

David Herzberg

Professor, History Department

Director, Drugs, Health and Society Program

University at Buffalo – State University of New York

EDUCATION

University of Wisconsin-Madison, Ph.D. in American History, 2005
Wesleyan University, B.A. in American History, 1993

ACADEMIC WORK EXPERIENCE

State University of New York at Buffalo
Professor of History, 2022-present
Associate Professor of History, 2011-2022
Assistant Professor of History, 2005-2011
University of Wisconsin Press
Assistant Editor for History, 2003-2005
University of Wisconsin-Madison
Merle Curti Lecturer, 2002
Teaching Assistant, 1996-2003

PUBLICATIONS

Books

Helena Hansen, Jules Netherland, and David Herzberg, *Whiteout: How Racial Capitalism Changed the Color of Opioids in America* (University of California Press, 2023)

New Millennium Award, Society for Medical Anthropology, 2023
Rachel Carson Prize, Social Studies of Science, 2024

David Herzberg, *White Market Drugs: Big Pharma and the Hidden History of Addiction in America* (University of Chicago Press, 2020)

Rorabaugh Prize, Alcohol and Drug History Society, 2022

David Herzberg, *Happy Pills in America: From Miltown to Prozac* (Baltimore: Johns Hopkins University Press, 2009)

Books in progress

David Herzberg, “*The Doctor Had Found Just What He Needed*”: *Physicians and Addiction in the 20th Century* (research begun Fall 2022)

Nils Kessel, Joseph Gabriel, and David Herzberg, eds., *Narratives of Risk and Benefit in Drugs and Medicines* (revised ms. returned after peer review to University of Rochester Press)

Keith Wailoo and David Herzberg, eds., *Breaking the Habit: An Introduction to How We Talk, and Shouldn't Talk, about Addiction* (ms. under review at University of Chicago Press)

Peer-Reviewed Articles

Anne Kveim Lie, Helena Hansen, David Herzberg, Alex Mold, Marie Jauffret-Roustdide, Isa Dussauge, Samuel K. Roberts, Jeremy Greene, and Nancy Campbell, “The harms of constructing addiction as a chronic, relapsing brain disease,” *American Journal of Public Health* 112(52), Supp 2, 2022, S104-S108, [link](#).

David Herzberg and Jeremy Greene, “Stuck in Traffic? Conflicting regimes of global pharmaceutical governance,” *Diplomatic History* 45(5), November 2021, 940-953.

Danielle Fine, David Herzberg, and Sarah Wakeman, “Societal Biases, Institutional Discrimination, and Trends in Opioid Use in the USA,” *Journal of General Internal Medicine* 36 (2021), 797-801, [full text link](#).

Scott Podolsky, David Herzberg, and Jeremy Greene, “Preying on Prescribers (and Their Patients): Pharmaceutical Marketing, Iatrogenic Epidemics, and the Sackler Legacy,” *New England Journal of Medicine*, April 10, 2019, 1-3.

David Herzberg, “Entitled to Addiction? Race and pharmaceuticals in America’s first drug war,” *Bulletin of the History of Medicine* 91 (Fall 2017): 586-623, [full text link](#). *Winner, J. Worth Estes Prize, American Association for the History of Medicine

David Herzberg, Honoria Guarino, Pedro Mateu-Gelabert, and Alex S. Bennett, “Recurring Epidemics of Pharmaceutical Drug Abuse in America: Time for an All-Drug Strategy,” *American Journal of Public Health*, March 2016: 408-10.

David Herzberg, “Blockbusters and Controlled Substances: Miltown, Quaalude, and Consumer Demand for Drugs in Postwar America,” *Cambridge Studies in the History and Philosophy of the Biological Sciences* 42(4), December 2011: 415-26.

Jeremy Greene and David Herzberg, “Hidden in Plain Sight: The Popular Promotion of Prescription Drugs in the 20th Century,” *American Journal of Public Health* (May 2010): 793-803. [*Paper of the Year Award, American Journal of Public Health](#)

David Herzberg, “Will Wonder Drugs Never Cease!?: A Prehistory of Direct-to-Consumer Advertising,” *Pharmacy in History* 51(2), 2009, p. 47-56.

David Herzberg, “The Pill You Love Can Turn On You”: Feminism, Tranquilizers, and the Valium Panic of the 1970s.” *American Quarterly* (March 2006): 79-103. [*Featured article, JSTOR Daily, January 30, 2022, https://daily.jstor.org/just-saying-no-to-valium/](#)

David Herzberg, “Thinking Through War: The Social Thought of Richard T. Ely, John R. Commons, and Edward A. Ross during the First World War.” *Journal of the History of the Behavioral Sciences* 37 (Spring 2001): 123-41.

Book chapters

David Herzberg, “Habitué,” in Keith Wailoo, David Herzberg, and Helena Hansen, eds., *How Not To Talk About Drugs: Keywords in the Making and Breaking of Habit* (in peer review at University of Chicago Press)

David Herzberg, “Fantasies of addiction and liberation: The Demerol moment, 1944,” in Nils Kessel, Joseph Gabriel, and David Herzberg, eds., *Narratives of Risk and Benefit in Drugs and Medicines* (revised ms. after peer review returned to University of Rochester Press).

David Herzberg, “Between the Free Market and the Drug War,” in David Farber, ed., *The War on Drugs: A History: Fifty Years, a Trillion Dollars, and Thirty Million Arrests* (New York University Press, 2021), [link](#)

David Herzberg, Dorian Deshauer, and Matt Savelli, “Psychopharmaceuticals” in Mat Savelli, James Gillett, and Gavin J. Andrews, Eds., *An Introduction to Mental Health and Illness: Critical Perspectives* (Oxford University Press, 2020).

David Herzberg, “Pills” in *Rethinking Therapeutic Culture*, eds. Timothy Aubrey and Trysh Travis (University of Chicago Press, 2015), [link to description](#).

David Herzberg, “Busted for Blockbusters: ‘Scrip Mills’ and Prescribing Power in the 1970s,” in Jeremy Greene and Elizabeth Segal Watkins, eds., *Prescribed: Writing, Filling, Using, and Abusing the Prescription in Modern America* (Johns Hopkins University Press, 2012).

David Herzberg, “Tranquilizing the Caveman: Miltown and Manhood in the Cold War Era” in Angela Laflen and Marcelline Block, eds., *Gender Scripts in Medicine and Narrative* (Newcastle: Cambridge Scholars Publishing, 2010).

Other scholarly articles

R. Lorraine Collins, Panayotis K. Thanos, Rebecca Ashare, David Herzberg, and Robert Silverman, “Effects of the Federal Government’s Move to Reschedule Cannabis: A Commentary,” *Journal of Studies on Alcohol and Drugs* 86(1), 2025, 8-12, [link](#).

“From one extreme to the other? The political construction of opioid consensus in the U.S.’s long 20th century,” *Les Cahiers Droit Sciences et Technologies: Le consensus en droit de la santé et en droit de l’environnement* [special issue on “consensus in health and environment,” December 2021, 119-136].

Nancy D. Campbell and David Herzberg, “Gender and critical drug studies: An invitation and an exhortation,” Introduction for co-edited dual special issues of *Contemporary Drug Problems* 44:4 (December 2017) [and](#) *Social History of Alcohol and Drugs*, Fall 2017, [full text link](#).

David Herzberg, “Introduction: Boundaries in the history of alcohol and drugs,” Introduction for special issue of *Social History of Alcohol and Drugs*, Spring 2013.

Edited special issues

Nancy D. Campbell and David Herzberg, “Gender and critical drug studies,” dual special issues of *Contemporary Drug Problems* 44:4 (December 2017) [and](#) *Social History of Alcohol and Drugs*, Fall 2017.

David Herzberg, "Boundaries in the history of alcohol and drugs," special issue of *Social History of Alcohol and Drugs*, Spring 2013.

Public History

David Herzberg, "[I am a drug historian. Trump is wrong about fentanyl in almost every way](#)," *New York Times*, full front cover of Sunday editorial section, November 15, 2025.

David Herzberg, "[History rhymes with the psychedelic boom](#)," *Bill of Health*, blog of the Petrie-Flom Center for Health Law Policy, Biotechnology, and Bioethics at Harvard Law School, February 1, 2024.

Helena Hansen, Jules Netherland, and David Herzberg, "[Will the opioid crisis deliver its worst harms to Black and brown people?](#)" *The Nation*, August 28, 2023.

David Herzberg, "[The opioid crisis isn't just the Sacklers' fault—and making Purdue Pharma pay isn't enough on its own to fix the pharmaceutical industry's deeper problems](#)," *The Conversation*, July 26, 2021.

David Herzberg, [review of Sam Quinones, *The Least of Us*: True Tales of America and Hope in the Time of Fentanyl and Meth](#) (Bloomsbury, 2021), *Washington Post*, November 26, 2021.

David Herzberg, [review of Michael Pollan, *This Is Your Brain on Plants*](#) (Penguin, 2021); *Washington Post*, July 23, 2021.

"Interview with David Herzberg," *Pharmacy in History*, in Rafaela Zorzanelli, "Drug trajectories: Interviews with Researchers," *Pharmacy in History* 62, 2020.

David Herzberg and Joseph Gabriel, *Letter re proposed Purdue settlement, Re: Purdue Pharma L.P., et al, Case No. 19-23649 (RDD)*, December 12, 2020.

David Herzberg, "Addiction and Pharmacy History," *Pharmacy in History* 61: 2019, 144-145.

David Herzberg, "The company that makes OxyContin could become a 'public trust'—what would that mean?" *The Conversation*, December 4, 2019; reprinted in *Salon*, *The National Interest*, *San Francisco Chronicle*, *Houston Chronicle*, and other places.

Helena Hansen, Jules Netherland, and David Herzberg, "How race made the opioid crisis," *Boston Review*, April 9, 2019.

David Herzberg and Matt Pembleton, "While government cracked down on illegal drugs, Big Pharma hooked millions on opioids: The racist roots of the opioid crisis," *Washington Post*, October 30, 2017.

David Herzberg, "Setting today's opioid epidemic in historical context," *Process: A Blog for American History* (OAH), March 27, 2017

David Herzberg, "Drug war dissents: Robinson v. California," *Points: The Blog of the Alcohol and Drug History Society*, June 7, 2016

David Herzberg, "100 words on the Harrison Act at 100," *Points: The Blog of the Alcohol and Drug History Society*, December 17, 2014

David Herzberg, "Shadow Journals: The Story of Medical Advertising," 3-part blog post for the New York Academy of Medicine, October 15, 17, 19, 2013

Researcher and co-producer of "This Doesn't Happen Here" (2013) a documentary film on racial segregation and its challengers in Buffalo, NY. Filmed by Brian

Milbrand and made in collaboration with Grace Andriette of Neighborhood Legal Services and the Erie County Fair Housing Partnership.

David Herzberg, "Quaalude: The one that didn't get away?" *Points: The Blog of the Alcohol and Drug History Society*, February 18, 2011. Re-posted as "Quaalude Nostalgia: A Retro Drug That Everyone Remembers Fondly," *The Atlantic Monthly Online*, February 21, 2012.

David Herzberg, "Forgotten Drugs of Abuse: T's and Blues," *Points: The Blog of the Alcohol and Drug History Society*, November 21, 2011. Re-posted as "The Forgotten Drug of Abuse: How Junkies Grew Addicted to Talwin," *The Atlantic Monthly Online*, January 10, 2012.

David Herzberg, "Researcher finds pain and relief in the Archives Center," *Smithsonian Collections Blog*, January 4, 2012.

David Herzberg, "Ask Your Doctor!" *Points: The Blog of the Alcohol and Drug History Society*, April 24, 2011

David Herzberg, "Prescribing in an Age of 'Wonder Drugs,'" *MD Advisor* 4(2), 2011, 14-18.

Book reviews and review essays

David Herzberg, review of Cori Hayden, *The Spectacular Generic: Pharmaceuticals and the Simipolitical in Mexico*, *Bulletin of the History of Medicine* (2023)

David Herzberg, review of P.E. Caquet, *Opium's Orphans: The 200-Year History of the War on Drugs*, *Bulletin of the History of Medicine* (2023)

David Herzberg, review of Joseph E. Davis. *Chemically Imbalanced: Everyday Suffering, Medication, and Our Troubled Quest for Self-Mastery*; *Bulletin of the History of Medicine* (Fall 2021)

David Herzberg, review of Keith Wailoo, *Pain: A Political History* and Joanna Bourke, *The Story of Pain: From Prayer to Painkillers*; *Journal of the History of Medicine and Allied Sciences* 71:2 (2016): 242-6

David Herzberg, review of Nassir Ghaemi, *Drugs, Diagnosis, and Despair in the Modern World*; *Bulletin of the History of Medicine* 89:3 (Fall 2015), 628-9

David Herzberg, review of Alan Horwitz, *Anxiety: A Brief History*; *Social History of Medicine* 27:4 (2014): 839-40.

David Herzberg, review of Gaudilliere and Hess, eds., *Ways of Regulating Drugs in the 19th and 20th Centuries*; *Bulletin of the History of Medicine* 88:2 (2014): 390-2.

David Herzberg, review of Howard Padwa, *Social Poison: The Cultures and Politics of Opiate Control in Britain and France, 1821-1926*; *Medical History* 57:4 (2013): 602-4.

David Herzberg, review of Dominique Tobbell, *Pills, Power, and Policy: The Struggle for Drug Reform in Cold War American and Its Consequences*; *American Historical Review* 117 (2012): 1621-2

David Herzberg, review of Laura Hirshbein, *American Melancholy: Constructions of Depression in the Twentieth Century*; *Social History of Medicine*, April 2011, p. 183-185

David Herzberg, review of James Colgrove, *State of Immunity; Historian*, Fall 2008, p. 530-531

David Herzberg, review of Jonathan Engel, *Poor People's Medicine; Reviews in American History*, March 2007, p. 140-145

David Herzberg, "Drug Wars and Wonder Drugs," review essay of Jonathan Metzl, *Prozac on the Couch* and Curtis Marez, *Drug Wars; American Quarterly*, December 2005, p. 1231-1241

David Herzberg, review of William White, *Slaying the Dragon; Bulletin of the History of Medicine*, Summer 2002: 411-12.

Reference works

David Herzberg, "Early U.S. drug regimes and medical and drug cultures," *Oxford University Press Companion to Drug History* (Paul Gootenberg, ed.), 2022, [link](#)

David Herzberg, Named consultant for secondary school textbook, Eric Braun, *Big Pharma and the Opioid Epidemic: From Vicodin to Heroin* (Capstone Publishers, 2020).

David Herzberg, "Medical advertising," in Hugh Slotten, ed., *Oxford Encyclopedia of the History of Science, Medicine, and Technology in America* (2014).

David Herzberg, "Consumer Culture [anchor essay]," in Joan Shelley Rubin and Scott Casper, eds., *Oxford Encyclopedia of American Cultural and Intellectual History* (2013) and Melvyn Dubofsky, ed., *Oxford Encyclopedia of American Business, Labor, and Economic History* (2013)

David Herzberg, "Department of Homeland Security" and "Lend-Lease Program," in Paul Boyer, Ed., *The Oxford Companion to United States History, Oxford Reference Online edition*. 2004.

David Herzberg, "LSD" and "Wonder drugs," in Gary Nash and Alan Winkler, Eds., *Encyclopedia of American History, vol. 9: 1945-1968*. New York: Facts on File, 2003.

FELLOWSHIPS, GRANTS, AND PRIZES

National/International

Rachel Carson Prize, Society for the Social Studies of Science, for *Whiteout*, 2024

New Millennium Book Award, Society for Medical Anthropology, for *Whiteout*, 2023

Rorabaugh Prize, Alcohol and Drug History Society, for *White Market Drugs*, 2022

Fulbright Visiting Scholar Enrichment Seminar, Combating Addiction and Addressing the Opioid Crisis, with Jen Read and Ken Leonard, April 29-May 2, 2020 *Canceled due to COVID-19*

Thomas Jefferson Fund, FACE Foundation (French American Cultural Exchange), for "Crisis or not? Comparing opioids, addiction/overdose, and treatment in U.S. and France," with Marie Jauffret-Roustide, 2019-2021

Musto Senior Fellow in Residence, David F. Musto Center for Drug Policy Studies, Shanghai, China, June 4-20, 2019

Fulbright Visiting Scholar Enrichment Seminar, Combating Addiction and Addressing the Opioid Crisis, with Jen Read and Ken Leonard, April 24-28, 2019

J. Worth Estes Prize, American Association for the History of Medicine (for “best published paper in the history of pharmacology during the previous two years”), for Herzberg, “Entitled to Addiction? Pharmaceuticals and Race in America’s First Drug War,” 2018

IFRIS Visiting Scholar at the Interdisciplinary Research Unit “Sciences, Innovation and Society” (LISIS) at Paris Est Marne-la-Vallée University and at the Research Center for Medicine, Health and Society (CERMES3) at Paris Descartes University, May 21-July 1, 2017

National Library of Medicine, Grant for Scholarly Work in Biomedicine and Health (G13), National Institute of Health (NIH), 2015-2018

Sonnecker Visiting Research Grant, American Institute for the History of Pharmacy, Madison, WI, 2012

Paper of the Year Award, *American Journal of Public Health*, for Greene & Herzberg, “Hidden in Plain Sight: The Popular Promotion of Prescription Drugs in the 20th Century,” 2012

Honorable Mention, Shryock Medal, American Association for the History of Medicine, 2002

Jacob K. Javits Fellowship, 1997-2001

Sonnecker Visiting Research Grant, American Institute for the History of Pharmacy, 1999

University at Buffalo

Communities of Care

Humanities Institute Fellowship, University at Buffalo-SUNY, 2025-2026

UB’s Exceptional Scholar, Sustained Achievement Award, 2024

CEPP Community Scholar-in-Residence Fellowship, UB, 2015-2016

OVPRED/HI Seed Money in the Arts and Humanities, UB, 2015

Baldy Center for Law and Social Policy, Small Research Grant, 2012

Humanities Institute Fellowship, University at Buffalo-SUNY, 2011-2012

University at Buffalo, McNair Scholars Program Research Grant, 2010

Baldy Center for Law and Social Policy, Small Research Grant, 2009

[as part of Urban Design Project] Honorable Mention, American Planning Association, New York Upstate Chapter, Outstanding Planning Project, 2000

CONFERENCES/SYMPOSIA ORGANIZED

Chair, Local Arrangements Committee, American Association for the History of Medicine annual meeting, Buffalo, NY, June 2026

[with Julian Go, Nancy Campbell, and Lucas Richert], “Rethinking Drugs and Policing,” Chicago, IL, January 2025.

“Psychoactive Paradigm Shift? Historicizing Drug/Alcohol Policies and Practices,” the biennial international meeting of the Alcohol and Drug History Society, Jacobs School of Medicine and Biomedical Sciences, University at Buffalo, June

27-30, 2024

[with Keith Wailoo and Helena Hansen] “Habit: Keywords,” Princeton University, February 2-3, 2024

[with Marie Jauffret-Roustide] “The businesses of addiction,” Jacobs School of Medicine and Biomedical Sciences, University at Buffalo, July 13-14, 2023

[with Jennifer Read and Ken Leonard] Fulbright Visiting Scholar Enrichment Seminar, Combating Addiction and Addressing the Opioid Crisis, April 29-May3, 2020 Canceled due to COVID-19

“LSD research and therapy: Lessons from history,” University at Buffalo, October 10-11, 2019

[with Nils Kessel and Joseph Gabriel] “Progress, Risk, and Decline in Medicine” Université de Strasbourg, Strasbourg, France, October 1-2, 2019

[with Jennifer Read and Ken Leonard] Fulbright Visiting Scholar Enrichment Seminar, Combating Addiction and Addressing the Opioid Crisis, April 24-28, 2019

[with Nils Kessel] “Addiction as a chronic illness? Promises and perils of a new drug policy paradigm,” Baldy Center for Law & Social Policy and the Jacobs School of Medicine and Biological Sciences, University at Buffalo (SUNY), September 21-22, 2018.

[with Nancy Campbell] “Gender and the Drug War,” two-day symposium at the Baldy Center for Law and Social Policy, April 30 & March 1, 2016.

“The Pub, the Street and the Medicine Cabinet,” the biennial international meeting of the Alcohol and Drugs History Society, June 24-26, 2011

INVITED LECTURES

International

“The commercial and carceral determinants of health in U.S. opioid markets,” keynote, “Medirise: Medicines, risks, and crises: Towards a history of health problems associated with the use of medicines, 1900-2023,” Université Paris Cité, Paris, March 21-22, 2024

“Les marchés de l’addiction: L’histoire des médicaments et des drogues aux Etats-Unis, 1870-2022 [*in French*], Sciences Po, Université de Strasbourg, Strasbourg, France, March 30, 2022

“The chronic disease model of addiction: History, possibilities, problems,” Musto Center for Drug Policy Studies Visiting Fellows Programme Lecture Series, Shanghai University, Shanghai, China, October 12, 2021 [online]

“White Market Drugs: Addictive Pharmaceuticals in American History,” David F. Musto Center for Drug Policy Studies Lecture Series, Shanghai University, November 20, 2020 [online]

“Forging an enduring consensus on opioid science in the US, 1920s-1990s,” Le consensus en santé et en environnement: Analyse de la construction d’une pratique en context d’incertitude scientifique, Université de Strasbourg, March 26-27, 2020 Canceled due to COVID-19

”Scholarly publishing in Europe and America: Surveying the landscape of academic journals and university presses,” Shanghai University, June 18, 2019

“Drugs, Race and Gender. Comment se construisent les politiques des medicaments et des drogues? Regards croisés Etats-Unis—Europe,” for “Politiques des drogues,” Marie du 10éme, Paris, France, June 26, 2017

“Regulating pharmaceutical narcotics in the U.S.: Innovation and marketing in a controlled economy, 1920s-1950s,” for “Science citoyennes? Technologies, politiques et pratiques de la participation,” Marseille, France, June 14, 2017

“Drug regulation in the U.S.: With a special focus on addictive substances,” for “Addictions et risques: Enjeux sociologiques contemporains, terrains et methods,” L’Ecole des Hautes Etudes en Sciences Sociales, Paris, France, May 30, 2017

“DSM-V and Social Media,” DSM-V and the Future of Psychiatric Diagnosis, Geneva, Brocher Foundation, Switzerland, July 8, 2014

“Good medicines gone bad? Illicit prescription markets and American pharmaceutical cultures in the 20th century,” Standards and Drug Use outside the Pharmacy, European Science Foundation, Lyon, France, December 15-16, 2011.

“Prescription Drug Panics in the 20th Century,” University of Saskatchewan History of Medicine Seminar Series, Saskatoon, SK, Canada, March 24, 2011.

National

“Archival silences and U.S. opioid crises: The importance of public storytelling,” Keynote, Opioid Industry Documents Archive (online), May 8, 2025

“How to avoid another overdose epidemic: Perspectives from History,” University of Cincinnati, April 2, 2025

“Pill Mills’ vs. ‘Safe Supply’: Assessing Prescribers’ Roles in Three U.S. Drug Crises,” University of Cincinnati, April 1, 2025

“Racial Justice and the Drug War” with Naraja Clay, Hiawatha Collins, and Philomena Kebec; in Confronting the Drug War: Drug User-Oriented Harm Reduction and Drug Policy, Yale University Program in Addiction Medicine, January 28, 2025

“Whiteout,” with Helena Hansen and Jules Netherland; Osler Society at the University of Hawai’i John A. Burns School of Medicine, November 8, 2024 [online]

“Whiteout,” with Helena Hansen; Systemic Justice Lawyering, Harvard Law School, September 17, 2024 [online]

“Whiteout,” with Helena Hansen and Jules Netherland; INCITE @ Columbia University, March 7, 2024

“Opioid civil litigation,” Ceasefire negotiations on the war on drugs, University of Miami Law Review Symposium, February 9, 2024 [online]

“Whiteout,” with Helena Hansen and Jules Netherland; UCLA David Geffen School of Medicine, January 26, 2024 [in-person event, I participated by Zoom]

“Race and U.S. drug policy,” ECHO Training, Grayken Center for Addiction Training & Technical Assistance, October 24, 2023 [online]

“The U.S. opioid crisis: Lessons from history,” Keynote, International Visitor Leadership Program, U.S. Department of State, March 1, 2023 [online]; also, invited moderator for final “synthesis session,” March 17, 2023 [online].

“The U.S. opioid crisis in social and historical context,” Keynote, International Visitor Leadership Program, U.S. Department of State, May 16, 2022 [online]

“Foundations of the Drug-Medicine Divide and the Current Opioid Crisis,” for Psychotropic Drugs and Medications: Harm Reduction Policies, UCLA Luskin School of Public Affairs, November 8 and 10, 2022

“The U.S. opioid crisis: Lessons from history,” International Visitor Leadership Program, U.S. Department of State, October 21, 2021 [online]; also, invited moderator for final “synthesis session,” November 4, 2021 [online].

“Race, Big Pharma, and the surprisingly long history of the opioid crisis,” G.W. Corner Society for the History of Medicine, Division of Medical Humanities, Centre for Ethics, Humanities and Palliative Care, University of Rochester School of Medicine, Rochester, NY, September 22, 2021

“Unexpected Histories of Opioids and Overdose: A conversation with Dr. Nancy Campbell and Dr. David Herzberg,” American Institute for the History of Pharmacy, Kreminar on Opiates & Opioids, June 3, 2021 [online]

“Policy lessons from ‘white market’ drugs,” Drug Researchers’ Roundtable, Drug Policy Alliance, March 25, 2021 [online]

“White Market Drugs: Pharmaceuticals and Addiction in American History,” Psychotropic Drugs and Medications: Harm Reduction Policies,” Luskin School of Public Affairs, UCLA, May 5 & 7, 2020 [online]

“Pharmaceuticals in the drug war, Kansas University, April 10-11, 2020 Canceled due to COVID-19

“The other drug war: Addictive medicines and American drug policy from Heroin to OxyContin,” University of Kansas Medical Center, Kansas City, October 25, 2019

“He will be a better citizen as a legitimate addict”: The forgotten history of harm reduction in America’s first opioid crisis,” Psychotropic Drugs and Medications: Harm Reduction Policies,” Luskin School of Public Affairs, UCLA, May 3, 2019 [digital lecture]

“The other drug war: Psychoactive pharmaceuticals and addiction in U.S. history,” Penn State Health Sciences Library, Hershey, PA, May 1, 2019

“The opioid crisis: A historical perspective,” Vermont Humanities Council, Norwich, VT, March 6, 2019

“The other drug war: The History of Addiction to Pharmaceuticals in America,” Grand Rounds, UCLA Center for Social Medicine and the Humanities, February 14, 2019

“The Opioid Crisis in Historical Perspective: What We Can Learn from a Century of Addiction to Pharmaceuticals,” American Institute for the History of Pharmacy [digital lecture], November 15, 2018

“Shopping for Health: Medicine and Markets in America,” Consortium for the History of Science, Technology, and Medicine and The College of Physicians of Philadelphia, October 11, 2018

“The Other Drug War,” Pick Your Poison: Intoxicating Pleasures and Medical Prescriptions, University of Florida Health Science Center Library, July 31, 2018

“The long history of prescription drug addiction,” NEH Summer Institute on Addiction in American History, Lexington, KY, June 19-20, 2018

“‘He will be a better citizen as a legitimate addict’: The forgotten history of harm reduction in America’s first opioid epidemic,” History of Science, Technology, and Medicine colloquium, University of Minnesota, September 15, 2017

“Commercial opioid research in the ‘classic era,’” Science Studies Working Group, NYU Anthropology, March 10, 2017

“Race, opioids, & drug policy,” Drug Policy Alliance, New York, March 10, 2017

“Racism and its role in white drug exceptionalism: Historical and contemporary examples,” *White Faces, Black Lives: Race and Reparative Justice in an Era of a “Gentler” War on Drugs*, Columbia University and the Drug Policy Alliance, New York City, October 19, 2016

“Prescription Drug Abuse in American History: Lessons from a century of failures and occasional successes,” J. Worth Estes History of Medicine Lecture, Boston Medical Library, Harvard Medical School, April 21, 2016

“Engendering addiction: Women, pharmaceuticals, and the end of America’s first drug war,” Yale University Colloquium in the History of Science and Medicine, February 15, 2016

“Uppers and Downers: Past and Present Abuse of Stimulants and Sedatives,” Addictions Old and New, University of Richmond, Richmond, VA, October 22-23, 2015

Drugs, Medicines, and the Color Line in 20th Century U.S., Psychiatry and Culture in Historical Perspective Working Group, Yale University, June 18, 2014

“Prescription Drug Abuse and the Forgotten History of the Other Drug War,” Bureau of Alcohol and Drug Use, New York City Health Department, May 2, 2014

“Marijuana and Drug Policy Reform in New York: 70 Years after the LaGuardia Report,” New York Academy of Medicine, New York City, May 1, 2014

“Prescription Drug Abuse in American History,” Prescription Drug Investigation Unit, Office of the Special Narcotics Prosecutor, New York, May 1, 2014

“The Other Drug War: Prescription Drug Abuse and Race in 20th Century America,” New York Academy of Medicine, New York, NY, October 22, 2013.

“The Old ‘New Jim Crow’: Prescription Drugs and the Drug War,” Challenging Punishment: Race, Public Health, and the War on Drugs, Columbia University & Schomburg Center for Research in Black Culture, October 4, 2013.

“‘But the wife must have these to live a decent life’: Sedative, stimulants, and the other drug war of the 1970s,” Challenging Punishment, Rutgers University, April 5-6, 2013 and October 3, 2013.

“On-Ramps to the Oxy Express: The Long History of Prescription Drug Abuse in America,” Colloquium in the History of Science, Medicine, and Technology, Johns Hopkins University, November 22, 2012.

“Good Medicines Gone Bad: Prescription Drug Abuse in America from Barbiturates to Quaaludes,” SUNY Fredonia, March 22, 2012

“Hidden in Plain Sight: A Pre-History of Direct to Consumer Marketing.” G.W. Corner Society for the History of Medicine, Division of Medical Humanities,

Centre for Ethics, Humanities and Palliative Care, University of Rochester School of Medicine, November 4, 2009.

“Mad Men: Tranquilizers and Masculinity in the Age of Anxiety.” University of Rochester Medical Centre, Medical Humanities Conference, November 4, 2009.

“The Politics of Women’s Addiction in the Valium Era.” Institute for Research on Women and Gender at the University of Michigan, Addiction and Gender lecture series, March 21, 2008.

“‘Medicine’ and ‘Dope’: A 20th-Century Cultural History.” Wesleyan University History Department Luncheon Talk, Middletown, CT, November 2, 2001.

Local/UB

“Flooding vs. Friction: History lesson about what causes drug crises, and how to end them,” UB Vice President for Health Services Collaboration Conversations, October 28, 2025

“Cannabis and the Long History of American Drug Wars,” UB School of Public Health, Buffalo, NY, March 14, 2025

“Introduction to Structural Racism and Medical Racism,” Health Inequities Workshop Series, Clinical and Translational Science Institute, University at Buffalo, March 16, 2023

“History of Opioid Use in the U.S.,” Erie Niagara Area Health Education Center, March 1, 2023

“Drugs and addiction in US history,” Champions Program (for Buffalo area healthcare providers integrating Substance Use Disorder treatment into their practices), Buffalo, NY October 6, 2022

“The history and politics of drugs and addiction in the U.S.,” SAFE Campuses, Buffalo, NY, June 7, 2022

“Cannabis and the Long History of American Drug Wars,” UB School of Public Health, Buffalo, NY, March 4, 2022

(with David Dietz), “Addictions and Addictive Behaviors,” Garret Club Health and Wellness Seminars,” March 1, 2022

“He will be a better citizen as a legitimate addict”: Race and the hidden history of harm reduction in America’s first opioid crisis, Jacobs School of Medicine and Biomedical Sciences, Children’s Psychiatry Clinic, Buffalo, NY, January 27, 2022

“Drugs and addiction in American history,” Addiction Medicine Grand Rounds, Jacobs School of Medicine and Biomedical Sciences, Buffalo, NY, January 13, 2022

“White market drugs: Addictive medicines and American drug policy,” Humanities Day, Jacobs School of Medicine and Biomedical Sciences, UB, Buffalo, NY November 14, 2019

“The other drug war: The History of Addiction to Pharmaceuticals in America,” Addiction Medicine Didactics, Jacobs School of Medicine and Biomedical Sciences, UB, Buffalo, NY, April 12, 2019

“The Other Drug War,” Jacobs School of Medicine and Biological Sciences Student Addiction Club, University at Buffalo, December 6, 2018

“Drugs in America: A Brief History,” From Stigma to Action: Addressing Substance Use, Harm Reduction, and Healthcare, Mt. Sinai HIV/AIDS Education and Training Conference, Buffalo, NY, June 15, 2018

“The Other Drug War,” Addiction Medicine Didactics, Jacobs School of Medicine and Biomedical Sciences, UB, Buffalo, NY April 20, 2018

“Advertising and psychiatric medicines,” Psychiatry Resident Lecture, Erie County Medical Center, March 8, 2018

“Addiction and pharmaceuticals,” Psychiatry Resident Lecture, Erie County Medical Center, December 21, 2017

“It’s complicated: Or, why the Obamacare law had to be a zillion pages long,” History Facts Series, UB History Department, March 8, 2017

“Entitled to addiction? 100 years of prescription drug abuse in America,” Academic Rounds, Children’s Psychiatry Clinic, Women and Children’s Hospital, Buffalo, NY, December 15, 2016

“Addiction to pharmaceuticals in American history: Lessons from a century of policy failures and occasional successes,” Noontime Medical Humanities Lecture Series, Jacobs School of Medicine and Biomedical Sciences, UB, Buffalo, NY, October 17, 2016

“Prescription drug abuse: A Historical Perspective,” University Express, Erie County Department of Senior Services, Buffalo, NY, October 6, 2016

“A history of psychoactive drugs in America,” Jacobs School of Medicine and Biomedical Sciences “Mini Med School,” UB, March 15, 2016

“The Typhoid Mary Problem: Policing the Public Health,” Jacobs School of Medicine and Biomedical Sciences, November 2, 2015

“From the ‘White Plague’ to Killer Superbug: Tuberculosis and the Meanings of Disease,” Jacobs School of Medicine and Biomedical Sciences, October 14, and December 8, 2014; October 12, 2015

“Selling drugs to kids: Pharmaceutical Marketing and the evolution of ADHD,” Academic Rounds, Women and Children’s Hospital, Buffalo, NY, December 18, 2014

“On Ramps to the Oxy Express: Prescription Drug Abuse in American History,” Pharmacology and Toxicology, Jacobs School of Medicine and Biomedical Sciences, November 10, 2014

“The Other Drug War,” Toxicology Work-in-Progress seminar series, Jacobs School of Medicine and Biomedical Sciences, May 30, 2014.

“America’s Other Drug Wars: Prescription Drug Abuse and Race in the 20th Century,” Research Institute on the Addictions, Buffalo, NY, February 7, 2014

“The Drug War in the Medicine Cabinet: Prescription Drug Addiction in the Age of Miracle Pills.” Hallwall’s Contemporary Arts Center (sponsored by UB Humanities Institute), September 23, 2011.

“Of ‘Mad Men’ and Pills: The Popular Marketing of Psychiatric Drugs from Miltown to Prozac,” Department of Psychiatry Grand Rounds, Buffalo Psychiatric Center, Jacobs School of Medicine and Biomedical Sciences, Buffalo, NY, February 4, 2011

“Selling Mental Illness: Marketing Psychiatric Drugs in the 20th Century,” University at Buffalo Psychiatry Residency Program Didactic Session, Erie County Medical Center, Buffalo, NY, January 13, 2011

“Direct-to-Consumer Marketing and the Making of a Legal Drug Culture.” University at Buffalo Counseling Services, May 4, 2010.

Conference papers

“Archiving the Histories of Drugs, Pharmacy and Addiction Treatment,” [Chair and roundtable discussant], Alcohol and Drug History Society, Buffalo, NY, June 27-29, 2024

“The ‘I’ in multidisciplinary: Considering the why and how of collaborative publishing,” [roundtable discussion], American Association for the History of Medicine, Kansas City, May 9-12, 2024

“Addiction without the hype? Consumers’ experiences with Demerol in the 1940s,” Alcohol and Drug History Society, Mexico City, Mexico, June 16, 2022

“Capitalism and addiction,” commenter, American Historical Association, New York City, January 3-6, 2020

“Intoxicants: State of the Field,” Society for the Social History of Medicine, Liverpool, UK, July 11-13, 2018

“‘We are a nice people in good standing’: Opiate maintenance in America’s ‘classic era,’ ” Alcohol and Drug History Society Biennial Meeting, Utrecht, Amsterdam, June 22-25, 2017

“Gender and the Disease Model of Addiction, 1958-1980,” American Association for the History of Medicine, April 30, 2016

“The Medicalized Drug War: Physicians and Pharmacists in the Punitive Era of Drug Control,” History of Science Society, San Francisco, CA, Nov 19-22, 2015

“‘We want to help this man and not kick him down’: Addicted doctors in the ‘classic era’ of narcotics control,” Alcohol and Drug History Society, Bowling Green, IN, June 18-21, 2015

“Addicts in unexpected places: The class politics of addiction in the “classic era” of narcotics control,” American Association for the History of Medicine, New Haven, CT, April 30-May 3, 2015

“Rethinking the war on drugs,” Organization of American Historians, St. Louis, MO, April 18, 2015

(with Jeremy Greene) “Stuck in Traffic? Conflicting Regimes of Global Pharmaceutical Governance,” American Studies Association, Los Angeles, CA, November 8, 2014

“Big Pharma’s real nemesis? The Federal Bureau of Narcotics as pharmaceutical regulator,” American Association for the History of Medicine, Chicago, IL, May 8, 2014

“The new pharmaceutical history and the drug war: A match made in history,” American Association for the History of Medicine, Atlanta, GA, May 16-19, 2013.

“‘Not in good faith’: Illicit prescribing and the moral economy of medicines,” Organization of American Historians, San Francisco, CA, April 2013.

“This is your politics on drugs: Or, why a half century of mass pharmaceuticals has not turned us into soma-eating zombies,” American Studies Association, San Juan, Puerto Rico, November 15, 2012.

[with Jeremy Greene] “Intermediate consumers,” Organization of American Historians, Houston, TX, March 17-20, 2011 [panel co-organizer]

“Busted for Blockbusters.” Pharmaceuticals in Historical Context, American Institute for the History of Pharmacy, Madison, WI, October 22-24, 2010

“Finding Gender in a Pill: Tranquilizers & Men in the ‘Age of Anxiety.’” Constructivism, Creativity and Connection: 14th Biannual Conference of the Constructivist Psychology Network, Niagara Falls, NY, July 22-24, 2010.

“Luded Out: Quaaludes and Consumer Demand for Pharmaceuticals in Postwar U.S.” American Association for the History of Medicine, Rochester, MN, May 2, 2010.

“Tranquilizing the Caveman: Miltown and Masculinity in the 1950s.” American Association for the History of Medicine, Cleveland, OH, April 23-26, 2009.

“Direct-to-Consumer Drug Marketing in the Golden Age of Medicine.” Modern Medicines: New Perspectives in Pharmaceutical History, American Institute for the History of Pharmacy, Madison, WI, October 17-18, 2008.

“Listening to Miltown.” Global Approaches: The 4th International Conference on the History of Drugs and Alcohol, Guelph, Ontario, August 10-12, 2007.

“The Valium Addiction Scare of the 1970s: A Model Drug Panic?” American Association for the History of Medicine, Madison, WI, April 30, 2004.

“How ‘Nice’ Drugs Killed My Sister’: Prescription Drug Addicts in Popular Culture.” Northeast Popular Culture Association, Southern Connecticut State University, Nov. 3, 2001.

“Selling Human Nature: Psychotropic Drug Ads and Their Critics in Modern America.” Society for Literature and Science, SUNY Buffalo, October 11, 2001.

Invited class lectures

Drug Policy (Jules Netherland), John Jay College, September 16, 2014.

Drug Policy (Jules Netherland), John Jay College, September 14, 2016.

Drugs in American Culture (Noel Wolfe), Randolph College, March 20, 2017.

Cannabis (Lorraine Collins), University at Buffalo, February 27, 2020.

Sociology and History of Drugs (Benjamin Fong), Arizona State University, October 18, 2021.

Graduate Seminar in Addictions (Craig Colder), Department of Psychology, University at Buffalo, March 14, 2022

(Mical Raz), University of Rochester, May 3, 2022.

Medical Ethics (Joseph Gabriel), Florida State University, November 17, 2022.

Cannabis (Lorraine Collins), University at Buffalo, March 31, 2023.

Geographies of Drug Use (Mark Hunter), University of Toronto, March 12, 2024.

Cannabis (Lorraine Collins), University at Buffalo, March 15, 2024.

Honors Seminar (Camilo Trumper), University at Buffalo, October 28, 2024.

Drugs and Society (Jared Strohl), University at Buffalo, November 4, 2024.

Medicine, Health, and Society (Laura Stark), Vanderbilt University, December 3, 2024. Zoom.

PUBLIC HISTORY

Opioid litigation

Paid consultant and expert witness for the plaintiffs in opioid litigation (disclosed cases as of April 2022): *The People of the State of California v. Purdue Pharma L.P., et al; Tucson Medical Center v. Purdue Pharma L.P., et al; State of New Hampshire v. Johnson & Johnson, et al.; San Francisco v. Purdue Pharma L.P., et al*)

White Market Drugs cited by U.S. Bankruptcy Court Judge Robert Drain in hearing on Purdue Pharma bankruptcy (*In the Matter of: Purdue Pharma L.P., Debtor*, Case No. 19-23649-rdd), November 17, 2020

David Herzberg and Joseph Gabriel, *Letter re proposed Purdue settlement, Re: Purdue Pharma L.P., et al, Case No. 19-23649 (RDD)*, December 12, 2020

Media—broadcast

[interview], [Sober Dad Crew Podcast](#), December 13, 2025

“The truth about Trump’s war on fentanyl,” [7am](#) [Australian daily news podcast], December 8, 2025

“Why bombing ‘drug boats’ will do nothing to solve America’s fentanyl crisis,” [Brian Lehrer show](#), WNYC radio, November 25, 2025

“Drug historian challenges Trump’s war on Fentanyl,” [Amanpour and Company](#), PBS and CNN International, November 25, 2025

[interview], [Cultural Baggage, Pacifica Radio](#), KPFT Houston, November 25, 2025.

[interview], [The Skinny](#), WMNF radio, November 21, 2025

[“Ask an Expert” [interview about fentanyl, tariffs, and U.S. drug policy](#)], KCBS Radio, February 24, 2025

[featured talk show guest], “[Good Patients, Bad Addicts](#),” on *Against the Grain*, KPFA, Berkeley, CA, October 15, 2024.

[talking head for documentary], “[New York City’s Opioid Drug History: A Relentless Cycle](#),” THIRTEEN Public Media, September 18, 2024.

[talk show guest], “[Wellness Wednesday](#),” All Sides with Anna Staver, WOSU Public Radio, December 13, 2023.

[one of featured experts], “[How fentanyl became the most dangerous illegal drug in America](#),” Australian Broadcast Commission (ABC) Listen Podcast, December 9, 2023.

[“Ask an Expert” interview about U.S. downtowns and the opioid crisis], KCBS Radio, November 14, 2023

[talking head for documentary], “[Fentanyl-Krise: Wie konnte es in den USA so eskalieren?](#)” STRG_F / Norddeutsche Rundfunk, October 3, 2023,

[“Ask an Expert” interview about new Homeland Security fentanyl policy], [KCBS Radio](#), September 20, 2023

[featured guest] “[The Opioid Epidemic](#),” I Don’t Know About That with Jim Jefferies [comedian’s podcast], June 27, 2023.

[Online video interview about *Whiteout*], [Haymarket Book Talk with Robin D.G. Kelley](#), April 12, 2023.

[Podcast interview about *Whiteout*], “[Racism, Class, and the Opioid Crisis](#),” *The Dig*, March 19, 2023.

[[Interview about overdose crisis](#)], *Muslim TV*, October 21, 2021.

[Interview about vaccine hesitancy among racialized minorities], “[Amplified with Aisha Mills](#),” *Black News Channel*, October 13, 2021.

“The War on Drugs,” The Public Morality, October 12, 2021, [John Hudak David Herzberg by The Public Morality](#)

[interview about *White Market Drugs*], [American Trends](#), January 22, 2021.

[interview about *White Market Drugs*], [Cultural Baggage, Pacifica Radio](#) (KPFT Houston), January 13, 2021.

“The Forgotten Epidemic,” [MSNBC documentary](#), December 27, 2020 and January 1, 2021.

[Hour-long interview about *White Market Drugs*], [Books on Pod with Trey Elling](#), December 1, 2020.

“A Public Affair” [hour-long [interview about White Market Drugs](#)], WORT-Madison, WI, December 22, 2020.

“[Sonoma County’s Morning News](#),” KSRO, November 13, 2020.

(Off-air historical consultant for) “[American Rehab](#),” Reveal News, summer 2020.

“America’s opioid epidemic,” [NPR’s Throughline](#), April 4, 2019.

“Overmedicated, overdosed America: The opioid epidemics,” [The Whole Truth with David Eisenhower, American Public Television](#), November 10, 2017.

“Happy Pills,” WIVB-TV news segment, 2016

“Family Reimagined,” National Geographic Channel documentary, March 13, 2016

“Retro Report: Prozac,” *Huffpost Live*, September 22, 2014

“Prozac: Revolution in a Capsule,” [New York Times Retro Reports](#), September 21, 2014.

“Book TV discussion of *Happy Pills in America*,” [C-SPAN2 BookTV](#), October 17, 2015.

“All Hopped Up On Drugs,” [Backstory with the History Guys, National Public Radio](#), January 2013.

“The Stoned Ages,” History Channel documentary, September 2012.

Media—print

[Interview with Frank Hornig], “Das traditionelle Trump-Amerika hat ein riesiges Drogenproblem,” [Der Spiegel](#), November 30, 2025.

Jan Hoffman, “Trump’s Focus on Punishing Drug Dealers May Hurt Drug Users Trying to Quit,” [New York Times](#), May 13, 2025.

Zachary Siegel, “What’s Driving the Permanent Crisis of Drug Addiction?” [The Good Men Project](#), April 15, 2025.

Anna Giaritelli, “Fentanyl’s role in Trumps’ trade war with Canada explained,” [Washington Examiner](#), March 12, 2025

Lauren Barry, “Trudeau calls Trump tariffs ‘dumb,’” [*WCCO News Talk 830*](#), March 5, 2025

Alexandra Keeler, “Does America’s ‘drug czar’ hold lessons for Canada?” [*Canadian Affairs*](#), February 10, 2025.

Elijah de Castro, “Local overdose deaths are finally declining. What’s working?” [*The Keene Sentinel*](#), January 4, 2025.

Guo Zedong, Zhan Manqi, “Rising deaths from drug abuse in the US, who’s to blame?” [*GD Today*](#), December 19, 2024.

David Oliver, “Justin Timberlake’s arrest, statement elicited a cruel response. Why?” [*USA Today*](#), June 24, 2024.

Zachary Siegel, “Permanent Crisis,” [*Economic Hardship Reporting Project and The Baffler*](#), June 4, 2024 (reprinted [*Action News JAX*](#), March 4, 2025)

Marcin Łuniewski, “Fentanyl może zniszczyć relacje między USA a Chinami,” [*Rzeczpostpolita*](#) [Polish newspaper], May 18-19, 2024.

Kristina Watrobski, “Students sharing marijuana-infused candy in US schools prompts heightened look at safety,” [*ABC News*](#), March 11, 2024.

Allen Siegler, “As W.Va. lawmakers float the death penalty as a solution to the drug crisis, here’s what could actually help,” [*Mountain State Spotlight*](#), January 27, 2024.

Anna Silman, “Matthew Perry’s death means hard questions for the ketamine movement,” [*Business Insider*](#), December 20, 2023.

Grace Abels, “Haley is correct that fentanyl deaths top casualties from 3 wars combined,” [*PolitiFact*](#), December 19, 2023.

Kristina Watrobski, “Fentanyl is seeping into American Schools. Here’s how you can protect your kids,” [*The National Desk*](#), October 6, 2023.

Thomas Harrison, “Shrooms go upscale amid psychedelics craze,” [*Courthouse News Service*](#), September 22, 2023.

Olga Khazan, “Stress drinking has a gender divide,” [*The Atlantic*](#), September 13, 2023.

Beth Macy, *Raising Lazarus: Hope, Justice, and the Future of America’s Overdose Crisis* (Back Bay Books, 2023), [interviewee/quoted, photographed]

Jon Harris, “UB’s role in meeting the need for addictions workers,” [*Buffalo News*](#), May 21, 2023.

Jane C. Hu, “Prozac Lessons: 5 Questions for drug historian David Herzberg,” [*The Microdose*](#), May 8, 2023.

Jonel Aleccia, “Dying patients protest looming telehealth crackdown,” [*Associate Press*](#), April 24, 2023.

Rachana Pradhan, “End of Covid emergency will usher in changes across the US health system,” [*CBS News*](#), March 21, 2023; reprinted variously e.g. [*Kaiser Health News*](#), March 30, 2023.

Amanda Seitz and Lindsay Whitehurst, “Feds seek to limit telehealth prescriptions for some drugs,” [*Associated Press*](#), February 25, 2023 e.g. [*CBS*](#).

Stéphanie Romans, “De war on drugs is een historische valstrik,” [*De Tijd*](#), January 14, 2023, 4; also published as “La guerre contre le drogue constitue un piège historique: Si les États-Unis ont poussé ce combat à l’extrême, l’historien américain David Herzberg met en garde,” [*L’Echo*](#), January 15, 2023.

Maia Szalavitz, “It’s not just about pot. Our entire drug policy needs an overhaul,” [New York Times](#), December 11, 2022.

Charles Keeshan and Susan Sarkauskas, “Spooked by reports of candy-colored fentanyl? There’s no reason to worry, experts say,” [Chicago Daily Herald](#), October 28, 2022.

Jordan Mendoza, “Rainbow fentanyl passed out on Halloween? Why experts say that’s ‘absolutely ridiculous,’” [USA Today](#), October 26, 2022.

Kate Riga, “How to think about Biden’s ‘huge step’ towards ending the war on cannabis,” [TPM](#), October 7, 2022.

Thomas F. Harrison, “Biden quietly making a radical shift in opioid policy,” [Courthouse News Service](#), September 19, 2022.

Maxence Dozin, “L’administration Biden passe à l’offensive contre l’industrie pharma,” [L’Echo](#), August 11, 2022.

Anna Giaritelli, “Is America’s immigration crisis causing the fentanyl epidemic?” [The Washington Examiner](#), July 13, 2022.

Tom Norton, “Mass Shootings and SSRI Meds Claims—What We Do Know, What We Don’t,” [Newsweek](#), July 8, 2022.

Paula Cho, “Motherhood and Addiction and CPS: How women who used drugs lost their children,” [Trumplandia Magazine](#), May 12, 2022.

Jesse Singer, *There Are No Accidents: The Deadly Rise of Injury and Disaster—Who Profits and Who Pays the Price* (Simon & Schuster, 2022) [interviewed/quoted for chapter, “Stigma”]

Sofia Quaglia, “Has Covid-19 changed our relationship to drugs? Why the answer is so complicated,” [Inverse](#), November 20, 2021.

Mark Moore, “Fentanyl seizures at border double over the past 12 months,” [New York Post](#), November 2, 2021.

Anna Giaritelli, “Record fentanyl seizures at border contributed to soaring overdose deaths in US,” [Washington Examiner](#), November 2, 2021.

J’na Jefferson, “Why are we still vilifying women for their drug use?” [Mic](#), July 23, 2021.

“How to reduce COVID-19 vaccine hesitancy? UB experts weigh in,” [Niagara Frontier Publications](#), May 24, 2021.

Jeff Overley, “Drugmakers Throw Purdue Under Bus In Opioid Trial Gamble,” [Law360](#), May 21, 2021.

Brendan Pierson, “First witness in Calif. opioid trial chastises drug cos for taking facts out of context,” [Reuters](#), April 21, 2021.

Ed Silverman, “A historian was cited to support making Purdue a public benefit company. He actually thinks it’s a bad idea,” [STAT News](#), December 11, 2020.

Stephen Loiaconi, “Advocates see growing support for drug policy reforms in state elections results,” [ABC News](#), November 5, 2020.

Colin Martin, “Inside America’s other pandemic: Overdose deaths are surpassing COVID deaths in many places across America—yet media coverage of the crisis remains sparse,” [The American Conservative](#), October 22, 2020.

Christopher Rowland, “Sackler legacy is at stake in family’s bid to reinvent Purdue Pharma as a public trust,” [Washington Post](#), November 6, 2019.

Deena Zaru, “‘It’s an overdose crisis’: Mac Miller’s death investigation highlights a dangerous trend in the opioid epidemic,” [ABC News](#), October 27, 2019.

Andrew W. D. Aoyama, “The two Arthur Sacklers,” [The Crimson](#), October 17, 2019.

Megan Guza, “A flowing river of painkillers, all perfectly legal, cuts through Allegheny County,” [TribLive](#), September 21, 2019.

Renatta Signorini, “Westmoreland County flooded with 124M pain pills during critical period of opioid crisis,” [Trib Live](#), September 21, 2019.

Kenan Malik, “America’s opioid catastrophe has lessons for us all, about greed and racial division,” [The Guardian](#), September 1, 2019.

Lenny Bernstein, Aaron Davis, Christopher Rowland and Renae Merle, “Sacklers could hold on to most of personal fortune in proposed Purdue settlement,” [Washington Post](#), August 31, 2019.

Sarah Boden, “Will lessons from the opioid crisis be retained for the next drug epidemic?” [90.5 WESA](#), August 30, 2019.

Chris Roberts, “Joe Biden is coming for your legal weed,” [VICE](#), August 5, 2019.

Joseph Wolkin, “Dedicated to saving lives in Levittown,” [Levittown Tribune](#), July 31, 2019.

Amanda Scriver, “Brands are using drug culture to sell beauty—Here’s the problem with that,” [Healthline](#), May 30, 2019.

Sara E. Teller, “Authors state ‘it’s time to rethink medical innovation,” [Legal Reader](#), 1 May 2019.

Donna Murch, “How race made the opioid crisis,” [Boston Review](#), April 10, 2019.

Adriana Belmonte, “FDA opioids adviser: ‘One thing is clear’ about the ongoing crisis,” [Yahoo Finance](#), February 23, 2019.

Jeff Mordock, “N.Y. police now treat drug overdose sites as crime scenes in bid to take down dealers,” [Washington Times](#), February 19, 2019.

Adriana Belmonte, “‘It didn’t happen overnight’: How the U.S. opioid crisis got so bad,” [Yahoo Finance](#), December 9, 2018.

William Shannon, “Complicating the narrative,” [Hudson River Zeitgeist](#), November 5, 2018.

Heather Radke, “The Magic Bullet: How a drug called Miltown ushered in an age of pill-popping for anxious Americans,” [Topic](#), n.d..

Elizabeth Eisenstadt Evans, “In Appalachia and Wisconsin, two approaches to the opioid crisis,” [Global Sisters Report](#) (*A project of National Catholic Reporter*), October 22, 2018.

Sarah Jane Tribble, “[Drugmakers play the patent game to lock in prices, block competitors](#),” National Public Radio online / Kaiser Health News, September 28, 2018.

Jon Rogers, “Disco Biscuits: What are Quaaludes, what are the side effects of the drugs and was Richard Carpenter addicted to them?” [The Sun](#), June 29, 2018.

Allison Graves, “PolitiFact: Politician overplays role of southern border in opioid crisis,” [PolitiFact](#), June 7, 2018.

Maia Szalavitz, “America’s rich and powerful have permission slips to get high,” [Vice](#), May 21, 2018.

John Kiernan, “Ask the experts: Dealing with our Drug Problems,” [WalletHub](#), May 14, 2018.

The opioid crisis, [*The Whole Truth With David Eisenhower*](#), May 13, 2018.

Kimberly Leonard, “Can Washington fix the opioid crisis?” [*Washington Examiner*](#), April 15, 2018.

Jon Kelvey, “How advertising shaped the first opioid epidemic,” [*Smithsonian*](#), April 3, 2018.

Katelyn Newman, “Injecting a solution,” [*US News and World Report*](#), April 3, 2018.

Maia Szalavitz, “The mystery of the terrifying Xanax resurgence in America,” [*Vice*](#), March 28, 2018.

Kimberly Leonard, “Charges for drug dealers rise as Trump calls for tougher actions,” [*Washington Examiner*](#), March 20, 2018.

Ed Cara, “Experts aren’t buying into Trump’s proposed opioid plan,” [*Gizmodo*](#), March 15, 2018.

Rachel Connolly, “Deadly fentanyl behind America’s dramatic doubling of synthetic opioid death rates,” [*The Telegraph*](#), January 31, 2018.

Brad Jones, “US life expectancy at birth drops for second consecutive year,” [*Futurism*](#), December 26, 2017.

Letizia Adams, “Heroin has never discriminated,” [*Vice*](#), June 14, 2017.

Harry Low and Tom Heyden, “The rise and fall of Quaaludes,” [*BBC News Magazine*](#), July 9, 2015.

Louis Menand, “Head case,” [*The New Yorker*](#), March 1, 2010.

Talks

(moderator) “The Civil Rights Movement in Buffalo: Looking Back, Looking Ahead: A Panel Discussion Including George K. Arthur, Frank Messiah, Mozella Richardson, Florence Baugh, and Michael Henley.” Buffalo and Erie County Historical Society, May 10, 2011

(with Steve Peraza) “‘We Shall Not Be Moved’: A Slide Show and Discussion of the History of the Buffalo Municipal Housing Authority’s Segregation and Reform.” Commodore Perry Public Housing Project, April 5, 2011.

“New Deal Cultural Policies,” Buffalo Public Library Digital Humanities Program, Buffalo Central Public Library, October 21, 2010

(with Steve Peraza) “‘We Shall Not Be Moved’: A Slide Show and Discussion of the History of the Buffalo Municipal Housing Authority’s Segregation and Reform.” Frank E. Merriweather, Jr. Public Library, April 22, 2010.

SERVICE

Departmental

Chair, Diversity Committee, 2019-2023; Committee member, 2023-Graduate Committee, 2007-2010, 2012-2015; 2019-2020; Fall 2024-Chair, Search Committee, Science, Health, or Disability in South Asia or Latin America, 2023-2024

Co-Chair, Search Committees, Health, Disability, or Science in Africa / Asia / Latin America, 2022-2023
Speakers Committee, 2022-2023
Search Committee, Lockwood Latinx History Chair, 2021-2022
Clinical Line Hiring Committee, Spring 2018
Ad Hoc Committee on Awards, 2017-
Executive Committee, 2008-2010, 2012-2016
Ad Hoc Committee on Tenure and Promotion Standards, 2017
Director of the Masters Program, 2012-2015
Undergraduate Committee, 2005-2007; 2010-2011
Search Committee, Early American historian, 2010-2011; 2011-2012
Chair of Library Committee, 2010-2011
Committee on the promotional process, 2007-2008
Search Committee, 19th century U.S. historian, 2006-2007

University

Director, Drugs, Health and Society Program, 2018-
Director of Education and Executive Board, Clinical and Research Institute on Addictions (CRIA), 2018-
Co-Director, Humanities Institute Science in Society Workshop, 2020-
PhD Excellence Initiative Oversight Committee, 2020
PhD Excellence Initiative Bridge Committee, 2019-2020
Conference review committee, Baldy Center for Law and Social Policy, 2018-2020
Addictions Initiative Education Committee, 2016-2018
HI Seed Money/OPRED Review Committee, 2017-2018
UB Center for Medical Humanities Steering Committee, 2013-
Baldy Center for Law and Social Policy, Conference Review Committee, 2013-14

Professional

Local Arrangements Chair, American Association for the History of Medicine 2026 annual meeting
Co-Editor-in-Chief, *Social History of Alcohol and Drugs: An Interdisciplinary Journal*, 2017-
National Advisory Committee, Opioid Industry Documents Archives, Johns Hopkins University and University of California, San Francisco, 2021-
Executive Committee Member, Alcohol and Drug History Society, 2016-
Local Arrangements Chair, Alcohol and Drug History Society 2024 biennial meeting
Co-Chair, Program Committee, American Association for the History of Medicine 2023 annual meeting
Chair, Nominating Committee, American Association for the History of Medicine, 2020-2022
Member, Drug Policy Alliance, “Beyond Prohibition: Toward the Legal Regulation of Drugs,” Opioid Working Group, 2020
Member, Drug Enforcement Agency Museum Advisory Committee, 2019-2020

Board Member, American Institute for the History of Pharmacy, 2013-2019
Book manuscript referee for: Chatto & Pickering Publishers, Columbia University Press, Duke University Press, Johns Hopkins University Press, MIT Press, Northern Illinois University Press, Oxford University Press, Reaktion Press, Rutgers University Press, University of California Press, University of Chicago Press, University of North Carolina Press, University of Pennsylvania Press, University of Wisconsin Press, Verso Press
Article manuscript referee for: *American Journal of Preventive Medicine; American Journal of Public Health, American Quarterly, American Studies, BioSocieties, Bulletin of the History of Medicine, Configurations; Contemporary Drug Problems; Drugs and Alcohol Today; Drugs, Habits, and Social Policy, International Journal of Drug Policy; Journal of American History, Journal of American Studies, Journal of Policy History, MDAdvisor, 49th Parallel; Science; Social Science and Medicine.*
Tenure and promotion referee for: University of Michigan; University of Kentucky; Brock University; D'Youville College; UC Santa Barbara; UC Santa Cruz; Oklahoma State University
Reviewer for National Institute of Health / National Library of Medicine G13: Grants for Scholarly Works in Biomedicine and Health, 2011-2013, 2016, 2019
George M. Rosen Prize Committee, American Association for the History of Medicine, 2018-2019
J. Worth Estes Prize Committee, American Association for the History of Medicine, 2016-2017
Guest Editor, themed special issues of *Social History of Alcohol and Drugs* (“Boundaries in the worlds of drugs, alcohol, and medicines,” Summer 2012, and “Gender and critical drug studies,” Fall 2017) and *Contemporary Drug Problems* (“Gender and critical drug studies,” Fall 2017)
Pressman-Burroughs Award committee for American Association for the History of Medicine (2010-12; Chair, 2013)
Grant assessor for: The Wellcome Trust (UK); Social Sciences and Humanities Research Council (Canada); European Research Council (ERC)
Consultant for Capstone Publishing (for middle-school-age book on opioids)

Community

Teaching American History project with Buffalo Public Schools, 2008-2010
Historical consultant for Erie County Fair Housing Partnership, 2009-

COURSES TAUGHT

History 162: U.S. Since Civil War
History 199: Bad Medicine: Race and the Tuskegee Syphilis Study
History 240: Alcohol and Other Drugs in American History
History 329: Post-1945 U.S. History
History 331: Drugs and Global Capitalism
History 395: Post-1945 U.S. Popular Culture

History 401: Alcohol & Other Drugs in American History
History 447: History of Health and Illness in America
History 503: American Core II
History 550: Post-1945 U.S. Cultural History
History 551: Health and Illness in American History
History 563: The Politics of Drugs in the U.S.
History 630: 20th Century U.S. Research

THESES DIRECTED

Doctoral

Primary committee director

Andrew Pothier, Communities of addiction care in the Adirondacks
(Co-Chair w/ Michael Rembis) Ryan Adams, Chicano mental health activism (left program ABD)
Richard Deverell, “The Comics Code Authority: Mass-Media Censorship in Postwar America” (completed 2020)
Colin Eager, “The coming parent revolution: Mothers, children, and alcohol in Reagan’s America” (completed 2019)
Kevin Ryan; “Catholic Liberal Interracialism in the Archdiocese of Chicago in the 1960s and 1970s” (completed 2016)
Mike Durfee, “Crack Era Reform: A Brief History of Crack and the Rise of the Carceral State, 1985-1992” (completed 2015)

On committee

Emily Seger (completed Spring 2025)
Eric Deutsch (completed June 2023)
[[external examiner]] Erin Brown, “You Go to My Head: Women’s Prescription Pill Use in Postwar America” (Western University, Canada, completed August 2022)
Shuko Tamao, “Memories of Asylums: A Narrative Examination of Postwar State Hospital Experiences” (completed April 2020)
Maria Daxenbichler, “Knowing the Uterus: The Role of Obstetrics, Gynecology, and Abortion, in the Professionalization of American Medicine, 1880-1920” (completed March 2020)
Jeffrey Kohler, “Sheriff of Camelot” (completed 2015)
Joe Wilton; “British Advertising and Images of National Identity, 1900-1930”
John Burdick (American Studies Dep’t); “Eating Ethnic: Cross-Racial Encounters, Cosmopolitan Whiteness and the Senses, 1964-Present” (completed 2018)
Frankie Weaver; “Culture against Apartheid: Solidarity from the United States to the Struggle for Freedom in South Africa, 1948-1994” (completed 2012)
Skylar Harris, “‘The House I Live In’: Bodies & Healthcare in the Delaware Valley, 1800-1920” (left program w/o degree)
Tina Kibbe, “In ‘Fitness’ and In Health: Eugenics, Public Health, and Marriage in the United States” (completed 2012)

Ronald Batt, "Emergence of Endometriosis in North America: A Study in the History of Ideas" (completed 2010)

Terrianne Schulte, "Grassroots and Environmental Activism in the Great Lakes: 1960s & 1970s" (completed 2007)

On prelim committee

McKensie Sprow, 2024 (minor field)

Andrew Pothier, 2024 (history of alcohol and drugs)

Emily Seger, 2020 (major field)

Steven Burciaga, 2020 (history of medicine)

Richard Deverell, 2018 (cultural history)

Shuko Tamao, 2017 (major field)

Maria Daxenbichler, 2016 (history of medicine)

Elizabeth Masarik, 2015 (major field)

Colin Eager, 2012 (research field—global alcohol)

John Burdick, 2011 (topical field—U.S. cultural)

Kevin Ryan, 2011 (research field—U.S. urban history)

Mike Durfee, 2011 (research field—U.S. history of medicine)

Jeffrey Kohler, 2011 (major field)

Steve Peraza, 2010 (major field)

Jenny Nickeson (major field)

Billy Pritchard (major field)

Tina Kibbe (major field)

Mark Lempke (major field)

Frankie Weaver (topical field—U.S. cultural)

Masters

Eliza Medearis (2025), *Drugs Health and Society program*

Emilee Schalk (2025), *Drugs Health and Society program*

Matthew Fitzsimmons (2025), *Drugs Health and Society program*

Kyle Weinsheimer (2025-2026), TBD

Fatima Azeem (2024-2025), *Drugs Health and Society program*

Olivia Kowalski (2024- 2025), *Drugs Health and Society Program*

Will Wood (2024-2025), "Latinas in the National Women's Conferences of the 1970s"

Sam Kaneria (2023-2024), "US and Soviet attitudes towards Cuba during the Cold War"

Zachary Goodrich (2022-2023), Buffalo canal workers

Laylah Batroney (2022-2023), Black Panthers in Black and White

Michael Taylor (2015-2016), "Freedom or Moral Authority?: The Catholic Church in Western New York in the 1970s"

Elizabeth Masarik (2013-2014): "Por La Raza, Para La Raza": Jovita Idar and Progressive Era Mexicana Political Maternalism along the Texas-Mexican Border, 1910-1917

Will Koch (2013-14): "Old World Evasions and Chicanery:" Isolationist Senators' Distrust of the European Powers and their Views on the World Court, 1926-1935

Heather Majchrzak (2012-2013): “‘Housing Opportunities Made Equal Means More than Open Housing’: One organization’s struggle for fair housing in Buffalo, New York”

Brienne Bellinger (2011-2012): “New York State Asylum Policy at the Turn of the 20th Century”

Daniel Fisk (2010-2011); “Africa State of Mind: African American Identity Formation in the Early 1960s”

Denise Stacks (2010-12); “‘Dick, the President Has Had a Coronary:’ Vice President Richard M. Nixon and the Importance of a Crisis Moment in Making a Politician a Leader, January 1954 to November 1957”

Melissa Cerrone (2010-11); “Foreign Fashion and American Advertising: Influences on Femininity in Buffalo, New York in the 1950s”

Vinnie Alcazaren (2010-11); “City of Good Neighbors?: The Citizens’ Council for Human Relations Fight Against the De Jure Segregation of the Buffalo Public Schools Between 1963-1976”

Elhanna Porter (2009-10); [federal response to “juvenile delinquency” in postwar era; never completed]

Dennis Collins (2009-10); “The Influence of the Print Media on the Public’s Perception of Campus Unrest at the University at Buffalo between February and May of 1970”

Justin Cavanaugh (2009-10); [addicted physicians on film & television in postwar U.S.; never completed]

Kevin Ryan (2008-9); “Manufacturing a Framework: The Printed News Media and the Rise of Modern Conservatism”

Tim Olewniczak (2007-8); “Giggle Water on the Niagara: Rum Runners, Homebrewers, Remixers and their Social Implications during Alcohol Prohibition in Buffalo, 1920-1933”

Lou Battaglia (2007-8); “Margins and the Mainstream: Disco, Punk, and Hip-Hop in the pages of *Rolling Stone*”

Connie Summers (2006-7); [school desegregation in Buffalo; never completed]

Matthew Rogers (2006-7); “Urban Thematic Evolution: A Walk Through the Buffalo Commercial District through the Decades”

Sarah Johnson (2006-7); “The Decline of Domesticity: Middle Class Identity in the *Ladies Home Journal*, 1915-1930”

Christopher Vaughan (2005-6); “Defacing the Traditional Foundations of Higher Education: A New Perspective on the Causes of Campus Unrest at SUNY at Buffalo, 1964-1967”

Michael Herway (2005-6); “Gangsta Rap and African American Folklore: Blacks, Whites, and the Creation of Black Heroes”

Undergraduate

Jake Wojtowicz, [LA punk scene 1980s] (2025-2026)

Ryan Cocchiarella, Media, drugs, and their role in shaping memory of the Vietnam War (2022-2023), *Winner, Department of History Undergraduate Thesis Prize*

Tristan Sanders, “An examination of the Congressional hearing ‘Medical Necessity: From theory to practice,’ for understanding the status of patients’ rights in 1998” (2019-2020)

Benjamin Cyrulnik, “Chasing Chemical Nirvana: Orientalism in psychedelic crusaders” (2019-2020)

Amanda Pursell, “Pizzagate 1.0: The Satanic Ritual Abuse Panic of the 1980s” (2018-2019)

Charlee Strangia, “The politics of universal healthcare reform in postwar US” (2017-18)

Tyler Colosa, “The other wonder drugs in America: Madison Avenue’s effect on selling psychoactive prescription drugs 1961-1965” (2017-18)

Lauren Wehner, “Cold War Ideology or Corporate Profit?: The Motivations Behind the ‘Movietime U.S.A.’ Tours, 1951-1952” (2014-15)

Anthony Sole, “Black Tar/White Powder: Race, Class, Gender, and Heroin in New York and San Francisco 1966-77” (2014-15)

Vanessa Frith, “Redlining and Its Effects on Buffalo, NY” (2011-12)

Kyle Cox, “Assessing Drug Scares: Film Influence on Federal Drug Legislation” (2010-11)

Malerie Staskiewicz, “Ritalin and Race in the 1970s” (2008-09)

Laurie Murphy, “Fighting the Mental War: The Issue of Race and Military Psychiatry in World War II” (2008-09)