



ACERH

AUSTRALIAN CENTRE FOR ECONOMIC RESEARCH ON HEALTH

SEMINAR SERIES

Wednesday, 11 October 2006, Noon – 1:00pm

Bob Douglas Lecture Theatre
Eggleston Road
The Australian National University

Sex, race and social role: History and the social determinants of disease

Professor Stephen Kunitz

Department of Community and Preventive Medicine,
University of Rochester School of Medicine and Dentistry
New York USA

THE SPEAKER

Professor Kunitz is currently visiting Australia under the Fulbright Senior Specialist Program. His research has focused on the use of alcohol among Native Americans and others in the American Southwest, and medical and population history. His most recent books, all published by Oxford University Press, are *Disease and Social Diversity: The Impact of Europeans on the Health of Non-Europeans* (1994), *Drinking, Conduct Disorder, and Social Change: Navajo Experiences* (2000) and *The Health of Populations: General Theories and Particular Realities* (2006).

ABSTRACT

Just as sex, drugs, and rock and roll were fetishized in the 1960s, so do we now do the same with sex, race, and social roles and their impact upon the health of individuals and populations. The result is that we tend often to reify these concepts and use them without exploring their content or their meaning in different contexts. The argument of this seminar is that these three important attributes of individuals do not bear a constant relationship to health and disease. Their significance is shaped by the context: historical, socio-economic, cultural, and epidemiologic among others. This means that there are no laws that are broadly true and that can be the basis of predictions of future associations between sex, race, and social roles on the one hand and health and disease on the other.

PARKING AND BUILDING ACCESS

A campus map for ANU can viewed on the University's web site at <http://campusmap.anu.edu.au/>. 'Pay and Display' parking is available at a modest cost in the car park adjacent to South Oval (enter off Ward Road). If parking in this area, you should purchase a voucher from the vending machines located within the car park and display it on the dashboard of your vehicle.

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