The Davis Humanities Institute
Women & Gender in the World Research Cluster presents

Medical Alliances and Abortion Movements in the United States and Britain

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April 10, 12-1:30pm
126 Voorhies

This talk theorizes the conditions under which social movement organizations (SMOs) pursue and acquire medical allies, and evaluates these theories through an analysis of SMOs in the United States and Britain during the 1960s and early 1970s, the main period in which both countries established their contemporary abortion regimes. The analysis finds that abortion rights SMOs in both countries successfully acquired individual and collective medical allies, but that British abortion SMOs were more successful than their American counterparts in obtaining collective medical allies at the national-level. Moreover, SMO-medical alliances were more heterogeneous in the United States than in Britain, varying across places, historical periods, and individual SMOs. The analysis finds that resource, homophily, discourse, and especially, political-institutional theories help to explain these differences.

Refreshments will be provided. To RSVP or to request more information about this event, please contact Corrie Decker, crdecker@ucdavis.edu.