



# Jonathan Gabe and Mark Exworthy

## Open heart surgery? The public disclosure of surgical performance



Doctors have traditionally guarded their autonomy, especially in managing clinical performance. Though surgery is often viewed as the most prestigious specialty, surgeons have been vulnerable to the apparent measurability of their practice. Disclosure of clinical performance (via the internet) is being used to improve performance in

England and other countries, through appeals to professional reputation and patient choice.

This seminar will present findings from an ethnographic case study of English surgeons' reactions to disclosure of their clinical performance and the impact on their autonomy. Professor Gabe and Dr Exworthy will argue that disclosure does erode clinical autonomy in some respects but surgeons retain a significant degree of autonomy over their work performance, individually and collectively.



Jonathan Gabe is Professor of Sociology in the Centre for Criminology and Sociology, Royal Holloway, University of London. He has research interests in health care organisation, including the health care professions, chronic illness and pharmaceuticals and has published widely in these areas. His most recent publications are *Challenging Medicine*, Second Edition, Routledge, 2006, *The New Sociology of the Health Service*, Routledge, 2009, and *Pharmaceuticals and Society: Critical Discourses and Debates*. Wiley Blackwell, 2009. He is co-editor of the journal *Sociology of Health and Illness*.

Mark Exworthy is Read in Public Management and Policy, School of Management, Royal Holloway, University of London. He has research interests in health policy and management, including professional-managerial relations, organisational change and governance. He has published widely in these areas.

**Date:** Wednesday 8 September 2010  
**Time:** 17.30 followed by drinks at 18.45  
**Place:** Room G73, King's College London, Franklin-Wilkins Building, 150 Stamford Street, London SE1 9NH

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RSVP  
To secure a place booking is required – please reply to [kingspssq@kcl.ac.uk](mailto:kingspssq@kcl.ac.uk)  
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This is the fourteenth seminar of the King's PSSQ forum. For more information about the Centre please go to [www.kingspssq.org.uk](http://www.kingspssq.org.uk)

## King's PSSQ Forum – all welcome