

**The Aging & Health Research Centre presents
a Research Discussion Luncheon**

Date: Friday, November 21, 2008
Time: 12:30 pm
Location: SSC 5220
Join us for lunch at noon!



Dr. Shelley McKellar

***Aging, Disease, and Mechanical Replacement Parts:
A History of Artificial Hearts***

Today, many parts of the body can be repaired, rebuilt, and replaced with human and mechanical spare parts. The most ambitious (and controversial) mechanical replacement device is the artificial heart. The history of artificial hearts is a dramatic story of surgeons rebuilding bodies and patients warding off death, but, more than that, this history illuminates changes in how medicine and society view the body and how we go about fighting disease. Artificial organs and, in particular, artificial hearts challenge what we think about the limits and potential of mechanical devices as a medical therapy. Such technologies raise contentious issues of cost, access, human experimentation, informed consent, and quality of life, as well as elicit significant differences of experience and meaning for its stakeholders and society.



Research Interests

Professor Shelley McKellar specializes in the history of health and disease predominantly in nineteenth and twentieth century North America, with research interests in the history of surgery, medical instrumentation and technology, the history of the body, and medical biography. She is presently conducting research on the history of artificial hearts for her next book, tentatively entitled *Rebuilding Bodies: Artificial Hearts and Organ Replacement Technology in Medicine and Society*.