

The Department of Anthropology

Golden Jubilee

PRESENTS:



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What is an Anthropologist Doing at a Cancer Center?

Negotiating the Biomedical World of M. Deities to Broker the Cultural Realities of Cancer

The existential crisis and uncertainty of cancer creates an environment saturated with transformations, metaphors, and symbols that impact individuals diagnosed with the disease, their healers/health care providers, and otherwise healthy individuals at risk or fearful of the diagnosis. Ethnographic and intervention research over more than two decades inform the anthropological exploration of adoptive roles and narrative communication to understand and navigate the world of cancer for African American, Hispanic and other medically underserved individuals within the U.S. health care system. The discipline of anthropology can be applied to provide access to the cultural meanings of cancer as a disease and as a lived experience in order to increase our understanding of the challenges of health care access and to reduce cancer disparities in screening, morbidity and mortality.

Wednesday, February 18, 2015; 5 p.m., McCord Auditorium