

This free lecture series features retired UW faculty members renowned for their scholarship and teaching excellence.

Eloquence & EMINENCE

FREE EVENT • Tues., March 12, 2024, 2-3 pm



Judith W. Leavitt, Ph.D.

Ruth Bleier and Ruppel Bascom Professor Emerita of History of Medicine, History of Science, Gender and Women's Studies, and History

Topsy-Turvy History: Regulation and Individual Rights in Public Health

COVID-19 has brought public health issues and interventions into the news and into our lives. The history of public health in the 19th and 20th century reveals a trajectory of increasing power and authority of health departments to protect community health. A deep-dive into Milwaukee, Wisconsin, however, uncovers interruptions in the usual trajectory and provides insight into current dissension over masks and vaccinations. The talk draws on Dr. Leavitt's book *The Healthiest City* to demonstrate that social and historical contexts informed responses to epidemics. Using examples of smallpox and influenza, it finds topsy-turvy changes in public health's efforts to control infectious diseases.



No registration required • Refreshments to follow
Held at the Pyle Center, 702 Langdon St., Madison WI

To request special accommodations, please contact Jenni Sterk at jmsterk@wisc.edu at least two weeks prior to the lecture.

