



THE OREGON BIOETHICS AND HUMANITIES  
COLLOQUIUM PRESENTS

"Conceptualizing Culture in Healthcare Contexts:  
A Theoretical Framework"

BY ELAINE HSIEH, PHD, JD

PROFESSOR AND CHAIR OF COMMUNICATION  
UNIVERSITY OF MINNESOTA

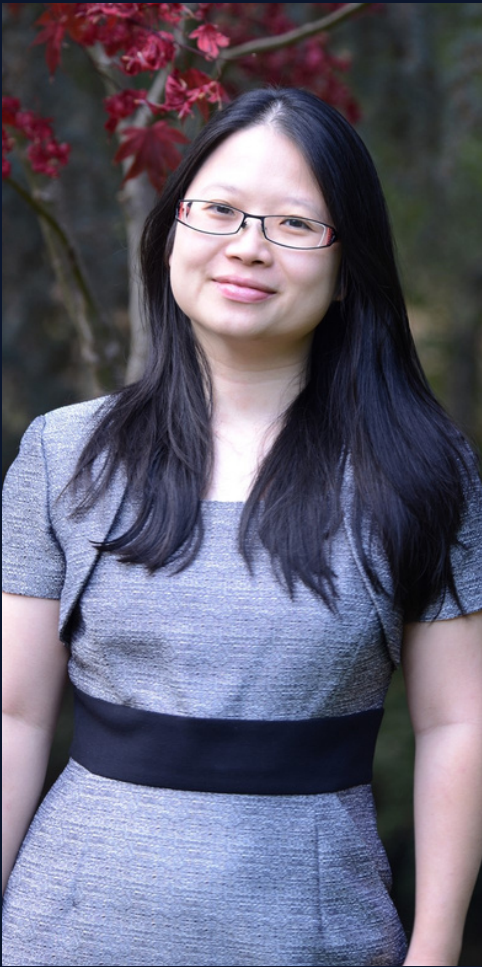
FRIDAY, MAY 19TH FROM 8-9AM PT  
THIS IS A VIRTUAL EVENT

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## ABOUT OUR SPEAKER



Elaine Hsieh (Ph.D., University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign, 2004; J.D., University of Oklahoma, 2019) is Professor and Chair in the Department of Communication, University of Minnesota and a Visiting Professor at the University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign. An award-winning author, Fulbright Scholar, and NIH-funded researcher, she has published extensively to examine the intersections of culture, language, health and medicine in interpersonal and cross-cultural contexts.

Dr. Hsieh has served as the Associate Editor (Health Care Communication and Relations) for the Journal of Immigrant and Minority Health during 2010-2017. Her work has been published in *Social Science and Medicine*, *Patient Education and Counseling*, *Health Communication*, *Qualitative Health Research*, and others. Her model of bilingual health communication has received several national and international awards. She authored two books, *Bilingual Health Communication: Working with Interpreters in Cross-Cultural Care* (2016, Routledge) and *Rethinking Culture in Health Communication: Social Interactions and Intercultural Encounters* (2021, Wiley).

**Synopsis:** Dr. Hsieh will first introduce a foundational framework of culture, including the four perspectives--Magic Consciousness, Mythic Connection, Perspectival Thinking, and Integral Fusion, to examine social norms and clinical practices in health-related contexts. Using these cultural perspectives, we will explore how culture shapes individuals' health behaviors and decisions. By recognizing that physicians and patients are equally shaped by their cultural worldviews, we will examine how and why patients and providers may face unique challenges in the communicative process. We will examine how culture can create challenges in access, process, and outcomes of healthcare services and discuss scenarios in which individuals and institutions hold different or incompatible ethical views. Finally, we will identify strategies and cultural perspectives that can enhance the effectiveness and appropriateness of provider-patient communication and healthcare delivery.

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