Too Much Trust?  
Older Patients and Their Doctors  
a discussion with  
Eva Kahana Ph.D.  
Distinguished University Professor and  
Director, Elderly Care Research Center  
November 9, 2018 12:30 – 1:30 p.m.  
Dampeer Room, 2nd Floor of Kelvin Smith Library  
11201 Euclid Ave

The health policy and medical journals promote a vision of "autonomous" patients who learn about options on the internet, expect "shared decision-making," and perhaps even demand excessive services. But do patients really want such a world? Many patients might prefer to trust a doctor whom they know and who knows them. They may not be so comfortable with self-diagnosis off the internet, or advocating for their own health concerns. They may want a doctor to advocate for them. But can patients choose such care? These questions are especially important for elderly persons with multiple chronic conditions. As Eva and Boaz Kahana have shown in recent research, their satisfaction with their care is strongly related to perceptions of good communication with their doctors. They want to trust and rely on doctors. "The empowerment paradigm calling for greater patients' advocacy...(is not) consistent with the understandings and desires of the current cohort of elderly patients."

Yet in our current medical economy with its giant organizations and pressures to process patients quickly, it may not be safe to assume that physicians will advocate for their patients. So the vision of autonomy may be wrong because patients don't want it – but the system may not allow trust, either. Join us as Professor Kahana discusses her research and its implications.

The Friday Public Affairs Discussion Lunch is an opportunity for students, faculty, staff, emeriti and other members of our communities to learn and question each other about public policy issues at the international, national, and local levels. Faculty and other speakers share their research and experience to get beyond the headlines and repetition in the mass media, and the wild rumors of the internet. Lunch is brown bag, but cookies and some beverages are provided by the Center for Policy Studies of the College of Arts and Sciences.

http://fridaylunch.case.edu/