

Bernice A. Pescosolido – Longer Biographical Narrative for Michael Davis Seminar Series

Bernice A. Pescosolido is Distinguished and Chancellor's Professor of Sociology at Indiana University and Director of the Indiana Consortium for Mental Health Services Research. Pescosolido's research agenda on health, illness and healing addresses how social networks connect individuals to their communities and to institutional structures, providing the "wires" through which social structure and culture shape individuals' life chances. This broad agenda has primarily targeted three issues: health care services, stigma, and suicide research. In the early 1990s, Pescosolido developed the Network-Episode Model which was designed to focus on how individuals come to recognize, respond to the onset of health problems, and use health care services. It has provided new insights to understanding the patterns and pathways to care, adherence to treatment and the outcomes of health care. In the area of stigma research, Pescosolido initiated the first major, national study of stigma of mental illness in U.S. adults in over 40 years as well as a 10-year replication study; spearheaded the first National Stigma Study - Children in 2002; and is currently leading a team of researchers in the first international study of stigma. This research has resulted in the development of a model on the underlying roots of stigma that is designed to provide a scientific foundation for new efforts to alter this basic barrier to care.

Lecture Title:

The Stigma of Mental Illness: Data and Directions from a Decade of Research and Theory

Lecture Date: November 18, 2009