Center for Health Decision Science • Harvard School of Public Health

Please join us for a Health Decision Science Seminar at

3:30 p.m. Wednesday, December 18
CHDS Conference Room • 718 Huntington Avenue, 2nd Floor

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‘Fair Chance and Multidimensional Decision Theory’

The value of actual outcomes or states of affairs often depends on what could have been. To take simple example, a situation where a patient has died as a result of someone else receiving a hospital’s only kidney, is only morally acceptable, according to a common intuition, if it is true that “had” a coin toss (or some other random event) turned out differently, the patient in question would have received the kidney. Such dependencies between actual and counterfactual outcomes create well-known problems for orthodox decision theory. In this talk I present a new (multidimensional) decision theory, which is specifically designed to be able to express and represent the aforementioned dependencies. I argue that the new theory better satisfies common intuitions about fair distribution of chances and justice in organ allocation than orthodox decision theory.

~Please RSVP to chds@hsph.harvard.edu~