

Sara V. Press, Ph.D.

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Contributing Writer and Editorial Advisor at *Synopsis*
UBC Public Scholar

RESEARCH AND TEACHING INTERESTS

My work sits at the intersection of Rhetoric of Health and Medicine, History of Medicine, Science and Technology Studies, Postcolonial Theory, Literary Theory, and the Health and Medical Humanities. Specifically, my research examines racialized and gendered health inequities in settler-colonial North America through rhetorical, historical, and literary approaches.

RESEARCH APPOINTMENTS

- 2023-** **Postdoctoral Fellow**, History of Science, Harvard University, Cambridge, MA
Faculty Advisor: Allan Brandt, Amalie Kass Professor of History of Medicine and
Professor of the History of Science
- 2018-20** **Visiting Fellow**, History of Science, Harvard University, Cambridge, MA

EDUCATION

- 2022** **Ph.D., English Language and Literatures, Science and Technology Studies**
Specialization, University of British Columbia, Vancouver, British Columbia
Dissertation: “Diagnosing Disparities: Unsettling Settler-Colonial Standards of Health
and Normality in Canada and the United States”
Supervisory Committee: Judy Segal, Professor Emerita of English, Laura Moss,
Professor of English, Margery Fee, FRSC, Professor Emerita of English
Funding: SSHRC Canada Graduate Scholarship, UBC Four Year Fellowship
- 2016** **M.A., English Literature**, Concordia University, Montreal, Quebec
- 2012** **B.A., Honours English and French Literature**, University of Guelph, Guelph,
Ontario

PUBLICATIONS

Selected Publications

1. **Press, Sara V.** “‘Syphilitics’ and ‘Cell Lines’: A Critical Investigation into the Rhetorical Dehumanization of Black Americans.” Accepted, subject to revisions, in *Literature and Medicine* (Fall 2025).
2. **Press, Sara.** “The Politics of Standardized Patienthood.” *Rhetoric of Health and Medicine* 5.3 (2022): 308-334. Winner of the “Edwina L. Sanders Award for Outstanding Work on The Rhetoric of Health Inequities.”
3. **Press, Sara V.** “Ayahuasca on Trial: Biocolonialism, Biopiracy, and the Commodification of the Sacred.” *History of Pharmacy and Pharmaceuticals* 63.2 (2022): 328-353.

4. **Press, Sara V.** “Terrestrial Cosmopolitanism, Posthumanism, and Multispecies Modes of Being in *Cereus Blooms at Night*.” *Humanities* 8.92 (2019): 1-15.

Additional Publications

5. **Press, Sara.** “‘Plan 75’: An Uneasy Exploration of Medical Ethics, Economics, and Ageism.” *Synopsis: A Health Humanities Journal*, May 29, 2024.
6. **Press, Sara.** “‘Speak White’ and the Health Implications of Québec’s Bill-96.” *Synopsis: A Health Humanities Journal*, November 9, 2023.
7. **Press, Sara.** “Inequities in Labor: Sports, Slavery, and Imperiled Pregnancies.” *Synopsis: A Health Humanities Journal*, July 13, 2023.
8. **Press, Sara.** “Long COVID and Unresolved Narratives of Chronic Illness.” *Synopsis: A Health Humanities Journal*, April 21, 2023.
9. **Press, Sara.** “TikTok and the Politics of Self-Diagnosis.” *Synopsis: A Health Humanities Journal*, January 19, 2023.
10. **Press, Sara.** “A Band-Aid on Systemic Racism.” *Synopsis: A Health Humanities Journal*, December 9, 2021.
11. **Press, Sara.** “Confronting the Consequences of a Single Story.” *Synopsis: A Health Humanities Journal*, May 19, 2021.
12. **Press, Sara.** “Grieving in a Pandemic.” *Synopsis: A Health Humanities Journal*, December 11, 2020.
13. **Press, Sara.** “Hierarchies of Care in Quarantine.” *Synopsis: A Health Humanities Journal*, August 11, 2020.
14. **Press, Sara.** “The Intimacy of Storytelling in Isolation.” *Synopsis: A Health Humanities Journal*, April 23, 2020.
15. **Press, Sara.** “The Shifting Politics of Diagnosis: From Problem Patients to Niche Consumers.” *Synopsis: A Health Humanities Journal*, February 26, 2020.
16. **Press, Sara.** “The Empathy Exams Revisited.” *Synopsis: A Health Humanities Journal*, December 11, 2019.
17. **Press, Sara.** “From Norma and Normman to Kim and Caitlyn.” *Synopsis: A Health Humanities Journal*, October 30, 2019.
18. **Press, Sara.** “Google World.” *Friend. Follow. Text: #storiesFromLivingOnline*. Ed. Shawn Syms. Enfield & Wizenty, 2013.

PRESENTATIONS

Invited Talks and Workshops

- Facilitator. “Weaving the Threads” Health Summit. University of British Columbia, Musqueam Territories, British Columbia, Canada. January 25, 2024.
- Invited Presenter. “Rhetoric of Health & Medicine: An Introduction.” History of Medicine Working Group at Harvard University. Cambridge, MA, November 17, 2023.
- Facilitator. “Breathe & Weave” Health Summit. University of British Columbia, Musqueam Territories, British Columbia, Canada. January 23, 26, and 30, 2023.
- Invited Presenter. “Teaching Fiction.” UBC Department of English Language and Literatures Pedagogy Workshop Series, University of British Columbia. Vancouver, British Columbia, February 10, 2022.
- Invited Presenter. “The Performance and Pedagogy of Standardized Patienthood.” Anthropology of Science & Technology Studies Working Group at Harvard University. Cambridge, MA, May 9, 2019.

Invited Participant, “Postcolonial Tensions: Sciences, Histories, Indigenous Knowledges.” Harvard University. Cambridge, MA, April 12-13, 2019.

Events, Panels, and Seminars Organized

- Co-organizer, “Marked by Covid: The Art of Grieving” Art Exhibition supported by the Mellon Foundation, in collaboration with the “Creativity in the Time of Covid” Team at Michigan State University. Harvard Countway Library of Medicine. Boston, Massachusetts. November 1-2, 2024.
- Organizer, “Plan 75” Film Screening and Panel Discussion, with Dr. Jeremy Nobel, Dr. Karen Thornber, Dr. Susan Nathan, and Maud Jansen. Harvard Countway Library of Medicine. Boston, Massachusetts. January 29, 2024.
- Invited Panel Moderator, “Cultural Memory and the Task of Remembering.” ACCUTE (Association of Canadian College and University Teachers of English) “Congress 2019: Circles of Conversation” at the University of British Columbia, Musqueam Territories, British Columbia, Canada, June 1-7, 2019.
- Organizer, “Property, Place, and Presence: The Un/Productivity of Wrack Zones,” with Dylan Bateman and Torin McLachlan. ALECC (Association for Literature, Environment, and Culture in Canada) Conference: “Wrack Zone” at the University of Victoria, Coast Salish and Straits Salish Territories, British Columbia, Canada, June 20-23, 2018.
- Invited Panel Moderator, “The Jewish Wrack: Where Land Meets Sea.” ALECC (Association for Literature, Environment, and Culture in Canada) Conference: “Wrack Zone” at the University of Victoria, Coast Salish and Straits Salish Territories, British Columbia, Canada, June 20-23, 2018.

Conference Papers

- “Grieving in a Pandemic.” Presented at “Marked by Covid: The Art of Grieving” Art Exhibition supported by the Mellon Foundation, in collaboration with the “Creativity in the Time of Covid” Team at Michigan State University. Harvard Countway Library of Medicine. Boston, Massachusetts. November 1-2, 2024.
- “Enacting Justice, Equity, Diversity, Inclusion, and Belonging in the HHC” (Roundtable). Presented at the Health Humanities Consortium 2024 Annual Conference. “Social, Emotional, and Community Health—Humanities Interventions” at Creighton University, Phoenix, Arizona, U.S.A., April 10-13, 2024.
- “Mixed Methodologies for Researching and Teaching about Health and Illness.” Presented at the Health Humanities Consortium 2024 Annual Conference. “Social, Emotional, and Community Health—Humanities Interventions” at Creighton University, Phoenix, Arizona, U.S.A., April 10-13, 2024.
- “‘Syphilitics,’ ‘Cell Lines’ and Citizenship: A Critical Investigation into the Rhetorical Dehumanization of Black Americans.” Presented virtually at the 6th Biennial Rhetoric of Health and Medicine Symposium. “Sustaining a Dwelling Place for RHM” at the University of Minnesota-Twin Cities Campus, Minneapolis, Minnesota, U.S.A., October 13-14, 2023.
- “Politics of Exclusion in Standardized Patienthood.” A research paper accepted for presentation at the 19th Biennial Rhetoric Society of America Conference, Portland, OR U.S.A., May 20-24, 2020. Conference subsequently canceled due to COVID-19.
- “The Rhetoric of Standardized Patienthood.” Presented at the 17th Annual Joint Atlantic Seminar for the History of Medicine “Confronting (Medical) Barriers: Accessibilities, Disciplines, and Nationalities” at Harvard University, Cambridge, MA, U.S.A., October 11-12, 2019.
- “The Cultivation of Whiteness in Canada: Reading Non-Normative Bodies in the Literary and Medical Imagination.” Presented at ACCUTE (Association of Canadian College and University

- Teachers of English) “Congress 2019: Circles of Conversation” at the University of British Columbia, Musqueam Territories, British Columbia, Canada, June 1-7, 2019.
- “The Performance and Pedagogy of Standardized Patienthood.” Presented at the 8th International Health Humanities Consortium “The Environments of the Health Humanities: Inquiry and Practice” at DePaul University. Chicago, Illinois, U.S.A., March 28-30, 2019.
- “Ayahuasca on Trial: Biocolonialism, Bioprospecting, and the Commodification of the Sacred.” Presented at ALECC (Association for Literature, Environment, and Culture in Canada) Conference: “Wrack Zone” at the University of Victoria, Coast Salish and Straits Salish Territories, British Columbia, Canada, June 20-23, 2018.
- “Terrestrial Cosmopolitanism, Posthumanism, and Multispecies Modes of Being in *Cereus Blooms at Night*.” Presented at ACCUTE (Association of Canadian College and University Teachers of English) “Congress 2017: The Next 150 on Indigenous Lands” at Toronto Metropolitan University. Toronto, Ontario, Canada, May 27-30, 2017.
- “Reclaiming Atypical Natures: Gender, Race, and Sexuality in *Cereus Blooms at Night*.” Presented at Endnotes: University of British Columbia’s English Graduate Conference: “On the Edge: Borders, Boundaries, and Thresholds in an Age of Unease.” Musqueam Territories, British Columbia, Canada, May 12-13, 2017.
- “A Digital Ethics of Otherness: *Westworld*, Script Theory, and the New Frontier of Feeling.” Presented at the University of Victoria’s Cultural, Social, and Political Thought Graduate Student Conference: “Indeterminacy: Un/knowning a body in space.” Coast Salish and Straits Salish Territories, British Columbia, Canada, May 5-7, 2017.
- “Mapping Architectural Bodies.” Presented at the 13th Annual University of Montreal English Graduate Conference: “The Poetics of Place: Performing Selves in and Beyond Cities.” Montreal, Quebec, Canada, March 10-11, 2016.
- “Mapping Linguistic Topographies.” Presented at the 14th Annual Concordia Colloquium: “Monstrous Impositions.” Montreal, Quebec, Canada, March 4-6, 2016.
- “Postcolonial Ecologies: A Posthuman Order.” Presented at the Harvard Institute for World Literature’s 5th Annual Summer Session. Lisbon, Portugal, June 21-July 17, 2015.
- “Between Bodies: An Autobiography Without Self.” Presented at the 13th Annual Concordia Colloquium: “The Odd Couple: Harmony from Conflict | Conflict from Harmony.” Montreal, Quebec, Canada, February 27-March 1, 2015.

TEACHING EXPERIENCE

Instructor of Record

Responsibilities included developing course syllabus, preparing weekly lectures, monitoring and facilitating in-person and online discussions, grading all assignments, and meeting with students individually.

- HISTSCI S-170: Stigma, Women’s Health, and Reproduction, Undergraduate Seminar, Harvard University, Cambridge, Massachusetts. To be taught Summer 2025. 20 students.
- HISTSCI 1490: The History and Culture of Stigma, Upper-Level Undergraduate Seminar, Harvard University, Cambridge, Massachusetts, Fall 2024. 20 students. Co-Instructor with Dr. Allan Brandt
- ENGL 309: Rhetoric of Science, Technology, and Medicine, Upper-Level Undergraduate Course, University of British Columbia, Vancouver, British Columbia, Winter 2022. 45 undergraduates

- ENGL 309: Rhetoric of Science, Technology, and Medicine, Upper-Level Undergraduate Course, University of British Columbia, Vancouver, British Columbia, Winter 2021. 45 undergraduates

Composition Instructor

Responsibilities included refining pre-existing course syllabi, preparing weekly lectures, developing weekly writing exercises, grading weekly writing assignments, and meeting with students individually.

- ENGL 210: Introduction to Essay Writing, Undergraduate Seminar, Concordia University, Montreal, Quebec, Spring 2016. 30 undergraduates
- ENGL 210: Introduction to Essay Writing, Undergraduate Seminar, Concordia University, Montreal, Quebec, Fall 2015. 30 undergraduates

Teaching Assistant

Responsibilities included attending weekly lectures, meeting regularly with professor and teaching assistants to review course material and any student concerns, preparing lectures for weekly tutorials, grading all assignments, and meeting with students individually

- COMP S-120: Disease, Illness, and Health through Literature, Undergraduate Seminar, Dr. Karen Thornber, Harvard Summer School, Cambridge, Massachusetts, Summer 2024. 10 students in class
- HUMA S-185: Global Gender Justice, Undergraduate Seminar, Dr. Karen Thornber, Harvard Summer School, Cambridge, Massachusetts, Summer 2024. 10 students in class
- GEN ED 1179: Psychotherapy and the Modern Self, Lecture, Dr. Elizabeth Lunbeck, Harvard University, Cambridge, Massachusetts, Spring 2024. 30 undergraduates in tutorial
- ENGL 110: Approaches to Literature, Lecture, Dr. Gisèle Baxter, University of British Columbia, Vancouver, British Columbia, Summer 2021. 30 undergraduates in tutorial
- ENGL 110: Approaches to Literature, Lecture, Dr. Tiffany Potter University of British Columbia, Vancouver, British Columbia, Fall 2020. 30 undergraduates in tutorial
- ENGL 111: Nonfictional Approaches to Prose, Lecture, Dr. Kevin McNeilly, University of British Columbia, Vancouver, British Columbia, Spring 2018. 30 undergraduates in tutorial
- ENGL 260: Introduction to Literary Studies, Lecture, Dr. Jeffrey Weingarten, Concordia University, Montreal, Quebec, Fall 2014. 30 undergraduates in tutorial

Guest Lecturer

- “The Standardization of Whiteness.” 45-Minute Online Lecture given for HSCI S-118 History of Science: “Darwin, Evolution and Society in the 19th and 20th Centuries.” Harvard University. Cambridge, MA, July 14, 2020
- “The Yellow Wallpaper: New Historicism, Feminism, and Charlotte Perkins Gilman.” 50-Minute Lecture given for Literature course: “Introduction to Literary Studies.” Concordia University. Montreal, Quebec, November 3, 2014

Pedagogical Training

Digital Certificate: Foundations in Narrative-Based Medicine (39 hours). Temerty Faculty of Medicine, University of Toronto, Toronto, Ontario, Spring 2023

Instructional Skills Workshop Certificate (24 hours). UBC Centre for Teaching, Learning and Technology, University of British Columbia, Vancouver, British Columbia, Fall 2021

Teaching Certificate (12 hours). UBC Department of English Language and Literatures Pedagogy Workshop Series, University of British Columbia, Vancouver, British Columbia, Spring 2018

FELLOWSHIPS & AWARDS

Fellowships

SSHRC Postdoctoral Fellowship, 2023-25 (\$110,000)
 SSHRC Joseph-Armand Bombardier CGS-Doctoral Fellowship, 2016-19 (\$105,000)
 UBC Faculty of Graduate Studies Four Year Fellowship, 2016-20 (\$80,000)
 SSHRC Joseph-Armand Bombardier CGS Fellowship, 2015-16 (\$17,500)
 Graduate Fellowship, Concordia University, 2014 (\$5000)

Scholarships

Stanley M. Grant Scholarship in English, 2018, 2021 (\$10,000)
 Gabriele Helms Memorial Graduate Scholarship, 2020 (\$2600)
 Mabel Mackenzie Colbeck Scholarship in English, 2020 (\$3800)
 Sherrill E. Grace Graduate Scholarship in English, 2020 (\$2600)
 William Royce Butler and Jean Campbell Butler Scholarship, 2020 (\$2500)
 SSHRC Michael Smith Foreign Study Supplement, 2018 (\$6000)
 Stanley M. Grant Scholarship in English, 2018 (\$6000)
 Power Corporation of Canada Scholarship, Concordia University, 2014 (\$6000)

Selected Awards

Edwina L. Sanders Award for Outstanding Work on The Rhetoric of Health Inequities for “The Politics of Standardized Patienthood,” published in *Rhetoric of Health and Medicine* 5.3, 2023 (\$2500)
 UBC Public Scholars Initiative, 2020-22 (\$7500)
 UBC Faculty of Arts Graduate Award, 2017 (\$6500)

PROFESSIONAL SERVICE

Editorial Experience

Editorial Advisor. *Synopsis: A Health Humanities Journal*, Columbia University, 2024-
 Peer Reviewer. *Connections: A Journal of Language, Media and Culture*, University of Alberta, 2021-

Professional Memberships

Health Humanities Consortium, 2023-
 History of Medicine Working Group, Harvard University, 2018-
 Canadian Society for History and Philosophy of Science, 2019-
 ACCUTE (Association of Canadian College and University Teachers of English), 2016-2020

Committee Experience

Member. Justice, Equity, Diversity, Inclusion, Belonging Committee, Health Humanities Consortium, 2023-
 Graduate Representative. Hiring Committee for position in Environmental Humanities, Department of English Language and Literatures, UBC, 2016

Departmental Service

Graduate Representative. Department of English Language and Literatures, UBC, 2017-18
 Social & Orientation Committee. UBC English Graduate Caucus, 2016-2018

VP Social. Concordia English Graduate Students (SAGE), 2015-2016

Volunteer

Founder & Coordinator of Rhetoric of Health and Medicine Reading Group, Harvard University, 2024-

Co-Founder & Coordinator of Concordia Write Nights, Concordia University, 2015-2016

Energy Exchange Ambassador at Modo Yoga Toronto, Modo Yoga Montreal, and Modo Yoga Vancouver, 2013-2023

Member of Court Watch, Toronto, 2013-2014

REFERENCES

References available upon request