

Lauren Mitchell
Senior Lecturer, Vanderbilt University
Department of Medicine, Health and Society
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EDUCATION:

University of Tennessee- Knoxville, M.S. in Social Work- Anticipated Graduation May 2024
Concentration Year: Evidence-Based Interpersonal Practice

Baylor College of Medicine, Bioethics Intensive, April 2022 (Healthcare Ethics Certification Exam to follow)

Vanderbilt University, Ph.D. August 2019

Dissertation and Current Book Project: *Performing Surgery: Alienating Aesthetics and the Medical Imagination*
Research Interests: Medical Humanities; Bioethics; History of Science/Medicine; Epistemologies of Medicine; Autotheory/creative non-fiction; Contemporary Literature; Performance Art; Art Criticism; Brechtian Theatre; Aesthetics

Vanderbilt University, M.A. in English- December 2015

Master's Thesis "Sculpture, and Déformation Professionnelle: A Surgeon's Encounter with Trauma in Richard Selzer's Two Koreas"

Columbia University, M.S. in Narrative Medicine- February 2012

Thesis Project- "The Intimacy of the Operating Room: Aesthetics, Movement, and the Gaze"

Hampshire College, B.A.- May 2007

Interdisciplinary Concentration: Literature/Critical Theory, Gender Studies, and Biological Anthropology

ACADEMIC APPOINTMENTS

Vanderbilt University, Department of Medicine, Health and Society, July 2023- Present
Senior Lecturer

Vanderbilt University, Department of English, July 2022- Present
Lecturer

Texas Christian University School of Medicine, July 2019-July 2022
Director of Narrative Medicine and Assistant Professor of Medical Education
Affiliated Faculty, John V. Roach Honors College
Affiliated Core Faculty, Department of Women and Gender Studies

ACADEMIC PUBLICATIONS:

Under Review:

Article: "Surgery, Sculpture and *Déformation Professionnelle* in Richard Selzer's Koreas"

Anthology: (Editor) *On the Precipice of Parenthood: Shifting Identities Within the Pregnant Self*. Co-edited with Mary Mahoney.

Forthcoming:

Article: "Viewpoints and the Performance of Force in William Carlos Williams," *The William Carlos Williams Review Special Issue: Williams and Medicine* (2022). Co-authored with Chase Crossno.

Published:

Book Chapter: "Sirenomelia, Sirenophilia and the Display Culture of Agnieszka Smoczyńska's *The Lure*." *The Deep: A Companion*. Edited by Simon Bacon (2023)

Article: "Erotic Surgery: J.G. Ballard's *Crash* and Octavia Butler's 'Bloodchild' and the Visual Legacy of the Medical Museum," *Configurations Special Issue: Science Fiction and the Museum* (2022)

Article: "Finding the Story in Research," *Journal of Clinical and Translational Science* (2022). Co-authored with Evonne Kaplan-Liss, Val Lantz-Gefroh, and Chase Crossno.

Article: "Soft Animal Heart: Building and Losing Family Across Species," *Departures in Critical Qualitative Research Special Issue: Who is a Good Death For?* (2021).

Contributing Writer: *Synopsis: A Health Humanities Journal* (2018-2020)

Ongoing short articles for online Medical Humanities journal through Columbia University. Articles include, "Reading Neurotica: Or, the Caregiver and Her Heartache"; "A for Abortion: The Weaponized Vocabulary of a Medical Procedure"; "Medicine, Myth, Fairytale: Joanna Pearson's *Every Human Love*"; "Ted Chiang's 'Exhalation': Uncanny Neuroscience and Radical Self-Exam"

Book Chapter: "Connections in Obstetrics and Gynecology: Using Reflective Writing to Engage in Healthcare for Women" in *From Reading to Healing: Teaching Medical Professionalism Through Literature*. (Kent, OH: Kent State University Press, 2019). Co-authored with Abigail Winkel and Stephanie Blank.

Book Chapter: "The Trauma of Second Birth: Double Consciousness, Rupture, and The Ethics of Reading in Toni Morrison's *Beloved*" in *Toni Morrison and Motherhood* (Ontario, Canada: Demeter Press, 2017).

Book Chapter: "Story-Centered Care: Full-Spectrum Doula Work and Narrative Medicine" in *Intimate Care: Doulas and the Birthing Body*. (Ontario, Canada: Demeter Press, 2015). Co-authored with Annie Robinson.

TRADE PUBLICATIONS AND CREATIVE WRITING:

Book: *The Doulas: Radical Care for Pregnant People* (New York, NY: Feminist Press, 2016). Co-authored with Mary Mahoney.

Short Story: "The Skin Pulled Tightly Over the Bone," *The L Magazine* (New York, NY: 2009).

Original Play: "*The Quiet Model*", produced and performed at Midtown International Theatre Festival, Off Broadway, (New York, NY: 2006).

FELLOWSHIPS AND AWARDS:

- Claudia V. Camp Creativity in Research Award in Women's and Gender Studies, Texas Christian University, November 2020
- Outstanding Graduate Student Teaching Award, Vanderbilt University College of Arts and Sciences, December 2018
- Graduate Student Fellowship, Robert Penn Warren Center for the Humanities at Vanderbilt University, 2018-2019 Academic Year
- Summer Research Award, Vanderbilt University Graduate School of Arts and Sciences, Summer 2018
- Robert Manson Myers Award for best first chapter of a dissertation in the English Department at Vanderbilt University, January 2018

FEATURED LECTURES:

3rd Annual Ralph J. Anderson, MD Women's Health Symposium, September 2021, "Ethics, Gender, and Moral Injury" (with Chase Crossno)

TCU's Women and Gender Studies Department, April 2021: "Alienating Aesthetics: Performance Art and the Medical Imagination"

Robert Penn Warren Center at Vanderbilt University, April 2019: "Demonizing Mothers: Psychodrama and Corporeal Punishment in Ari Aster's *Hereditary*"

TCU and UNTHSC School of Medicine Guest Artist Series, December 2018: "What's Emotion Got to Do With It?: A Narrative Medicine Workshop"

POSTER PRESENTATIONS:

Alsbaugh, A., Ely, G., Kapur, I., Bryant, A. & Mitchell, L. (2023, June 11 – 13). "*It's a wonder most of us are still alive*" – accessing reproductive health care in rural Appalachia. Office of Population Affairs 2023 Title X Grantee Conference, Baltimore, MD, USA.

CONFERENCES AND INVITED PRESENTATIONS:

Popular Culture/American Culture in the South: September 2022 (rescheduled from September 2021) New Orleans, LA

Panelist: The Maternal Body and Intergenerational Trauma in Contemporary Horror Film, "Ari Aster's *Hereditary*: Mothers, Demons, and the Imagery of Corporeal Punishment."

Association for Medical Humanities: June 2021. University of Limerick, Ireland

Panelist: The Good Death and Funerary Spaces, "Teaching, Mourning: The Funereal Spaces of Medical Education."

Narrative Conference, March 2020, New Orleans, LA

Panel Chair, Performing Medicine, "Brechtian Regard and the Productive Purpose of Discomfort"

Society for Literature, Science, and the Arts, "Experimental Engagements," November 2019, University of California- Irvine

Panelist, Science Fiction Otherwise, "The Erotic Queerness of Operating Rooms: Octavia Butler's 'Bloodchild' and the Anatomical

Venus”

Society for Literature, Science, and the Arts, “Out of Mind,” November 2018, Toronto, ON, Canada
Panelist: “Ted Chiang’s ‘Exhalation’: Uncanny Neuroscience and Radical Self-Exam”

North American Victorian Studies Association, “Looking Outward,” October 2018, University of Florida
Panelist, Death and the Nineteenth Century: “Flânarier and the Grotesque Imagination: The New Revival of Death Culture”

Visualizing Theory Conference: An Interdisciplinary Conference on Critical Theory, May 2018, CUNY Graduate Center
Panelist, Affect and the Community: “Kiki Smith’s Radical Vulnerability: On the Productive Purpose of Discomfort”

Kristeva Circle, October 2017, University of Pittsburgh
Panelist, Halberstam, Spillers, and Race: “A Mother to Herself: Abjection and Double Consciousness in Toni Morrison’s *Beloved*”

North American Victorian Studies Association Supernumerary Conference, May 2017, NYU- Florence
Panelist, Crime and Punishment, “Staging the Medical Museum: The Medical and Political Economies of Performing Susan Lori Parks’ *Venus*”

Society of Film and Media Studies, April 2016, Atlanta, GA
Panelist, Screening Women’s Health, “Lifting the Fleshly Veil: Self, Exam, and Self-Exam in David Cronenberg’s *Dead Ringers* and Orlan’s *Carnal Art*”

South Central Modern Language Association, November 2015, Nashville, TN
Panelist, Literature and Science Panel, “Surgery, Sculpture, and Déformation Professionnelle: The Intersubjective Habitus”

Museum of Motherhood Conference at the CUNY Graduate Center, May 2015
Panelist, “Intimate Labor: Doula and Motherwork”

Narrative Bridges: Connecting Through the Health Humanities Conference, February 2014, Medical University of South Carolina
“Full-Spectrum Doula Support and Narrative Medicine”
“The Anatomy of Bearing Witness: Surgical Culture, Visual Humility, and Narrative”

Civil Liberties and Public Policy Program, Annually from 2006-2014, Hampshire College
“De-Mystifying Reproductive Health” (2006-2014)
“Full Spectrum Doula Care: Training and Being Abortion Doula” (2008-2014)
“Oral Histories and Caregiver Narratives” (2016)

National Abortion Federation, 2013-2014
“Incorporating Doula Support into Abortion Care”

Bridging Across the Spectrum of Pregnancy, 2010
Featured Panel

Barnard College Center for Research on Women, 2010
Featured Panel, “Reproductive Justice in Action”

Previous Conferences Include: NOW National Convergence and NOW Regional Convergence, Adoption Access Network, Planned Parenthood National and Regional Convergences

TEACHING AND CURRICULUM DESIGN

The Compassionate Practice Faculty, (2019-Ongoing)

Curriculum Designer and Assistant Course Director, The Compassionate Practice Course

TCU School of Medicine

My appointment as the Director of Narrative Medicine for the School of Medicine falls underneath the purview of the Department of Narrative Reflection and Patient Communication (NRPC), which develops the foundational Compassionate Practice patient-centered communications curriculum. We are an interdisciplinary team that integrates the methodologies of theatre, population health/social justice, and narrative medicine into our approach to teaching empathetic, self-reflexive communication. Our longitudinal medical student curriculum spans across the students’ four years of medical school, beginning with a first course that frames arts and humanities as methodologies for communication practice. We will also have designated course time in our second- and third-year didactics (called “Learning, Application, and Pondering sessions). Finally, we appear extensively in other places of the School of Medicine’s broader curriculum for students as well as in faculty development and para-curricular support.

Faculty. Longitudinal Integrated Clerkship Course (2020-Ongoing)

I am directly responsible for the students' Narrative Medicine Essay assignment, which is a longitudinal creative non-fictional project affiliated with their clinical rotations that begin from their first year. These essays are evaluated on the basis of their demonstrated critical thinking and introspective abilities, using a rubric that is hybrid version of established from other medical schools with categories that are more typically found in writing and literature courses. My role in the school has been to 1) create a working definition of Narrative Medicine that combines the field's established understanding of itself with an appropriate practical application to the SOM's needs; 2) develop the assignment within the curriculum in a way that is accessible and understandable to both students and faculty; 3) develop the assessment tools utilized to evaluate this assignment on a consistent basis in the SOM; 4) teach the Narrative Medicine and close reading/writing curriculum and its practical application to patient communication; 5) support student, faculty, and staff interests in the field of Medical Humanities/the arts by alerting people to opportunities in the field and by offering weekly "Writing Office Hours."

Affiliate Faculty/Instructor of Record, 2020-2021 Academic Year (Ongoing)

Texas Christian University John V. Roach Honors College Colloquium

Underworlds: Narratives that Deconstruct the Norm (Spring 2022)

Reproductive Justice and Narrative (Fall 2021)

Scary Parents in Film, Literature and Medical History (Spring 2021)

Literature, Care and the Anthropocene (Fall 2020)

Lecturer, Columbia University

Narrative Medicine Online Certificate of Professional Achievement (CPA) Program, 2021-Ongoing

Narrative Ethics (Spring 2022)

Small Group Facilitator,

Group Peer Support (GPS) and Loretta Ross (2020)

White Supremacy in the Age of Trump (Summer 2020)

Calling In the Call-Out Culture (Fall 2020)

Faculty Development Trainer in Narrative Medicine, Fall 2018

TCU and UNTHSC School of Medicine

Developing a faculty workshop on the techniques of Narrative Medicine and the pedagogical infrastructure of developing humanities courses for medical students

Instructor of Record, Fall 2015-Spring 2018

Vanderbilt University English Department

Literature, Narrative and Medicine (Literature/Analytical Thinking)

Reading "Neurotica:" Subjectivity and the Neurotic Love Story (Literature/Analytical Thinking)

Mind-Reading: Narrative, Memory, and Neuroscience (Prose Fiction);

Oh My Goth: Performance, Aesthetics, and (Counter) Culture (Dramatic Lit)

Where I End and You Begin: Writing Composition and Oral History (Composition)

Cult of Personalities: Performing Charisma (Dramatic Lit)

Curriculum Review, June 2015

Vanderbilt University Medical School,

Assisting the revision of the medical student four-year "Learning Communities" curriculum, which includes Close Reading/Reflective Writing or "Narrative Medicine" Practice course components

Instructor, 2012-2014

NYU School of Medicine

Launch of a Two-Year Long Close Reading/Reflective Writing Workshops with OB/GYN Residents

Study: "Narrative Medicine: Using reflective writing workshops to help house staff address the complex and challenging nature of caring for gynecologic oncology patients" to be presented at Society for Gynecologic Oncologists 2014 Meeting

Article currently in preparation for publication.

Guest Speaker, 2013

NYU School of Medicine

Gender and Health Summer Selective for First-Year Medical Students

Instructor, 2012-2013

NYU School of Medicine

Close Reading/Reflective Writing for Medical Students on their OB/GYN Rotation

Study: "Narrative Medicine and Abortion Education: Can Reading and Reflective Writing Impact a Medical Student?"

Poster presentation at the American College of Obstetricians and Gynecologists, District II Meeting
Oral Presentation at conference, "A Narrative Future for Healthcare"

Instructor, 2011 *Hampshire College* (part of practicum project for *Columbia University Master's in Narrative Medicine Program*)
The Narrative Medicine Workshop Series

DISSERTATION AND ACADEMIC COMMITTEE WORK:

2021-Present *Dissertation Outside Reader: Tyler Jean Dukes, Department of English, Texas Christian University*
"Childbirth Narratives as Social Medicine on the Renaissance Stage" (Defense Planned for November 2023)

2022-2023: *Scholarly Pursuit and Thesis Mentor: Krithi Narimetla, 4th Year Medical Student, Texas Christian University*
Tentative Title: "Oral Histories of Medical Students During the COVID Pandemic"

2022-2023: *Scholarly Pursuit and Thesis Mentor: Charna Kinard, 4th Year Medical Student, Texas Christian University*
Tentative Title: "Decolonizing Medical Humanities: A Syllabus"

2021-2023: *Undergraduate Thesis Advisor: Ella Meyer, Department of Pre-Health Professors, Texas Christian University*
Honors College Thesis on Narrative Medicine (Project began in 2021 and is planned to be completed during the 2022-2023 year)

DEPARTMENTAL SERVICE:

At TCU Main Campus:

- Women and Gender Studies at TCU Advisory Council (2021-2022)

At the TCU and UNTHSC School of Medicine:

- Editor/Coordinator for *HuMed: Merging Medical Humanities and Creative Non-Fiction*. Online Journal and Lecture Series (launched in 2021).
- Gold Humanism Faculty Advisor (2021-Present)
- THRIVE Wellness Committee (2021-Present)
- Faculty Advisor, School of Medicine Student Book Club (2020-Present)
- Medical School Admissions Committee and Mini-Medical School Interview (MMI) Rater (2020- Present)
- Electives/Phase Three (final year) Task Force (2020-Present)
- Case and Curriculum Review Subcommittee (2019-Present)
- Problem- Based Learning Case Writing Team (2019-Present)
- Patient Panel Moderator for Content Framing Sessions (2019-Present)

PROFESSIONAL EXPERIENCE:

Freelance Non-Profit Organization Program Consultant, June 2014-Present

- Assist new organizations in developing programs and strategic plans
- Develop and implement new trainings and training curricula
- Mentor and support new organizations
- Create a network of allies and support
- Specialist in volunteer management, reproductive justice, and social justice issues
- Notable organizations include the TransBuddy Program at Vanderbilt University, and multiple full-spectrum doula groups throughout the country

Social Work Intern, Vanderbilt University Psychiatric Hospital (Inpatient), June 2023- Present

- Provide therapeutic support for clients on the child and adolescent and mood disorder units
- Facilitate psychosocial assessments, family meetings, and discharge planning
- Maintain caseload of patients
- Provide psychoeducation on acute mental health disorders
- Serve as a patient advocate
- Provide support to hospital staff in an interdisciplinary medical team

Social Work Intern, Elam Center at Meharry Medical School , September 2022-May 2023

- Provided therapeutic services twice weekly for patients in substance use recovery
- Facilitated multiple group therapy sessions per week on topics including substance use education, narrative medicine, coping skills, and mental health education
- Served as a patient advocate and liaison between Elam Center and law enforcement/legal representatives, housing and medical services, and families

- Facilitated discharge planning

Graduate Student Writing Consultant, Vanderbilt University Writing Studio, August 2017- August 2018

- Provided one-on-one writing consultations with Vanderbilt undergraduate and graduate students, as well as post-docs, and occasionally, faculty
- Worked with writer to create useful revision strategies for essays, personal statements, outlines, and articles
- Offered supportive feedback
- Diagnosed problems in student writing, helped troubleshoot difficulties, and offered solutions
- Organized panels for the Vanderbilt Undergraduate Writing Symposium
- Sat on Undergraduate Writing Award committee

Research Assistant to Professor Hortense J. Spillers, Vanderbilt University Department of English, October 2017-September 2018

- Main tasks involved organization of the upcoming Issues in Critical Investigation Biennial and Manuscript Competition in 2018. This included developing an outreach plan for the Call for Papers, developing panels, approaching potential speakers, and managing conference logistics such as finding space and arranging accommodations.

Founder/Coordinator, The Doula Project, September 2007-August 2014; Board Member, 2015-2018

- Managed, facilitated, and coordinated a program to help support women who are choosing abortion or adoption or who are undergoing miscarriage or perinatal loss
- Designed and implemented training curricula on local and national levels
- Provided support before, during, and after the procedure or before birth
- Helped patients make educated decisions by providing information and emotional support
- Oversaw the relationship between doulas and our four clinic sites
- Trained and manage 60 volunteers for the program; Act as a liaison between the program and our host clinics and organization
- Ran national trainings for fellow organizations and clinics
- Performed administrative tasks for the organization, scheduling including application process for 501©(3) status, fundraising for the organization, overall scheduling of doulas in clinics and managing the organization's leadership body

Family Planning Clinic Manager/Health Counselor, Bellevue Hospital/NYU School of Medicine- Family Planning Program, April 2009-August 2014

- Provided counseling and support for women opting for abortion or women undergoing miscarriage/peri-natal loss
- Provided patients with thorough contraceptive counseling and information to make informed decisions
- Provided thorough information regarding Schedule patients for procedures and associated clearance appointments
- Maintained communication with physicians from various specialties to facilitate clearances for medically vulnerable patients
- Acted as a liaison between patients and the hospital before, during, and after the procedure
- Assisted in Family Planning Research Projects

Certified Gynecological Teaching Associate/Standardized Patient, University of Medicine and Dentistry of New Jersey, May 2005- August 2014

- Trained medical students how to perform comprehensive breast and pelvic exam and patient education techniques
- Acted as standardized patient during medical student OSCEs (Objective Student Clinic Exams)
- Consulted with doctors regarding feedback based on medical student interactions

Freelance Writer and Editor, May 2007-April 2009

- Edited research papers, articles, and proposals for various independent and commercial clients

Student Advocate/Creative Writing Instructor, Harlem Children's Zone, March 2008- September 2008

- Created curriculum for students in 6th through 9th grade that included writing support and education in addition to experience in creative writing
- Provided academic and social support for students in 9th grade, including weekly check-ins with teachers, guidance counselors, parents, and the students themselves

Reading/Writing Teaching Assistant and Substitute Teacher, York Early College Academy, September 2007-October 2008

- Supported teachers of 6th-8th grade English/Language Arts in the execution of lesson plans
- Assisted in the creation of new curricula
- Tutored 20 students independently in comprehensive reading and writing techniques; graded students accordingly

LEADERSHIP EXPERIENCE:

National Trainer: Grassroots Organizing, Patient Support and The Doula Project Full-Spectrum Model of Care, September 2007-Present
Responsible for running national trainings for activist groups, clinics, and health-care advocacy groups. Trainings have been

implemented in more than a dozen cities across the country.

Board Member, The Doula Project, January 2015- January 2018

Assisted in developing the organizational structure for fiscal accountability for the organization, and designed and implemented fundraisers including events and annual appeals. Supported program managers and leaders in their endeavors.

TransBuddy Trainer and Program Coordinator, September 2014- August 2017

Oversaw volunteer management of new volunteers in a new patient advocacy-led initiative for LGBTI people.

SPECIAL SKILLS:

- Qualitative Research Experience
- Proficient knowledge of Spanish (Reading/Writing/Speaking)
- Computer fluency in Microsoft Office, Adobe, Qualtrics, and Linux systems
- CAPP-Trained Birth Doula