Sharon Kaufman, PhD is Chair of the Department of Anthropology, History and Social Medicine at the University of California, San Francisco. Her work explores topics at the intersection of medical knowledge and society’s expectations for health. Her research has examined: the changing culture and structure of US medicine; health care delivery at the end-of-life; the relationship of biotechnologies to ethics, governance and medical practice; the shifting terrain of evidence in clinical science; practices of risk assessment; and mistrust of science.

The National Institute on Aging and the National Institute on Nursing Research at the NIH funded her research from 1983 – 2013. She is core faculty in the joint Medical Anthropology Program UCSF/UCB and works with medical and nursing students at UCSF. She lectures frequently at UCSF and UCB and mentors students, post-doctoral fellows and junior faculty from a variety of disciplines.

Her newest book, *Ordinary Medicine: Extraordinary Treatments, Longer Lives and Where to Draw the Line* (Duke U. Press, May 2015) is an ethnographic story about the dilemmas twenty-first century American health care poses. Centered on the intersection of medicine and our aging society, the book is about the structure and culture of the entire biomedical health care enterprise, from research funding for treatments, to what gets funded by Medicare, to what is considered standard and necessary and why, to what, ultimately, patients and doctors talk about, agonize over and decide to do. It reveals how the structure of the system determines so much of what happens to patients, doctors and families and why it is so difficult to see the line between ‘enough’ and ‘too much’ medical intervention. By providing a map to the socio-cultural sources of our health care dilemmas, *Ordinary Medicine* offers a way to re-think and renew the goals of medicine, so that it can serve as a social good in the twenty-first century.

Her last book, *...And a Time to Die: How American Hospitals Shape the End of Life* (Scribner 2005; U. Chicago Press 2006), describes the role of medical practice and hospital structure in organizing and naming life and death. Based on two years of ethnographic fieldwork in three California hospitals, the research was motivated by the growing cultural conversation of complaint in the US about overly-technological dying and the fact that solutions to the ‘problem’ of death were being articulated almost exclusively in terms of patient decision-making and the doctor-patient relationship, rather than in terms of the structural forces of American hospital culture which emphasize aggressive treatments up to the moment of death. The book won *The New Millennium Award* (2007) from the Society for Medical Anthropology for most significant contribution to anthropology and to a broad audience.