We will study the roles that science plays in racial capitalism. We will explore how scientific work facilitates the differentiation of people into groups in order to control human reproduction and social life – as part of the quest for wealth accumulation.

We will draw examples from several scientific fields, such as biology and psychology, but pay special attention to the roles that statistics and computation play in manufacturing and exploiting difference. Throughout the course, we will look for moments of rebellion against racial capitalism and mainstream scientific practice, and the possibility of alternatives.

We will discuss topics such as eugenics, intelligence testing, racialized medicine, and reproductive technologies. And we will strive to situate scientific theories and practices within the broad agendas of institutions such as the state, the academy, the prison, and the hospital.

Please email yarden.katz@gmail.com with any questions.

*Background: HeLa Cells by Heiti Paves*