

# César Abadía-Barrero

(Anthropology &  
Human Rights Institute)

UConn Humanities Institute Fellows' Public Talk

OCTOBER 27, 2015 -- 4:00-5:30 PM

AUSTIN 301

## “KANGAROO MOTHER CARE: A POST-COLONIAL MEDICAL INNOVATION”



Love, Warmth and Breast Milk are the core principles of the Kangaroo Mother Care (KMC), a program created in 1978 in Colombia that allows families to care for their premature and low birth weight newborns at home. The WHO and UNICEF recognized that KMC's promotion of "early hospital discharge" was an excellent alternative to incubators that brought clinical and psychological benefits to the child, the mother and the family. In this talk, Professor Abadía-Barrero will present KMC's history from its glorious times to its defunding and closure as a result of neoliberal policies. He will introduce the concept of "post-colonial medical innovations," which talks about how epistemologies of care in the post-colonies negotiate with and transgress the principles of modern medicine. This concept also allows researchers to see the transformation of epistemologies of care under global market forces.

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**César Abadía-Barrero** is Assistant Professor in UCONN's Department of Anthropology and Human Rights Institute. He has published over 40 articles and book chapters on health inequalities, health care systems and the right to health. He is the author of *I Have AIDS but I am Happy: Children's Subjectivities, AIDS, and Social Responses in Brazil* and lead editor of *Health, Normalization and Capitalism in Colombia*.

Co-Sponsored by the Research Program in Global Health and Human Rights of UConn's Human Rights Institute

Space is limited. Please reserve seating by contacting [uchi@uconn.edu](mailto:uchi@uconn.edu) or 860.486.9057