

Health and Society Seminar Series



Does 'science in the pub' promote public engagement with science? Reflections on the popularity of Science Cafes and the implications for knowledge transfer.

Dr. Gwendolyn Blue
University of Calgary

Wednesday, October 22, 2008
12:00 - 1:00 P.M.

Room G750
Health Sciences Centre,
3330 Hospital Drive NW, Calgary

On the third Tuesday of every month from September to May, the Unicorn Pub in downtown Calgary, Canada hosts a science café to bring together researchers from the university with members of the public. These cafes are similar to events held across North America, Europe and the UK, part of a growing phenomenon known as Café Scientifique. In less than a decade, Café Scientifique has gone from a localized, small scale event to a worldwide movement with enormous potential for shifting the social contract between science and society from expert driven to a public engagement format. It brings together experts and lay people in an easy to organize, inexpensive and enjoyable fashion. Because these conversations take place in pubs, bars or coffee shops, the atmosphere is friendly and convivial rather than academic or competitive. This presentation will explore some of the implications that science cafes (or 'science in the pub') has for 'knowledge transfer' among researchers and publics.

Gwendolyn Blue is an assistant professor in the Faculty of Communication and Culture. Her research focuses on the various ways in which lay publics engage with science, particularly in informal, non traditional settings and practices.

This Seminar Series is hosted by the Population Health Intervention Research Centre (www.ucalgary.ca/PHIRC). We'd like it to reflect a range of perspectives and interests. We welcome participation. Please contact Lindsay Bradshaw, at ph (403) 210 9316; or by email bradshaw@ucalgary.ca if you have any ideas or suggestions.



CIHR IRSC

The Population Health Intervention Research Centre is a
CIHR Centre for Research Development in Population Health