ABLEISM: THE UNDIAGNOSED MALADY AFFLICTING HEALTH CARE AND HEALTH ETHICS

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In this presentation, I will examine the phenomenon of biomedical ableism, and consider the ways in which it impacts people with disabilities, particularly within the realms of health care and health ethics. Like racism, sexism or ageism, ableism—that is, prejudice based on the presence of disability—is a network of beliefs, values, and practices which combine to demarcate a certain group of people as Other. Unlike sexism or racism, however, ableism remains a largely unacknowledged form of discrimination.

The intended objectives of this seminar are:
1. To stimulate an increased awareness of the prevalence of biomedical ableism.
2. To provide a clear conceptual understanding of biomedical ableism and its fundamental link to the deficit-based medical model of disability.
3. To call attention to the dangers of the “common sense” ableist conflation of disability with pain, loss, suffering, and, ultimately, death.
4. To advocate for the creation of curricula development, which include regular exposure to disabled people whose lives challenge the assumptions of biomedical ableism.

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EVERYONE WELCOME!!