better ways to plainly describe human differences.



For more information on this lecture series,  
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