

THE SYMPTOMS OF PUBLIC HEALTH POLICY: INVISIBLE INJURIES, THE GENDERED BODY AND THE LAW

On February 27th, 2009, the Duke Journal of Gender Law & Policy hosted a symposium concerning how public health law and policy affect, and are affected by, issues of gender, race/ethnicity and/or socioeconomic status. In hosting this symposium, we endeavored to bring together voices from a variety of disciplines to shed light on the dynamic relationship between public health law and policy and public health provision, with a particular focus on the gendered body. Ultimately, we hope the conference has increased awareness of the mainly invisible, structural contributors to poor public health and illuminated the ways in which health laws and policies affect how people experience not only disease, but health and their bodies. As is so often the case, contemporary understandings and controversies about gender, race and class—particularly in relation to the prevalence or sincerity of choice, and to risk and risk avoidance—are being located on the body. And, as is always the case, this body has a gender, an ethnicity, and a socioeconomic status.

The Journal would like to thank the following symposium participants for their thoughtful and engaging contributions to our academic discourse.

- Janet Steverson, *Lewis and Clark Law School*
“Prenatal Drug Exposure: The Impetus for Overreaction by the Legal Community or a Serious Problem Needing a Serious Solution?”
- Maya Manian, *University of San Francisco Law School*
“The Irrational Woman: Informed Consent and Abortion Decision-Making After *Gonzales v. Carhart*”
- Michelle Oberman, *Santa Clara University School of Law*
“Eva’s Baby: A Narrative Essay on the Public Health Components of Infanticide.”
- Jane Stoever, *American University, Washington College of Law*
“The Presence of HIV / AIDS in the Domestic Violence Context”
- Svati Shah, *Duke University*
“Sex Work, Criminalization, and Public Health in India’s Informal Sectors”
- Matthew Pierce, *University of North Carolina, Chapel Hill*
“Opting Out of the Opt-in/Opt-out Distinction in HIV Testing”
- “Transforming US Healthcare: Integrating Health Law, Medicine, and Business Solutions”
Deborah German, *Dean, College of Medicine, University of Central Florida*
Jeanette Schreiber, *Associate Dean, College of Medicine, University of Central Florida*
Ashley Bacot, *Risk Manager, Rosen Hotels*