

Department of

fall 2009 **SEMINAR SERIES**

Sociology



The Woman in the Pregnant Body:

Metaphor and Image in Obstetrics

December 4, 12pm | Sociology 241

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Elizabeth Armstrong investigates the notion of fetal personhood and its impact on the ethics and practice of obstetrics. She is interested in the ways that medicine both reflects and reinforces social norms. When obstetricians view the ultrasound screen, they see a fetus; their pregnant patients, however, are more likely to see a baby. Today, the fetus is increasingly regarded as a distinct person, with its own rights. How does technology shape the way that we see and imagine the fetus or how we understand the relationship between the fetus and the pregnant woman? How does lay knowledge shape or constrain professional practice? Who is the obstetrician's patient—the pregnant woman or the fetus?

More information: www.bu.edu/socology/news or email sigrun@bu.edu