Blinded By Sight: Seeing Race Through the Eyes of the Blind

Osagie K. Obasogie, Professor of Law, University of California, Hastings

Wednesday, November 5
3-5pm
Baldy Center, UB

Colorblindness has become an integral part of the national conversation on race in America. Given the assumptions behind this influential metaphor—that being blind to race will lead to racial equality—it's curious that, until now, we have not considered if or how the blind "see" race. In Blinded by Sight, Obasogie argues that rather than being visually obvious, both blind and sighted people are socialized to see race in particular ways, even to a point where blind people "see" race. So what does this mean for how we live and the laws that govern our society?

Professor Obasogie's research attempts to bridge the conceptual and methodological gaps between empirical and doctrinal scholarship on race. His scholarship also looks at the past and present roles of science in both constructing racial meanings and explaining racial disparities. In addition to his work at Hastings, Professor Obasogie has a joint appointment with the University of California, San Francisco (UCSF) Department of Social and Behavioral Sciences and is a Senior Fellow at the Center for Genetics and Society.

This event is cosponsored by the UB Center for Disability Studies, the Humanities Institute Disability Studies Research Workshop, English Department, and Baldy Center for Law & Social Policy.