

# REGIMES OF INEQUALITY: THE POLITICAL ECONOMY OF HEALTH AND WEALTH

## A TALK BY JULIA LYNCH



Thursday, February 6, 2020 | 4:00 – 5:30 PM  
Pardee School of Global Studies | Boston University  
121 Bay State Road



Julia Lynch, Associate Professor of Political Science at the University of Pennsylvania, will discuss the political dynamics underlying inequality's remarkable resilience since 1980. To do so, she traces the largely unsuccessful attempts of west European governments during this period to reduce socioeconomic inequalities in health. In England, France, and Finland, three quite different countries that span the range of European political economies, governments stated their intention to reduce inequalities in health, yet in all three cases, they were largely unable or unwilling to put into place the policies that could achieve these goals. Lynch argues that when center-left politicians take up the issue of socioeconomic inequalities in health, they do so in response to perceived taboos against redistribution, public spending and market regulation in a neoliberal era. Reframing inequality as a matter of health is at best a partial solution, however, insofar as it reshapes the policy-making environment surrounding social inequality in ways that make it more difficult to reduce either socioeconomic inequality or health inequalities.

