

DIALOGUE 163

The value(s) of public deliberation: Challenges for health policy & research

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1 p.m., Thursday, November 19, 2015

Mailman Center for Child Development, Room 3003

A light lunch will be provided; space is limited; note variant time and venue

Public engagement has emerged as essential for health policymaking. Whether called “public deliberation,” “citizen engagement” or “stakeholder participation,” the general principle that the public should have a role has become accepted in public health research, practice and policymaking. Yet the who, whys and hows of deliberation remain contested, with ethical arguments often grounded in untested empirical claims. More robust justifications for public deliberation are needed to improve the evidentiary base. To convince skeptical Ministries of Health, deliberative proponents should go beyond normative and empirical arguments and address perceived political threats, social disruptions and historical tensions that greater transparency and inclusion may introduce. Experiences from Latin America illustrate these claims.

Dr. Gelpi is Senior Consultant for Social Policy and Wellbeing Research for UM’s Miami Institute for the Americas (MIA). She holds a Ph.D. in Health Policy and Ethics from Harvard University, and an MPH in History and Ethics of Public Health from Columbia University’s Mailman School of Public Health. Her research focuses on priority setting for public health policymaking by employing normative, historical and quantitative methods to analyze decision making in Ministries of Health, particularly in Latin America. She has consulted for UNICEF, WHO and PAHO’s Bioethics Program.

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