Keynote Address: Anthony Hatch
“Overdose: Institutional Addiction in the U.S. Custodial State”

Is it possible to have an American regime of mass confinement without psychotropic drugs? Professor Anthony Hatch argues that the U.S. custodial state (prisons, nursing homes, the military, foster care, immigrant detention) has become wholly reliant on psychotropics for the control and transformation of brain-bodies who live in custodial institutions, a form of chemical (policy) dependence. Hatch speculates about the critical knowledge needed to challenge this institutional addiction and the psychic violence it generates.
Unhealthy Regimes: Interrogating Illness, Wellness and Power

Symposium schedule
April 13th, 2018

8:30-9:00 Breakfast buffet

9:00-10:30 Writing and Reproducing Health
Moderator: Victoria Thompson
Annika Mann, “Immovable Bodies: Women Writing Health and Disease in the British Romantic Era”
Karen Leong, Kathy Nakagawa and Aggie Noah, “Asian American and Pacific Islander Women’s Health: New Questions and Approaches”

10:30 - 10:45 Break

10:45-12:00 Crafting Communities of Well-being
Moderator: Victoria Thompson
Chris Wharton and Tyler Des Roches, “Integrative Health and Human Well-Being”

12:00- 1:00 Lunch

1:00-2:15 Interactive session: Healthy Measures: What counts as evidence?
Anastasia Cossette, moderator

2:15-3:30 Roundtable with Anthony Hatch: Healthier Futures: Humanities Research in Action
Sarah Parks, moderator

There is, at present, significant enthusiasm across the political spectrum for long acting reversible contraceptives (LARC), which promise an affordable, reliable, and safe means by which to reduce rates of unplanned pregnancy and abortion.

This project takes a qualitative approach to explore the social life of LARC devices as they become the preferred contraception of many legislators, health policy advocates, healthcare providers, and consumers in the contemporary United States. LARC’s proponents argue that it is a magic bullet solution to fertility management and concomitant health disparities, however, the landscape of LARC — as a technology, as a set of practices and policies — is complex and controversial.

Annika Mann, “Immovable Bodies: Women Writing Health and Disease in the British Romantic Era”

This project investigates health during what is often referred to as Britain’s “Second Scientific Revolution” (1780-1840). During this period, physicians and poets suggest that their arts are unique among the newly forming disciplines: physic and poetry are comprehensive practices that act curatively upon mankind by stimulating beneficial motions. The project explores how women writers resist these cooperative discourses and their standards of health by ruminating on a refusal to be moved and thereby cured exhibited by various bodies, objects, and media. It queries the implications of this resistance for the methodological claims of contemporary interdisciplinary programs such as narrative medicine.

Karen Leong, Kathy Nakagawa and Aggie Noah, “Asian American and Pacific Islander Women’s Health: New Questions and Approaches”

How do Asian American and Pacific Islander (AAPI) women define and perceive health? Research and knowledge about AAPI women’s health is limited. Our collaborative project explored how AAPI women in Arizona relate to their bodies and health and what they see as obstacles to learning more about sexual and reproductive health from health professionals and within their communities. We discuss the importance of understanding AAPI women’s health stories: how they learned about sexual and reproductive health, the concerns they have about relating to medical professionals, and the strategies they employ to achieve both health literacy and care.
Chris Wharton and Tyler Des Roches, “Integrative Health and Human Well-Being”

Philosophers have long argued over the relationship between health and human well-being. While some claim that health – understood as the proper functioning of one’s body – is inessential to well-being, our project considers the relationship between well-being and “integrative health”, which encompasses a spectrum of social factors, including values and meaningfulness. Through a novel consideration of how preferences are formed and evaluated, we will show that there is a much closer conceptual relation between philosophical theories of well-being and health than is ordinarily recognized, and that an integrative-health approach offers vital insights for re-envisioning interventions that improve health and human well-being, simultaneously.


The lived experience of African American men and the prominence of the Black Barbershop in African American culture, together offer a unique and compelling backdrop for examining discourses of health in Black communities. This proposed project illuminates the space of the barbershop into an intersectional dynamic of men and health, and the innovative approach of Black barbers as community health advocates and health navigators. Central to this project is narrative; a way of seeing the cultural dimensions of a people who, through community-based, culturally-grounded efforts, find innovative ways of redefining a culture of health that envisions non-traditional systems of health by the people, and for the people. You might ask, why the barbershop? It is because here, more than any other place in the community, is a culture for developing trust, creating leaders, honoring intergenerational learning, and developing masculine identity. Through story, we capture the meaning of health, its relationship to community, and the transformative power of understanding, knowledge, and trust developed between barbers and their customers.

Healthy Measures: What counts as evidence?

Anastasia Cossette, moderator

Who gets to decide what counts as evidence, and what does not? What can different kinds of evidence tell us about health that other evidence cannot tell us? How do researchers, policy makers, or communities decide what evidence is “trustworthy” or “significant”? In this session, each research team will be presenting a form of evidence that they have drawn upon in their own research, and ask the audience to respond to what they think this evidence has to say about health. This session will be dependent on audience participation, so please come and join. We look forward to hearing what you have to say.

Learn more and RSVP at ihr.asu.edu