

From our Chair

It is my great pleasure to introduce the new Medicine, Health, and Society (MHS) newsletter. The newsletter is a collaborative project of the faculty, staff, and students at our center that will become a regular means of spreading the word about our accomplishments, goals, and future plans. I particularly want to thank Associate Professor **Dominique Béhague** and **Nadia Rahman** for their tremendous efforts pulling together this initial volume.

MHS began as a small faculty and student interest group at Vanderbilt University in 2005. Between then and 2010, the center offered a relatively small number of courses. But over the past four years, things have changed considerably. We now offer nearly 50 MHS [undergraduate courses](#) and a wide array of service learning, independent study, and [internship opportunities](#). MHS now has nearly 400 [undergraduate](#) majors and a smaller number of minors. Our newly revised undergraduate curriculum offers six important [concentration areas](#) that allow students to focus their studies in such topical areas as global health, health policies and economics, health sciences, race, inequality, and health, and medicine, humanities, and the arts. Over the past year we also developed a robust new master's degree program—the master of arts in [social foundations of health](#)—and collaborated with a number of other departments to help support Ph.D. students.

In support of our growth, we've hired a world-class cadre of new faculty members and support staff and constructed a [new center space](#) in Calhoun Hall. The center has quickly become a hub for pioneering research and first-rate teaching. Our vibrant cohort of core faculty spans a continuum of expertise including mental health, global health, research ethics, military mental health, men's health and racial disparities, gender and disability studies, literature and medicine, to name but a few! As this report attests, our faculty has been hard at work beyond the classroom. They've published important articles and books and won major grants and awards, they've also appeared on [MSNBC](#) and NPR, and seen their research featured in media such as [The Guardian](#), [Time](#) magazine, and [The Daily Beast](#). The center itself was spotlighted in [The Chronicle of Higher Education](#). With the added expertise of more than 90 jointly appointed and affiliated faculty members, the center is truly an interdisciplinary powerhouse bridging Vanderbilt's many institutional strengths.

Thanks to a generous grant from the [REAM](#) Foundation, MHS also hosted an international interdisciplinary conference on [The Politics of Health](#), a lecture series on [Hot Topics](#) in MHS, and initiated an ongoing research colloquium. Our center is also developing collaborative curricular and research projects with colleagues in the United Kingdom, Brazil, South Africa and France, among other countries.

These and other initiatives are chronicled on our website, vanderbilt.edu/mhs, and continually updated on twitter [@MHSVanderbilt](#). Our future is bright indeed!



Jonathan M. Metz, MD, PhD

Frederick B. Rentschler II Professor of Sociology and Medicine, Health, and Society
Director of Center for Medicine, Health, and Society
Professor of Psychiatry



As this newsletter attests, the past few years have seen dramatic growth at MHS. MHS has quickly evolved into a cutting-edge research and teaching center that boasts a growing cohort of world-class scholars, an expanding, innovative undergraduate and graduate curriculum, and a number of vital projects and initiatives.

Curricular Highlights

New Undergraduate Curriculum

The MHS major has undergone important [curricular changes](#) this year. The new curriculum includes [six concentration areas](#) that reflect MHS's strengths and address student interests and career goals. The six areas are 1) global health; 2) health behaviors and health sciences; 3) medicine, humanities and the arts; 4) health policies and economies; 5) race, inequality and health; 6) critical health studies. The new curriculum is designed to train students to tackle emerging challenges in health care systems as well as changes in medical education.

MHS students learn to think critically about complex social issues that impact health, health care, and health policy. By teaching students to grapple with these monumental questions, the center is helping develop sophisticated thinkers who are trained to be unsatisfied with the status quo—a generation of students who are globally savvy and prepared to find new solutions out of a complex web of challenges.

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MHS Core Faculty

Jonathan Metzl | *Frederick B. Rentschler II Professor of Sociology and MHS | Director of MHS | Professor of Psychiatry*

JuLeigh Petty | *Assistant Director and Senior Lecturer of MHS*

Hector Myers | *Professor of MHS*

Dominique Béhague | *Director of Undergraduate Studies and Associate Professor of MHS | Anthropology*

Derek Griffith | *Associate Professor of MHS | General Internal Medicine and Public Health | Sociology | Director, Institute for Research on Men's Health*

Martha Jones | *Associate Professor of MHS*

Aimi Hamraie | *Assistant Professor of MHS*

Ken MacLeish | *Assistant Professor of MHS | Anthropology*

Amy Non | *Assistant Professor of MHS | Anthropology*

Lijun Song | *Assistant Professor of MHS | Sociology*

Laura Stark | *Assistant Professor of MHS | History*

Lindsey Andrews | *Senior Lecturer of MHS*

Courtney Muse | *Director of Advising and Senior Lecturer of MHS*

Elisabeth Sandberg | *Psychology | Senior Lecturer of MHS*

For a list of secondary faculty, please see <http://www.vanderbilt.edu/mhs/people>

Two New Graduate Programs

MHS announces two cutting-edge graduate programs. The first, open to current Vanderbilt undergraduates, offers students the opportunity to earn both a bachelor's and master's degree in just five years of study through [Vanderbilt's 4+1 BA/MA program](#). Our second program, a two-year M.A. degree in the [Social Foundations of Health](#), is open to prospective students nationwide and emphasizes interdisciplinary research and critical perspectives on health and illness. Both are aimed at students who want to gain research experience, enhance their interdisciplinary training, and strengthen their applications before entering medical or professional school or seeking entry to doctoral programs.

The degrees are designed to teach students about the social and cultural aspects of illness and health that are a rapidly growing component of pre-health education. The American Association of Medical Colleges (AAMC) has changed the Medical College Admissions Test (MCAT) to include cultural analysis and critical-thinking questions beginning in 2015. MHS is ideally situated to address this unmet demand. The programs emphasize the new competencies identified by the AAMC—including diversity, interdisciplinary collaboration, critical thinking, research skills and social contexts of health—through a topically and methodologically broad curriculum. Applications for the 4+1 BA/MA are due November 1, 2014. Applications for the two-year M.A. degree are due January 15, 2015.

“I feel light years ahead of medical students who did not come from a similar program like medicine, health, and society, because to be a good doctor it takes more than just understanding science. Vanderbilt is at the forefront of this type of patient-centered care—of not just treating the disease but treating the patient too.”
— David Amsalem, BA'10, expected Vanderbilt MD'15, MHS Alumni

Pedagogic Highlights

In Assistant Professor **Aimi Hamraie's** course, *MHS 242 Bionic Bodies, Cyborg Cultures*, students completed a set of iterative critical design projects to explore the built environment and technologies at Vanderbilt. Their design research led them to audit the accessibility of the campus for disabled people and to suggest innovations to buildings, pathways, ramps and signage. The students' final design projects addressed physical, emotional, and informational access and were presented at an undergraduate MHS conference on the body at the end of the semester. This conference combined presentations of research, art and design from Hamraie's course with those of students in Assistant Professor Ken MacLeish's course on War and the Body.

Students in Professor **Jonathan Metz's** MHS 232: *Men's Health and the Politics of Masculinity* course recently produced a series of health activism projects—including a website, [Guns ARE a Men's Health Issue](#) and [policy brief](#) addressing gun violence in Tennessee. The students sent their policy brief to a number of Tennessee lawmakers and helped plan a public forum on guns, men, and mental illness.

Assistant Professor **Laura Stark's** students had Nashville as their laboratory. Students in her MHS 290 Special Topics: Making the Modern Hospital class explored how architecture shapes people's experience of health and access to care. Exploring how design and place have shifted over time and through space, students learned about asylums, infirmaries, homes, theaters of war, mobile clinics and modern research hospitals. Through site visits to [Meharry Medical School](#), [Nashville Mobile Market](#), Vanderbilt's historic map collection and other locations, students developed local projects that dealt with how place, space, care and health are entangled.



News

The Politics of Health Conference

In October, MHS hosted the [Politics of Health](#) Conference at Vanderbilt. The conference stayed true to the interdisciplinary mission of MHS by hosting scholars and professionals across a broad spectrum of fields. Themes included health and social justice, health infrastructure, and the social foundations of health.

The conference, supported by a generous grant from the REAM Foundation, was heavily attended by scholars, professionals and students. The public also made a lively presence in discussions following panel presentations. Highlights were Emory University's Tyrone Forman's discussion of structural violence within the context of post-racialist paradigms and racial apathy. University of Michigan's Milton Curry's explored how built environments are a foundational impediment to public health and the attendant architectural experimentation addressing issues of "new politics of space." Duke University's Priscilla Wald talked about biotechnology and its intersections with political arenas. The conference also featured a student panel. Watch the full [videos](#)!

Overall, conference topics helped reveal how, by rejecting health as value-neutral in society, health can become a collaborative site of activism across disciplines. The conference also generated great debate on Twitter. Check out this [article](#) on Storify created by Assistant Professor **Hamraie**.

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“I work as a health care consultant. In this field, you get people with a business or health administration background, but what my employers liked about me is that I have a background in these areas and in law, nursing, sociology and more. I can solve problems from a lot of different directions, giving me a huge advantage in a field that is constantly changing.”

— Logan Van Meter, BA '10, MA'11, MHS Alumni

Vanderbilt in France

Director Maité Monchal is planning courses in France that will benefit students majoring in MHS. In the spring semester, MHS juniors Heyden Heftel and Nicole Gras took courses at the Sciences Po—Institut d'Etudes Politiques— in Aix. We have now formalized our links and on the books for this year is a new course at the Sciences Po in Paris that will count for MHS credit: [MHS 290: A Comparison of Health Care Systems: the United States and La France](#).



East London Service and Action Research Project

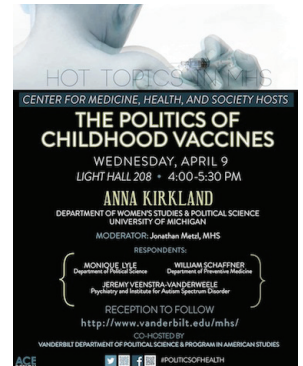
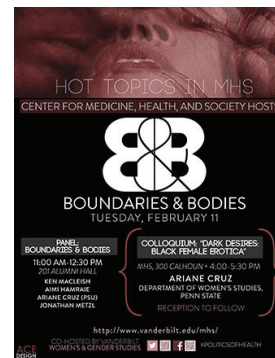
MHS is supporting Vanderbilt's Office of Active Citizenship and Service (OACS) in development of a month-long service program in East London that will run from June 11 to July 11. Developed by OACS Director Clive Mentzel and key stakeholders from Newham Council, Barts NHS Health Trust, the University Hospital of East London and the University of East London, the service project will take place in East London in connection with a massive regeneration program that has been taking place since the 2012 Olympics.

The aim of the project is to involve students in conceptualizing and implementing community engagement programs for families at risk of Type 2 diabetes and related chronic illnesses (e.g. obesity, heart disease, mental illness). Economic inequity and the challenges of working with an ethnically diverse population lie at the heart of this project. Students will volunteer in a local service organization of their choice.

Among the students selected to participate in the project are several MHS students. As part of an independent study unit taught by Associate Professor **Dominique Béhague**, a selection of students will develop and implement critically-oriented action-research projects to serve the needs of local community engagement initiatives regarding health inequities. For more information: <http://www.vanderbilt.edu/oacs/programs/oacs-global-service-projects/london/>

Spring Lecture Series: Hot Topics in Medicine, Health, and Society

In 2013-14, MHS initiated an interactive cross-campus lecture series aimed to open productive debate about hot-button issues that emerge at the nexus of medicine, health, and society in the present day. The first Hot Topics was a lecture by Assistant Professor Ariane Cruz from Penn State, titled "Dark Desires: Black Female Erotica". In the talk, professor Cruz described her research on black female sexuality, black visibility, and race and representation. Additionally, Professor Cruz participated in a morning panel with MHS faculty that explored topics related to bodies and boundaries.



The Politics of Childhood Vaccines

The second lecture, "The Politics of Childhood Vaccines," featured **Anna Kirkland**, associate professor of women's studies and political science at the University of Michigan, who spoke about the political, medical, and ethical debates surrounding childhood vaccines. Kirkland is author of the forthcoming book *Vaccine Trials*. Responding to her lecture were **Monique Lyle**, Assistant Professor of political science at Vanderbilt; **William Schaffner**, Professor of preventive medicine and health policy at Vanderbilt; and **Jeremy Veenstra-Vanderweele**, Associate Professor of psychiatry, pediatrics and pharmacology at Vanderbilt.

This event took place in Light Hall in the **Vanderbilt School of Medicine**, and was attended by over 250 students, faculty, and community members from across the Vanderbilt campus and greater Nashville. A number of local news channels also reported on the colloquium, which sparked wide public conversation about the issues that arise when concerns about vaccines and public health abut beliefs about politics and ideologies.





Launch of the MHS Alumni Association

Join the MHS Alumni Association! Please subscribe at: <https://list.vanderbilt.edu> and search for MHS-ALUMNI in the Subscriber's Corner. Stay tuned for alumni events, news, and professional networking opportunities!

Modes of Embodiment: Disability, War, and Technology

On April 11-12, MHS students hosted Modes of Embodiment: Disability, War and Technology, a student conference in which students from Assistant Professor **Aimi Hamraie**'s course Bionic Bodies, Cyborg Cultures course and Assistant Professor **Kenneth MacLeish**'s War and the Body presented research on topics including military technologies and medicine, prosthetics and disability access, and art, design and public culture. MHS graduate students helped plan the conference and served as commentators.

The conference was also an opportunity for experimenting with the traditional format of academic interaction. Several student designed installations, sensory experiences, a media campaign and other interventions that made the conference more accessible for the more than 70 attendees from the College of Arts and Science, Divinity School, and Peabody College. The conference employed Twitter and other social media to promote engagement with a broad audience. The Twitter feed produced interaction between students and high-level policymakers, Paralympics athletes, accessibility experts, artists, and others across the world. To learn more, visit modesofembodiment.wordpress.com and #modesofembodiment.

“

“MHS provided me with the opportunity to explore the multi-dimensional nature of illness and health. My BA/MA in MHS, as well as my minor in corporate strategy, really helped to develop my critical thinking and analytical skills. I understand and appreciate the complexity of health care and can communicate in a knowledgeable manner with diverse stakeholders in the health care industry, ranging from patients to physicians and administrators to insurance agents.”

— Jordan White, BA' 12, MA'13, MHS Alumni

”

Stop the stigma: Jonathan Metzl, Director of MHS, proposes new medical training method

In academic circles, Professor Jonathan Metzl is best known for his path-breaking scholarship that uncovers the historical origins of stigmatizations of persons with schizophrenia

Similar sensibilities hallmark Professor **Jonathan Metzl**'s current efforts to change how matters of race and justice are addressed in medical education. The concept of “[structural competency](#)” that he introduced in the conclusion of *The Protest Psychosis* has become the focus of a number of high profile pedagogic and scholarly interventions.

Writing in the February 2014 issue of [Social Science and Medicine](#), Professor **Metzl** and medical anthropologist Helena Hansen introduce a novel, five-step way of training physicians based in a method called “structural competency.” Structural competency teaches doctors to better recognize how medical issues such as hypertension, depression, and obesity sometimes represent the downstream effects of societal decisions about such factors as food distribution networks, transit systems, or urban or rural infrastructure. And it promotes societal engagement “beyond the walls of the clinic” by the medical profession.

As detailed in a number of publications such as [Psychology Today](#), “structural competency” explores how a host of conditions defined medically as “symptoms” also represent the embodied effects of imbalanced or under-funded social systems. Of note, Hansen and Professor **Metzl** hosted a series of international conferences on this [theme](#). Structural competency also served as the theme of the 2014 Vanderbilt Medical Students for Social Justice conference.



MHS hosts health and art exhibit

During the 2014 spring semester, MHS celebrated the opening of *Health and Art: Master Potters of the Catawba Indian Nation*, an exhibition of ceramic works by master potters of the Catawba Indian Nation.

All the pieces in the exhibition were original, unique works made by hand using traditional methods passed down orally among the Catawba for over 6,000 years.

The exhibition highlights the unique aspects of the Catawba pottery tradition, including a laborious process of “rubbing” or burnishing the pottery for an extended period of time and the delicate etching of the surfaces of vessels with shells found in the modern tribal lands of South Carolina.

Health and Art called attention to the urgent health issues facing Native Americans. Much like indigenous Americans, the Catawba have a disproportionately high incidence of diabetes, heart disease, violence, and other illnesses. Six of the nine master artists represented were diagnosed with diabetes, and several died of complications from the illness. The pottery was accompanied by placards detailing indigenous and western narratives of illness and healing.

The exhibit ran from February 19 to April 18, with an opening reception on March 12 at MHS. Special thanks to DeLesslin “Roo” George-Warren, Wanda George-Warren, and Sheena Adams-Avery for their work and support.



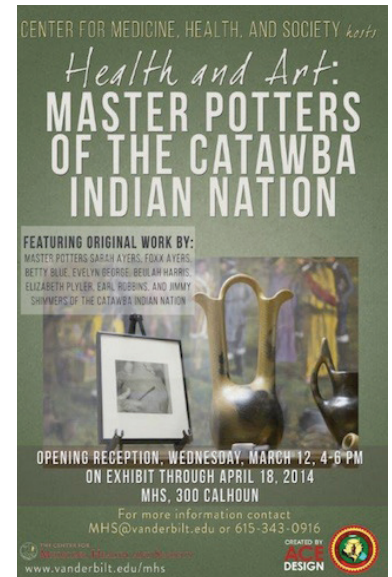
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Tennessee Men's Report Card

Associate Professor **Derek Griffith** is chairing the 2014 Tennessee Men's Health Report Card that describes the health status of men in Tennessee and offers resources to promote men's health in the state. The report card will include data on life expectancy, regional differences within the state and new supplementary resources by health issue. It will be released during June, which is also men's health month.

Myers honored for his contributions to diversity

Professor **Hector F. Myers** received the Stanley Sue Award for Distinguished Contributions to Diversity in Clinical Psychology, presented by the American Psychological Association, Society of Clinical Psychology (Division 12). The prestigious award recognizes the work of a scholar whose contributions hold significant promise for bettering the human condition, overcoming prejudice, and enhancing the quality of life for humankind.





Griffith presented with the Tom Bruce award

At the American Public Health Association (APHA) Annual Meeting in Boston, Mass., in November 2013, Associate Professor **Derek Griffith** was presented with the Tom Bruce Award by the Community-Based Public Health Caucus for his research on “eliminating health disparities that vary by race, ethnicity and gender.”

Men’s health disparities top priority for American Psychological Association

Associate Professor **Derek Griffith** was appointed to be a member of the American Psychological Association’s Working Group on Health Disparities in Boys and Men that was organized to develop strategies on how the American Psychological Association and psychology can better address health disparities and the needs of underrepresented boys and men in the U.S.

Interdisciplinary center relies on MHS faculty as Fellows

Assistant Professor **Kenneth MacLeish** was selected as a faculty fellow for Vanderbilt’s Robert Penn Warren Center for the Humanities in 2013-14, directing a seminar on the theme of diagnosis. The seminar involved an interdisciplinary group of faculty members researching the identification, labeling and, experience of categories of disorder.

In 2014-2015, Assistant Professor **Aimi Hamraie** will work with the Warren Center. As Public Humanities Faculty Fellow, Professor **Hamraie** plans to use the fellowship year to develop work on histories and practices of disability, accessibility and technology.

To support MHS programming and research initiatives contact jonathan.metzl@vanderbilt.edu

Dominique Béhague’s publications taken up by key global health institutions

Associate Professor **Dominique Béhague**’s collaborative research project on [the politics of the evidence-based movement in global health](#), conducted together with [Katerini Storeng](#) and colleagues at the [London School of Hygiene and Tropical Medicine](#), continues to generate high-profile policy impact. The development of evidence-based policies has become a major focus of national governments, international agencies and global health donors over the last 20 years. Professor **Béhague**’s research explores how key stakeholders in maternal health—a field in which the production of scientific evidence of the efficacy of interventions is particularly complex—are responding to these initiatives with considerable ambiguity.

In summer of 2013, Professor **Béhague** was interviewed about her work by The Wellcome Trust for an internal report that the Trust put together on how to best support a more holistic and health systems-focused evidence-informed policy through their funding schemes. Publications underscoring the broader socio-political negotiations in which evidence-production is often embroiled have also influenced several key global health policy documents, including a 2008 Memorandum on donor-practices submitted to the UK House of Commons International Development Select Committee; a 2012 background policy document, “[Connecting the Streams](#),” produced by the World Health Organization (WHO) for the First Global Symposium on Health Systems Research; a 2012 policy document produced in by the Alliance for Health Policy and Systems Research of the WHO, [Global Health Policy and Health Systems Research](#); and a 2013 publication by the Canadian International Development Research Centre (IDRC), “[Knowledge Transfer Toolkit](#).” A 2014 paper was highlighted just last month on a high profile [International Health Policy Blog](#) Discussion devoted to the topic of neoliberalism in health and the need for greater dialogue with experts from the global South.



Providing Expert Opinion

Over the past year, Professor **Jonathan Metzl** appeared as an occasional weekend commentator on MSNBC, where he provided commentary about issues such as race, gun control, mental illness stigma, and health politics. Watch the videos: <http://video.msnbc.msn.com/melissa-harris-perry/51114780> <http://video.msnbc.msn.com/melissa-harris-perry/51124323>

Professor **Metzl** also wrote as a contributing columnist for popular websites such as nbc.com. He continues to work on a large project that explores the evolution of stigma against mental illness in the United States. He is also completing a series of data-based research articles directed at scholars and policymakers concerned with societal aspects of health policy, diversity in health care, and the criminalization of mental illness

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Spotlight on Research

Assistant Professor **Amy Non** (PI) received a grant from the Foundation for Child Development: Changing Faces of America's Children- **Young Scholar Program (YSP)**. The project, titled, "Biological Embedding of Stress in Children of Mexican Immigrants", draws on theory and methods across biological and cultural anthropology, social epidemiology, physiology and molecular biology to discover the wide range of stress experiences among young children of Mexican immigrants, and how they may become biologically embedded to predispose children to higher risk of cardiometabolic disease in adulthood. The grant of \$160,000 will be used over the course of three years to conduct focus groups and interviews with the Hispanic immigrant community to characterize stress exposures, and to collect biological samples from the children (hair and saliva) to identify potential dysregulation of stress response pathways and cardiometabolic systems (e.g. cortisol and epigenetic markers) related to stress exposures. In addition to providing important preliminary data for larger grant proposals, the results of this research will be critical for advocating to policymakers the importance of alleviating chronic stress early in childhood. Results may refocus efforts towards stress-mitigating interventions to reduce risk of cardiometabolic diseases among this highly vulnerable and fastest growing population in the U.S..

Associate Professor **Dominique Béhague** (PI) and Professor **Jonathan Metzl** (Co-PI) won a grant from the Vanderbilt International Office for a project entitled, "Contested Global Biopsychiatry: Establishing an International Partnership for Critical and Constructive Global Mental Health". Other co-principal investigators on the project include Professors Edward Fischer and Katharine Donato from Vanderbilt's College of Arts and Science, Ilina Singh (King's College London), Francisco Ortega (State University of Rio de Janeiro) and Alex Cohen (London School of Hygiene and Tropical Medicine). The project will establish a partnership for the advancement of empirically nuanced multidisciplinary exchange about global mental health (GMH), a highly successful but also contested multi-agency public health initiative established in the mid-2000s. The grant of \$17,000 brings together eminent scholars from the humanities, social sciences, medicine, psychiatry and public health based at Vanderbilt University. The funds will also help establish three partner universities, King's College London, the State University of Rio de Janeiro and the London School of Hygiene and Tropical Medicine, to address a series of polarizing debates currently besetting GMH. The proposed partnership is comprised of prominent players that represent the full range of positions in the debates currently inflecting GMH. Funds will be used to run a scholarly policy-relevant workshop, develop proposals for future research, and host three campus-wide lectures featuring Professor Nikolas Rose from the UK, Professor Jurandir Costa from Brazil, and Professor Junko Kitanaka from Keio University in Japan.





Associate Professor **Derek Griffith** (PI) received a \$422,175 grant from the National Institutes of Diabetes, Digestive and Kidney Disorders (NIDDK) to develop a tailored intervention for African-American men's health 2012-2015. His co-principal investigators include Tom Elasy from the Vanderbilt University Medical Center, Shelagh Mulvaney from Vanderbilt University School of Medicine's Department of Nursing, David Schlundt from Vanderbilt's Department of Psychology, Ken Resnicow from the University of Michigan, and Melissa Valerio from the University of Texas Health Science Center. In the U.S., across racial and ethnic groups, women live longer than men, and African American men have the shortest life expectancy of any group of men in the country. Despite increased attention to unfair and unjust differences in health outcomes, African American men have higher rates of developing and dying from many diseases associated with unhealthy eating and physical inactivity when compared to white men, white women, and African American women. This three-year study is the first to explicitly use gender as a way to increase the salience of health and health behavior for men, and in this case, African American men. Using interviews and other qualitative methods conducted in Nashville, Tenn., the project will develop and test gendered, culturally and contextually relevant messages that will be used in a future, technology-based (e.g., websites, text messaging, interactive voice response, casual video game) tailored intervention, to increase healthy eating and physical activity in African American men. By addressing multiple health behaviors—healthy eating and physical activity—this study reflects the fact that most U.S. adults engage in two or more unhealthy behaviors, which puts them at the greatest risks for chronic disease, disability and premature death. The PIs are already proposing ways to apply this approach to women and other groups of men.

Join the MHS Alumni Association! Alumni! Please subscribe at: <https://list.vanderbilt.edu> and search for MHS-ALUMNI in the Subscriber's Corner. Stay tuned for alumni events, news, and professional networking opportunities!

Students News and Profiles

Several MHS Student Advisory Board members and current MHS majors -- Max Brodsky, Natasha Abdullah, Hannah Florian and Jordaan McGill -- are helping us launch a Student News and Profiles section of our newsletter. In this section, we will be highlighting our students' accomplishments and future professional directions. Here are just three news items:

BA student, **Natasha Abdullah** received a [2014-2015 Fulbright U.S. Student Award](#) to Bangladesh! With her English Teaching Assistantship, she'll serve as cultural ambassador, helping to enhance mutual understanding between Americans and the people in Bangladesh.

Congratulations to 4+1 Master's student **Kelly Dennen**! She's landed a job at [InVivoLink](#), a health care technology company in Nashville. Dennen interned there as part of her 4+1 research and coursework. She just finished up her last MHS research project in the Dominican Republic. Check out Kelly's blog about her experience in the DR: <https://my.vanderbilt.edu/kellydennen/about-me/>

Graduating this Spring, MA student **Elina Nektalova** is traveling for a year as an MHS affiliate with [International Volunteer HQ \(IVHQ\)](#) studying traditional medicine! Then, she's off to [New York Medical College](#) to pursue an MD/MPH. Her research interests include gender dichotomies, health disparities, global public health, and healthcare delivery.



Guest Appearances

Lindsey Andrews presented a paper entitled “Valuable Experiments in Science and Literature” at the Rocky Mountain Modern Language Association Conference. Vancouver, Washington. October 2013.

Lindsey Andrews co-organized a panel “Economies and Epistemes of Expertise” and presented a paper entitled “The Time of Minor Empiricism: Black Feminism and Experimental Study” at the American Comparative Literature Association Annual Meeting. New York, New York. March 2013.

Dominique Béhague presenting a paper entitled “Science, Psychiatry and Adolescence: The Shaping of Troubled Teen Motherhood in Southern Brazil” at the Latin American Studies Association meetings, for a panel on Brazilian Technoscience: Technology, Politics and Knowledge in 21st Century Brazil (organized by Marko Monteiro and Sean T. Mitchell). May 21-24, 2014.

Dominique Béhague presented a paper entitled “The Rise of Cost-Effectiveness Evidence in Global Health: Contingencies of ‘Context’ and the Politics of Contingency” at the International Symposium on Anthropology, Sciences Studies and Health Policies (keynotes included Bruno Latour, Didier Fassin and Vinh-Kim Nguyen). Lyon, France. September 10-13, 2013.

Dominique Béhague co-organized invited panel with Junko Kitanaka at the American Anthropological Association Meetings. The title of the panel was “Child development expertise: A science of the child in modernity.” Other participants included Richard Rechtman, Nicolas Henckes, Ilina Singh, Kathryn Goldfarb. Chicago, Illinois. November 2013.

Dominique Béhague’s other appearances included: “Morbidade mental na mãe adolescente e a ciência do desenvolvimento em Pelotas, Brasil” for panel at ABRASCO Diagnósticos psiquiátricos e globalização da saúde mental: desafios atuais. Rio de Janeiro, Brazil. November 14-17, 2013.

Brunel Anthropology and the Royal Anthropological Institute, “The Rise of Child Science and Psy-expertise.” Two-day workshop with keynote speakers Allan Young, Rayna Rapp and Richard Rechtman. London, U.K. May 29-30, 2012.

Mannheim Institute of Public Health, Heidelberg University, “The Cultures of Stress” international workshop, organized by

Adrian Loerbroks with keynote speakers Allan Young, William Dressler and Richard Wilkinson. Tiffin, Ohio. 2012.

ESRC National Centre for Research Methods, “Reflexive Relations and The Contested Creation of Epistemic Diversity in the Safe Motherhood Initiative” for Seminar Series: Research Ethics in Economic and Social Research Seminar Series,” organized by Laura Camfield, University of East Anglia. June 2012.

Martha Jones presented a paper entitled “Denominators for Calculating Full-Time Equivalent Employees” at the California Department of Public Health, Occupation Health Branch. Richmond, California. August 2013.

Martha Jones’ other appearances included: “A Comparison of Methods for Calculating the Number of Full-time Equivalent Employees By Industry,” poster presented at the Stanford University Biodemography Workshop. Palo Alto, California. May 2013.

“A Comparison of Illness and Injury Counts and Incidence Rates from SOII with those Calculated Using California’s Administrative Database, the Workers’ Compensation Information System (WCIS)” at the Workers’ Compensation Research Group, Liberty Mutual Research Institute for Safety. Hopkinton, Massachusetts. February 2013.

Kenneth MacLeish presented a paper entitled “Readiness and Residuum: Military Medicine and the Moral Governance of War-making” at the Society for Medical Anthropology annual meeting. Tarragona, Spain. June 14, 2013.

Kenneth MacLeish presented a paper entitled “Resiliency and the Problem of Soldierly Personhood” at the Society for the Social Studies of Science—European Association for the Study of Science and Technology joint meeting, Copenhagen, Denmark. October 19, 2012.

Kenneth MacLeish’s other appearances included: “Our job is Not to Decide: War-making and the Limits of Moral Injury.” American Ethnological Society annual meeting. Chicago, Illinois. April 20, 2013.

“Suicide and the Logic of Military Health.” American Anthropological Association annual meeting. San Francisco, California. November 15, 2012.



“Exceptional Conditions: Military Biopolitics and the Everyday Work of War-making.” Depts. of Anthropology and Gender Studies. Whitman College. October 9, 2013.

Workshop on War Injury and Public Health. Fondation Maison des Sciences de l’Homme. Paris, France. December 15-17 2012. Jonathan Metzl spoke at the [Walls and Bridges Festival](#) in Brooklyn, New York. October 19, 2013.

Jonathan Metzl presented a talk entitled “Mental Illness and the Politics of American Firearms.” He was the Keynote speaker at the Nashville Dental Society. Nashville, Tennessee, March 11, 2014.

Jonathan Metzl’s other appearances included:

“The Protest Psychosis: Race, Stigma, and the Diagnosis of Schizophrenia.” Keynote address at the [Durham Critical Medical Humanities Conference](#) for the Edinburgh Companion to the Critical Medical Humanities Workshop program. Durham, UK. April 4, 2014.

“Mental Illness, Mass Shootings, and the Politics of American Firearms.” Featured speaker at the Conte Center for Neuroscience Research Public Lecture Series. Nashville, Tennessee. April 2014.

Amy Non presented a paper entitled “Epigenetic Consequences of Extreme Social Deprivation in Romanian Children” at the American Association of Physical Anthropology, symposium panel “Beyond the Genome: Anthropological Investigations of Transcriptomes, Epigenomes, Telomeres, and Microbiomes in Human and Non-human Primates.” Calgary, Alberta, Canada. April 2013.

Amy Non’s other appearances included:

“Childhood Social Disadvantage, Cardiometabolic Risk, and Chronic Disease in Adulthood” at the American Association of Physical Anthropology. Knoxville, Tennessee. April 2012.

Attended the Robert Wood Johnson Health and Society Scholars (HSS) Annual Meeting, “The Early Roots of Social Disparities in Health: What are We Doing, What Do We Know and What Do We Need To Find Out.” Participant of alumni-led session. Led by Nicki Bush and Kaja LeWinn. San Diego, California. February 2012.

JuLeigh Petty presented a paper at a University of Oxford Workshop, “Ethics, Labour and Boundaries: Examining the Work and Position of Frontline Workers in Medical Research.” Oxford, U.K. May 2013.

JuLeigh Petty attended the Law and Society Association Annual Meeting “Methodological Challenges and Strategies in Health Law Research Roundtable.” Boston, Massachusetts. May 2013.

Laura Stark presented a paper entitled “Exploitation, memory, and Sociological Approaches to the Medical Past” at Georgetown University, Department of Sociology. Washington, DC. January 2014.

Laura Stark’s other appearances included:

“Rethinking Exploitation in the History of Clinical Research” at University of Wisconsin-Madison, Department of Medical History and Bioethics. Madison, Wisconsin. April 2014.

“Managing Local Precedents” at National Academy of Science Workshop on Revisions to the Common Rule. Washington, DC. March 2013.

“Declarative Bodies and the Making of a Postwar Medical Morality: The Case of Research Ethics Committees” at McGill University, Department of Social Studies of Medicine, School of Medicine. Montréal, Quebec, Canada. March 2013.

“Migrants or Commodities? The National Institutes of Health’s Healthy ‘Human Subjects’ and the Vernacular History of Postwar America” at University of California at Los Angeles, Department of History. Los Angeles, California. January 2013.

“Meet the author—Behind Closed Doors: IRBs and the Making of Ethical Research” at Meeting of Public Responsibility in Medicine and Research (PRIMandR). San Diego, California. December 2012.

“Creeping with the Enemy” at the Annual Meeting of the American Anthropological Association in presidential session, “Compliance in Practice: Creative Engagements with Regulatory Ethics Regimes.” San Francisco, California. November 2012

“A Practical Guide to Research Ethics” at the Annual Seminar on the Protection of Human Subject Research Participants, University of Chicago, School of Public Policy Studies. Chicago, Illinois. October 2012.

“The Language of Trust: Monolingualism, Inequality, and Vernacular Cultures of Regulation” at Northwestern University, Department of Sociology. Evanston, Illinois. October 2012.



Faculty Publications

Abdou, C. M., Dominguez, T.P., MYERS, H.F. "Maternal Familism Predicts Birth Weight and Asthma Three Years Later." *Social Science and Medicine*, 76(1), 28-38. 2013. doi:10.1016/j.socscimed. 07.041, epub 2012 Sept 1, 2012.

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Allen, V.C., MYERS, H.F., Williams, J.K. "Depression among Black Bisexual Men with Early and Later Life Adversities." *Cultural Diversity and Ethnic Minority Psychology*. 2013. doi:10.1037/a00034128.

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BÉHAGUE, D.P. and Storeng, K.T. "Reflexive Relations: The Contested Creation of Epistemological Diversity in the Safe Motherhood Initiative." *Research in International Development: a critical review*. Edited by Laura Camfield and Richard Palmer-Jones. Palgrave. p. 283-308. 2014.

BÉHAGUE, D.P. "Unconventional Psychiatric Medico-Politicization: The Making and Unmaking of Behavioural Disorders in Pelotas, Brazil." *Troubling Natural Categories: Engaging the Medical Anthropology of Margaret Lock*. Naomi Adelson and Pam Wakewich, McGill-Queen's University Press. p. 123-144. 2013.

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“It (MHS) was a great fit. The difference is evident when I interact with my peers that do not have the same background in topics such as illness narratives and the social and economic status of patients. In fact, during my first semester in medical school (University of Arkansas), we were required to do an interview with a patient and the only information we were given was that the patient had uncontrolled hypertension and diabetes. Other students approached it in a very uncomfortable way, because they had no experience dealing with health issues stemming from economic and social disparity. Because of MHS, I knew the factors included understanding cost of medicine. I was able to communicate with the patient to see what we could do to really help him.”

— Michael Cross, BA '12, MHS Alumni

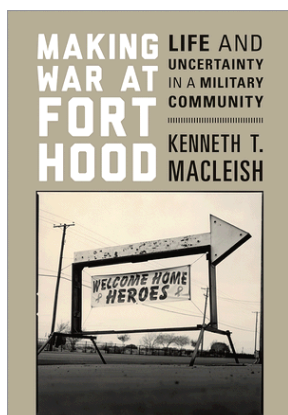
Publication Highlights

Making War at Fort Hood

March marked the one-year anniversary of the publication of Assistant Professor **Kenneth MacLeish's** *Making War at Fort Hood: Life and Uncertainty in a Military Community* (Princeton University Press, 2013). *Making War* is an ethnography examining the everyday lives of service members and their families at the massive U.S. Army base in Texas. Through stories that describe the weight of body armor in the desert heat, the worry and dread of waiting on deployed loved ones, the ambivalence of being thanked by grateful civilians, and the perils of negotiating military medical care, the book depicts war as a phenomenon that is simultaneously political, intimate, and deeply embodied.

The book recently received third place in the Victor Turner Awards for ethnographic writing and the James Mooney Award for distinguished anthropological scholarship on the South. In addition to being extensively reviewed in a range of scholarly and lay outlets, including [The Daily Beast](#), [Times Higher Education](#), and [Somatosphere](#), the book has also provided an opportunity for broader conversations. In addition to serving as the basis for several lectures and medical rounds talks in and beyond Nashville, *Making War* was featured at a panel at last fall's Southern Festival of Books alongside works by journalist Ethan Watters and psychiatrist and writer Allen Frances.

When the April 2, 2014, shooting brought Fort Hood again into the news, Professor **MacLeish** had the opportunity to comment on both the overlooked everyday stresses of life in that community and the media's narrow, stigmatizing focus on mental health diagnosis; his comments appeared in [Time](#), the CBC, and [Libération](#).



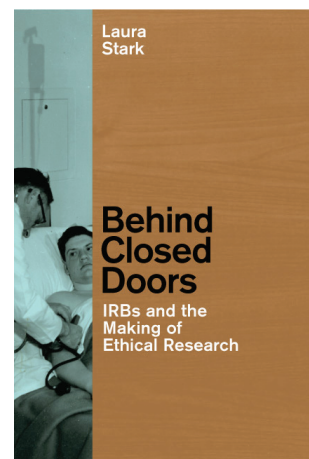
Behind Closed Doors

In March 2013, the National Academy of Sciences hosted a lecture by Assistant Professor **Laura Stark** based on her book, *Behind Closed Doors: IRBs and the Making of Ethical Research*.

The academy panel was interested in learning more about the specific findings reported in *Behind Closed Doors* because it is the first book to meld firsthand observations of Institutional Review Boards (IRBs) meetings with the history of how rules for the treatment of human subjects were formalized in the United States in the decades after World War II. Findings from her book were incorporated into the Consensus Report the academy produced on recently suggested changes to regulations in the treatment of human-subjects in research. Although the subject of federally mandated has been extensively debated, Professor **Stark's** book opens up new insight into what actually happens when IRBs convene.

Drawing on extensive archival sources, Professor **Stark** reconstructs the daily lives of scientists, lawyers, administrators, and research subjects working on the campus of the National Institutes of Health, where they first wrote the rules for the treatment of human subjects. Stark argues that the model of group deliberation that gradually crystallized during this period reflected contemporary legal and medical conceptions of what it meant to be human, what political rights human subjects deserved, and which stakeholders were best suited to decide.

Her research explains how the historical contingencies that shaped rules for the treatment of human subjects in the postwar era guide decision making today—within hospitals, universities, health departments, and other institutions in the United States and across the globe. Reviewers in journals that range from Science to Christianity Today have described the book as meticulously researched and gracefully argued, and they anticipate that *Behind Closed Doors* will be essential reading for sociologists and historians of science and medicine, as well as policy makers and IRB administrators.



Special issue of American Journal of Men's Health tackles social context of men's health

Published in the summer of 2013, Associate Professor **Derek Griffith** guest edited a special supplement on African American men's health in the leading men's health journal in the U.S., the American Journal of Men's Health. Using seven peer-reviewed articles, the guest editors and authors of this supplemental issue sought to expand the discourse in the field of African American men's health to examine how context (social and physical environment), politics, access to health care and more factors collectively influence the quality and length of life among African American men.



International Journal of Men's Health special issue outlines strategies for reducing men's health disparities

In fall 2013, Associate Professor **Derek Griffith** guest edited a special issue of the International Journal of Men's Health on practical solutions to addressing men's health disparities. This is the first special issue dedicated to describing strategies for addressing men's health disparities across racial and ethnic groups in the U.S. and globally. Collectively, these six papers represent a range of efforts to not simply explain men's health disparities, but describe interventions or findings in such a way that they inform strategies to reduce or eliminate men's health disparities.

Recent Events

MAY 8 2014

MHS Graduation Reception

MARCH 19 2014

MHS New Curriculum, Open House

FEBRUARY 19 - APRIL 18 2014

MHS Hosts Pottery Exhibition, Health and Art: Master Potters of the Catawba Indian Nation

FEBRUARY 11 & APRIL 9 2014

MHS Spring Lecture Series: Hot Topics in Medicine, Health, and Society

FEBRUARY 18 2013

MHS co-hosts MSNBC's Melissa Harris-Perry

OCTOBER 3-4 2013

The Politics of Health Conference

SEPTEMBER 11 2013

MHS Welcomes All Students and Faculty to our Ice Cream Social

For upcoming events, check out the MHS calendar online!

To support MHS programming and research initiatives contact
jonathan.metzl@vanderbilt.edu