

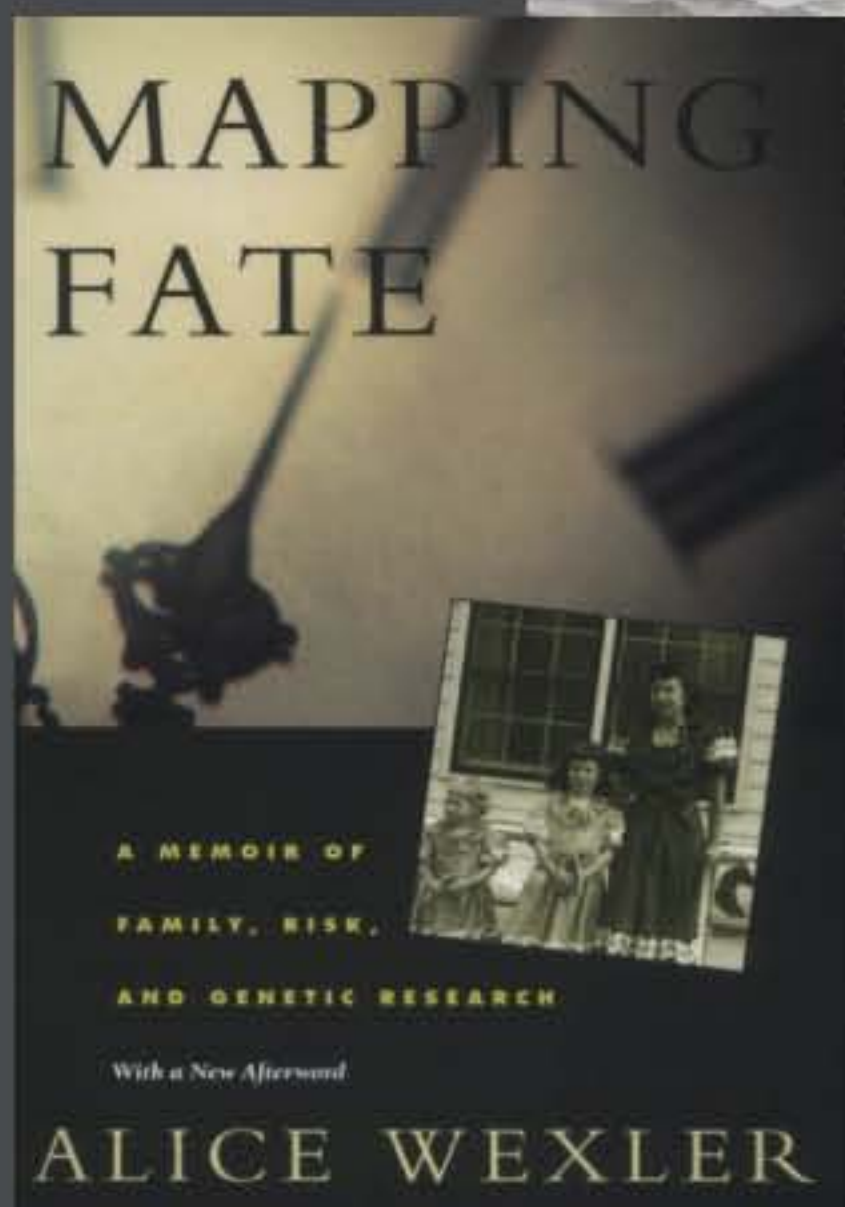
# Stigma, Secrecy & Medical History: What we can learn from Huntington's Disease

The UTSA Neurosciences Institute, American Studies Program, & Honors College present:



## Alice Wexler PhD

Author of  
*Mapping Fate*  
&  
*The Woman Who Walked into the Sea*



**November 10, 2009**  
**Retama Auditorium UC 2.02.02**  
**1604 Campus, UTSA**

**4:30pm Reception**  
**5pm Lecture**

Illnesses and disabilities perceived as hereditary, especially those affecting mental functions, have long been stigmatized in western culture. Still, in the US in the 19th and 20th centuries, the historical representations and experiences of families and individuals with inherited disorders have varied considerably across different social locales.

In this Lecture, Dr. Alice Wexler will draw on the example of Huntington's disease, a late-onset inherited neurological and psychiatric illness, to suggest the ways in which both biology and history, including the eugenics movement of the twentieth century, helped shape the perception and experience of hereditary disease and disability in the past, and how this history may offer insights for policy in the present.

*Alice Wexler is Research Scholar at the UCLA Center for the Study of Women. She is a recipient of the 2009 American Medical Writer's Association Book Award.*