EVENING ETHICS

"What Does It Cost to Save a Life?:
Weighing the Promise of Medical Technology
Against Its Personal,
Systemic, Ecological and Social Costs"

with
Katherine Standefer

Tuesday
September 14, 2021
5:30pm - 7pm

Join Zoom:
https://utah.zoom.us/j/97868455735
Passcode: 106477

CME offered:
Event Code: 257019

What if a lifesaving medical device causes loss of life along its supply chain? That's the question Katherine E. Standefer finds herself asking one night after being suddenly shocked by her implanted cardiac defibrillator. In her gripping, intimate debut memoir Lightning Flowers: My Journey to Uncover the Cost of Saving a Life, Standefer explores the true cost of her ICD—from the technology's impact on her body and life, to her harrowing experience in the American healthcare system, to her global journey into the mines and factories where the minerals in her device may have originated. In this Evening Ethics discussion, we'll explore how Standefer's complex experience as a "cyborg" and supply chain research map onto the Four Pillars of Medical Ethics, wrestling with complicated questions about harm, justice, and autonomy on both the individual and communal level.

Background Readings:
1. "At the University Inn" by Katherine Standefer (The Kenyon Review, 2018)
2. Chapter 5 of Lightning Flowers: My Journey to Uncover the Cost of Saving a Life (Little, Brown Spark 2020) --attached
3. Excerpt from Chapter 10 of Lightning Flowers --attached
4. Optional: Excerpt from Prologue and Chapter 1 of Lightning Flowers as available via The New York Times (includes description of the relevant heart condition, Long QT Syndrome)

This Evening Ethics is a collaboration with Utah Humanities.
We jointly welcome author, Katherine Standefer, to lead this Evening Ethics Discussion and to the Utah Humanities Book Festival.

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