UC SANTA BARBARA

THE Current

Campus + Community

Visiting law scholar to discuss race at the Supreme Court

Keith Hamm
January 17, 2024

Share this article

At the highest level of legal opinion in the U.S., what “counts” as racism against people of color remains stuck in the past — and according to visiting scholar Khiara M. Bridges (pictured), it’s this position that produces Supreme Court rulings that are both impoverished and regressive.

To present her position that the Supreme Court’s “constrained understanding of racism” permits the justices to do nothing to destabilize and disestablish existing racial hierarchies, Bridges will be at UC Santa Barbara to discuss “Race in the Roberts Court: Dobbs v. Jackson Women’s Health Organization.”

Among other points, the author and UC Berkeley School of Law professor will argue that only when the justices see resemblances between present-day harm and the racism of the past will they provide relief; moreover, if they see no similarities, they provide no relief.

When confronted with a claim of racial discrimination, Bridges contends, the court appears to be simply determining whether the alleged discrimination resembles

what the country did in the pre-Civil Rights Era. She will base her lecture on the 2022 decision in Dobbs v. Jackson Women's Health Organization, the landmark ruling that reversed the constitutional right to abortion, overturning Roe v. Wade (1972) and Planned Parenthood v. Casey (1992).

Free and open to the public, the event is presented by the Walter H. Capps Center for the Study of Ethics, Religion, and Public Life series on ethics and public policy. Bridges's talk begins at 4 p.m., Jan 19, at Henley Hall.

Event co-sponsors include the departments of Black Studies and Feminist Studies, the Feminist Futures, Health Humanities and Legal Humanities initiatives and Santa Barbara Women's Health Coalition.

Tags

Diversity, Equity and Inclusion

Media Contact

Keith Hamm

Social Sciences, Humanities & Fine Arts Writer

keithhamm@ucsb.edu

Share this article

About UC Santa Barbara

The University of California, Santa Barbara is a leading research institution that also provides a comprehensive liberal arts learning experience. Our academic community of faculty, students, and staff is characterized by a culture of interdisciplinary collaboration that is responsive to the needs of our multicultural and global society. All of this takes place within a living and learning environment like no other, as we draw inspiration from the beauty and resources of our extraordinary location at the

edge of the Pacific Ocean.