For most of the 20th century, historical studies on race and medicine were long considered marginal compared to more traditional work on slave societies or colonial history. However, they have recently experienced a revival, particularly since the 2000s, and a range of books and articles have been published in English and in French. Some shed light on the relationships between the development of slavery in the United States and the emergence of new medical practices and theories used largely by white doctors to treat black bodies on plantations, others focus on experiments conducted on the bodies of the enslaved by white doctors or the use of alternative medical practices and self-administered care by the enslaved and their descendants, during and after slavery, often qualified as illegitimate by the doctors whose science was firmly rooted in the Euro-centric tradition. Some recent works have also dealt with race, medicine and imperial history, both in British and French colonies.

This international symposium in English will gather scholars from France and from the United States who are currently working on French imperial history, race and medicine or on the history of slavery in the US and the medical treatment of African-American patients in the 19th and 20th centuries. This one-day event will therefore propose a unique opportunity for French and American academic audiences and students to discuss new contributions in French history, American history and the history of medicine.
Medical Racism and Empire
Respondent: Jim Downs (Gettysburg College)

Race, Medicine and Institutional Histories in the US
Respondent: Nathalie Dessens (Université Toulouse - Jean Jaurès)

Elodie Edwards-Grossi (Université Toulouse - Jean Jaurès),
"Mad with Freedom: The Political Economy of Blackness, Insanity and Civil Rights in the 19th-Century"

Christopher D.E. Willoughby (The Huntington Library and Harvard University),
"Masters of Health: Racial Science and Slavery in American Medical Schools"

Ezelle Sanford III (Carnegie Mellon University) (Princeton),
"Segregated Medicine: How Racial Politics Shaped American Healthcare"

Rana Hogarth (University of Illinois at Urbana Champaign),
"Measuring Miscegenation: Eugenics, Anti-Blackness, and the Legacies of Slavery"

Raphaël Gallien (Université de Paris),
"Colonized Madness: an History of the Psychiatric Institution in Madagascar in the Colonial Context (1912-1955)"

Delphine Peiretti-Courtis (Université Aix-Marseille),
"Black bodies and white doctors: examining racial prejudice in the 19th and 20th centuries in the French colonial empire"