EDUC 4800: Race and its Implications for Science Education

The concept of “race” has influenced almost all aspects of American education. Yet in some areas of education, conceptions of race remain underexplored. How have scientists and science-related researchers advanced or challenged conceptions of race? In what ways do we see conceptions of race manifest in the education of future science and science-related professionals? These are only a couple of key questions we will explore in this class.

In this class, students will focus on three main themes across the semester:

1. Historical constructions of race and the role scientist and science-related researchers have played in promoting or debunking this concept.
2. A framework for understanding how the concept of race functions in society, namely by exploring Critical Race Theory.
3. Explore how conceptions of race manifest in education, specifically in science education.

Together, our goal is to deepen our understanding of the concept of race by exploring its historical roots and understanding race as a system (and ideology) with real consequences. I hope you will join me. Feel free to email me with any questions.

Dr. Enrique López is a faculty member in the School of Education’s STEM Education program. He is the co-director of the Aquetza Program. Aquetza is a culturally sustaining and academically enriching summer program designed to serve Chicanx and Latinx high school youth in Colorado.