

Ronald Bayer, Ph.D.

Bio Sketch

Ronald Bayer, Ph.D., (Political Science, University of Chicago, 1976) is a Professor at the Center for the History and Ethics of Public Health, Mailman School of Public Health, Columbia University, where he has taught for 14 years. Prior to coming to Columbia he was at the Hastings Center, a research institute devoted to the study of ethical issues in medicine and the life sciences. Bayer's research has examined ethical and policy issues in public health. His empirical work has focused especially on AIDS, tuberculosis, illicit drugs, and tobacco. His broader project is to develop an ethics of public health. He is an elected member of the IOM, on its Board on Health Promotion and Disease Prevention and has served on IOM committees dealing with the social impact of AIDS, tuberculosis elimination, vaccine safety, smallpox vaccination and the Ryan White Care Act.

His articles on AIDS have appeared in the New England Journal of Medicine, the Journal of the American Medical Association, The Lancet, the American Journal of Public Health, and The Milbank Quarterly. His books include Homosexuality and American Psychiatry: The Politics of Diagnosis (1981), Private Acts, Social Consequences: AIDS and the Politics of Public Health (1989); AIDS in the Industrialized Democracies: Passions, Politics and Policies (1991, edited with David Kirp); Confronting Drug Policy: Illicit Drugs in a Free Society (1993, edited with Gerald Oppenheimer); and Blood Feuds: Blood, AIDS and the Politics of Medical Disaster (1999, edited with Eric Feldman); AIDS Doctors: Voices from the Epidemic, (2000, written with Gerald Oppenheimer and Mortal Secrets: Truth and Lies in the Age of AIDS (2003, written with Robert Klitzman) and Unfiltered: Conflicts over Tobacco Policy and Public Health (2004 Harvard University Press) (edited with Eric Feldman).