Thank You

Congratulations and thank you to each of our presenters. Your pieces are incredible, and we have been honored to work with you. The time and effort that you have put into presenting is much appreciated.

Thank you to Dr. Jonathan Adler for his keynote and for the time that he spent working on this conference.

Thank you to the Medical Humanities minor and The Morrissey College of Arts & Sciences for funding and support throughout conference planning.

We would like to extend a very special thank you to Rachel Ernst, the Graduate Assistant for Medical Humanities, for the tremendous amount of guidance that she has offered not only to the conference, but also to the students of the minor.

We would also like to thank Professor Amy Boesky, Director of the Medical Humanities minor, for planting the seeds of this conference and bringing the team together.

Body, Voice, Narrative: An Interdisciplinary Discussion in Medical Humanities
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Abby Dryer
Abby is a junior at Boston College, where she studies English and Medical Humanities. Abby became interested in narrative medicine during an introductory course of the Medical Humanities minor her sophomore year. Together, her passions in literature and health care have fueled an interest in the healing process of the sick. Beyond her time at BC, Abby hopes to attend graduate school in a Physician's Assistant program.

Aside from school, Abby is an avid yogi and in the process of becoming a yoga instructor. She has a passion for social justice, and is involved in many clubs on campus, such as 4Boston and React To Film, that highlight this passion. In the future, Abby looks forward to returning to her Minnesota home because, she swears, the winters are "not that bad ".

Nick Raposo
Nick is a sophomore majoring in Nursing and minoring in Medical Humanities with a focus on Global/Public Health. Last year at the Haley House soup kitchen in Boston's South End, Nick discovered the power of a community built around unique experiences and shared stories. Through the Medical Humanities program, Nick continues to study the interconnectedness of lived experiences. In the future, Nick hopes to explore community-based maternal/child health as a Nurse Practitioner.

Alongside his academics, Nick is an enthusiastic member of the Student Admission Program and a dedicated Resident Assistant in a first-year residence hall. Nick finds joy in new episodes of Chopped, acoustic versions of pop songs, lemon squares, and bow ties.
About The Team

**Katie Carsky**
Katie Carsky is a senior at Boston College from Yonkers, New York. She is a Biology major and Medical Humanities minor. Katie became involved with the minor during her sophomore year, which undoubtedly rounded out her pre-medical education. Next year, Katie will be attending Tulane School of Medicine in New Orleans to work toward her MD/MPH.

Katie is currently President of Mendel Society, the pre-health club at Boston College, and a captain of Eagles Club XC. In her free time, Katie can often be found drawing or running long distances. She also enjoys time spent with friends, family and her two dogs, Princess and Goose.

**Emily Sokol**
Emily is a junior premed student at Boston College majoring in English with a minor in Medical Humanities. Emily first became interested in medical humanities as a way to combine her two passions: literature and medicine. These two seemingly different disciplines, Emily learned, were not as different as they appeared, for without a story we can never truly know how to cure someone. Upon graduating, Emily hopes to attend medical school where she can utilize her knowledge on the many aspects that go into care to better treat her patients.

Emily is also an active member of Boston College's service organization 4Boston where she volunteers each week at Marian Manor nursing home. While having little free time on her hands, Emily makes time for the simple pleasures in life: croissants and peanut M&Ms.

Schedule

Welcome to the 2016 Medical Humanities Conference at Boston College.

Today's events will include three panels on the topics of Body, Voice and Narrative followed by a Keynote with Dr. Jonathan Adler.

Each panel will conclude with Q & A.

10:30 AM - Registration

11:00 AM - Welcome

11:15 AM - Body: Living with Adversity

11:50 AM - Voice: Cultural Perceptions

12:40 PM - Lunch

1:10 PM - Narrative: Healthcare Experiences

2:00 PM - Keynote

2:55 PM - Closing
Panelists

**Kyle A. Carr**

Kyle Carr is a second year Master’s student working towards his Ph.D. at Boston College in the Sociology department. Before coming to BC, Kyle earned his B.A. from the College of the Holy Cross where he double majored in Sociology and Psychology. His current research interests are in medical sociology, aging and the life course, mixed methods, and social psychology. Over the past three years, Kyle has been working with individuals diagnosed with Multiple Sclerosis (MS). Through analyzing narratives and online forums of those diagnosed with MS, Kyle seeks to understand the complexities of living with and managing an idiosyncratic illness. Beyond academics, Kyle enjoys spending time with his loving partner and their golden-doodle named Korra.

**Saljooq Asif**

Saljooq Asif is currently pursuing a Master of Science in Narrative Medicine at Columbia University. He holds a Bachelor of Science in Biology and English from Boston College, where he was also a member of the Arts & Sciences Honors Program. Asif is interested in the intersection between medicine and the humanities as well as media portrayals of race, gender, and class in regard to healthcare. He also has a background in health journalism, having worked at WCBS-TV and Medscape, a subsidiary of WebMD. Asif's presentation is based off of a paper he initially wrote for a course in the master's program, entitled Illness and Disability Narratives. He would like to thank Professor Sayantani DasGupta for her guidance and support.

Keynote

**Jonathan M. Adler, Ph.D.**

Dr. Adler is an Associate Professor of Psychology at Olin College of Engineering and Wellesley College. His research focuses on the interface between adult development and clinical psychology.

Dr. Adler has conducted studies focused on people’s reconstructions of personal experiences in psychotherapy, focusing in particular on narrative and identity evolution in the process of clinical improvement. He is interested in how people make sense of difficult situations and how that influences outcomes including mental health, personality maturity and psychotherapy treatment.

He is currently involved in several research projects related to identity and mental health, including studies focused on narrative meaning-making regarding challenges with physical health. He is the Chief Scientific Officer and the Co-Director of Healing Story Sessions at Health Story Collaborative.

Beyond his research, Dr. Adler is also a practicing psychotherapist. He has worked as a Postdoctoral Fellow at the Stone Center Counseling Service at Wellesley College and completed his APA-Approved Pre-Doctoral Internship at the Jesse Brown VA Medical Center in Chicago.

Dr. Adler has published papers on a variety of topics including adult development, epistemology and identity, psychology teaching and psychological responses to the 9/11 terrorist attacks, among others.

We are very appreciative of Dr. Adler for attending our conference to close the day with his keynote address.
Colleen Brady

Colleen Brady is a senior at Boston College originally from Wisconsin. She is studying English with a minor in biology, but also has taken an array of electives in foreign language, history, sociology, and education. Her favorite courses at BC were writing workshops and she uses creative writing as a tool to reflect on and process her experiences, as well as a way to explore life from perspectives other than her own. At BC, she was heavily involved in community service with children, the elderly, and the homeless. She also served as the president of Global Medical Brigades, in which she led a medical service trip to Nicaragua. In her free time, she enjoys traveling, writing, and spending time outdoors. Next year, she will be serving with the Jesuit Volunteer Corps as an Education Aide in San Jose, California.

Karolina Mieczkowska

Karolina Mieczkowska is from Long Island, New York. She is a first-generation American as her family came to the United States from Poland. At Boston College, Karolina is a junior in the Morrissey College of Arts and Sciences. She is majoring in Biochemistry and minoring in Medical Humanities. She is also pursuing the premedical track, in hopes of becoming a physician. Karolina’s interest in medicine greatly motivated her to work towards a Medical Humanities minor. She hopes to become a doctor who not only knows how to treat an ailment, but also how to effectively interact with and mindfully listen to her patients. Additionally, she strived to maintain a literary presence in her studies that provided perspectives and interpretations often unavailable in the sciences. Throughout her time at Boston College, Karolina has also enjoyed becoming involved with Boston College EMS, Slavic Club, Mendel Society, and a research lab.
Derek McCracken attends Columbia University in the City of New York, where he will receive his M.S. in Narrative Medicine in May 2016. He earned his B.A. (English, Creative Writing) and M.A. (English, Professional Writing) from the University of Missouri in Kansas City.

Derek is interested in the field of public health narratives, providing platforms for marginalized populations to be recognized, respected and rehabilitated. While in Kansas City, Derek served as board president of SAVE, Inc. (saveinckc.org) a nonprofit agency providing housing solutions to empower socially and medically disadvantaged people to improve their health and lead stable lives with personal dignity. In 1998, he founded the Men’s Group at MOCSA (Metropolitan Organization to Counter Sexual Assault (mocs.org), designed to help male survivors of sexual abuse overcome the stigma of their trauma. He co-presented “Building and Maintaining a Men’s Support Group” at the National Sexual Assault Conference in 2012.

He worked for 22 years in the consumer communications industry, most recently at Hallmark Cards, Inc., where he served as the Editorial Creative Director of greeting cards. (Yes, you can blame him for the cards that blare music when you open them.) His teams focused on exploring innovation strategies spanning humor, technology, multiculturalism, and LGBT marketing. He is a 3-year resident of New York, so please refrain from telling him, “You’re not in Kansas anymore!”

Emily Simon is a scholar of 20th-century American literature, theory, and art. A recent graduate of Boston College’s Class of 2015, she is currently working as Account Management Executive for Emerald Group Publishing in Cambridge. This fall, she will be returning to school for her PhD in English, though she has not yet decided which program she will attend. Her work examines representations of the—particularly female—body in American literature of the last century, considering how identities are established and challenged by narrative depictions, or elisions, of embodied experience. Particularly, she focuses upon embodied experiences of place, time, and material culture in the literature and visual arts of the last century.

Her paper for today’s conference, “Very little is about their everyday lives”: Terminal Illness and the Everyday in Nixon’s AIDS Photography, is adapted from a presentation first prepared for Professor Laura Tanner’s graduate seminar, Everyday Fictions. Her course introduced everyday life as another unique dilemma of representation, problematized by the invisibility of embodied experience in day-to-day routines. Where this invisibility is of the kind interrogated by Nicholas Nixon’s photography, these textual questions can have very real—even fatal—consequences.

Sarah Ramsey is a sophomore at Boston College co-concentrating in Marketing and Entrepreneurship and minoring in Medical Humanities, Health, and Culture. She is the daughter of David and Tracy Ramsey and grew up in Belmont, MA. She attended Belmont High School, and has three siblings, Jack, Grace, and Paul. She is a Council Member of the Appalachia Volunteer Program at Boston College, is an editor for the Boston College Medical Humanities Journal, and has a food blog named Sweet Olympia. She hopes her future occupation will be tied to wellness, specifically related to nutrition or exercise.