Conversations with students, in and outside of classes, led to a research project on the value of short-term volunteer trips in global health. This talk reviews the genesis of that project and summarizes its findings, based on hundreds of surveys and interviews as well as participant observation, regarding the pros and cons of this growing enterprise. The publication of the results, in Hoping to Help; the Promises and Pitfalls of Global Health Volunteering, generated many more teaching opportunities as well as the creation of a coalition of leaders in the multiple sectors involved in volunteering—faith-based, corporate, NGO, and educational—to advocate for improvements. These interactions have underscored the need for new research and teaching efforts. The talk illustrates the value of “public sociology” as well as Community-Based Participatory Research in enriching teaching, research and action.

Thursday, December 7, 2017  ♦  4:10 PM  ♦  STEPS Room 290