Stigma as an Ethical Issue: Disease Meanings and Obstacles to Care

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12 noon, Thursday, November 21, 2019
Don Soffer Clinical Research Center Room 1179
Lunch provided; first come, first served.

Stigmatized diseases and conditions constitute an enormous problem for individuals and groups who are subject to prejudice, discrimination, isolation, and the violation of basic human rights. Nonetheless, stigma has not emerged as a central problem in contemporary bioethics. Stigma is sometimes shaped or lensed by research results. This talk explores the history of the social, cultural, and political production of stigma as well as interventions and public policies for its reduction.

Prof. Brandt is the Amalie Moses Kass Professor of the History of Medicine and Professor of the History of Science at Harvard University, where he holds a joint appointment between the Faculty of Arts and Sciences and Harvard Medical School. His work focuses on social and ethical aspects of health, disease, medical practices, and global health in the twentieth century. Brandt is the author of No Magic Bullet: A Social History of Venereal Disease in the United States since 1880 (1987); and The Cigarette Century: The Rise, Fall, and Deadly Persistence of the Product that Defined America (2007). He has written on the social history of epidemic disease; the history of public health and health policy; and the history of human experimentation among other topics.

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