***Uprooting Inequity LLC’s* -Univ. of California at Merced**

**Seminar #1:**

**Origins: The Social Construction of**

**Race, Ethnicity and Racism**

**Description:** This workshop answers the questions "How and why were the Black and White races developed” and "How and why was anti-Black Racism developed?”  I trace the historical evolution of the social construction of race from the early colonial period when the colonies were still a class-based society like in England, through the middle colonial period when the Black-White racial binary and a race-based caste system was constructed through laws. Through the primary source evidence, we learn that racism did not lead to slavery, but rather, slavery lead to racism. I also present evidence to demonstrate that racism--the myth of Black racial inferiority--was the narrative that white elites/slave owners created (“the story we tell”) to both rationalize slavery (economic interests) and divide poor Whites and Blacks (political interests).

**NOTES:**

**1. Race, Racism and Slavery in the Early Colonial Era**

**2. Why Did Things Change? The Great Transformation**

**3. How Race Was Constructed**

**4. HOW Racism Was Developed**

**5. WHY Racism Was Developed**