



Sponsors

Sally Satel, MD

(AEI and the Oasis Clinic)

“Rethinking Trauma -- Over-Valued Ideas and Their Implications for Public Health”



Thursday, November 9th, 4:30 p.m.

Rollins School of Public Health

Rm. 721

1518 Clifton Road

Dr. Sally Satel is a resident scholar at AEI and the staff psychiatrist at the Oasis Clinic in Washington, D.C. She serves on the advisory committee of the Center for Mental Health Services of the Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration. Dr. Satel was an assistant professor of psychiatry at Yale University from 1988 to 1993. From 1993 to 1994 she was a policy fellow with the Senate Labor and Human Resources Committee. She has written widely in academic journals on topics in psychiatry and medicine, and has published articles on cultural aspects of medicine and science in numerous magazines and journals. Dr. Satel is author of *Drug Treatment: The Case for Coercion* (AEI Press, 1999) and *PC, M.D.: How Political Correctness Is Corrupting Medicine* (Basic Books, 2001), and is coauthor, with Christina Hoff Sommers, of *One Nation under Therapy* (St. Martin's Press, 2005).

Dr. Satel will discuss two concepts that figure prominently in the field of traumatology. The first is the presumption of fragility: that individuals, as a rule, have trouble coping in the wake of adversity and require experts to aid them. And second, that posttraumatic stress disorder is a straightforward diagnosis. She questions these two tenets and speculates on why they are perpetuated. The case of combat veterans will be discussed with emphasis on the implications for failing to consider alternative explanations (and treatments) for post-event phenomena.