



HEALTH JUSTICE: *SO IT GOES?*

Health Humanities Consortium
Annual Conference

April 8-11, 2026



SCHOOL OF LIBERAL ARTS

MEDICAL HUMANITIES AND HEALTH STUDIES

Indianapolis



Health
Humanities
Consortium

Welcome to Indianapolis!

Dear Conference Attendees,

On behalf of the Medical Humanities and Health Studies Program at Indiana University, Indianapolis, we welcome you to Indy! We are thrilled that you are here, and that we have the opportunity to host the 2026 Health Humanities Consortium Conference.

Our opening night reception will take place Wednesday evening at the Kurt Vonnegut Museum and Library (p. 11). Vonnegut's 1969 novel Slaughterhouse Five inspired this year's conference theme, "Health Justice: So It Goes?" Following every mention of death and senseless destruction throughout the novel, Vonnegut's poignant phrase "So it goes" carries a note of resignation. In the form of a question, however, it is an invitation to protest.

Thursday-Saturday, our exciting lineup of presenters (pp. 15-31) will meet at Hine Hall/University Tower on the IU Indianapolis campus (pp. 6-8) to engage with the theme of Health Justice. Papers, flash presentations, roundtables, and workshops will examine the role of the health humanities in our current moment, consider how health education can transform to meet today's challenges, and demonstrate humanistic approaches to building just futures.

Lunch Thursday and Friday will feature dynamic plenary speakers: Keisha Ray, PhD, who will discuss "Narrating Health Justice for New and Old Problems," and Caitlin Bernard, MD, whose presentation is titled "Advocating for Reproductive Justice in a Post-Roe World" (pp. 9-10).

Two evening events at local arts venues will extend the conversation. On Thursday at the District/Brian Payne Theater, see a staged reading of the play Lasting (by Angeline Larimer and Abdul-Khaliq Murtadha), an intimate encounter with the health impacts of growing up Black in the late 20th-century Midwest (p. 11). Join us Friday at the Kan Kan Cinema for two short documentary screenings that explore the human stories behind global health innovation, along with a panel discussion featuring global health physician Ellen Einterz, MD and philosopher Nicole Hassoun, PhD (pp. 12-13).

We invite you to remain onsite on the IUI campus Saturday afternoon for the 6th Annual Midwest Medical Humanities Student conference, hosted by the IU Indianapolis Student Club (p. 14). Addressing the theme of "Resilience," students from across the nation will present new work in the health humanities. This is a great chance to support the next generation of scholars!

Be sure to check out our Dining Guide (pp. 32-36) for some good eats and local gems as you make yourself at home here in Indianapolis!

Emily Beckman
Elizabeth Nelson
Medical Humanities and Health Studies
School of Liberal Arts, Indiana University, Indianapolis

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The Medical Humanities and Health Studies Program at IU Indianapolis

The Medical Humanities and Health Studies (MHHS) program at IUI began in 1998, growing out of a Medical Humanities Interest Group with faculty from Liberal Arts, Medicine, Nursing, and Law. The group received a 2-year \$150,000 grant from the campus to start a collaboration including seminars and colloquia, small research grants, and to develop an undergraduate minor based in the School of Liberal Arts.

In fall of 1999 Bill Schneider, director of the program, and Richard Gunderman began teaching a new course on Health, Disease, and Healing, as part of a newly approved minor program which created new courses and utilized existing ones in both the humanities and social science disciplines. The MHHS program worked closely with the medical school to establish new units working in public health and the IU Center for Bioethics (2001). The MHHS curriculum expanded as new faculty in various departments offered health related courses, and in 2001 Judi Izuka-Campbell was hired to help coordinate and administer the program. In 2003 the first student received a medical humanities undergraduate degree as part of a new Individualized Major program in Liberal Arts.

With growing numbers of students adopting this course of study and the undergraduate minor, planning began for a BA degree in MHHS which was approved in 2012. That same year Emily Beckman was hired as the first full-time appointment in MHHS. Beckman took the lead in securing approval of a graduate certificate in MHHS in 2014 and a doctoral minor the following year.

Noteworthy symposia and conferences hosted by MHHS include topics as varied as "High Risk Pregnancy: Clinical, Ethical, and Policy Issues" (2000), "Blame and Responsibility in Medical Practice" (2004), "Indiana and the Legacy of State and Local Eugenics, 1907-2007" (2007), "Cancer Stories" (2008), and "The History of Western Medicine in China" (2012). The eugenics conference was part of a multi-year research grant from NIH, and other research projects included "Voices from Central State" (2015) which studied records, writings, and oral histories of patients and staff at Indiana's largest mental health institution that closed in 1994.

Student interest and curriculum offerings accelerated with a new core curriculum course (2011) and a BS degree option in Medical Humanities and Health Studies (2016). In 2017, while still a student Chad Childers (now a resident at IUSM) created the Hospice Experience course, a unique feature of the MHHS program. In 2018 the first student was accepted in the Medical Humanities concentration of the new American Studies PhD program, and in 2019 the first full class of medical students entered the Medical Humanities Scholarly Concentration of the IU School of Medicine (IUSM).

The MHHS faculty changed and grew in order to carry out this expanding program. In 2016 Schneider stepped down and Emily Beckman replaced him as director. Elizabeth Nelson, a medical historian, was hired in 2018. Notable adjunct faculty who have taught regularly for the program include health lawyer Jane Hartsock (Clinical Ethics), Peter Schwartz (Philosophy and Medicine), Brandon Brown (Radiology), and Angeline Larimer (Theater and Medical Humanities).

Beckman and Nelson expanded on "Voices from Central State" for their book project, with Modupe Labode (The Smithsonian), titled *Everyday People: Deinstitutionalization and Disability in Indiana* (under contract with the University of Illinois Press). Beckman and Nelson have embarked on various projects related to health justice. In 2023 Beckman founded Build Community Give Care (BCGC), a non-profit organization that increases access to palliative care in Uganda and surrounding countries. From partnerships with formerly incarcerated scholars built through her work with the Indiana Women's Prison History Project, Nelson founded FIRE (Formerly Incarcerated, Radically Empowered) in 2023, a research collective that collaborates with peer support groups from across the nation addressing mental health after incarceration.

Conference Hotels



JW Marriott Indianapolis

10 S West St
Indianapolis, IN 46204
(317) 860-5800



Hampton Inn by Hilton Indianapolis Canal IUPUI

414 West Vermont Street
Indianapolis, IN 46202
(317) 677-7001

General Information and Location



Who can I contact with questions?

Please email embeckma@iu.edu. On site, visit the registration desk or look for members of the conference team, whose conference badges have a crimson colored ribbon.

Where is the conference being held?

Where is the conference being held? All concurrent sessions are located in the academic buildings Hine Hall and University Tower on IU Indy's campus in the heart of downtown, 875 W North St, Indianapolis, IN 46202 The conference venue is just under a mile walk from both conference hotels.

Where can I park my vehicle?

Paid parking is available in the Tower Garage located at 875 W North St. This garage is attached to the conference venue.

What are the locations of the evening events?

Wednesday, April 8 - Opening reception, 6:00pm-8:00pm

Conference registration available onsite (see. p. 11 for more details)

The Kurt Vonnegut Museum and Library
543 Indiana Ave, Indianapolis, IN 46202

Thursday, April 9 - Lasting - a Staged Reading, 7:30-9:30pm

Seats are limited- register in advance (see pp. 11-12)

The District Theatre
627 Massachusetts Avenue, Indianapolis, Indiana 46204

Friday, April 10 - Bending the Arc - Documentary film screening and panel discussion, 6:00-9:30pm (see pp. 12-13)

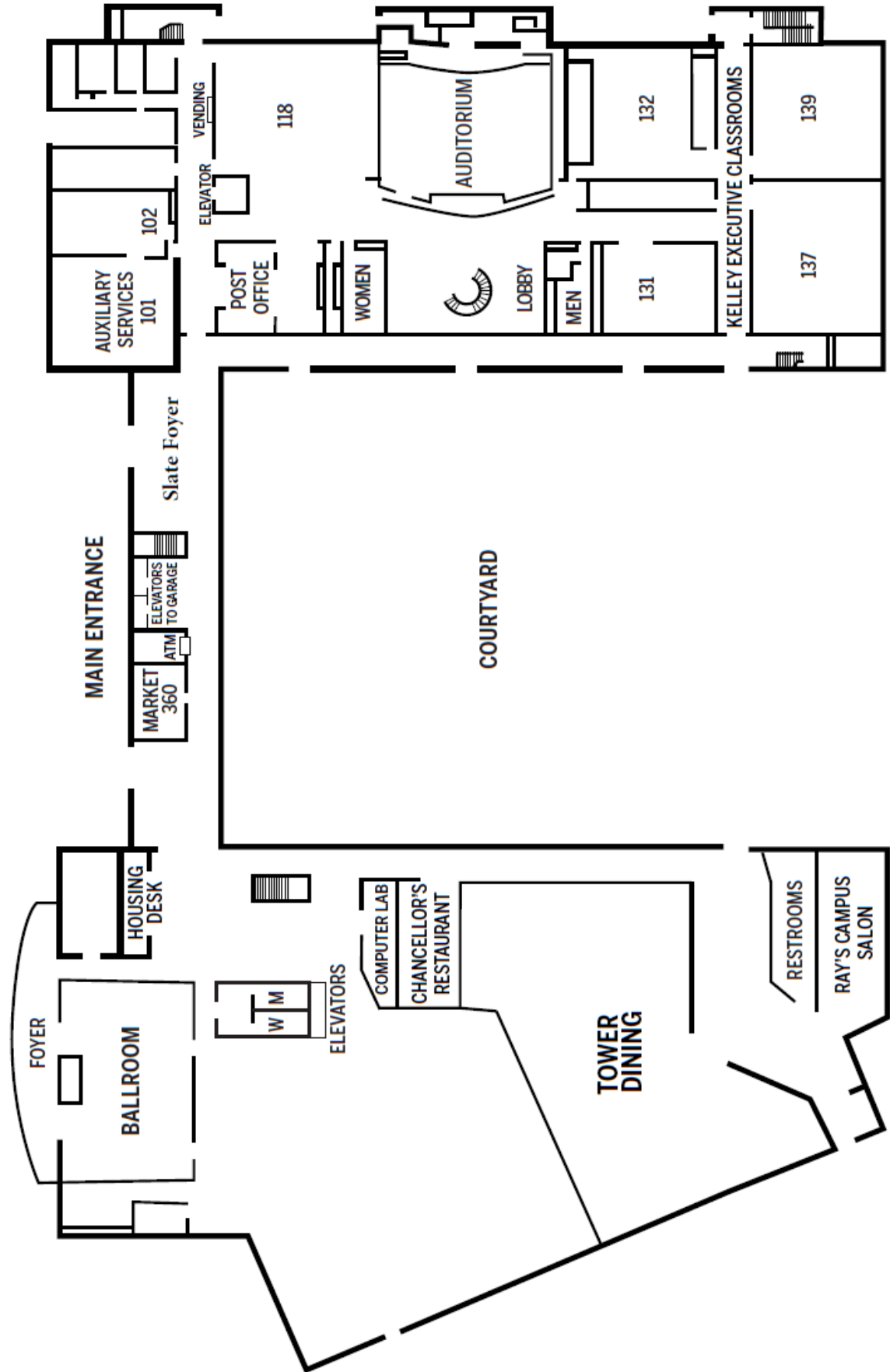
Kan-Kan Cinema & Bar
1258 Windsor St, Indianapolis, IN 46201

University Tower / Hine Hall Maps

FIRST FLOOR

University Tower

Hine Hall

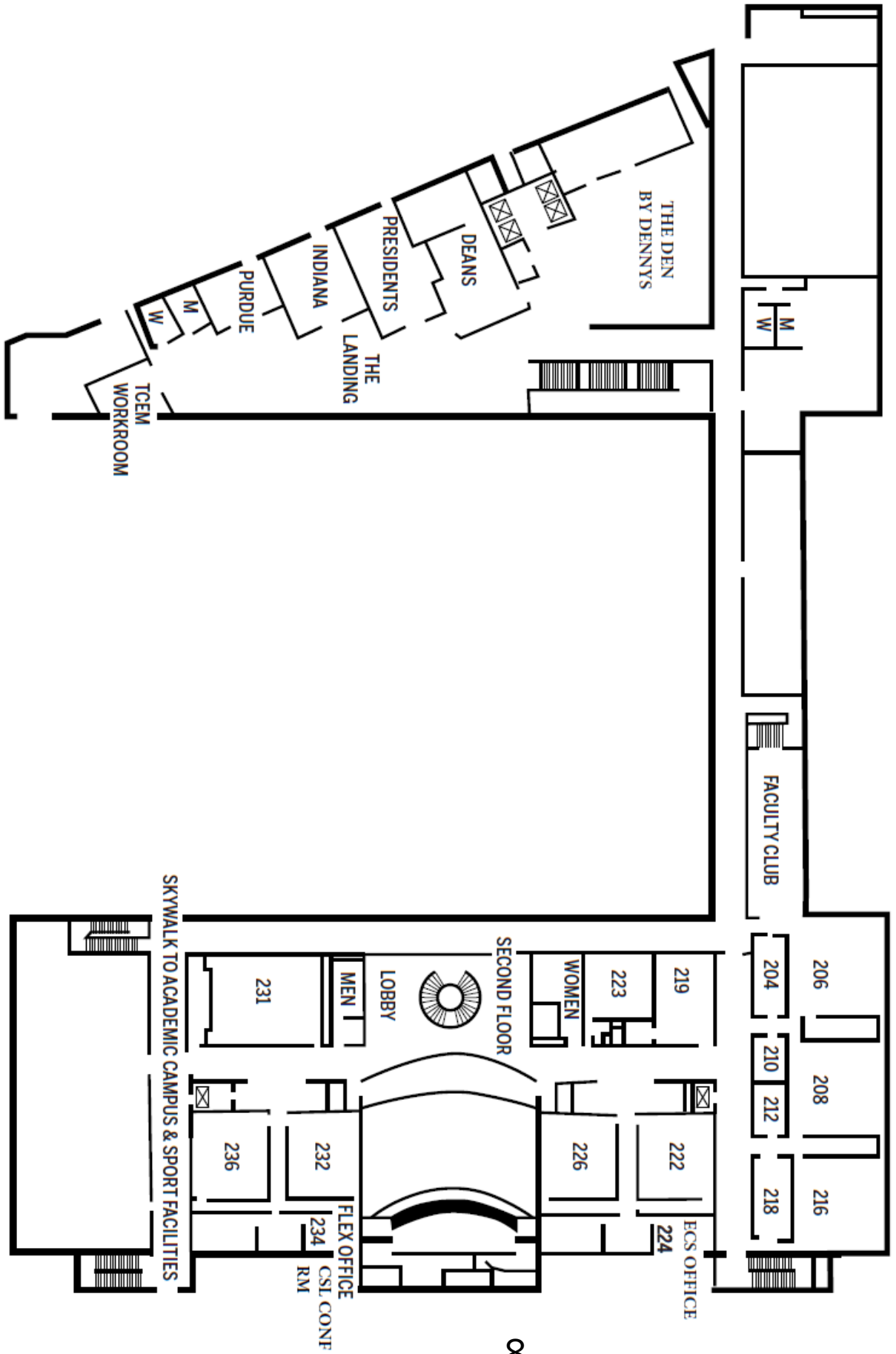


University Tower / Hine Hall Maps

University Tower

SECOND FLOOR

Hine Hall



Plenary Speakers

Thursday, April 9
11:45-1:15
University Tower Ballroom

Keisha Ray, PhD

**“Narrating Health
Justice for New and
Old Problems”**



There is good reason to have strict requirements for what counts as health data by which to use as evidence for actions and behaviors in pursuit of health justice. Including testimonials and narratives as data, however, does not mean we have to sacrifice research quality. In this presentation, I use the evolution of social inequities and their effects on health to understand the value of narratives in health humanities research, how they help us understand health disparities, and how they change the ways we talk about health justice. I primarily focus on communities with historic rates of cancer and environmental pollution and the addition of AI data centers in rural communities and changes to Medicaid and Medicare policies and access to health care. I discuss their effects on our wellbeing and on our life decisions, like whether to procreate, or how and when we can retire. I ask attendees to question whether the evolution of these problems that we've been researching for a very long time ought to influence how we think about narratives' role in research and advocacy for health justice.

Professor Keisha Ray received her PhD in philosophy from the University of Utah. She is currently a tenured Associate Professor and holds the John P. McGovern, MD Professorship of Oslerian Medicine at the McGovern Center for Humanities & Ethics at UT Health Houston, where she also serves as the Director of the Medical Humanities Scholarly Concentration. Most of Dr. Ray's work focuses on the effects of institutional racism on Black people's health, highlighting Black people's own stories, and the sociopolitical implications of biomedical enhancement. Dr. Ray serves as an associate editor for the American Journal of Bioethics and its online site, "Bioethics Today" as well as Senior Associate Editor for the Journal of Medical Humanities. She has also contributed to top clinical, bioethics, and medical humanities journals. And based on her expertise, Dr. Ray is frequently called upon as a bioethics expert for popular news sources such as the New York Times and Stat News. Lastly, Dr. Ray is the author of the book "Black Health: The Social, Political, and Cultural Determinants of Black People's Health" with Oxford University Press.

Plenary Speakers

Friday, April 10
11:45-12:15

University Tower Ballroom

Caitlin Bernard, MD

**“Advocating for
Reproductive Justice in a
Post-Roe World”**

Facilitator: Jane Hartsock, JD



The Supreme Court opinion in *Dobbs v. Jackson Women’s Health Organization* (2022), which overturned *Roe v. Wade*(1973) and, with it, fifty years of abortion jurisprudence, ushered in a new landscape for abortion care in the U.S. This new landscape has brought with it a trend towards pregnancy criminalization that targets both clinicians and their patients. Simultaneously, potential civil and criminal liability exists for clinicians who attempt to speak publicly about the lived experience of those who are denied abortion care, or their own experiences attempting to facilitate that care. However, individual stories are, and have always been, a form of advocacy and are the most powerful tangible evidence of the harms brought about by abortion bans. In this presentation, Dr. Caitlin Bernard—one of the few remaining complex family planning providers in the State of Indiana, which passed the nation’s first post-Roe abortion ban—will discuss the role of story as a form of advocacy, her belief in the power of journalism centering abortion narratives, and how these stories inform the work she does advancing reproductive justice.

Caitlin Bernard, MD is a family planning fellowship-trained obstetrician and gynecologist. Her clinical interests are in contraception, abortion and miscarriage care, in addition to general obstetrics and gynecology. Her research interests include improving access to contraception and understanding how to decrease unintended pregnancy and improve pregnancy outcomes. She has worked in Kenya for the past four years through the AMPATH/IUSM-Kenya partnership. There she is engaged in care, teaching and research programs, including improving access to contraception, early pregnancy care and improving maternal and neonatal outcomes.

Evening Events

Wednesday, April 8
6:00-8:00 pm

Opening Reception

The Kurt Vonnegut Museum and Library
543 Indiana Ave, Indianapolis, IN 46202

Enjoy drinks, heavy hors d'oeuvres, and good company at 'the Vonnegut,' a book-lovers' mecca and museum dedicated to Indianapolis's own satirical author.



Thursday, April 9
7:30-9:30pm

Lasting - A Staged Reading

The District Theatre
627 Massachusetts Avenue
Indianapolis, Indiana 46204

Set within the shifting terrain of Donald Ray's deeply personal and interwoven thoughts, the story follows his return to the memories of his older brothers Michael and Bubby who appear to him exactly as they were the last time he saw them. To find his way back to peace, Donald Ray must navigate a minefield of recollections where the ache of loss and joys of brotherhood collide.

Drawn from personal history and lived experience, the story of Lasting traces the emotional complexity of growing up Black in a small Midwestern town in late 20th-century America. At its heart, this is the story of three brothers: Donald Ray, Michael, and Bubby, who learn to transform a landscape marked by painful memories into one of healing, connection, and enduring love. (Continued on next page)

Evening Events

(Continued from previous page)

LASTING a full-length play by Angeline Larimer and Abdul-Khaliq Murtadha based on the oral histories of Donald Fuller, and writings by Sidney Fuller. Featuring Freddie Hendricks, Abdul-Khaliq Murtadha, Patrick Barnett, and Nick DiJulio. Produced by Propel New Works, the Indiana University Indianapolis Medical Humanities & Health Studies Program, and the IU Conscience Project.



Seats are limited - Pre-registration required. Scan the QR code for more information.

Friday, April 10
6:00-9:30pm

Bending the Arc - Documentary Screening and Panel Presentation

Kan-Kan Cinema & Bar
1258 Windsor St, Indianapolis, IN 46201
Free parking available in the lot.



Delicious pizza by “King Dough” available for purchase onsite, along with popcorn, snacks, and a full bar.

2026 Health Humanities Consortium Global Health Justice Panel Presentation:
Global Health, Storytelling, and the Ethics of Care

Join us for an evening of film and discussion exploring the human stories behind global health innovation, medical care in resource-limited settings, and the ethical questions that shape how healthcare is delivered around the world.

The program will begin with a screening of the short documentary Creative Resolve: The Future of Global Health, followed by a panel discussion with leading voices in global health, medicine, and philosophy. Panelists will reflect on the realities of delivering care in underserved settings, the moral challenges of global health systems, and how storytelling and scholarship can shape more just healthcare futures. (Continued on next page)

Evening Events

(Continued from previous page)

Following the panel, attendees are invited to stay for a full screening of the acclaimed documentary *Bending the Arc*, which tells the remarkable story of a group of doctors and activists whose work transformed global access to treatments for diseases such as HIV/AIDS and tuberculosis and reshaped the landscape of international health.

Panelists

Dr. Nicole Hassoun

Professor of International Studies at Indiana University specializing in global health justice, political philosophy, and philosophy of economics. She leads the Global Health Impact Project, an initiative designed to evaluate and improve access to essential medicines for the global poor. Dr. Hassoun also advised the documentary *Creative Resolve: The Future of Global Health*.

Dr. Ellen Einterz

Physician and global health practitioner with more than three decades of medical leadership in West and Central Africa. Dr. Einterz directed hospitals in Nigeria and Cameroon and served as medical coordinator of an Ebola Treatment Unit in Liberia during the 2014–2015 epidemic. She currently serves as clinic physician for the Marion County Public Health Department's refugee program and maintains affiliations with the Indiana University School of Medicine and the Fairbanks School of Public Health. She is the author of *Life and Death in Kolofata: An American Doctor in Africa*.

Event Schedule

5:00 PM – King Dough opens for dinner (vegan and gluten-free options available)

5:45 PM – Cinema doors open

6:15–6:35 PM – Screening: *Creative Resolve: The Future of Global Health* (20 min)

6:45–7:30 PM – Panel Discussion with Dr. Ellen Einterz and Dr. Nicole Hassoun

7:40–9:20 PM – Screening: *Bending the Arc*



Save your seat!
Scan the QR code
to register.

Midwest Medical Humanities Student Conference

We invite you to stay for the 6th Annual Midwest Medical Humanities Student Conference, which takes place the afternoon of Saturday, April 11 just as the HHC Conference concludes. The student conference sessions will also be in Hine Hall/University Tower.

Hosted by the IU Indianapolis Medical Humanities Student Club, the conference will feature presentations by students from across the nation on topics in the medical/health humanities. All HHC attendees will be automatically registered for the student conference.

This year's theme is "Resilience in Health Humanities." In a time when conversations about health, ethics, and humanity can feel difficult or even unwelcome, resilience reminds us why those conversations must persist. It asks us to continue engaging with stories of care, suffering, and justice, even when doing so feels uncomfortable or uncertain. It is the commitment to keep asking questions, keep listening, and keep human connection at the center of health.



"You have to speak your mind, even if your voice shakes." -Maggie Kuhn

"Courage is not the absence of fear, but the determination that something else is more important." -Ambrose Redmoon

"The oak fought the wind and was broken, the willow bent when it must and survived." - Robert Jordan



Scan the QR code for more information on the student conference

Schedule at a Glance



Scan the QR code for a full schedule with abstracts for all presentations

Wednesday, April 8

6:00pm - 8:00pm Welcome Reception, Kurt Vonnegut Museum and Library

Thursday, April 9

8:00am - 9:00am Registration and Breakfast

9:00am - 10:15am Concurrent Session 1

10:30am - 11:45am Concurrent Session 2

11:45am - 12:15pm Lunch

12:15pm - 1:15pm Plenary Speaker: Keisha Ray, PhD,
Narrating Health Justice for New and Old Problems

1:30pm - 2:45pm Concurrent Session 3

3:00pm - 4:15pm Concurrent Session 4

4:30pm - 5:15pm Concurrent Session 5

5:30pm - 6:30pm HHC Committee Mixer

7:30pm-9:30pm Special Evening Event:

LASTING: A Staged Reading
Brian Payne Theatre

Schedule at a Glance

Friday, April 10

8:00am - 9:00am Registration and Breakfast

HHC Steering Committee Business Meeting

9:00am - 10:15am Concurrent Session 6

10:30am - 11:45am Concurrent Session 7

11:45am - 12:15pm Lunch

12:15pm - 1:15pm Plenary Speaker: Caitlin Bernard, MD
Advocating for Reproductive Justice in a Post-Roe World

1:30pm - 2:45pm Concurrent Session 8

3:00pm - 4:15pm Concurrent Session 9

4:30pm - 5:15pm Concurrent Session 10

6:00pm-9:30pm Special Evening Event: Documentary Screening:
Bending the Arc with Panel Discussion
Kan Kan Cinema

Saturday, April 11

8:00am - 9:00am Registration and Breakfast

Mentor Breakfast

9:00am - 10:15am Concurrent Session 11

10:30am - 11:45am Concurrent Session 12

11:45am - 12:30pm Lunch and Student Plenary Speaker

12:45pm - 2:00pm Concurrent Session 13

FULL SCHEDULE

P

Panel Presentations

W

Workshops

R

Roundtables

F

Flash Presentations

Unless otherwise specified, all conference events will take place in Hine Hall and University Tower on the IU Indianapolis Campus, 875 W North St, Indianapolis, IN 46202

Scan the QR code for a full schedule with abstracts for all presentations



WEDNESDAY, APRIL 8

6:00 - 8:00 PM - OPENING RECEPTION

The Kurt Vonnegut Museum and Library
543 Indiana Ave, Indianapolis, IN 46202

Conference registration available onsite

THURSDAY, APRIL 9

8:00 AM - 5:00 PM - REGISTRATION

Hine Hall/ University Tower

8:00 - 9:00 AM - BREAKFAST University Tower Ballroom

9:00 - 10:15 AM - SESSION 1

(1A) Moving Parts: Global Economies of the Human Body [P] Room 232, Hine Hall

- Samin Rashidbeigi: Independent Cinema and Promoting Voluntary Blood Donation in Iran
- Puneet Bansal: Buying Miracles, Selling Bodies: Narrative Asymmetry and Health Justice in Transplant Tourism
- Deepsikha Dasgupta: Heart of the Matter: Bioethical Issues of Cardiac Pacemaker Reuse in the Global South from the US
- Kristin LaFollette: Advocating for the Dead: Rehumanizing Language in the Human Remains Trade

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Flash Presentations

(1B) Activism and Self-Efficacy: Costs, Benefits, and Risks in Accessing Care [P] **Room 139, Hine Hall**

- Peter Schwartz: Diabetes and Hope: Cost and a Con Game at the Core of Contemporary Care
- Rupinder (Rupi) Legha: Clinical Activism as Ethical Practice: A Humanistic Framework for Justice in Child and Adolescent Mental Health
- Brianna Schoenfelder: Interpersonal and Organizational Drivers of Health Self-Efficacy: A Meta-Analytic Approach to Health Equity
- Margaret Tharp: ICE-d Out: A Case Illustrating the Impact of the Political Determinants of Health in Pediatric Ophthalmology

(1C) Spirituality and Community Health Literacy [P] **Room 223, Hine Hall**

- Ahona Shirin: Building Community Health Literacy Evaluating the Brain Health Workshop Series
- Madeline Reyes: "Call the Chaplain!": The Results of a Course on Bioethics and Spiritual Care
- Kendra Hotz: Exploring Religious Healthworlds: Equity-Oriented Religious Literacy for Health Care Providers

(1D) (In)Visible Illness: Diagnosis, Legibility, and Ethics [P] **Room 236, Hine Hall**

- Gabby Bunko: Making Pain Legible: Diagnostic Language and the Rhetoric of Health Justice
- Bailey Miller: Psychogenic Misdiagnoses, Diagnostic Haunting, and Self-Doubt in the Ehlers-Danlos Syndromes
- Reece Carter: "Long Covid Brushstrokes": Feminist Megethos as a Response to Hermeneutical Injustice

(1E) So it goes? Using Theatre in Health Professions Training to Humanize Reproductive Loss [W]

Presidents Room, University Tower

Maria Brann, Krista Longtin, Kelsey Binion

10:15-1:30 AM - BREAK

10:30 - 11:45 AM - SESSION 2

(2A) Critical Histories of the Medical Sciences [P] **Room 232, Hine Hall**

- Dominic Robin: "Pushing Back the Frontier": Role of the Frontier Metaphor in Biomedical Discourse
- Elizabeth Apple: "Praying in the Lab!": Influenza, Literature, and Original Sin
- Sydney Halpern: Infected for Science: A Graphic History and Ethics of Human Research
- Nora Grand, Lauren Olsen, Claire Clark: The Behavioral Sciences in Medical Education from the Cold War to the Trump Era: So it goes?

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Flash Presentations

(2B) Critical Approaches to Teaching Health Justice [P] **Room 139, Hine Hall**

- Christine Marks, Justin T Brown: Teaching toward Health Justice: Cultivating Critical Reflexivity and Cultural Responsiveness in Health Pedagogy
- Julia Knopes: The Mad Classroom: Teaching Critical Approaches to Psychiatric Ethics
- Melody Waring: Teaching Gender, Justice, and the Helping Professions
- Roberta Chardulo: Power, Politics, and Paradigms in Global Health: Lessons from a 4th-Year Humanities Course at Penn State College of Medicine

(2C) So It Goes, and Goes, and Goes: Centering Health Justice in Addiction-Related Spaces [P]
Room 223, Hine Hall

- Caine Jordan: The Berry Plan: Addiction, Public Health, and the Law in 1950s Chicago
- David Korostyshevsky: Guardianship Reform as Health Justice: Addiction, Medical Incarceration, and the Law
- Amy Sullivan: Narcan in the History Classroom?

(2D) Designing the Elements of Justice in Health Practices [P] **Room 236, Hine Hall**

- Sorana Stanescu: Bad Roads, Bad Health: The Systems That Influence Romania's Rates of Dying from Preventable Disease
- Anna Ulrikke Andersen: The Right to a Hospital Bed: When a Hospital Reform Had Unexpected Consequences
- Merve Sen, Victoria Lupascu: Hospitals and the (Un)attainability of Care
- Ruth Bernatek: And So It Goes in Prison?

(2E) "Then as Now": Historicist Health Humanities Approaches to Contemporary Healthcare Challenges [R]
Presidents Room, University Tower

Rachel Conrad Bracken, Kelly L Bezio, Kirsten Ostherr, Phillip Barrish, Lorenzo Servitje, Priscilla Wald

11:45 AM - 12:15 PM - LUNCH **University Tower Ballroom**

12:15 - 1:15 PM - PLENARY SPEAKER **University Tower Ballroom**

Keisha Ray, PhD, Narrating Health Justice for New and Old Problems

1:15 - 1:30 PM - BREAK

1:30 - 2:45 PM - SESSION 3

(3A) New Directions in Health Humanities Research and Education [P] **Room 232, Hine Hall**

- Erin Lamb, Rachel Bracken, and Craig Klugman (presenting), Sara Kosbia: What's in a Health Humanities Education? An Alumni Survey of Student Outcomes
- Rebecca Volpe: Faculty Development as Health Justice: The Humanistic Practice Program
(panel continued on next page)

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- Layne Craig: Catalyzing Interdisciplinary Health Justice Research: The Health, Humanities, and Society Research Cluster at TCU
- Liz Bowen, Rebecca Garden: You've Got One Week: The Generative Constraints of a Health Humanities "Intensive" Course

(3B) Health Justice "From Below": Grassroots Approaches from Around the Globe [P] **Room 223, Hine Hall**

- Nicholas L. Johnson: Or the Human Discards: Community Care as Foil to Political Economies of Healthcare's Caprice in Aminata Sow Fall's *La grève des bàttu*
- Akalework Babanto: Health Justice Amid Systemic Fragility: Street-level Ethics and Social Systems in Southern Ethiopia
- Laurie Green: A Crisis in Food, Hunger, and Health: Excavating Poor People's Movements as a Pathway to a Different Future

(3C) Disinformation, Risk, and the Rhetoric of Public Health [P] **Room 139, Hine Hall**

- Katherine Shwetz: MAHA's Narrative Estrangement
- Ana Laguna, Eveling Hondros: Disinformation and Health Justice: Cultural Literacy as Ethical resistance
- Martha Gardner: The "Right to Choose": Women's Health and Smoking in the United States, 1970s-1990s
- Lora Fitzsimmons: Game Transfer Phenomena and Copy-Cat Crime: Health Humanities Pedagogy to Reduce Public Health Risks and Community Injustice

(3D) Empathy and Humanization Revisited [P] **Room 236, Hine Hall**

- Emily Waples: Always Humanize? Notes Against "Humanization"
- Matty Hemming: Medicine's Literature, Literature's Medicine: Towards Structural and Historical Reading
- Daniel George: Integrating the Shadow Side of Social Justice: Archetypal Dynamics in the Health Humanities
- Melanie Steiner: Narration without Appropriation: Trauma Literature, Empathic Unsettling, and the Ethics of Witnessing in Healthcare

(3E) "You want me to write what?" Exploring Conflict through Simulation Scripts [W]

Presidents Room, University Tower

Stefanie Johnson, Cory Edgar, Yvette Saliba

2:45 - 3:00 PM - BREAK

3:00 - 4:15 PM - SESSION 4

(4A) Processing, Community Building and Becoming: National Efforts Toward Flourishing in Health in and through the Humanities [R] **Room 232, Hine Hall**

Joëlle Worm, Lamy Augusthy, Deepthiman Gowda

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Flash Presentations

(4B) Theater, Textiles, and the Empathic Encounter [P] **Room 223, Hine Hall**

- Kathleen Van Buren, Kathryn W. Zavaleta, Sarah Mensink: Exploring the Promise of Improvisational Theatre Applications in Healthcare: A Scoping Review
- Eric Jorgensen: The Trouble With Normal: Witnessing and Survival in the American AIDS Play
- Taine Duncan: Memorializing with Pride: Incorporating the AIDS Memorial Quilt into a First Year Seminar for Health and Behavioral Science Students
- Sara Press: The Empathy Exams Revisited

(4C) Care Under Fire: Vulnerability, Justice, and Gender Affirming Care [P] **Room 139, Hine Hall**

- Etta Mathews: Justice in Gender-Affirming Care: Applying Ethics of Care to Transgender Health
- Laura Stamm: Threats to Advocacy: Experiences of Gender-Affirming Care Providers Navigating Safety, Institutions, and Visibility
- Richard A. Brandon-Friedman: The Costs of Stigmatizing Gender Diversity and Gender-Affirming Care on Gender-Diverse Youth and Their Families

(4D) Health Literacy and Justice: Building Trust as the Foundation of Ethical Care [R] **Room 236, Hine Hall**

Maria Rankin-Brown, Scott Calhoun, Duane Covrig, Laura Miller, T. David Price, Augusto Silvitze, Cory Wetterlin

(4E) So It Goes: Values Based Discussions Focusing on Medical Care [W] **Presidents Room, University Tower**

Robyn Axel-Adams

4:15 - 4:30 PM - BREAK

4:30 - 5:15 PM - SESSION 5 - FLASH PRESENTATIONS

(5A) Humanities in Medical Education [F] **Room 232, Hine Hall**

DEAFMed: Integrating Deaf Culture into Medical Education

Dominic Finan

Embedding Community Engagement in Medical Education: Field Experiences for Health Justice

Amara Breanne Ajon, Sambridhi Khanal

Critical Disability Studies as a Lever for Framing Health Justice in a Comprehensive Health Humanities Medical School Curriculum

Annika Mann, Cora Fox

FULL SCHEDULE

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Teaching Empathy: Using Representations of Addiction in Popular Culture in the Classroom
Ashlee Simon

A Space for Moral Dialogue: Integrating Ethics Debriefs into Medical Student Clinical Clerkships
Daniyal Nadeem

(5B) Beyond Technical Training [F] [Room 236, Hine Hall](#)

Educating for Health Justice: Cultivating Epistemic Humility, Reflection, and Moral Formation in Medical Education
Elizabeth Rizk

Health Humanities in Practice: Assessing Attitudes Toward Implicit Bias in First-Time Volunteers of an Ophthalmology Free Clinic
Betsy Benitez

The Trials of a Trainee
Margaret Tharp

Beyond the White Coat: Empowering Frontline Caregivers in Long-Term Care Through Narrative Competence
Katherine Shiells

(5C) Structural Vulnerabilities [F] [Room 139, Hine Hall](#)

Empire Abroad, Carcerality at Home: Refusing Psychiatry's Colonial Inheritance
Rupinder (Rupi) Legha

A Seat on the Bus: Witnessing Food Insecurity in Indianapolis
Salil Gupta

Collaborative Efforts to Address Toxicity in Museum and Personal Collections
Kylie Barkley, Thomas Crain, Holly Cusack-McVeigh

Rehabilitation and the Right to Maim: Debility, Capacity, and Colonial Violence
Eduan Breedt (presenting), Erin Tichenor, Tim Barlott, April Gamble

Selective Vulnerabilities: Stigma and Solutions in Antimicrobial Resistance News Narratives
Sophia Isabella Vona

FULL SCHEDULE

P

Panel Presentations

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Flash Presentations

5:30 - 6:30 PM - HHC COMMITTEE MIXER Presidents Room, University Tower

7:30 - 9:30 PM - LASTING - A STAGED READING

The District Theatre
627 Massachusetts Avenue
Indianapolis, Indiana 46204

FRIDAY, APRIL 10

8:00 AM - 5:00 PM - REGISTRATION

Hine Hall/ University Tower

8:00 - 9:00 AM - BREAKFAST University Tower Ballroom

8:00 - 9:00 AM - HHC BUSINESS MEETING University Tower Ballroom

9:00 - 10:15 AM - SESSION 6

(6A) Reifying Race and Inequality through Technology [P] Room 232, Hine Hall

- Wade Catt: Personalized Depersonalization
- Relicious Eboh: Tracing Racialized Narratives in Pulmonary Function Research: Methods For An Interdisciplinary Historical Review
- Tara Callahan: Digital Redlining Artificial Intelligence Data Centers and Environmental Injustices for Historically Disenfranchised Communities

(6B) Empowerment through Visual Pedagogies [P] Room 216, Hine Hall

- Alicia Kachmar, Jessica Martucci, Wendy Elliott-Vandivier: The Intersection of Disability and Art in Nursing Education
- Patricia Luck: Observation and the Physical Exam: Using Photography to Introduce Clinically Applicable Close-Looking Skills
- Maia Cole: Playing Doctor: How Interactive Art Teaches Medical Professionals to Reflect
- Nicole Burt: Informal Learning in Gallery Experiences for Visitor Health Empowerment

FULL SCHEDULE

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Flash Presentations

(6C) Justice for All? Locating Harm, Assigning Responsibility [P] **Room 222, Hine Hall**

- Pritha Bhattacharyya: Fictionalizing Clinical Research Injustice: A Creative Reading from Novel-in-Progress, Coercion
- Michael Madson: Just(ice) Rhetoric in the National Opioid Crisis: How Character Evidence Helped Three OxyContin Executives to Walk Free
- Colin Halverson: Justice for Roaches, or Aspirations for a Truly Universal Research Ethics
- M.L.N. "Key" Kirby: Procedural Meaning in Knowledge Production: How Harm Perpetuates via Process and Product

(6D) Narrative Justice: Disrupting Health Inequities [P] **Room 226, Hine Hall**

- Emilie Cunningham: Guidance from Leaders in Disrupting Maternal Health Inequities
- Bhumika Devkota, Rebecca Garden, Guerline Guerrier, Shekher Pokhrel (presenting), Monu Chhetri, Shamati Suhang: Narrative Justice, Language Justice: Community-Engaged Healthcare Education and Advocacy in Collaboration with Deaf Immigrants
- Monica Ross: Narrative Self-Guidance: Reclaiming Interpretation Between English and Health
- Gabri Warren, Lyndsey Blair, and Michele Abee-Biskis: Advocating Beyond the Hospital: Environmental Justice in Nursing Education

(6E) Holding Space for Caregivers through Poetry: A Workshop to Foster Compassionate Deep Listening [W]
Presidents Room, University Tower

Yvette Perry, Kevin Dieter

10:15 - 10:30 AM - BREAK

10:30 - 11:45 AM - SESSION 7

(7A) Afterlives of Medical Racism: Oral Histories and Memorialization Projects [R] **Room 232, Hine Hall**
Christine Cynn, Michael Dickinson, Victoria Tucker

(7B) Making Monsters: Transgression, Stigma, and Excess [P] **Room 216, Hine Hall**

- Valerie Anne Burgess Sundararaj: Biting Back at Pathology: Nightbitch, the Monstrous-Feminine, and Epistemic Justice
- Maggie Kelly: Veins of Division: Blood, Monstrosity, and Miscegenation in Coogler's Sinners
- Jessica Olivares: Monstrous Excess and Ghostly Pains: Reckoning with the Opioid Crisis in the Gulf Coast
- Christiania Mullis: "Never, I know, but half your child!": Morality, Myth, and the Monsterization of Autism and Autistic People

FULL SCHEDULE

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Flash Presentations

(7C) Feminist Approaches to Women's Health: Community and Presence [P] **Room 222, Hine Hall**

- A.B. Sheridan: A Seat at The (e)Table: How Online Health Communities Challenge Gendered Biomedical Authority and Facilitate the Co-Production of Biomedical Knowledge
- Kristin Trainor, Natalie Rowland, Emma Miller, Stephanie Dixon, Oscar Beltran: Health Information in the Digital Age: TikTok as a Platform for Women's Health Communication
- Sarah Hagaman: Reclaimed Hysteria in Feminist Standup Comedy
- Isabel Spencer Doss: Bertha Van Hoosen's Practice of Presence as Feminist Health Justice

(7D) Graphic Methods in Medical Education [P] **Room 226, Hine Hall**

- Chloe Hough: Assessing, Expanding and Promoting a Graphic Medicine Collection at an Academic Health Sciences Library
- A. David Lewis: The Ethical and Environmental Costs of AI for Graphic Medicine
- Maria Jose Mompean-Mejias: Making the Invisible Visible: The Pedagogical Value of Graphic Pathographies in Medical Education
- Brian Callender, Maria Jose Mompean-Mejias: The Creation of a Comic to Teach Clinical Communication

(7E) Narrative Medicine Methods and Tools: A Case Study of Health Disparities Affecting Black Women [W]

Presidents Room, University Tower

Derek McCracken, M. Anne Cunney, Olga Lucia Torres

11:45 AM - 12:15 PM - LUNCH **University Tower Ballroom**

12:15 - 1:15 PM - PLENARY SPEAKER **University Tower Ballroom**

Caitlin Bernard, MD, Advocating for Reproductive Justice in a Post-Roe World

1:15 - 1:30 PM - BREAK

1:30 - 2:45 PM - SESSION 8

(8A) AI For Health Justice [P] **Room 232, Hine Hall**

- Kirsten Ostherr: Partnering with Patients on Trustworthy Health AI
- Kim Gallon: Transforming Silence into Knowledge: AI, Black Women, and Breast Cancer Research
- Bernice Hausman: Humanities at the Forefront: Developing an AI Curriculum for UME

(8B) The Body: Ethical, Aesthetical, and Technological Perspectives [P] **Room 216, Hine Hall**

- Naya Weems: The Evolution of Dental Aesthetics: An Artistic and Cultural Journey Through History and Race
- Heather Glenny: Narrative Protocols: Pedagogy, Cruel Optimism, and Making Live-Broadcast Injuries "Meaningful" in the NFL
- Eduan Breedt (presenting), Erin Tichenor, Tim Barlott: Diagnosing the Body in Physiotherapy: From Discipline to Control
- Sabin Karki: The Physician Founder: Reengineering Empathy into Biomedical Technology Innovation

FULL SCHEDULE

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Flash Presentations

(8C) Teaching Health Justice with Science Fiction [P] **Room 222, Hine Hall**

- Lindsey Grubbs: Predicting the Future, Critiquing the Present: Science Fiction in the Health Humanities Classroom
- Jess Libow: Research at the End of the World: Teaching Ted Chiang's 'Exhalation' in 2025
- Rebecca Rosen: Countering Acquisitive Medicine in the Novels of Louise Erdrich and Cherie Dimaline

(8D) Narrative, Power, and Representation in Health Education [P] **Room 226, Hine Hall**

- Ariel Boswell, Sarah Mensink, Eric Zimmerman Zuckerman: Literature is Good Medicine: Retrospective Reflections on a Multi-disciplinary Narrative Medicine-style Workshop
- Laura Miller: The Rhetoric of the White Coat: Power, Representation, and Health Justice in a Course on Medicine in Media
- Chloe Hough: Stories Matter to Health Sciences Students: How they Describe the Role and Impact of Leisure Reading in their Lives

(8E) The Choreography of Care: An Embodied Ring Theory Intervention for Patient Agency and Health Justice [W] **Presidents Room, University Tower**

Katherine Burke, Shannon Ivey

2:45 - 3:00 PM - BREAK

3:00 - 4:15 PM - SESSION 9

(9A) Building a Health Humanities Lab [R] **Room 232, Hine Hall**

Christine Cynn, Maryam Shaw, Victoria Vidal, Olivia Washington

(9B) Disability Justice At Work [P] **Room 216, Hine Hall**

- Christiania Mullis: Rearticulating Disability Justice within the Neurodiversity Paradigm for Individuals with Complex Medical Needs
- Lucile Duperron: Neurodiversity and the French Republic of Letters
- M. Ariel Cascio: Autistic Rights and Workplace Rights: Anthropology at the Intersection of Disability, Work, and Health
- Evelyn Lamb: Flying Under the Weather: Inequities in Health Care Access in Aviation

(9C) Exploring Racism and Health Justice through Literature and Media [P] **Room 222, Hine Hall**

- Kerri Slatos: An Immortal Text? Interrogating Health Justice in Rebecca Skloot's The Immortal Life of Henrietta Lacks
- Catherine Chung: "Can't heal nothing without pain": Reading Toni Morrison's Beloved as a Champion for Recognition, Healing, and Justice
- Phillip Barrish: The octopus they called the race problem': White Supremacy and Black Health Care in Walter White's The Fire in the Flint
- Susanna Scott: Teaching Health Justice Through The Pitt: A Case-Based Approach to Health Communication

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Flash Presentations

(9D) Humanistic Practice in the Age of AI [P] **Room 226, Hine Hall**

- Rebecca Volpe: Humanistic Practice as Resistance in an Industrialized Healthcare System
- Joshua Park: Bidirectional Listening: Reimagining Ambient Clinical Scribes as Tools for Justice, Rhetorical Accountability, and Relational Repair
- Jane Hartsock: Artificial Intelligence and the Physician Patient Relationship: An Applied Ethics Analysis
- Dominic Robin: Beyond Cost and Effect: The Role of the Humanities in Interrogating Emerging Biomedical Technologies

(9E) Beyond Words: Creating Drawing Prompts for Health Humanities Education [W]

Presidents Room, University Tower

Michael Green

4:15 - 4:30 PM - BREAK

4:30 - 5:15 PM - SESSION 10 - FLASH PRESENTATIONS

(10A) Collective Care [F] **Room 232, Hine Hall**

Invisible Caregivers: The Ethics of Parentification in Parental Cancer

Arya Shah

Queering Surrogacy Ethics: Rights Expansion, Exploitation Concerns, and Politics of Taiwan's Assisted Reproduction Act

Jason Lee

Temoignage: Forward Motion, Perspectives, and the Lives I Carry

Eric Jorgensen

The Crisis We Share: Narrative Frameworks, Temporality, and Future Imaginaries of the Climate "Apocalypse"

Catherine Pabalate

Relationships between Advance Care Planning Engagement, Patients' Religious Practices, and Spirituality

Robyn Axel-Adams

FULL SCHEDULE

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Flash Presentations

(10B) Technologies / Texts [F] **Room 216, Hine Hall**

Reimagining the Antibioqram through Narrative
Arjun Gupta

Kurt Vonnegut is Nauseated by AI Slop for Public Health Content
A David Lewis

Five Minutes of Freedom: How a Story Learns to Guide Itself of "So It Rewrites"
Monica Ross

The Intersection of AI and IVF
Isabelle Toler, Lauren Kenst

The Bureaucracy of Care: Paperwork as a Mirror of Medical Values
Kithmy Wickramasinghe

(10C) The Humanities in the Clinic [F] **Room 222, Hine Hall**

Marital Status is Associated with Treatment Attainment and Completion in Pancreatic Adenocarcinoma
Pamela Chopra Beniwal, Mohammad Saad Farooq, Gracia Maria Vargas, Russell A Simons, Mark S Etherington, John T Miura, Giorgos C Karakousis

Investigating Palliative Care as an Alternative Treatment Option for Patients with Severe and Enduring Anorexia Nervosa
Vaishnavi Khandelwal

Rethinking Regenerative Medicine
Maggie Morris

Narrative Perspectives on Providing Gender Affirming Care in Primary Care Settings
Sofia Lemberg

Reframing Aging: Toward a More Just and Thoughtful Understanding of Anti-Aging Aesthetic Medicine
Valeria Galan

FULL SCHEDULE

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Flash Presentations

6:00 - 9:30 PM - BENDING THE ARC - DOCUMENTARY SCREENING AND PANEL DISCUSSION

The District Theatre
627 Massachusetts Avenue
Indianapolis, Indiana 46204

SATURDAY, APRIL 11

8:00 - Noon - REGISTRATION

Hine Hall/ University Tower

8:00 - 9:00 AM - BREAKFAST University Tower Ballroom

8:00 - 9:00 AM - MENTOR BREAKFAST University Tower Ballroom

9:00 - 10:15 AM - SESSION 11

(11A) A Social Justice Framework for Neurodivergent Adults: Greater Inclusion and Supported Engagement [R]

Room 232, Hine Hall

Emily Carnes, Nanette Elster, Kayhan Parsi

(11B) Mental Health: Cultural Scripts and Artistic Representations [P] Room 226, Hine Hall

- Richard Gunderman: Loneliness: Lessons from Vincent Van Gogh's Correspondence
- Antoinette Polito: Global Voices, Local Minds: Cultural Scripts in the Auditory Hallucinations of Schizophrenia
- Steven Schlozman: Using the Post-Modern Horror film to Increase Empathy and Decrease Othering for Individuals with Severe Mental Illness and Decrease Othering in Psychiatry and Psychology
- Nagasriya Ramisetty: bit-ter-sweet: Reflections on Asian American Mental Health Stigma through Research-Based Reflective Poetry

(11C) After Dobbs: Navigating Polarity through Narrative [P] Room 216, Hine Hall

- Anita Wohlmann: Reading Abortion: Health Care Education and Research in Polarized Times
- Brian Callender, Michael Green, Lisa Harris: From the Frontlines of Abortion Care
- Liz Bowen: Disability Ethics after Dobbs: Reckoning with Reproductive Ambivalence in Patricia Lockwood's No One is Talking about This
- Hailey Haffey: Post-Colonial Divergence in LGBTQIA+ Health-Related Policy: Predictions and Pathways in Irish and American Modernist Literature

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Flash Presentations

(11D) A “Good Death”: Culture, Narrative, and End-of-Life Care [P] [Room 222, Hine Hall](#)

1. Angelyn Loh: Insights from The Farewell: Navigating Chinese Cultural Perspectives Toward Truth Telling and End-of-Life Care
2. Emily Beckman: From Stories to Solutions: How Medical Humanities Informs Palliative Care Education in Uganda
3. Chad Childers: Can Narrative Save the Advance Directive?

(11E) Advancing Black Women’s Knowledge of Nontraditional Wellness Practices Objectives [W]

[Presidents Room, University Tower](#)

Crystal Thompson, Valerie McConnell

10:15 - 10:30 AM - BREAK

10:30 - 11:45 AM - SESSION 12

(12A) Empathy and Affective Justice in Health Education [P] [Room 232, Hine Hall](#)

1. Mishaal Omer: What Remains After Loss: Keats, Death, and Reimagining Personhood in Health Care
2. Scott Calhoun: “I Gotta do Something”: Poetic Justice in the Songs of U2 for Healthcare Education
3. Ryan Weber: Toward a Socio-Developmental Model of Affective Justice: Reframing Professional Identity Formation in the Face of Uncertainty
4. Katherine Burke: Humanizing Medical Education: The Role of the Medical Humanities in Fostering Emotional Intelligence and Health Justice

(12B) From Humility to Justice: Reimagining Listening, Authorship, and Care [P] [Room 216, Hine Hall](#)

- Sayantani DasGupta: The Limits of Narrative Humility: Opacity as Resistance
- Amanda Caleb: The Socioecological Model of Humility as a Framework for Narrative Justice
- Caroline Hensley: Crippling the Chart: Veteran Patient Storytelling as Disability Justice for Medicine
- Melanie E. Gregg: Patient-Authored Notes (PANs): Reimagining the Medical Record through Narrative Humility and Gertrude Stein’s Poetics of Refusal

(12C) Here Our Stories Get Told: Creative Writing’s Role in Health Humanities [R] [Room 226, Hine Hall](#)

Jonathan C. Chou, Rachel Kowalsky, Renée Nicholson

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(12D) Collective Healing through Co-Creation [P] **Room 222, Hine Hall**

- Mallory Minerson: Indigenous Canadian considerations for the ACE Questionnaire with Female Inmates in the Northwest Territories Aesthetic Possibilities for Holistic Rehabilitation Praxis
- Rose Jean-Baptiste: Give Voice and Create Safe Space Black Birthing Heals
- Andrea Charise and Shanice Chin (presenting), Vijay Saravanamuthu, Esi Aya, Esther-Joelle Asare, Pruthuvie Chandradhas, Gloria Umogbai: Digital Kuumba: Community-Engaged Digital Storytelling to Address Structural Racism and Ageism in Health Research
- Emily D. Tisdale: Lived Experience as Health Justice: Reclaiming Narrative Power in Aging and Care

(12E) Beginning Digital Health Humanities Research: Low Code Approaches to Historical Data [W]

Presidents Room, University Tower

Sean Purcell

11:45 AM - 12:30 PM - LUNCH **University Tower Ballroom**

11:45 AM- 12:30 PM - STUDENT CONFERENCE PLENARY SPEAKER

12:30 - 12:45 BREAK

12:45 - 2:00 PM - SESSION 13

(13A) The Scholar as Patient: A Panel Discussion [R] **Room 232, Hine Hall**

Amanda Miller, Sarah Pfohl, Laura Santurri, Sarah Wareham

(13B) Infertility Justice & The Role of the Reproductive Arts [R] **Room 216, Hine Hall**

Jacqueline Huddle, Elizabeth Horn, and Maria T Novotny

(13C) Conscience and Its Double: Pedagogical Uses of Performative Readings from the Conscience Project

[W] **Presidents Room, University Tower**

Matthew R Galvin, Margaret Gaffney

Dining Guide / Local Gems



Scan to access a map of nearby dining options

Walkable Breakfast & Lunch

Campus Center Food Court (Breakfast/Lunch)

Address: 420 University Blvd, Indianapolis, IN 46202

Dietary: GF, Veg, Pesc | Price: \$

Accessibility: On-campus, elevators, level access

Distance: 0.2 miles / 3 min walk

On-campus options include Starbucks, Chick-fil-A, Panda Express, Aroma Bowls, and The Market.

Parlor Doughnuts (Breakfast)

Address: 805 W 10th St, Indianapolis, IN 46202

Dietary: Veg, Pesc, GF | Price: \$

Accessibility: Step-free entry

Distance: 0.7 miles / 9 min walk

Craft doughnuts and coffee; grab-and-go for morning arrivals.

Yats (Lunch)

Address: 910 W 10th St, Indianapolis, IN 46202

Dietary: Veg options | Price: \$

Accessibility: Step-free entry

Distance: 0.8 miles / 10 min walk

Affordable Creole/Southeast Asian fusion; quick and flavorful.

Dining Guide / Local Gems

Cafe Patachou (Breakfast/Lunch)

Address: 225 W Washington St, Indianapolis, IN 46204

Dietary: Veg, GF, Pesc | Price: \$\$

Accessibility: Accessible entrance

Distance: 1.0 mile / 13 min walk

Farm-to-table breakfast & lunch; great for small groups.

Bluebeard (Lunch)

Address: 653 Virginia Ave, Indianapolis, IN 46203

Dietary: Veg-friendly, Pesc | Price: \$\$\$

Accessibility: Street-level entrance

Distance: 1.4 miles / 6 min drive

Chef-driven seasonal American cuisine; casual lunch option.

Coffee & Snack Spots

Coat Check Coffee (Coffee/Snacks)

Address: 123 Massachusetts Ave, Indianapolis, IN 46204

Dietary: Veg, GF | Price: \$

Accessibility: Accessible entrance

Distance: 1.0 mile / 5 min drive

Artisan coffee and pastries; small seating.

Caliber Coffee (Coffee/Snacks)

Address: 501 Massachusetts Ave, Indianapolis, IN 46204

Dietary: Veg | Price: \$

Accessibility: Accessible entrance

Distance: 1.3 miles / 6 min drive

Local favorite coffee roaster and café.

Tea's Me (Coffee/Snacks)

Address: 114 S Meridian St, Indianapolis, IN 46225

Dietary: Veg | Price: \$

Accessibility: Street-level access

Distance: 1.3 miles / 6 min drive

Teas, small snacks, and light bites.

Dining Guide / Local Gems

Buzz Café (Coffee/Snacks)

Address: 110 E 16th St, Indianapolis, IN 46202

Dietary: Veg, GF | Price: \$

Accessibility: Accessible entry

Distance: 1.4 miles / 7 min drive

Local coffeehouse serving pastries and light bites.

The Flying Cupcake (Coffee/Snacks)

Address: 301 Massachusetts Ave, Indianapolis, IN 46204

Dietary: Veg | Price: \$

Accessibility: Street-level

Distance: 1.1 miles / 5 min drive

Cupcakes and desserts for a sweet treat.

Driveable Dinner Options

Conner's Kitchen + Bar (Dinner)

Address: 333 S Missouri St, Indianapolis, IN 46225

Dietary: Veg, GF, Pesc | Price: \$\$\$

Accessibility: Accessible seating

Distance: 1.5 miles / 6 min drive

Contemporary American menu; small-group friendly.

St. Elmo Steak House (Dinner)

Address: 127 S Illinois St, Indianapolis, IN 46225

Dietary: Pesc, limited Veg | Price: \$\$\$

Accessibility: Historic venue; some steps

Distance: 1.4 miles / 6 min drive

Iconic steakhouse — formal option for conference dinners

Harry & Izzy's (Dinner)

Address: 153 S Illinois St, Indianapolis, IN 46225

Dietary: Pesc, Veg | Price: \$\$\$

Accessibility: Accessible entry

Distance: 1.3 miles / 5 min drive

Upscale and lively; good for small groups.

Dining Guide / Local Gems

The Eagle (Dinner)

Address: 310 Massachusetts Ave, Indianapolis, IN 46204

Dietary: Veg options | Price: \$\$

Accessibility: Street-level entry

Distance: 1.2 miles / 5 min drive

Fried chicken, Southern cuisine; casual, small-group friendly.

Fountain Square Brewery District (Dinner)

Address: 1008 Virginia Ave, Indianapolis, IN 46203

Dietary: Veg options | Price: \$\$

Accessibility: Street-level

Distance: 2.0 miles / 8 min drive

Variety of casual dining and small breweries; adventurous guests.

Vonnegut-Themed Experiences

Bluebeard (Lunch/Dinner)

Address: 653 Virginia Ave, Indianapolis, IN 46203

Dietary: Veg-friendly, Pesc | Price: \$\$\$

Accessibility: Street-level entrance

Distance: 1.4 miles / 6 min drive

Named after Vonnegut's novel *Bluebeard*. Features quotes, typewriters, and literary tributes. In 2025, a James Beard Semifinalist. Try the *Breakfast of Champions* cocktail.

Red Key Tavern (Bar)

Address: 5170 N College Ave, Indianapolis, IN 46205

Dietary: Traditional bar menu | Price: \$\$

Accessibility: Step entry

Distance: 8.0 miles / 20 min drive

Historic tavern where Vonnegut himself once sat. Quiet, nostalgic, and local.

Foundry Provisions (Breakfast/Lunch)

Address: 236 E 16th St, Indianapolis, IN 46202

Dietary: Veg, Pesc | Price: \$

Accessibility: Street-level

Distance: 1.1 miles / 4 min drive

Serves 'The Vonnegut' veggie wrap and 'Madam Walker Special' tomato soup and grilled cheese.

Dining Guide / Local Gems

Jockamo Upper Crust Pizza (Lunch/Dinner)

Address: 5646 E Washington St, Indianapolis, IN 46219

Dietary: Veg, Pesc | Price: \$\$

Accessibility: Street-level

Distance: 6.5 miles / 16 min drive

Creative pizzas including the *Slaughterhouse Five* with five meats. Local favorite.

The Rathskellar at the Athenaeum (Dinner)

Address: 401 E Michigan St, Indianapolis, IN 46204

Dietary: Veg options | Price: \$\$

Accessibility: Accessible via ramp

Distance: 1.0 mile / 5 min drive

German pub and Biergarten designed by Bernard Vonnegut, Sr., the author's grandfather.

Bonus: If you head to Massachusetts Avenue (Mass Ave) for dinner, don't forget to check out the Vonnegut mural at College and Massachusetts Avenue!

For History of Medicine Buffs:

The Indiana Medical History Museum

Address: 3270 Kirkbride Way, Indianapolis, IN 46219

Tour the oldest preserved medical laboratory in the US, the 1895 former pathology building of Indiana's Central State Hospital.

Tours by appointment only - visit the imhm.org for more details



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Acknowledgements

Local Health Humanities Planning Team

Amanda Miller, Susanna Foxworthy Scott, Brandon Pieczko, Jane Hartsock, Meg Tharp, Elizabeth Nelson, Emily Beckman

2026 Conference Executive Planning Committee

Liz Bowen, Claire Clark, Erin Lamb, Gretchen Case, Camila Castaneda, Elizabeth Nelson, Emily Beckman

2026 Conference Proposal Reviewers

Erin Lamb, Douglas Dowland, Jessica L. Olivares, Liz Bowen, Lorna Fitzsimmons, Brandy King, Katherine Shwetz, Shelly Xie, Rachel Bracken, Rebecca Volpe, Thomas Lawrence Long, Ariel Cascio, Kym Weed, Angela Gomez, Rosemary Weatherston, Amanda Caleb, Laura Maria Pigozzi, Brandon Pieczko, Jess Libow, Ryan Weber, Annie James, Claire Clark, Lindsey Grubbs, Antonio Ferraro, Phillip Barrish, Rebecca Davis, Wen Wang, Brooke Kowalke, Rose Jean-Baptiste, Kameron Raynor, Monique Dufour, Jane Browe, Jane Hartsock

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Special thanks to Narrative Mindworks for sponsoring the coffee and snack stations!

