

*The Center for the Study of Law & Culture at
Columbia Law School presents*

The Spring 2016 Critical Race Theory Workshop Series

**Critical Race Theories of the
Law and Politics of Intimate Association**

***“Interracial Marriage and Racial Equality:
The Role of Residential Segregation”***

Tuesday, April 12, 2016

4:15 p.m. – 6:00 p.m.

Columbia Law School
JEROME GREENE ANNEX
410 West 117th Street
New York, NY 10027



Professor Dorothy Roberts

UNIVERSITY OF PENNSYLVANIA LAW SCHOOL

with comments by

Professor Mignon Moore

BARNARD COLLEGE, COLUMBIA UNIVERSITY

Drawing on an archive of in-depth interviews of black-white couples in Chicago conducted by anthropologist Robert E.T. Roberts between 1937 and 1967, this paper explores the relationship between interracial marriage and residential segregation. Although Chicago was not governed by de jure segregation and anti-miscegenation laws, its residential “color line” drastically limited where black-white couples could find housing. While some scholars have interpreted the significance of interracial marriage as a symbol and means of overcoming racial hierarchies, the Chicago couples’ experiences demonstrate that the legal ability to marry across race operates within a racial order that is not transcended by cross-racial intimacy.