BIOETHICS SEMINAR
March 21, 2018, 4:10-5:30 pm

Please note the new location for the Winter term:
Fitzgerald Building (FG), 150 College Street, Room 139
This event will be webcast:
https://jcb.adobeconnect.com/bioethicsseminars/

Unknown Pleasures: Epilepsy, Physical Culture, and Existential Authenticity

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About the seminar: This talk addresses how young people living with ‘hidden disabilities’, in this case epilepsy, not only experience the negative effects of their conditions in everyday life but are also rendered socially ill through ostracism and stigmatization in a wide range of cultural settings. In particular, I examine how young people living with this neurological condition are systematically excluded or simply overlooked as normal participants in a range of physical cultural settings like sport, physical education, and recreation and leisure cultures. Further still, I examine the role of physicians in actively encouraging members of these populations to be wary of or avoid most forms of daily physical activity. Using a form of research called narrative ethnography I seek to understand: how people living with an identified neurological condition / hidden disability fit, or not, into a range of mainstream physical cultures and the implications of such on their cultural identities; how members of hidden disability communities seek and find personal and collective meaning in their own physical cultures of choice; how the material brain is a key agent in the social construction of collective identities inside and outside of physical culture; and, if health care practitioners are pivotal in shaping patients’ perceptions of their bodily possibilities and existential realities.