Medical research on humans has changed radically over the past decades. Shifts in the organization and experience of medicine have altered who goes first in studies—and why. This lecture explores the curious history of the first people who served as “normal control” volunteers at the US National Institutes of Health, and explains how they shaped the first federal policies on the treatment of humans in research. In the present day, rules for research derive from this historical moment; yet fundamental changes in research regulation may be on the way. A fresh understanding of the medical past can open new perspectives on our possible futures.

Laura Stark is the author of *Behind Closed Doors: IRBs and the Making of Ethical Research* (2012), and is completing a new book project on the lives of “normal control” research subjects at the US National Institutes of Health. She has written many articles and chapters on medicine, morality, and the modern state over the past century. Stark is on faculty at Vanderbilt University’s Center for Medicine, Health, and Society, and is Associate Editor of the journal *History & Theory*.

May 3, 2016, 4:30-5:30pm
Health Sciences Center, Room T-625
Reception to follow

“Why go first? The past and future of research on humans”