Within the last decade, historical and contemporary accounts of midwives, along with the efficacy of the Midwives Model of Care for pregnancy, childbirth and general women’s health, have become increasingly popular in mainstream publications and documentaries. Yet, very few of these accounts represent black midwives despite a long history of midwifery in the black community. This qualitative study of 22 contemporary black Certified Midwives, Certified Nurse-Midwives and Certified Professional Midwives, of varying ages, years of experience and U.S. region, seeks to understand how a very racist and classist denigration of black midwives in the early 20th century is still manifesting itself in their experiences and perceptions of predominantly white midwifery education programs and professional organizations. I frame the reported experiences of institutionalized racism as “the contemporary midwife problem” and explore the social operation of racism and its impact on poor black birth outcomes, as well as relevant federal and local policy implications.

**Wednesday, March 18, 2015**

**12:30 – 2:00 pm**

**Carman Hall, Room 221**

For further information please call Professor Banoum, Director, at 718 960-1160