

Thursday

March 3, 2016

4:00 p.m.

221 Allen Hall

1020 University St.

Eugene, OR 97403

UO campus

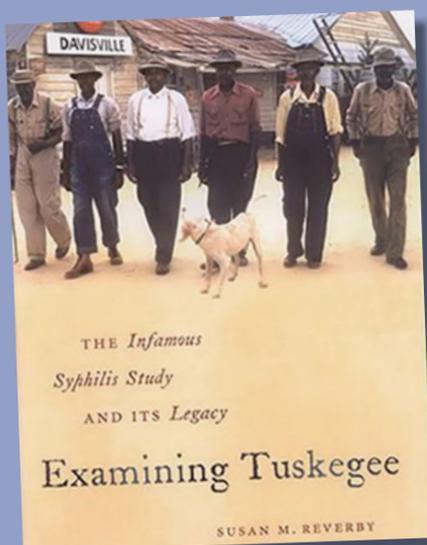
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# “Escaping Melodrama: How Should We Think about the Immoral Research Studies in Tuskegee and Guatemala?”

## SUSAN M. REVERBY

Marion Butler McLean Professor in the History of Ideas  
Professor of Women’s and Gender Studies, Wellesley College



As a historian of American health care, Dr. Reverby’s research has been on women’s health, women as health workers/professionals, and the ethics of public health and research. In recent years she completed a long commitment to writing about what is often called the infamous “Tuskegee” syphilis study, the four decades long (1932-72) U.S. Public Health Service research study in which African American men were deceived into believing they were being treated, not monitored, for their disease. She edited a book on this study called *Tuskegee’s Truths: Rethinking the Tuskegee Syphilis Study* (2000).

Her own book on the study, *Examining Tuskegee: The Infamous Syphilis Study and Its Legacy*, appeared in 2009, winning three major academic awards. She was also part of the Legacy Committee that led to President Clinton offering a federal apology for this study in 1997.

As part of the research on the syphilis study, Reverby found unpublished papers about a Public Health Service study (1946-48) in Guatemala that involved infecting men and women in a prison, army barracks and a mental hospital with sexually transmitted diseases. Her work was used as the basis for the U.S. government’s apology by the Secretaries of State and Health and Human Services to the people of Guatemala, a focus on the study by the President’s Bioethical Issues Commission, and the reassessment of the protections we give to subjects, especially in studies that take place outside the U.S. borders.

Sponsored by the Center for the Study of Women in Society’s  
Narrative, Health, and Social Justice Research Interest Group

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