



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

ORANGE COUNTY TO HOST THREE-PART SERIES RACE: THE POWER OF AN ILLUSION

ORANGE COUNTY, NC (September 16, 2013)—The Orange County Human Relations Commission invites the public to attend a three-part series and discussion about race.

The series entitled, “RACE: The Power of an Illusion” will take place on Saturdays in October from 2:00 p.m. – 4:30 p.m. at the Orange County Main Library in downtown Hillsborough. Admission is free.

Part 1: The Difference Between Us will take place on Saturday, October 12, facilitated by Dr. Marguerite W. Parks, Professor at the University of Wisconsin – Oshkosh. Dr. Parks will examine the contemporary science, including genetics, that challenges our common sense assumptions that human beings can be bundled into three or four fundamentally different groups according to their physical traits.

Part 2: The Story We Tell will take place on Saturday, October 19, facilitated by Dr. Preston Scott Phillips, Programs and Operations Manager for the Duke University Center for Civic Engagement. Dr. Phillips will uncover the roots of the race concept in North America, the 19th century science that legitimated it and how it came to be held so fiercely in the western imagination. This topic provides an eye-opening tale of how race served to rationalize, even justify, American social inequalities as being "natural."

Part 3: The House We Live In will take place on Saturday, October 26, facilitated by Ingrid Schmidt, Associate Vice Provost for International Affairs and Director of Study Abroad at NC State University. This topic asks, if race is not biology, what is it? The final part of the series uncovers how race resides not in nature, but in politics, economics and culture. It reveals how our social institutions "make" race by disproportionately channeling resources, power, status, and wealth to white people.

For more information, please call Housing, Human Rights and Community Development at 919.245.2487 or send an e-mail to housinghumanrightscd@orangecountync.gov

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