

UNIVERSITY of **HOUSTON**

ETHICS IN SCIENCE

Lecture Series

Insane Asylums & Genetics: How Human Heredity Became a Data Science

Theodore Porter, Ph.D., University of California Los Angeles



Friday, February 17, 2017
11:00 A.M. - 12:30 P.M.
University of Houston
232 Philip G. Hoffman Hall



When did the data of human heredity become an obsession? Long before genomics, even before the beginning of genetics. It was in the early 19th century when first efforts to provide reliable hospital care for the insane were made. The promise to cure most of the insane did not work out, and soon asylum doctors began shifting their hopes to elimination of the causes of insanity. Right from the beginning, heredity was the cause they found most interesting and most believable. What began as routine medical-administrative recording gradually turned to serious inquiry.



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