

MAY 2022

HEALTH & SOCIETY



Message from the Director

Congratulations on making through another challenging year! While life on campus has returned to something resembling normal, we continue to grapple with the impacts of the pandemic on all aspects of our lives. Across the globe, there have been more than 500 million coronavirus cases, causing the loss of over 6.1 million people. In the U.S., we have lost over 990,000 people to COVID-19, placing us second in the world for the greatest number of deaths per 100,000 people. We also know the pandemic has not affected all populations equally. In the U.S., communities of color continue to be disproportionately impacted in terms of case rates and deaths. These are sobering data, and we mourn all those who have lost their lives to this pandemic.

While the pandemic continues to impact our daily lives, we are also aware of other pressing issues that shape health and wellbeing. This year, the Health and Society program co-sponsored events related to the climate crisis through the Bellarmine Forum on Climate Change, Justice, and Health. Several speakers highlighted the inextricable links between the environment and health, including Farhana Sultana, David Pellow, Nadia Kim, Jade Sasser, and Beth Sawin, all of whom touched on various aspects of climate justice. There is no doubt that climate change will continue to disrupt our lives and affect our health in the decades to come. Health and Society minors will be well positioned to help as we adapt to these changing conditions.

This year we were delighted to select Health and Society minors Denise Espinoza and Annie Heckman as the inaugural Barreto Fellows. Denise and Annie worked hard on independent research projects and presented their findings at the annual Undergraduate Research Symposium (see page 12 for details).

In closing, I want to thank the current HEAS advisory committee members, Carla Bittel, Inas Kelly, Mikki Kressbach, and Mairead Sullivan for their help this year. I also want to welcome Amada Apgar as our Acting Director for the 2022-2023 academic year. Dr. Apgar is an Assistant Professor in the Department of Women's and Gender Studies who does research and teaching in disability studies. She has deep knowledge of the program and is committed to advancing our goals.

-Rachel Washburn

CONTENTS

- New Acting Director
- Reflections from Graduates
- Ellen Carol Barreto Fellowship
- 2021-2022 Barreto Fellows
- Student Research
- Faculty Spotlight
- Fall 2022 Course Offerings
- Past Events
- Listing of Faculty Teaching in the Program

New Acting Director: Dr. Amanda Apgar

We are delighted to announce **Dr. Amanda Apgar** as Acting Director of the Health and Society program for the 2022-2023 academic year while Dr. Rachel Washburn is away on sabbatical.

Dr. Apgar received a PhD in Gender Studies from UCLA in 2018. Her research explores health and the body through work in feminist disability studies, feminist science and technology studies, queer theory, and sexuality studies. In her forthcoming book, *The Disabled Child: Memoirs of a Normal Future* (University of Michigan Press), she examines memoirs about raising children with disabilities and demonstrates the structural underpinnings of gender, class, and race privilege in positive portrayals of disability. Dr. Apgar is also the author of several articles exploring the body, disability, gender, sexuality, and racism. At LMU, she teaches courses on gender, sexuality, disability, body theory, memoir, and autism.

You can reach her at amanda.apgar@lmu.edu.



Reflections from Graduates

We reached out to graduating Health and Society minors to get their thoughts on the minor and to learn about their post-grad plans.



Molly Brown

Major: Psychology

Minor: Health and Society

Q: Why did you decide to minor in Health and Society?

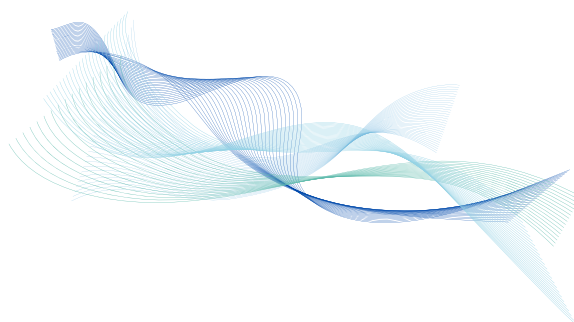
Molly: I decided to minor in Health and Society because I had a strong interest in how social arrangements shape an individual's health and access. Also the minor offered a unique set of courses to choose from including Psychology, Biology, Film and TV, Sociology, and more.

Q: What has been the most impactful aspect of the minor for you?

Molly: The most impactful aspect of the minor for me was being able to participate in classes that gave me a background for health-based internships. I was able to land a Market Curriculum Development role as well as a Sustainability internship using material I learned from HEAS. This allowed me to have a fairly smooth transition into post-grad plans and afforded me more knowledge to apply to my HEAS classes.

Q: What are your post-grad plans?

Molly: I will be going into business development at Oracle.



Reflections from Graduates



Gus Gant

Major: Psychology

Minor: Health and Society

Q: Why did you decide to minor in Health and Society?

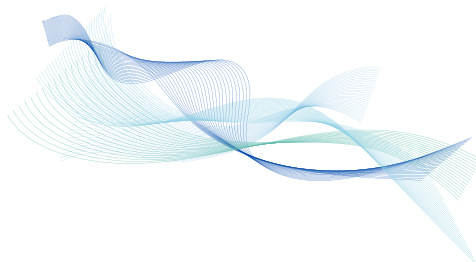
Gus: The Health and Society minor interested me as I saw it was an interesting way to further analyze the ways in which societal factors such as the environment, location, and varying forms of personal identification can all interact and influence one's health. These personal factors are often underplayed in their significance in their relation to health, so I thought this minor would be a great opportunity to further investigate this interaction.

Q: What has been the most impactful aspect of the minor for you?

Gus: The most impactful aspect of the minor would be the class I most recently took with Dr. Washburn, Environments, Bodies, and the Climate Crisis. This class really helped reinforce the significance of the climate crisis that our planet faces, while viewing the impacts and discussions of climate change through a variety of different lenses. This class has left a lasting imprint of the challenges that face ahead, while also discussing different possibilities for solutions at the individual, group, and governmental levels.

Q: What are your post-grad plans?

Gus: Currently my post grad plans are not set in stone. I do plan to apply to Graduate programs for clinical psychology either next fall or in the spring, and eventually to begin working as a clinical therapist. In the meantime I hope to find a job within the psychology or health field in order to bolster my professional experience, I also hope to return to volunteer work that I began in the beginning of the pandemic for Crisis Text Line. Initially after graduation I hope to travel, seeing new areas the world and to pursue personal growth. Specifically achieving a bucket list goal of completing the Camino de Santiago.



Reflections from Graduates



Jack Gutell

Major: Philosophy

Minor: Health and Society

Q: Why did you decide to minor in Health and Society?

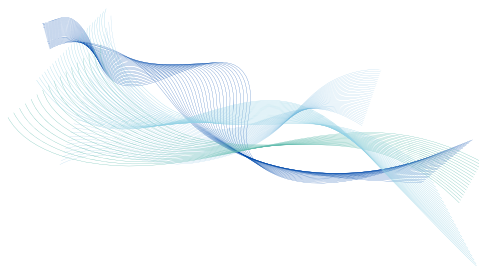
Jack: I took the intro to Health and Society class my freshman year and was intrigued by how many different disciplines this minor looks at health in. I saw this minor as an opportunity to learn about health and current issues in our society through many different lenses. This also allowed me to take classes in other areas of study I would not have had the opportunity to.

Q: What has been the most impactful aspect of the minor for you?

Jack: The most impactful part of the minor was my current class on the climate crisis. This class showed me the full extent of climate issues while also offering perspectives for change and how to view the disastrous situation we are currently facing. I found this to be impactful before graduating to move into the world with the environment as a main concern.

Q: What are your post-grad plans?

Jack: I plan to stay here in LA while working. I will just be taking some time to get experience before applying to graduate school. I am unsure of where I want to go, but the HEAS courses have given me valuable information and insights to take into any field.



Reflections from Graduates



Annie Heckman

Major: Biochemistry

Minor: Health and Society

Q: Why did you decide to minor in Health and Society?

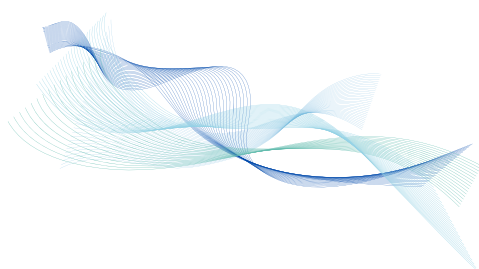
Annie: I decided to major in Health and Society because I was interested in learning about health through a broader lens. When I entered college, I knew that I was interested in global public health and medicine. However, I was unsure how I could integrate my major in Biochemistry with a more sociological perspective on health. The Health and Society minor gave me a way to integrate my studies in biochemistry with the study of health on a larger scale.

Q: What has been the most impactful aspect of the minor for you?

Annie: The most impactful aspect of the minor has been the research I have conducted under the mentorship of Dr. Rachel Washburn. For two years, I have interviewed refugees and people who work with refugees to understand barriers that new arrivals face in accessing healthcare in the United States. This research has been very impactful because it has helped me to learn about qualitative research while also helping to guide my future career goals within medicine and public health.

Q: What are your post-grad plans?

Annie: After I graduate, I will be traveling to Indonesia to teach English with the Fulbright program. Upon my return, I will apply to medical school. I intend to pursue a MD and MPH, with the ultimate goal of working as a family physician in medically underserved communities both in the United States and abroad.



Reflections from Graduates



Maeve Phalen

Major: Psychology

Minor: Health and Society

Q: Why did you decide to minor in Health and Society?

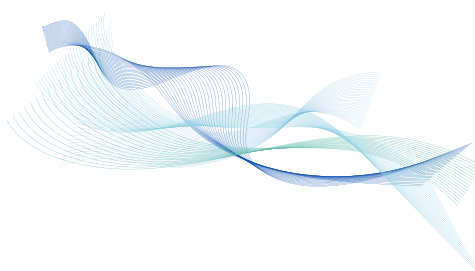
Maeve: I decided to minor in Health and Society after taking the Introduction to Health and Society class. I was fascinated by the connection between Sociology and Healthcare and wanted to further my education in this area by adding the minor.

Q: What has been the most impactful aspect of the minor for you?

Maeve: The most impactful aspect of the minor would be taking the class, Communications in Healthcare. As a Psychology major it was exciting to have access to a course in the communications department. I would not have had access to the wide variety of courses involving healthcare without the health and society minor. Everything I learned through the classes in the minor have provided me with a wide range of knowledge on healthcare systems which will aid in my future career as a therapist.

Q: What are your post-grad plans?

Maeve: I will be pursuing a career in therapy by receiving my Masters in Marriage and Family Therapy in the fall of 2022. I have not heard back from all the schools I applied to yet, but I have been accepted into a few programs already.



Reflections from Graduates



Jessica Knapick

Major: Health and Human Sciences

Minor: Health and Society

Q: Why did you decide to minor in Health and Society?

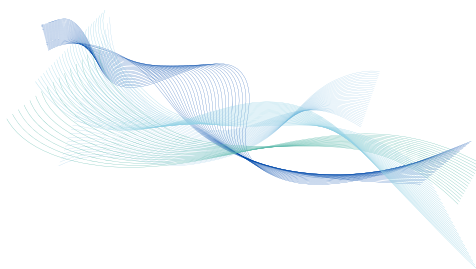
Jessica: I decided to add the minor because I have always been interested in how health and society are interconnected. I felt through this minor I could get a perspective that my major classes, HHSC, would not provide me.

Q: What has been the most impactful aspect of the minor for you?

Jessica: The most impactful part of the minor for me was learning about the definition of health. Before adding the minor I always thought of health as only mental and physical and didn't think of aspects like social, economic, or environmental. Learning about other areas of health has made me take a more holistic approach to situations concerning health.

Q: What are your post-grad plans?

Jessica: I plan to move back to Seattle and work virtually for the Oregon branch of The Public Interest Group. Where I will be the campaign associate lobbying the legislature to expand healthcare and lowering drug cost.



Reflections from Graduates



Lauryn Vaughn

Major: International Relations

Minor: Health and Society

Q: Why did you decide to minor in Health and Society?

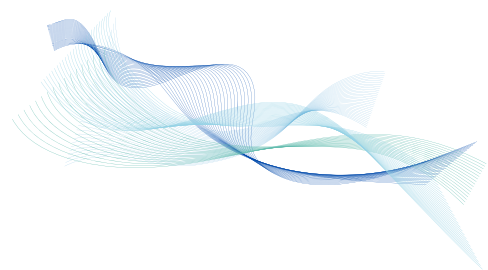
Lauryn: I decided to minor in Health and Society because I liked that it approached the topic of health from various social perspectives. Furthermore, I appreciated that this minor was cross-disciplinary and allowed me to take classes outside of my normal academic realm. I've also witnessed many health disparities living in the United States and internationally and I knew that the Health and Society minor would provide an opportunity to better examine and understand these inequities.

Q: What has been the most impactful aspect of the minor for you?

Lauryn: The most impactful aspect of this minor was analyzing the ways in which health outcomes and resources differ across certain communities, specifically communities of color. In addition to that, it was very rewarding to gain experience forming potential solutions to these health issues at different societal levels.

Q: What are your post-grad plans?

Lauryn: After graduation, I will be entering the field of Human Resources working for a legal tech company in the Bay Area.



Reflections from Graduates



Reece Zurfluh

Major: Health and Human Sciences

Minor: Health and Society

Q: Why did you decide to minor in Health and Society?

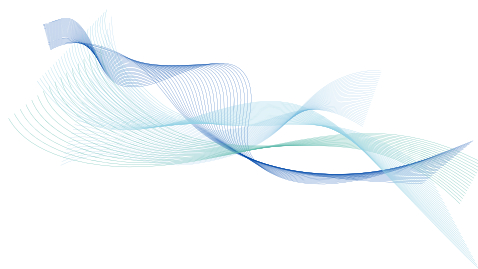
Reece: I chose to minor in Health & Society for the exact benefit I ended up receiving, which was more experiences outside of my department; getting the opportunity to look from different perspectives and subdisciplines of the medical field.

Q: What has been the most impactful aspect of the minor for you?

Reece: The Science, Medicine, & Media course with Dr. Mikki Kressbach, while now relatively distant in my academic career, was one of the brightest points of my pandemic life and particularly influential in shaping the way that I view how technological impacts our understanding of medicine, from the stage of both patient and provider.

Q: What are your post-grad plans?

Reece: In the coming Summer of 2022, I plan to apply to graduate education for both medical school and podiatry. With respect to medical school, I will be applying primarily osteopathic with a healthy sprinkle of allopathic. I also plan to reinstate my job at Sameday Health - aiding in COVID testing and the pursuit of a more holistic/personable/accessible approach to wellness medicine - while continuing my position as a medical scribe with Cedars-Sinai's Kerlan-Jobe Institute for Orthopedics.



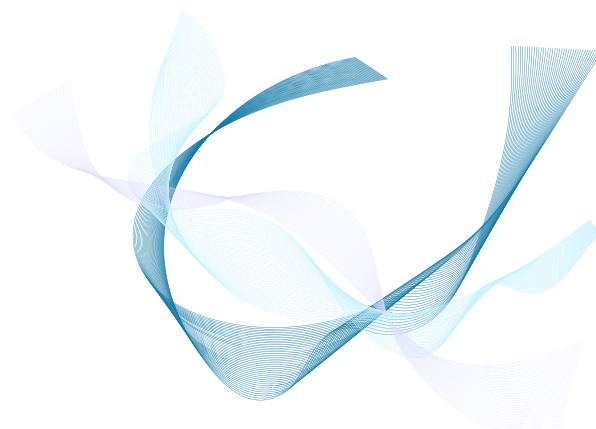
Ellen Carol Barreto Research Fellowship

In April 2021, the **Ellen Carol Barreto Research Fellowship in Health and Society** was created to honor the life and legacy of Ellen C. Barreto by supporting student-initiated research projects that contribute to knowledge on the social foundations of health, broadly defined. Ellen Barreto was a devoted spouse and mother to Lizzie Copulsky (class of 2014) who cared deeply about education, social justice, and women's health. Among Ellen's final wishes was to create a lasting opportunity for women, first-generation students and others to carry out independent research and benefit from the close mentorship of Health and Society faculty.



Ellen Carol Barreto

The deadline for 2022-2023 applications is May 2, 2022. For more information, please email Health and Society Director, Rachel Washburn at rachel.washburn@lmu.edu.



Announcing the 2021-2022 Barreto Fellows: Denise Espinoza & Annie Heckman



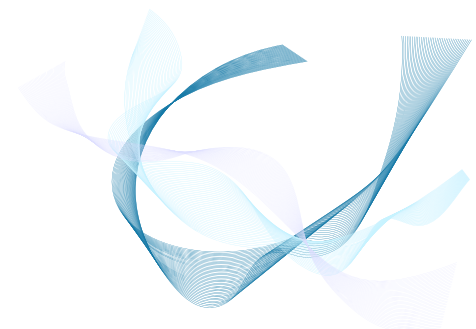
Denise Espinoza
Major: Sociology
Minor: Health and Society

I am a research scholar born and raised in Inglewood, California. Since my freshman year, I have collaborated and worked closely with Dr. Rob Cancio in the Veteran and Military Family Research Laboratory (Rains Research Assistant Award at LMU; 2020 LMU Summer Undergraduate Research Award). Under Dr. Cancio's direction I have conducted many PRISMA models in order to map out: intimate partner violence (IPV), substance use, and mental health among military populations; I focused on female and LGBTQ+ perpetrator populations. Furthermore, I am well versed in the public health and IPV literature that focuses on family violence correlates and risk factors in heterosexual and interracial military relationships. My previous scholarship has been recognized at the 2020 LMU Undergraduate Research Symposium where I received first place for oral presentation and I am in the process of publishing with the Journal of Interpersonal Violence. In addition, I was accepted for two presentations at the American Society of Criminology and one for the Pacific Sociological Association. My early field contributions have allowed me to be elected to the American Public Health Association as the student liaison for the Alcohol, Tobacco, and Other Drugs section. In addition, I was a fellow for the 2020 Predoctoral Summer Institute for First-Generation and Diverse Scholars at USC.



Annie Heckman
Major: Biochemistry
Minor: Health and Society

From May 2020 - May 2021, I worked with a refugee resettlement agency as a health education intern, where I introduced refugees to the health care system in the U.S. This experience piqued my interest in challenges that refugees face in accessing health care upon their arrival to the U.S. From this interest, I participated in independent research where I interviewed refugees about their experiences with the U.S. health care system. During my senior year, I will continue this research to culminate in my senior honors thesis project. After I graduate, I plan on attending medical school with the goal of working with medically underserved communities in a primary care setting.



Student Research: Racial Bias in Pulse Oximetry

Daisy Huerta, Junior Biology Major has conducted independent study research in Health and Society to understand how flaws in pulse oximetry based on skin tone have been framed in news media and the scientific literature. She presented her findings at the 2022 Undergraduate Research Symposium.



Daisy Huerta
Major: Biology

Q: What attracted you to this topic?

Daisy: I actually became aware of this topic on a Tik Tok by a medical student that has a page focused on healthcare disparities. I thought it was a really interesting topic since I have never heard about this issue for pulse oximeters. Pulse oximeters are used on such a wide-spread basis, so it is intriguing to me how this device is so commonly used despite its potential inaccuracies. As a first-generation Latina and aspiring physician, this topic is important to me, for I wish to be aware of any healthcare discrepancies that may be predominantly affecting minority populations, and I wish to be aware of this to educate myself and even my future patients and healthcare colleagues to promote optimal patient care.

Q: What have you found most interesting about doing the research?

Daisy: I have found the difference between clinical and statistical significance very interesting. This is not the main theme of my research, but I think it is something interesting to think about. Something that is statistically significant does not necessarily mean there is a clinical difference that affects healthcare and patients, and these differences in meaning may contribute to the small quantity of scientific research and the potential bias observed in pulse oximetry.

Q: What have you found so far?

Daisy: In news articles, the dominant story that flawed devices, approved by the FDA, demonstrates racial inequalities, especially for Black patients in the USA. On the contrary, science articles frame the issue as a pigmentation bias, and, although the FDA and the term race are mentioned in these texts, they are not the primary focus of the story. Racial inequalities is a theme that is not discussed in scientific literature with respect to pulse oximetry.

This summer, I will focus on developing this work into a manuscript for publication.



Faculty Spotlight: Dr. Mairead Sullivan

Dr. Mairead Sullivan is an Assistant Professor in the Department of Women's and Gender Studies and teaches courses in the Health and Society minor.



Dr. Mairead Sullivan
Women's & Gender Studies

Q: What are your research and teaching interests?

MS: My research and teaching interests cross through queer theory, sexuality studies, and critical health studies. Broadly speaking, I am interested in the interplay between activist work and shifts in medicine, broadly understood. So, for example, in my first book, I have a chapter about the histories of lesbian breast cancer activism and their overlap and strategizing with HIV/AIDS activists. In my next book project, I explore the cultural history of the herpes virus, with a special attention to feminist and queer health activism.

Q: How did you become interested in your area of research?

MS: My interest in this current work has really been percolating since I was an undergrad. In undergrad, I was a Theology Major with a concentration in Women's Studies. After my undergrad, I worked for many years in community and public health, particularly in the disability community and LGBTQ community. So, my current work really brings together the interests in feminist and queer theory that I developed as an undergrad and the on the ground public health work I was doing the years between my undergraduate degree and my PhD.

Q: What are you working on now? What excites you most about your current project?

MS: I am currently working on my second book project which is a cultural history of the herpes virus. This is an especially interesting project that follows the herpes virus from feminist health activism in the 1970s through the shift of "know your status" safe sex frameworks in the wake of the AIDS crisis and to today's various cultural anxieties around vaccines. I have been working on this project since before the covid pandemic but the context of the covid crisis has certainly changed many of the ways that I am thinking about viruses as well as how prepared my audience will be to understand how virus work.

Q: What are your plans for future research?

MS: always have a few articles that I am working on but right now my primary focus is on my next book project.

Q: What do you like most about teaching at LMU?

MS: My favorite thing about teaching at LMU is the students. Given our commitment to social justice, I feel like I am often letting students down because I do not have easy answers to the systems of oppression that continue to plague our world. But, I am forever grateful to share the classroom with students who are committed to grappling with question of justice and who are invested in being people for others.

Fall 2022 Classes

HEAS 2000, Introduction to Health and Society

BIOE 1999, Introduction to Bioethics

CMST 3325, Communication and Healthcare

EVST 3998, Agriculture, Food, and Justice

FTVS 3230, Science, Medicine, and Media

HEAS 4998, Health Law and Policy

HHSC 322, Public Health

PSYC 3998, Poverty and Community Resilience

PSYC 4033, Community Psychology

SOCL 3998, Drugs and Society

URBN 3046, Sustainable Cities

WGST 2998, Women's Bodies, Health, and Sexuality

Past Events: Bellarmine Forum



THE 2021 BELLARMINI FORUM PRESENTS

Climate Change, Justice, and Health

Given the profound impacts of climate change on social and economic systems as well as on human and ecosystem health, the 2021-2022 Bellarmine forum will draw on insights from across disciplines to explore Climate Change, Justice, and Health in both local and global contexts.

2021 FALL SIGNATURE EVENT

Co-sponsored by The William H. Hannon Library

THURSDAY, SEPT. 23, 12:30 P.M. to 2:30 P.M. at The William H. Hannon Library & via Zoom



Dr. Farhana Sultana, Feminist Climate Justice in a World of Crises
Climate change has had unequal and uneven burdens across places whereby the planetary crisis involves a common but differentiated responsibility. The injustices of intensifying climate breakdown, overlapping with injustices from the COVID-19 pandemic, have laid bare the fault lines of suffering across sites and scales. In this talk, Dr. Sultana discusses how and why a feminist climate justice perspective allows for more equitable interventions to be envisioned and co-created for meaningful impacts.



Kemi Ogun, Storm Cloud: Understanding Climate Change Conversations through Historical Sources
Curated by English M.A. student, Kemi Ogun, this exhibition offers an introductory look at the way people have shared their thoughts about weather and their environment and asks us how voices of the past may have informed our contemporary attitudes toward climate. It explores works created by scientists, theologians, artists, scholars, abolitionists, and others.



bellarmine.lmu.edu/bellarminforum

The Bellarmine Forum is an annual celebration of the life of the mind in relation to LHMU's mission and heritage. Learn more about this year's theme by visiting the website.
Image Credit: Ralph Boldt Powell, Graphic Designer from Actual Studio, June 2018

Register at: cal.lmu.edu/event/climatejustice

The 2021-2022 Bellarmine Forum Presents



Navigating Reproductive Justice in the Climate Crisis

WEDNESDAY, APRIL 6, 2022

VIRTUAL | 2:30 P.M.

Some climate scientists describe climate problems as problems of unrestrained population growth. Such discourses align closely with historical narratives blaming the fertility and reproduction of the poor, particularly women of color, for a range of social, political, economic, and environmental problems. In an era of ongoing climate crisis, can movements for reproductive justice and climate justice align? This talk explores the challenging ways population has been blamed for environmental and climate crises and how reproductive justice activists and scholars have resisted. From there, it investigates the possible ways social justice-oriented approaches can help us navigate out of the reductive perspectives of population control.



Jade Sasser is associate professor, Department of Gender & Sexuality Studies at UC Riverside. Her work explores how environmental problems such as climate change and toxic exposures intersect with race and gender—specifically, women of color's bodies, health, rights, and reproductive justice. Her first book, *On Infertile Ground: Population Control and Women's Rights in the Era of Climate Change*, was published in 2018 by NYU Press. Currently Dr. Sasser is engaged in research that explores how racial inequality shapes climate change-related emotions and the desire to parent children, now and in the future.



Register

bellarmine.lmu.edu/bellarminforum

The Bellarmine Forum is an annual celebration of the life of the mind in relation to LHMU's mission and heritage. Learn more about this year's theme by visiting the website.
www.bellarminforum.org

Faculty Teaching in the Program

Dr. Amanda Apgar (amanda.apgar@lmu.edu)
Dept: Women's and Gender Studies
Courses: Women's Bodies, Health, and Sexuality;
Gender and Disability; Refrigerators Moms and Wild
Boys

Dr. Magaela Bethune (magaela.bethune@lmu.edu)
Dept: African American Studies
Courses: Race, Health and Social Justice

Dr. Carla Bittel (carla.bittel@lmu.edu)
Dept: History
Courses: Science, Nature & Society in the West; Health
and Disease in American Culture

Dr. Nicholas Brown (nicholas.brown@lmu.edu)
Dept: Bioethics
Courses: Introduction to Bioethics

Dr. Stacy Burns (stacy.burns@lmu.edu)
Dept. Sociology
Courses: Drugs and Society

Dr. Chris Cappelli (christopher.cappelli@lmu.edu)
Dept: Health and Human Sciences
Courses: Public Health

Dr. Deanna Cooke (deanna.cooke@lmu.edu)
Dept: Psychology
Courses: Poverty and Community Resilience

Dr. Cheryl Grills (cheryl.grills@lmu.edu)
Dept: Psychology
Courses: African and Black Psychology; Community
Psychology

Dr. Cheryl Hertz (cheryl.hertz@lmu.edu)
Dept: Biology
Courses: Epidemics and Infectious Diseases

Dr. Inas Kelly (inas.kelly@lmu.edu)
Dept: Economics
Courses: Health Economics

Dr. Mikki Kressbach (mikki.kressbach@lmu.edu)
Dept: Film and TV Studies
Courses: Science, Medicine, and Digital Media

Dr. Carla Marcantonio (carla.marcantonio@lmu.edu)
Dept: Film and TV Studies
Courses: Science Fiction and Biopolitics

Dr. Anna Muraco (anna.muraco@lmu.edu)
Dept: Sociology
Courses: Sociology of Aging

Dr. Allison Noyes (allison.noyes@lmu.edu)
Dept: Communication Studies
Courses: Communication and Healthcare

Dr. Mona Seymour (mona.seymour@lmu.edu)
Dept: Urban and Environmental Studies
Courses: Agriculture, Food, and Justice; Sustainable
Cities

Dr. Mairead Sullivan (mairead.sullivan@lmu.edu)
Dept: Women's and Gender Studies
Courses: Women's Bodies, Health, and Sexualities

Dr. Heather Tarleton (heather.tarleton@lmu.edu)
Dept: Health and Human Sciences
Courses: Public Health; Health Services for
Marginalized Populations; Healthcare Administration

Dr. Rachel Washburn (rachel.washburn@lmu.edu)
Dept: Sociology; Health and Society
Courses: Introduction to Health and Society; Sociology
of Health, Illness, and Biomedicine; Environments,
Bodies, and the Climate Crisis

Congratulations Seniors!

We wish you all the best as you embark on new pursuits and adventures.

For more information about the Health and Society program please contact Rachel Washburn at rachel.washburn@lmu.edu or Amanda Apgar at amanda.apgar@lmu.edu