



# (IM)MATERIAL CULTURE

Health History Collections in a Digital Era

RECEPTION: November 10 2017 (5:30pm - 7:30pm) SYMPOSIUM: November 11 2017 (10:30am - 6:00pm)  
University of Toronto, Medical Sciences Building

*For further information contact: [md.reception@utoronto.ca](mailto:md.reception@utoronto.ca)*



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UNIVERSITY OF TORONTO  
FACULTY OF MEDICINE



INSTITUTE FOR THE HISTORY AND  
PHILOSOPHY OF SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY  
UNIVERSITY OF TORONTO



## CONFERENCE AGENDA | November 10 and 11, 2017 (IM)MATERIAL CULTURE: Health Collections in a Digital Era

**Friday, November 10, 2017 | 5:30 p.m. to 7:30 p.m.**  
**The Faculty Club at the University of Toronto**  
**41 Willcocks Street, Toronto, Ontario M5S 1C7 CANADA**

**RECEPTION | 5:30 p.m.**

**WELCOMING REMARKS | 6:00 p.m.**

**Trevor Young**  
Dean, Faculty of Medicine  
University of Toronto

Dean Young graduated from the University of Manitoba's medical school in 1983. He completed his postgraduate training in psychiatry in 1987, his PhD at the University of Toronto's Institute of Medical Science in 1995 and was a research fellow at Johns Hopkins School of Medicine. He has been Professor of Psychiatry and Behavioural Neurosciences at McMaster University; Professor and Head of the Department of Psychiatry at the University of British Columbia; and, Professor and Chair of the Department of Psychiatry at the University of Toronto. He was also Physician-in-Chief and Executive Vice President Programs at the Centre for Addiction and Mental Health in Toronto.

Dean Young is a clinician-scientist who studies the molecular basis of bipolar disorder and its treatment. He has published more than 200 peer-reviewed journal articles, held more than 35 peer-reviewed grants and supervised more than 30 research and clinical trainees. Dean Young and his lab focused on the processes that lead to long-term changes in brain structure and function in patients with bipolar disorder, and how mood-stabilizing drugs can alter those changes. He has received many awards including the 2015 Colvin Prize for Outstanding Achievement in Mood Disorders Research from the Brain and Behaviour Research Foundation, the Douglas Utting Award for outstanding contributions in the field of mood disorders, and the Canadian College of Neuropsychopharmacology Heinz Lehmann Award. He is also a Distinguished Fellow of the American Psychiatric Association.

**ASSOCIATED MEDICAL SERVICES (AMS) | 6:10 p.m.**

**SUMMER HEALTH HISTORY MENTORSHIP PROGRAM (SMP) | 6:20 p.m.**

**Ike Okafor**

Senior Officer, Service Learning & Diversity Outreach Office  
Health Professions Student Affairs,  
MD Program, Faculty of Medicine  
University of Toronto

Ike Okafor works in the Faculty of Medicine Student Affairs as Senior Officer, Service Learning and Diversity Outreach. A main focus of Ike's work at U of T has been working collaboratively with University divisions, student groups and community organizations to promote access to post-secondary education and the University of Toronto. He also coordinates health advocacy experiences and shadowing experiences for Medical students in inner-city and bilingual/French settings, advises student groups, and helps support numerous charitable activities.

**Alexandra Majerski**

Medical Student  
University of Toronto

Alexandra Majerski graduated with an Honours Bachelor of Science from the University of Toronto in 2016. She studied Life Sciences, double majoring in Physiology and Cell & Systems Biology and minoring in Immunology. Alexandra developed a deep fascination with the history of medicine in the first year of her undergraduate degree when she took a seminar course entitled "Medieval Medicine." Alexandra continues to integrate the history of medicine into her studies as a second year medical student at the University of Toronto. She was a mentor for the 2016-2017 Toronto Health History Mentorship Program and is a co-executive of the Interest Group for the History and Philosophy of Medicine.

**KEYNOTE SPEAKER | 6:35 p.m.****Sioban Nelson**

Vice-Provost, Academic Programs  
Vice-Provost, Faculty and Academic Life  
University of Toronto

Sioban Nelson is a professor at the Lawrence Bloomberg Faculty of Nursing, and serves as both Vice-Provost, Academic Programs and Vice-Provost, Faculty and Academic Life at the University of Toronto. Prior to joining the Provost's Office, she was Dean of the Faculty of Nursing for eight years. Professor Nelson holds degrees from La Trobe University (Melbourne, Australia) and Griffith University (Brisbane, Australia). She has published 9 books (7 edited collections and 2 monographs), including the acclaimed *Say Little, Do Much: Nursing, Nuns, and Hospitals in the Nineteenth Century* (University of Pennsylvania Press, 2001). With Suzanne Gordon she co-edited the prize-winning *Complexities of Care: Nursing Reconsidered* (Cornell University Press, 2006), a ground-breaking work on the challenges facing contemporary nursing; and with Anne Marie Rafferty she co-edited *Notes on Nightingale: The Influence and Legacy of a Nursing Icon* (Cornell University Press, 2010), a collection that revisits Nightingale on the centenary of her death. Most recently she co-authored *Creating the Health Care Team of the Future: The Toronto Model for Interprofessional Education and Practice* with Brian Hodges and Maria Tassone (Cornell University Press, 2014). Professor Nelson's historical interests include the investigation of the impact of the Rockefeller Foundation on global nursing in the mid twentieth century, internationalism and the transnational history of nursing; her policy interests include professional regulation, competency, mobility and the global health workforce.

**DISCUSSION AND CLOSING REMARKS | 7:15 p.m.**

**Saturday, November 11, 2017 | 10:30 a.m. to 6:00 p.m.**  
**University of Toronto, Medical Sciences Building, 1 King's College Circle, Toronto**  
**C. Naylor Student Commons Area**

**WELCOMING REMARKS | 10:30 a.m.**

**Ellen  
AMSTER**

Ellen Amster is the Jason A. Hannah Chair in the History of Medicine at McMaster University, and associate professor in the Department of Health Research Methods, Evidence, and Impact, and the Department of History. She received her B.A. from the University of Chicago and Ph.D. from the University of Pennsylvania. After serving as a simultaneous translator for an ORBIS ocular surgery mission, she takes undergraduate students to Morocco for a context-based global health field course in the determinants of maternal and infant health, themes explored in her 2013 book, *Medicine and the Saints: Science, Islam, and the Colonial Encounter in Morocco, 1877-1956* (2013). Current interests include the history of public health, non-Western health and healing, midwifery, and the medical humanities. She has created a web portal for all researchers with libraries, archives, museums, and digital collections, the History of Medicine and Medical Humanities Research Portal.

**REMEMBRANCE DAY: The Symposium will pause to observe a moment of silence to commemorate Remembrance Day | 11:00 a.m.**

**PANEL 1: Rethinking Health Collections | 11:05 a.m. to 12:35 p.m.**

**Moderator: Dr. Ellen Amster**

**Lisa  
O'SULLIVAN**

Representing the  
culture of health  
through the  
Wellcome  
Collection

Lisa O'Sullivan, PhD is Vice President and Director of the Library and Center for the History of Medicine and Public Health at The New York Academy of Medicine. She was previously Senior Curator of Medicine at the Science Museum, London, where she curated the Wellcome collection, one of the world's preeminent historic medical collections. Also responsible for issues relating to human remains and culturally sensitive materials in the collections, she led the Science Museum's repatriation work. Between 2005 and 2009, Dr. O'Sullivan was Chair of the Human Remains Subject Specialist Network, a professional UK network examining legislative and ethical issues relating to the care and display of human remains in museum collections.

Dr. O'Sullivan completed her PhD in the Department of History at Queen Mary University of London, examining issues of health, environment, displacement, and identity, explored through the history of clinical nostalgia in 19th-century France. Her undergraduate degrees are in history and history and philosophy of science. On research sabbatical from the Science Museum over 2010 to 2011 she was a postdoctoral research fellow at the University of Sydney, investigating the material cultures of anthropological and anatomical collecting within the context of scientific studies of race.

**François  
DANSEREAU**

Exploring  
nursing through  
collection and  
artefacts

François Dansereau is the Archivist at the RBC Art and Heritage Centre of the McGill University Health Centre (MUHC). In addition to manage and develop the collection, he has worked on several exhibits exploring the themes of social history of medicine, history of nursing, and community memory in health care. He is currently working on a project related to the 200th anniversary of the Montreal General Hospital, and on a virtual exhibit of medical illustrations created at the Montreal General Hospital, from the 1920s until the 1960s. Dansereau previously worked as a Project Archivist at the McGill University Archives where he worked on a project entitled "McGill Remembers." He holds an MA in History from Université de Montréal and an MLIS from McGill University.

**Shelly  
MCKELLAR**

Exploring  
medical  
technology  
through health  
collections

Prof Shelley McKellar is the Hannah Chair in the History of Medicine at the Schulich School of Medicine & Dentistry and an Associate Professor in the Department of History at the University of Western Ontario. Her research focuses on the history of surgery, medical technology, and the material culture of medicine. Her most recent book, *Artificial Hearts: The Allure and Ambivalence of a Controversial Medical Technology* (Johns Hopkins University Press, Fall 2017) reflects her interest in medical artifacts and exploring history through objects. Prof McKellar is also curator of the Medical Artifact Collection at Western. In addition to conducting object research and mounting displays, she runs hands-on workshops to spotlight the often 'hidden' history of medical instruments and devices.

**LUNCH & STUDENT EXHIBITION | 12:35 p.m.**

**PANEL 2: Representing the invisible | 1:40 p.m. to 3:10 p.m.**

**Moderator: Dawn T. Maracle**

Dawn is a Program Coordinator, RETRAC 2: Smoking Cessation in First Nations Communities at OTRU (Ontario Tobacco Research Unit at Dalla Lana School of Public Health, U of Toronto). Dawn is a woman from the Kaniienkeha Nation of Tyendinaga Mohawk Territory, Ontario, who sits with the Bear Clan. A creative soul and single mother of a beautiful tweenager, Dawn has been a leader in Indigenous community work for twenty-five years. Dawn has much experience in Indigenous grass-roots, community-based, academic research, writing, curriculum, and organizing; Dawn is a Public Speaker/Consultant/Teacher/Author/Performer working in Indigenous Health and Education regarding access to curriculum, visual culture, student services, strategic planning, training and advising. She is a Blanket Exercise facilitator, as well as a recent International Day to End Racism and Discrimination (IDERD) Award Recipient at the University of Toronto. Dawn is passionate about education, leadership, governance, women's rights/issues, the arts, health and wellness.

Dawn is a trainer for Olivia Chow's Institute for Change Leaders, and a member of Project Organize. Dawn is a board member with Native Child and Family Services of Toronto, and an active member of the TDSB Aboriginal Community Advisory Committee. She has published in books across Canada, the US, Italy and Germany, and most recently published on her journey as a cancer survivor. Dawn is a co-founder of the multi-faith women's leadership initiative: Women and Wisdom Canada.

**Nicholas  
MATTE**

Collections in  
the history of  
sexuality

Nicholas Matte is an engaged interdisciplinary historian who curates the Sexual Representation Collection and teaches at the Mark S. Bonham Centre for Sexual Diversity Studies at the University of Toronto. He has been involved in a variety of medical history and professional education projects and his work has been published in GLQ, TSQ, the International Journal of Transgenderism, the Canadian International Bulletin of Medical History, and others. His 2014 dissertation was entitled "Historicizing Liberal American Transnormativities: Medicine, Media, and Activism, 1960-1990," and his current work focuses on oral histories, and archiving material and media cultures.

**Jaipreet  
VIRDI**

Representing  
disability  
through health  
collections

Jaipreet Virdi is a historian of medicine and disability. She received her PhD from the University of Toronto (2014) and is currently a postdoctoral fellow at the Department of History in Brock University. She is working on a project, "Objects of Disability," funded by the Social Sciences and Humanities Research Council of Canada, locating disability artifacts in Canadian museum and archival collections. She is also completing her first book, *Hearing Happiness: Fakes, Frauds, and Fads in Deafness Cures*.

**Jennifer  
BAZAR**

Representing  
mental illness  
through health  
collections

Dr. Jennifer Bazar is the Curator of the Lakeshore Grounds Interpretive Centre at Humber College. Her primary research focuses on the history of psychiatric institutionalization, with an emphasis on material culture and public history. Dr. Bazar completed her graduate studies in the History and Theory of Psychology program at York University and a postdoctoral fellowship co-hosted by the Waypoint Centre for Mental Health Care and the University of Toronto. In recent years she has curated the *Remembering Oak Ridge Digital Archive and Exhibit* (<https://historyexhibit.waypointcentre.ca>), the relaunch of the History Walk at the Waypoint Centre for Mental Health Care, and *Behind the Bricks: Recovering the Stories of the Lakeshore Psychiatric Hospital* at the Lakeshore Grounds Interpretive Centre.

**BREAK | 3:10 p.m.**

**PANEL 3: Living Collections (Biobanks and human tissue) | 3:40 p.m. to 5:10 p.m.**

**Moderator: Erich Weidenhammer**

Erich Weidenhammer obtained his doctorate in 2014 from the Institute for the History and Philosophy of Science and Technology (IHPST). He is currently Curator of the University of Toronto Scientific Instruments Collection.

**James  
SCOTT**

Health history at  
the UMAH  
microfungal  
biobank

James Scott is a Professor in the School of Public Health at the University of Toronto where he is the Head of the Division of Occupational & Environmental Health, and the Director of the UAMH Centre for Global Microfungal Biodiversity -- the largest collection of biomedically important fungi in the western hemisphere. James Scott's research focuses on exposure measurement to biological contaminants, mainly bioaerosol, with conventional and molecular genetic methods. His teaching deals with biological hazards in the workplace and community (IAQ, infection control, biosafety, bioweapons), public health sanitation, and medical and veterinary mycology. James Scott is also the owner of the Toronto-based biotech company, Sporometrics.

**Susan  
PFEIFFER**

Paleoanthropology  
and the  
repatriation of  
Wendat ancestors

Susan Pfeiffer (PhD 1976, Anthropology, U of T) is a biological anthropologist whose research focuses on understanding human evolution through the evidence provided by the remains of past peoples. Her skills are directed toward reconstructing conditions of past human lives from characteristics of bones and teeth. Times and places of particular interest include past hunter-gatherers of sub-Saharan Africa and past farmers of the Canadian Great Lakes region. She is especially interested in methods that focus at the bone tissue level, such as chemical markers, biomechanical modeling and histology. Some of her work focuses on southern African past peoples. Prof. Pfeiffer is a research associate in the Department of Archaeology at the University of Cape Town and has taught undergraduate courses in Human Evolution there. She has also contributed answers to questions about the lives of the ancestors of Canadian First Nations peoples. Since her PhD thesis on hunter-gatherer populations of the Great Lakes, she has published research on archaeologically derived skeletons from Ontario, especially the ossuaries of the ancestral Huron-Wendat. In 2013, the Huron-Wendat descendant community allowed U of Toronto to retain one tooth per person when the ancestors were reburied. Those samples have formed the basis of new knowledge about the ancestors through projects authorized by - and in collaboration with - the descendant community.

**OmiSoore  
DRYDEN**

The politics of  
blood donation

OmiSoore H. Dryden, PhD is an interdisciplinary scholar who examines the culture of blood. Dr. Dryden's research explores how the history of racism and colonialism frame contemporary cultural understandings of blood (healthy and tainted) and how these understandings are produced. Dryden also explores how these discourses shape the blood system in Canada. The blood system (as depicted through Canadian Blood Services), and the blood stories assembled within the donor questionnaire, intersect with and illuminate the presence of blackness, and queer sexualities. We often do not think about blood discourse when discussing social justice and education, however through Dryden's work, this critical examination deepens the interrogations into the relationships between science, health and disease, homophobia and racism in the Canadian context. Dryden has published in peer-reviewed journals and has an edited collection (with Dr. Suzanne Lenon) titled, *Disrupting Queer Inclusion: Canadian Homonationalisms and the Politics of Belonging* (UBC Press, 2015). Dryden's monograph, tentatively titled, *Blood Apartheids: Canadian Blood Donation and the Queerness of Blackness*, is currently in progress. This project centres a black queer transnational/diasporic analytic through which a diverse set of archives, including the donor questionnaire, are analyzed.

**DISCUSSION, EXHIBITION & CLOSING REMARKS | 5:10 p.m.**

**INTERPROFESSIONAL EDUCATION (IPE) DEBRIEF | 5:30 p.m.**