

# October 10, 2019

## Even a Moon Shot Needs a Flight Plan:

## Genetics and Ethics in the Obama Administration

2019 ANNUAL LECTURE

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### PROFESSOR ALONDRA NELSON

President of the Social Science Research Council and Harold F. Linder Professor at the Institute for Advanced Study in Princeton

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In May 27, 2016, Barack Obama became the first sitting American president to visit the site of the world's first atomic bombing. In a speech that day at the Hiroshima Peace Memorial Park, Obama proclaimed that the "scientific revolution that led to the splitting of an atom requires a moral revolution as well." In this lecture, Dr. Alondra Nelson considers the "politics of ethics" that was a signature of the Obama administration's approach to science and technology. This politics of ethics endeavored to place temporal distance between scientific research of the past and present, enabling claims about the importance of federal science to national wellbeing, broadly conceived. In particular, she will examine the roll-out of the Precision Medicine Initiative that incorporated plainspoken acknowledgement of prior discrimination in government-backed scientific research as a necessary predicate to the successful enrollment of research subjects—especially those from minority populations--into the program.

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8:00pm –9:30pm

Colony Ballroom, Stamp Student Union

University of Maryland College Park

 @BahaiChair

With special thanks to the Abdolhossein and Guitty Ejtemai Foundation

Register: [bahaichair.umd.edu/nelson2019](http://bahaichair.umd.edu/nelson2019)



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