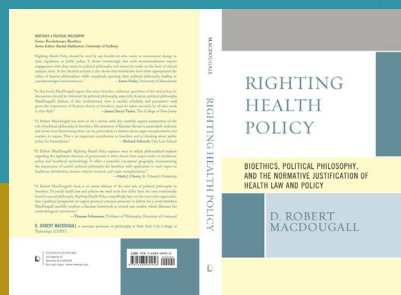


WORKS IN THE WORKS: The Humanities Department Presents... A Talk by Robert MacDougall, Social Science

What Justifies a Health Law or Policy? Two Views



What justifies a health law or policy? What makes it good rather than bad, right rather than wrong? One kind of answer to this question refers to our moral duties: a law or policy is good or right if it enforces or incentivizes us to fulfill our moral duties. But I argue that this common view is mistaken. I give four arguments against this view and develop a very basic Kantian alternative to it. I argue that rights—rather than moral duties—should be considered the normative basis for all laws and policies, including those relating to human health. I will illustrate the differences between the two approaches by discussing laws governing physician-assisted suicide and euthanasia. The major arguments and examples are taken from my recent book, *Righting Health Policy* (Lexington Books, 2022).



1:00 pm, Tuesday September 24, 2024

Library Bldg, room L631 and Live Online via ZOOM
Faculty, Students, and Staff are Invited

