Is assisted dying a slippery slope or is this uphill progress toward the ultimate personal choice? What is "suicide" vs. rational self-directed dying? Is it up to the state to decide when a person has had enough suffering? In this presentation Dr. Faye Girsh will discuss these and related questions in the context of the ethics of forcing a person to live when they would rather die. Dr. Girsh is Senior Advisor to the Final Exit Network, President of the World Federation of Right-to-Die Societies and Editor of the World Federation Newsletter. Previously she was President of the Hemlock Society USA (1996-2002) and Senior Vice President of End of Life Choices (2002-2004). She is also currently serving on the Board of ERGO (the Euthanasia Research and Guidance Organization) and is founder and President of the Hemlock Society of San Diego. She received her doctorate from Harvard University, taught Psychology at Morehouse College and was on the faculty of the University of Chicago, Department of Psychiatry. She was also a clinical and forensic psychologist practicing in San Diego. The California and U.S. Supreme Courts have cited her research on death penalty juries. She has published extensively in legal and psychological journals including more than 30 articles on the right to die. In her role of working with litigants in civil and criminal cases, she became involved with the right-to-die movement in 1983 when evaluating a young quadriplegic woman who wished to die through refusal of food and hydration. That right was affirmed seven years later by the U.S. Supreme Court. Dr. Girsh has been president of the San Diego Psychology-Law Society and the Society for Psychologists in Substance Abuse. She won an award from the California Bar Association for her public issues radio program. She retains her membership in the American Psychological Association. She has spoken extensively on these topics to national and international audiences. The Final Exit Network was founded in 2004 and is a member of the World Federation of Right to Die Societies.

The Department of Philosophy Colloquium Series is designed to foster a scholarly exchange about ideas important within the Department and the academic community at large. For more information please contact Dr. Stephen M. Fiore (sfiore@ist.ucf.edu).