Dr. Kathleen E. Powderly

“Abortion in NYC before Roe v. Wade: Lessons from the Archives”

May 4, 2015, 3:30-4:30 pm

Health Sciences Center, T625

Reception to follow

Dr. Kathleen E. Powderly is Director of the John Conley Division of Medical Ethics and Humanities at the SUNY Downstate Medical Center. Dr. Powderly holds faculty appointments in the College of Medicine (Obstetrics/Gynecology) and in the College of Nursing. She is a nurse-midwife by background holding bachelors and masters degrees in Maternal and Newborn Nursing and Nurse-Midwifery. She also holds masters and doctoral degrees in Socio-medical Sciences.

She wears many hats in ethics and serves in nearly all possible capacities across a wide variety of institutions: as a clinical ethicist and the Vice Chair of the Ethics Committee at two hospitals in Brooklyn, as a member of two different Institutional Review Boards, as a member of ethics committees for several professional organizations including the American College of Nurse-Midwives and the SUNY University Faculty Senate, and as a board member of the Association of Bioethics Program Directors. Dr. Powderly is a Fellow of the New York Academy of Medicine and was an Adjunct Associate at the Hastings Center. In addition to all of her work in bioethics, she is also a historian and has studied the history of neonatal intensive care and decision-making, contraceptive policy in the context of American history, and the lived experiences of first responders to the 9/11 destruction of the twin towers.

Dr. Powderly’s talk will focus on her current work-in-progress with hospital archives of women’s experiences of abortion in New York City in the years prior to Roe v. Wade.

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