

Health and Society Seminar Series



Research Evidence and the Debate on the Criminalization of HIV Non-Disclosure in Canada

Dr. Eric Mykhalovskiy
York University, Ontario

Wednesday, December 9, 2009
12:00 - 1:00 P.M.

Room HS 1405A
Health Sciences Centre,
3330 Hospital Drive NW, Calgary

The criminalization of HIV non-disclosure raises a number of complex questions: What role should the criminal law play in regulating health risks? How is the execution of public health powers for controlling communicable diseases related to the powers of criminal law? How is the relationship between individual and collective responsibilities for health risks to be understood? How do disclosure obligations play out in different sexual cultures? Drawing on work carried out in Ontario, this presentation focuses on how various forms of research can inform key debates that have surfaced around the growing use of criminal law to address sexual exposure to HIV infection.

Eric Mykhalovskiy is an Associate Professor and Canadian Institutes of Health Research New Investigator in the Department of Sociology, York University. His research on HIV/AIDS links community-based research priorities and sensibilities with theoretical work in the social sciences. He has worked on increasing the visibility of critical social science and humanities research on HIV/AIDS at provincial, national and international levels. His current research draws on a studies in the social organization of knowledge perspective to explore a variety of topics including: (1) shifts in the relationship between HIV prevention and treatment; (2) the criminalization of HIV non-disclosure; (3) community-based AIDS organizations and evidence-based decision making; and (4) the relationship between formal discourses of knowledge and "lay" experiences of health. He is co-author with Lorna Weir of *Global Public Health Vigilance: Creating a World on Alert* (Routledge). With Marsha Rosengarten he recently co-edited a special issue on HIV of the journal *Social Theory and Health*. He has published in a variety of journals including: *Sociology of Health and Illness*, *health*., *Social Science and Medicine*, *CJPH*, *AJPH*, and the *Lancet*.

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.



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