Dr. Linda L. Barnes is a medical anthropologist, historian, and religion scholar whose work bridges these disciplines. An Associate Professor of Family Medicine and Pediatrics at Boston University School of Medicine in Boston, Massachusetts, USA, she directs the Boston Healing Landscape Project, which focuses on culturally and religiously grounded complementary/alternative medicines among minority and immigrant patient communities served at Boston Medical Center. Her books include Religion and Healing in America (Oxford University Press, 2004, co-edited with Susan Sered), and Needles, Herbs, Gods, and Ghosts: China, Healing, and the West to 1848 (Harvard University Press, 2005). Dr. Barnes is currently working on a social history of Chinese medicine and healing traditions in the U.S. from 1849 to the present, and is immersed in interviewing practitioners from every cultural background throughout the country. She will also direct a new masters program in Medical Anthropology and Cross-Cultural Practice, beginning in the Fall of 2008, at BUSM.

Her talk will explore intersections of religious, cultural, and therapeutic pluralism in the United States, through examples drawn from Chinese and Hindu traditions.