In Defense of Substantive Public Health Ethics

Tuesday, February 21, 2012
Time: 4:30 pm
Psychology and Interdisciplinary Studies Building (PAIS), room 290
36 Eagle Row

Work relating to public health ethics has exploded over the last ten years. Does this explosion merely represent adding a new set of public health topics (e.g., quarantine, isolation, contact tracing, banning smoking in public places, banning trans-fat in food, etc.) to the issues that medical ethics and bioethics address? Against this narrow interpretation of public health ethics, Dr. Dawson will argue that public health ethics demands its own approach built upon the recognition of public health activity as a distinctive kind of practice with a distinct set of aims, methods and values. Examples from both communicable and non-communicable disease interventions will illustrate the challenges facing the emerging field of public health ethics.