

DANIELLE SPENCER

BIO

Danielle Spencer, Ph.D., is the author of *Metagnosis: Revelatory Narratives of Health and Identity* (Oxford University Press, 2021) and co-author of Perkins-Prize-winning *The Principles and Practice of Narrative Medicine* (OUP, 2017). Senior Lecturer in the Discipline of Narrative Medicine at Columbia University in New York, her scholarly and creative work appears in diverse outlets, from *The Lancet* to *Ploughshares*. She is the Editor of the Anthem Studies in Narrative and Health Humanities book series and an Associate Editor of *Literature and Medicine*. Formerly artist/musician David Byrne's Art Director, Spencer holds a B.A. from Yale University, an M.S. in Narrative Medicine from Columbia University, and a Ph.D. from Johannes Gutenberg University Mainz, and has been awarded fellowships at MacDowell and Yaddo.

www.daniellespencer.com

EDUCATION

Johannes Gutenberg University Mainz, Ph.D. 2018: American Studies

Dissertation: *Blindsight: Diagnosing and Treating "Discovering Difference,"*
awarded Summa Cum Laude. Thesis advisor: Prof. Dr. Mita Banerjee

Columbia University, M.S. 2012: Narrative Medicine

Narrative Medicine Fellowship Award

Yale University, B.A. 1996

Studio Art major, Humanities concentration
Editor-in-Chief, *Yale Literary Magazine* (est.1836)

PUBLICATIONS

BOOKS

[Metagnosis: Revelatory Narratives of Health and Identity](#). New York: Oxford University Press, 2021.
[OUP](#)

[Drifting Out to Infinity](#). Danielle Spencer. Boston: Ploughshares, 2019. [PDF](#)

[The Principles and Practice of Narrative Medicine](#). Rita Charon, Sayantani DasGupta, Nellie Hermann, Craig Irvine, Eric Marcus, Edgar Rivera Colón, Danielle Spencer, Maura Spiegel. New York: Oxford University Press, 2017. *Winner of the 2019 International Society for the Study of Narrative Perkins Prize for the most significant book on narrative published in 2017. Translated into Japanese, French, Polish, Chinese, Greek, and Korean.* [OUP](#)

CONTACT

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Updated 10 May 2025

ARTICLES + CHAPTERS

“**Logan: Generic Mutancy in the X-Verse.**” *Transformation and Metamorphosis in Popular Culture: Transformative Scenes*, edited by Sophia Staite, Routledge, 2025 [In press].

“**Everyone is a Tomato: Metagnostic Narratives of Genetic Revelation.**” *American Journal of Medical Genetics Part C: Seminars in Medical Genetics*, 2024, e32118. [PDF](#)

“**Illness Narratives: From Analysis to Answerability.**” Danielle Spencer and Arthur Frank. *Handbook on the Sociology of Health and Medicine*, edited by Alan Petersen, Edward Elgar, 2023, 124–137. [PDF](#)

“**Narrative Medicine: The Book at the Gates of Biomedicine.**” *The Use and Abuse of Stories: New Directions in Narrative Hermeneutics*, edited by Hanna Meretoja and Mark Freeman, Oxford University Press, 2023, 305–339. [PDF](#)

“**Wizards, Masks, and Metagnosis: Is the Pandemic Truly Changing Us?**” *Literature and Medicine*, vol. 39, no. 2, Fall 2021, 198–211. [PDF](#)

Three Quarks Daily [columnist](#), 2021–present

Psychology Today [columnist](#), 2021–present

“**From Bodies to Borders and Beyond: Mutating Boundaries in Logan.**” Saljooq M. Asif, Danielle Spencer, Madeline Disner, Folarin Odusola, Danielle A. Rojas. *Literature and Medicine*, vol. 37, no. 1, Spring 2019, 141–65. [PDF](#)

“**Illness Doula: Adding a New Role to Healthcare Practice.**” Annie Robinson, Danielle Spencer and Bradley Lewis. *Journal of Medical Humanities*, vol. 40, June 2019, 199–210. [PDF](#)

“**Review: 4 3 2 1: A Novel by Paul Auster.**” *The Mathematical Intelligencer*, vol. 40, no. 1, March 2018, 80–83. [PDF](#)

“**Narrative Medicine.**” *The Routledge Companion to Philosophy of Medicine*, edited by Miriam Solomon et al., Routledge, 2017, 372–82. [PDF](#)

“**All Creatures Great and Small.**” *The Lancet*, vol. 386, 2015, 22–23. [PDF](#)

“**Sebald in Moszkva Tér.**” *The Hungarian Review*, vol. 6, no. 2, 2015, 79–81. [PDF](#)

“**Critical Conversations: A 360° Clinical Portrait.**” Danielle Spencer and Stephanie Adler Yuan. *Esopus*, vol. 22, 2015, 137–52. [PDF](#). Included in *The Esopus Reader*, edited by Tod Lippy, Esopus Books, 2022, 279–312.

“**Looking Back.**” *Creative Nonfiction*, vol. 47, 2013, 34–38. [PDF](#). Included in *Beautiful Flesh: A Body of Essays*, edited by Stephanie G'Schwind, Center for Literary Publishing, 2017, 35–43.

“**Your Data is Showing.**” WIRED, vol. 13.11, 2005.

“**It's Like a Thing of Everything....**” davidbyrne.com, 2002 [PDF](#)

ACADEMIC APPOINTMENTS

Senior Lecturer in the Discipline of Narrative Medicine, Columbia University Master of Science in Narrative Medicine Program // 2020–present

Program Director, Columbia University Master of Science in Narrative Medicine Program // 2020–2023

Associate Director and Lecturer in the Discipline of Narrative Medicine, Columbia University Master of Science in Narrative Medicine Program // 2019–2020

Lecturer, Columbia University Narrative Medicine Master of Science Program // 2013–2019

Lecturer, Einstein-Cardozo Master of Science in Bioethics Program // 2013–present

Instructor, Columbia University Vagelos College of Physicians and Surgeons // 2019

Adjunct Professor, Hunter College Department of English // 2015–2016

Faculty, Columbia University Medical Center Narrative Medicine Intensive Workshops, 2013–2020

Faculty, Summer Medical and Dental Education Program & MedPrep, Columbia University // 2012–2015

Instructor, NewYork-Presbyterian Morgan Stanley Children's Hospital, Columbia University Medical Center, Child Psychiatry Consultation-Liaison Service, Narrative Medicine Rounds // 2012–2014

Faculty, Macy Seminar on Interprofessional Teamwork, Columbia University Medical Center // 2013–2014

Instructor, Narrative Medicine, Mt. Sinai Medical Center Palliative Care Fellows // 2013

INVITED PRESENTATIONS

Scientific Forestry and Healthcare: Seeing the Hermeneutical Forest for the Trees

Paper // Panel: Disparate Worlds and the Challenge of Dialogue I: Insights from Narrative Hermeneutics, with Jens Brockmeier, Mark Freeman, Hanna Meretoja, and Brian Schiff; Narrative Matters 2025, Paris, France, 14 May 2025

Narrative Medicine and Metagnosis

Talk // University of Turku Research Centre of Culture and Health, Turku, Finland, 9 May 2025

Kafka's Medicines

Workshop // Workshop for the Health, Narrative, and the Arts group facilitators at the Theatre Academy, Uniarts Helsinki, Helsinki, Finland, 8 May 2025

Narrative Medicine: Reading, Healthcare, and Humanity

Talk // Helsinki Collegium for Advanced Studies, Helsinki, Finland, 7 May 2025

From German Scientific Forestry to Healthcare: Seeing the Narrative Forest for the Trees

Talk // Obama Institute for Transnational American Studies, Johannes Gutenberg University, Mainz, Germany, 5 May 2025

An Anthropological Approach to Narrative Supervision

Workshop // Advanced Supervision Skills Course, Faculty Development Programme, London NHSE Workforce, Training and Education, London, England, 1 May 2025

Narratives of Care

Talk // Thinking Together Course, National Enhancing Generalist Skills Programme, St. Thomas, London, England, 29 January 2025

Invisible Illness and Chronic Health: An Ideas Toolkit

Webcast // Invisible Illness and Chronic Health Workshop, with Arthur Frank and Mary Zournazi, University of New South Wales Sydney; Sydney, Australia, 23 October 2024 [link](#)

Narrative Medicine and Pediatric Advocacy

Keynote Address // Missouri Collaborative for Advocacy and Resident Education Advocacy Track Leadership Conference, St. Louis, MO, 19 September 2024

Metagnosis

Talk // Deep End Book Club, Association of Narrative Practice in Healthcare, UK, 4 September 2024

Narrative Medicine

Talk // Research Unit on “Critical Online Reasoning in Higher Education” (CORE), Johannes Gutenberg University, Mainz, Germany, 5 June 2024

Narrative Medicine: Close Reading in the Clinic and Beyond

Plenary talk // Colloquium: Narrative Medicine as Stance and Practice, with Arthur Frank and John Launer, Ghent Hospital Network and the Consortium for Health Humanities, Arts, Reading, and Medicine, Ghent University, Ghent, Belgium, 30 May 2024

Scientific Forestry and Healthcare: Fighting for the Soul

Talk // *Fighting for the Soul of General Practice* book event with Jens Foell, Rupal Shah, John Launer, + Arthur Frank, Association of Narrative Practitioners of Health, London, England, 24 May 2024 [\[recording\]](#)

Metagnosis: From Tomatoes in the Mirror to ADHD

Paper // SFRA (Science Fiction Research Association) 2024: Transitions, Tartu, Estonia, 7–11 May 2024

Narrative Medicine in the Metacene

Paper // Panel: Metanarrativity, Narrative Agency, and Narrative Medicine, with Hanna Meretoja and Laura Mazzoli Smith; Narrative 2024, International Society for the Study of Narrative Annual Conference, Newcastle, England, 19 April 2024

Communication Challenges in a Post-truth Era

Talk + Panel discussion // Columbia University Office of the Provost Dialogue Across Difference Initiative, Columbia University, New York, 27 March 2024

“Changed Knowledge”: Diagnoses, Identities, and Metagnosis — Narrative Medicine Community of Practice

Talk + Workshop, with Allison Coffelt // Northwest Narrative Medicine Collaborative, 19 December 2023

The Use and Abuse of Stories: New Directions in Narrative Hermeneutics

Dialogue with the Authors and Editors, with co-authors // The Taos Institute, 5 December 2023 [\[recording\]](#)

The Use and Abuse of Stories

Roundtable, with co-authors // The Society for Qualitative Inquiry in Psychology, American Psychological Association, and the Association for Narrative Research and Practice, 13 November 2023

Narrative Medicine and Metagnosis: Who Gets to be the Reader and Writer?

Paper // Panel: Communities of Care: Narrative Medicine and Transnational American Studies, American Studies Association Annual Meeting, Montreal, Canada, 3 November 2023

Narrative Medicine: Theory and Practice

Panel, with Craig Irvine and Louise Rosen // Designing for Empathy Summit & Workshops, New York, NY, 25 October 2023

Metagnosis: Revelatory Narratives of Health and Identity

Webinar // Disembodiment in Religion and Ethics series, Fondazione Bruno Kessler, Trento, Italy, 9 October 2023

Narrative Medicine: The Promise and Peril of the Textual Model in Illness and Health

Paper // Narrative Matters Conference, Tampere University, Tampere, Finland, 15 June 2023

The Use and Abuse of Stories

Roundtable // Narrative Matters Conference, Tampere University, Tampere, Finland, 16 June 2023

Narrative Medicine

Workshop // The University of the Arts Helsinki, Helsinki, Finland, 13 June 2023

Metagnosis

Talk // The University of the Arts Helsinki, Helsinki, Finland, 13 June 2023

Narrative Medicine

Talk // University of Helsinki Medical School, Helsinki, Finland, 12 June 2023

Metagnosis: How Retrospective Revelations Empower Individuals to Mobilize and Transform Structures of Health and Identity

Paper // Health Humanities Consortium Conference, Health Education Campus, Cleveland, OH, 16–19 March 2023

Narrative Medicine and Medical Education

Talk // Narrative Medicine McMaster, Michael G. DeGroote School of Medicine, McMaster University, Hamilton, Canada, 27 February 2023

Metagnosis and Narrative Medicine

Talk // Kaiser Permanente Bernard J. Tyson School of Medicine, Pasadena, CA, 10 February 2023

Narrative Medicine and Interactive Digital Narratives: New Textual Models

Paper // 4th Zip-Scene Conference on Immersive Storytelling, Innovation Center of Moholy-Nagy University of Art and Design, Budapest, Hungary, 11 November 2022

Metagnosis: Changing Knowledge, Changing Applications

Talk // Obama Institute, Mainz, Germany, 24 May 2022

Metagnosis

Talk, with Swati Joshi // Medical Humanities Colloquy, Indian Institute of Technology, Gandhinagar, India, 19 October 2021

Book Series: In Conversation with Danielle Spencer

Talk, with Staci Leisman // Yale Science and Engineering Association, 7 October 2021

Narrative Medicine

Talk // Saranac Laboratory Museum, Saranac Lake, New York, 23 September 2021

Metagnosis: A New Lens

Keynote address // Canadian College of Medical Geneticists, 45th Annual Scientific Meeting, St. John, NL, Canada, 31 May 2021

Completed Life May Lunch Hour with David Hoffman and Danielle Spencer

Speaker, with David Hoffman // The Completed Life Initiative, 6 May 2021

Racing with Vaccines: Data, Narratives, and Ethics

Panelist, with Robert Klitzman, David Kreutter, and Sameer Ladha // Columbia University Frame Your Future Event Series, 24 March 2021 [\[Video\]](#)

Peripatetic Paths: From Yale to Narrative Medicine via David Byrne

Panelist // YaleWomen Webinar: The Road Less Travelled, 9 March 2021

Interdisciplinary Narratives: End-of-Life Challenges that Result in Organizational Changes

Talk, with David Hoffman // The Completed Life Conference, 1 October 2020

Narratives of Health and Identity: Danielle Spencer with Andrew Solomon

Talk, with Andrew Solomon // Columbia University School of Professional Studies, 23 September 2020 [\[Video\]](#)

Narrative Medicine Rounds

Talk // Columbia University Irving Medical Center, Division of Narrative Medicine in the Department of Medical Humanities and Ethics, 9 September 2020 [\[Video\]](#)

Narrative Medicine Applications to Promote Well-Being among Medical and Healthcare Professionals

Panel // 2020 Well-Med 4th International Meeting on Well-Being and Performance in Clinical Practice, Halkidiki, Greece, May 2020 [cancelled]

Narrative Medicine Workshop

Workshop // 2020 Preconference Symposium, Health Humanities as A Teaching and Learning Strategy, Northeast Group on Regional Affairs meeting for the Association of American Medical Colleges, Burlington, VT, 30 April 2020 [cancelled]

Metafiction + Metagnosis

Paper // 2020 International Health Humanities Consortium Conference: The Politics of Health, Vanderbilt University, Nashville, TN, 28 March 2020 [cancelled]

Metafictional Diagnosis

Paper // Narrative 2020, International Society for the Study of Narrative Annual Conference, New Orleans, LA, 7 March 2020

The Ethics of Reading and Medicine

Talk + Workshop // Institut for Kulturvidenskab, University of Southern Denmark, Odense, Denmark, 14 February 2020

Narrative Medicine

Lecture // School of Medicine, University of Southern Denmark, Odense, Denmark, 13 February 2020

“Drifting out to Infinity”: Mathematics, Creative Writing and Literary Criticism

Reading + Workshop // Data and Stories in Digital Health Care: Mixed Methods for Medical Humanities, Charité – University Medical Center Berlin, Germany, 6 December 2019

Narrative Medicine: Genealogy, Principles, and Practice

Lecture // Narrative Medicine Faculty Training Workshop, Baylor College of Medicine, Houston, TX, 2 November 2019

Narrative, Medicine, and Imagination

Lecture // Pediatrics Grand Rounds, Texas Children's Hospital, Baylor College of Medicine, Houston, Houston, TX, 1 November 2019

Narrative Medicine: Close Reading, Ethics, and Clinical Practice

Lecture, with Craig Irvine // Department of Medicine Grand Rounds, Baylor College of Medicine, Houston, TX, 31 October 2019

Metagnosis: Retrospective Revelations from Blade Runner to ADHD and Beyond

Lecture // Duke University, Durham, NC, 17 October 2019

"The Narrative Turn" in Healthcare

Plenary Talk // Narrative Medicine Workshop, Johannes Gutenberg University, Mainz, Germany, 22 June 2019

Medical Rhetoric: Complaining, Complying, and Adhering

Paper // Cultures of Medicine conference, Johannes Gutenberg University, Mainz, Germany, 20 June 2019

Beyond Borders: The *Bouleversement* of Lived Retrospective Diagnosis

Paper // CHCI Health and Medical Humanities Network Summer Institute, Paris, France, 15 June 2019

Medical Anagnorisis: Narrative Effects of Lived Retrospective Diagnosis

Paper // International Society for the Study of Narrative, Pamplona International Conference on Narrative, Pamplona, Spain, 31 May 2019

Narrative Medicine

Plenary Talk and Workshops // Interdisciplinary Palliative Care Conference: Building Provider Resilience Course, NYU Langone Health, New York, NY, 30 April 2019

Blade Runner, ADHD, and You: A Narrative Analysis of Lived Retrospective Diagnosis

Lecture // Department of Public Health, University of Copenhagen, Denmark, 24 January 2019

Discovering Difference: A Narrative Medicine Investigation of Lived Retrospective Diagnosis

Lecture // Johannes Gutenberg University Mainz, Germany, 22 January 2018

Narrative Medicine: A Method to Build Interprofessional Teams

Workshop + talk, with Deepthiman Gowda // InterProfessional Care for the 21st Century conference, Thomas Jefferson University, Philadelphia, PA, 26 October 2018

Logan, Frankenstein, and Shane: Family, Sacrifice, and Generic Mutancy in the Western X-Verse

Paper // X-PANEL: From Frankenstein to Logan: Bodily Narratives in the X-Verse, 2018 International Health Humanities Consortium Conference, Frankenstein@200, Stanford University, Stanford, CA, 21 April 2018

The Future Praxis of Health Humanities in the U.S.

Roundtable discussion // Symposium: Opening Doors: From the Medical to the Health Humanities, Drew University, Madison, NJ, 23 March 2018

"Drifting out to Infinity"

Reading // Narrative Medicine Workshop, Johannes Gutenberg University Mainz, Germany, 12 January 2018

Narrative Medicine: History, Context, and Deployment

Plenary talk // Narrative Medicine Workshop, Johannes Gutenberg University Mainz, Germany, 13 January 2018

Short Narrative Forms as Social Practices: Medical Humanities and Narrative Medicine

Panelist // The American Short Story: New Horizons—Form of Contact, Johannes Gutenberg University, Mainz, Germany, 7 October 2017

Frankenstein to X-Men: Bioethics in literature and film

Lecture // Global Bioethics Initiative International Bioethics Summer School, Pace University, College of Health Professions, New York, NY, 21 June 2017

Discovering Difference

Lecture // American Studies Department, Johannes Gutenberg University, Mainz, Germany, 24 May 2017

Narrative Medicine

Lecture and workshop // [Re]Usable Practices, Stonehill College, Easton, Massachusetts, 19 May 2017

Narrative Medicine: Topography and Topologies

Paper // International Society for the Study of Narrative Annual Meeting, Lexington, KY, 24 March 2017

Discovering Difference: Diversity and Diagnosis

Paper // Health Humanities Consortium Annual Meeting, Houston, TX, 10 March 2017

Dualism and Its Discontents: Philosophy, Literature, and Medicine

Paper // with Craig Irvine, International Health Humanities Consortium Annual Meeting, Houston, TX, 11 March 2017

Narrative Medicine: History and Context

Lecture // Johannes Gutenberg University, Mainz, Germany, 12 January 2017

Where do We Stand: Bioethics, Narrative Medicine + Healthcare Education

Paper // American Society for Bioethics + Humanities Annual Meeting, Washington DC, 9 October 2016

Contextualizing Narrative Medicine

Plenary talk // Narrative Medicine Master's Workshop, Columbia University Medical Center, New York, NY, 10 September 2016

Writing in the Clinical Context and Beyond

Plenary talk // Narrative Medicine Workshop, Johannes Gutenberg University Mainz, Germany, 18 June 2016

Clinical Crucibles: Physician-Writers as Guardians and Wards

Paper // The International Conference on Narrative, University of Amsterdam, Amsterdam, the Netherlands, 16 June 2016

Narrative Ethics

Plenary talk // Narrative Medicine Workshop: A Call to Ethics, Columbia University Medical Center, New York, 15 April 2016

The Patient Voice 2016: Bridging the Diabetes Gap

Panelist, with Tim Cunningham, Manny Hernandez, Heather Stuckley // The BETES Organization, New York, NY, 20 March 2016

Narrative Medicine Rounds: At the Intersection of Art & Medicine—Esopus 22: Medicine

Panelist, with MK Czerwicz, Ian Williams, and Tod Lippy // Columbia University Medical Center, New York, NY, 4 November 2015

Discovering Difference: Case Studies and Creative Responses

Paper // American Society for Bioethics + Humanities Annual Meeting, Houston, TX, 23 October 2015

Healthcare and Oral History: Ethics, Expression and Inclusion

Paper // American Society for Bioethics + Humanities Annual Meeting, Houston, TX, 25 October 2015

Narrative Medicine and Ethics

Lecture // AMSA's Medical Humanities Scholars Program Webinar, 6 October 2015

Listening with Care in Mind: Oral History and Narrative Medicine

Paper, with Stephanie Adler Yuan // Narrating Population Health: Oral History, Disparity and Social Change, Columbia University Center for Oral History Research, New York, NY, 16 June 2015

Clinical Oral History as a Tool for Social Advocacy

Paper, with Stephanie Adler Yuan // 4th International Health Humanities Conference, Denver, CO, 1 May 2015

Clinical Oral History: A 360° Portrait

Paper, with Stephanie Adler Yuan // 2015 Oral History in the Mid-Atlantic Region (OHMAR) Annual Meeting, "Oral History and Health", Rutgers, Camden, NJ, 9 April 2015

Interprofessional Collaboration in Senior Care

Workshop, with Abby Rosmarin // The Collaborative Age: Integration Across Disciplines, 42nd Annual Conference of the State Society on Aging of New York, New York, NY, 23 October 2014

Clinical Crucibles: An Analysis of Medical Training Memoirs

Paper // American Society for Bioethics + Humanities Annual Meeting, San Diego, CA, 19 October 2014

Narrative Medicine: An Interactive Workshop in Reading, Writing, and Listening

Workshop, with Sarika Talve-Goodman // American Society for Bioethics + Humanities Annual Meeting, San Diego, CA, 18 October 2014

Ways of Seeing: Teaching Bioethics Through the Lens of Visuality

Paper // American Society for Bioethics + Humanities Annual Meeting, San Diego, CA, 17 October 2014

Narrative Understanding Workshop

Workshop, with Abby Rosmarin // Academy of Professional Mediators Annual Meeting / Association of Divorce Financial Planners Annual Meeting, San Diego, CA, 16 October 2014

Narrative Understanding Workshop

Workshop, with Abby Rosmarin // International Academy of Collaborative Professionals Annual Meeting, Vancouver, Canada, 25 October 2014

Narrative Medicine: Panel Discussion

Panelist, with Catherine Rogers, Nellie Hermann + Deepu Gowda // UnionDocs Center for Documentary Art, Brooklyn, NY, 23 March 2014

Narrative Medicine Workshop

Workshop, with Maura Spiegel // Minding the Body: Dualism and its Discontents, CUNY Graduate Center, 1 March 2013

Narrative Understanding Workshop

Workshop, with Abby Rosmarin // Collaborative Divorce Association of North Jersey, 9 February 2013

After the End of Reason: David Byrne's PowerPoint Universe

Lecture // Microsoft Research, Redmond, WA, 18 November 2003

FELLOWSHIPS / GRANTS / AWARDS

2024 Yaddo Residency

2023 Yaddo Sundell Residency

2022 Alfred P. Sloan Desk Grant for Science and Technology Writing: The Writers Room, NYC

2022 Yaddo Curtis Harnack Residency

2020–2021 Columbia University Provost's Addressing Racism Seed Grant PI: Activating Racial Justice through Narrative Negotiation

2021 Dean's Applied Research Award, Columbia University School of Professional Studies

2019 MacDowell Fellowship

2019 Perkins Prize for *The Principles and Practice of Narrative Medicine* (co-author): awarded by the International Society for the Study of Narrative for the most significant contribution to the study of narrative

2012 Columbia University Narrative Medicine Fellowship Award

2008 AICA Award for Best Show in a Public Space for David Byrne's *Playing the Building*: Producer

2007 Independent Publisher Book Award gold medal and 2006 AIGA 50 Books/50 Covers for David Byrne's *Arboretum*: Co-Designer

2001 New York University MacCracken Fellowship Award: French Department

BOARDS + SERVICE

Editor, Anthem Studies in Narrative and Health Humanities, Anthem Press, 2024–present

The series addresses key topics in health humanities, including narrative-based clinical practice; narratives of health, illness, and ability; narrative ethics; literature in medical education; philosophy of medicine and health, and narrative strategies to effect meaningful change. The series is distinguished by a commitment to inclusive breadth, risk, and excitement of thought, to revive the originating needs and purposes of the health humanities. Such an intentionally inclusive approach reflects the core tenets of health humanities—to create new opportunities for dialogue between siloed groups, distinct professional roles, and diverse lived experiences, finding original language to describe shared human meaning.

Associate Editor, *Literature and Medicine* journal, 2024–present

Literature and Medicine is a peer-reviewed journal publishing scholarship that explores representational and cultural practices concerning health care and the body.

Scholarly peer review contributor for numerous academic presses and journals: Routledge, *Journal of Transnational American Studies*, *Literature and Medicine*, etc.

Thesis Committee Service: Habilitation, Ph.D., and M.A. committees for candidates at Johannes Gutenberg University, Germany, Bard Center for Curatorial Studies, etc.

Columbia University School of Professional Studies: Committee on Instruction, 2020–2025; Lecturer Leave Policy Working Group, 2025; Dean's Applied Research Award Committee, 2025

Columbia Narrative Medicine M.S. Curriculum Committee, 2019–present; Chair, 2019–2023

Faith Summerfield Lecture Steering Committee, 2024–present

German Network for Narrative Medicine, Advisory Board, 2019–present

Health Humanities Consortium Steering Committee, 2015–2019

Journal of Narrative Visions, Co-Founder and Board Member, 2014–present

Yale Alumni Schools Committee, 2012–present

PRIOR PROFESSIONAL EXPERIENCE

Art Director and Senior Manager, David Byrne / Todo Mundo Ltd. // 2001–2011

Production company of artist/musician David Byrne

- As senior studio manager, led growth of Todo Mundo Ltd. from an administrative support office to a cross-platform production studio contributing to all facets of multi-media Byrne projects.
- Co-authored multiple art series with David Byrne; co-designed extensive solo, collaborative and Talking Heads releases with Byrne, including books, CDs and DVDs; produced graphics for multi-media projects.
- Projects received major international press coverage in outlets such as the *New York Times*, *Wall Street Journal*, *Time*, *Newsweek*, *Guardian* UK, AP, Reuters, NPR, etc.
- Developed and managed a diverse array of complex projects on a variety of platforms from conception through execution, managing large teams of collaborators in parallel. Responsibilities included strategic project management, scholarly/legal research and consultation, writing and editing, production supervision, business management, licensing, marketing, hiring, press, graphic design.
- Managed office/studio, including hiring and supervising full-time and freelance staff and interns; implemented organizational systems; directed custom database design initiative integrating all facets of extensive multimedia archive; supervised digitization and digital assets management solutions.

Sample Todo Mundo projects and responsibilities:

- *Playing the Building*, a large-scale interactive audio piece, installed in Stockholm, NYC and London: Producer for all aspects, from budget generation, hiring production manager and crew, contract negotiation, publicity, graphics. Winner, 2008 AICA Award for Best Show in a Public Space. Also managed installation and coördination for *This Must be the Place* motion picture filming in Detroit, 2011 (dir. Paolo Sorrentino)
- Collaborative project management and production for book projects and associated exhibitions and events:
 - *Bicycle Diaries* (Penguin, 2009, and multiple international editions): Conceptualization, editing, project management, image research and licensing, planning for multiple bike forum events, international publicity
 - *Envisioning Emotional Epistemological Information*: Directed all aspects of multi-faceted PowerPoint art project: planned and executed art installations in public spaces, festivals, galleries and museums; designed fine art book and DVD (published by Steidl / Pace/MacGill, 2003); coördinated multiple talks and events; managed international press campaign

- *The New Sins* (McSweeney's, 2001): Production management, press oversight, event planning, direction of multiple public art installations
- *My Life in the Bush of Ghosts* (Byrne/Eno album) reissue: legal research and strategic planning and troubleshooting regarding remix contest licenses; negotiation and project coordination between record label directors, attorneys, artist management, musicians and copyright reform organization
- Designed and managed all aspects (strategic planning, fabrication, production coordination, publicity) of large-scale art installations of diverse media types, including interactive public audio installations in NYC and London; public installation in the Tokyo Yamamoto subway; singing robot at the Reina Sofia museum in Madrid; interactive guitar pedal piece in Japanese gallery; multimedia sculptural chair production for exhibitions; block-long billboard installation on the façade of Saks 5th Avenue NYC; series of creative bike racks installed on NYC sidewalks; public lightbox series for festivals in Reykjavík, Toronto and Sydney; dozens of exhibitions in galleries and museums worldwide
- Webmaster for davidbyrne.com: Conducted site-wide design and improvements; designed, implemented and maintained Radio and Journal sections—both received extensive international press coverage and website traffic increased over 300%; extensive research, editing, and contributions for Journal essays (e.g. net neutrality, web radio royalty); created and maintained interactive section for 08/09 album and international tour, coordinating with music management, booking agents, venues and press
- Extensive design and production for all Byrne art projects and Byrne/Spencer collaborative art projects; design for tour merchandise, advertisements, posters, invitations, website graphics, etc.
- Graphic Design collaborations with David Byrne for releases:
 - *Talking Heads Chronology* DVD/Book (Eagle Rock, 2011)
 - *Here Lies Love: A Song Cycle about Imelda Marcos & Estrella Cumpas* DVD/Book (Todo Mundo / Nonesuch, 2010): 2-DVD package with 100-page book; research and editing of historical essays
 - *Everything that Happens Will Happen on This Tour* (Todo Mundo, 2009): Digital EP
 - *Big Love: Hymnal* CD (Todo Mundo, 2008)
 - *Music for the Knee Plays* CD/DVD (Nonesuch, 2007): Package design and project coordination with Robert Wilson Studio, photographer JoAnn Verburg (creation of custom DVD slideshow), record label, film and CD production
 - *Arboretum* book (McSweeney's, 2006): Production execution, graphic design and press oversight; Winner, design: AIGA 50 Books/50 Covers of 2006, and winner: Independent Publisher Book Award gold medal (Popular Culture / Leisure, 2007); featured, with *The New Sins*, in *Art of McSweeney's* (Chronicle, 2010)
 - *David Byrne Live at Union Chapel* DVD (Rhino, 2005)
 - *Grown Backwards* CD (Nonesuch, 2004)
 - *Envisioning Emotional Epistemological Information* book/DVD (Steidl / Pace/MacGill, 2003): PowerPoint Art book and DVD; Winner, Wired RAVE award for Art, 2004; lectured on the project at Microsoft Research, Redmond, in 2004
 - *Lead Us Not into Temptation: Music for the Film Young Adam* CD/Vinyl (Thrill Jockey, 2003): Featured in *Creative Review*, 2003
 - *What is It?* (Pinspot, 2002)
 - Cover art direction: *Ride, Rise, Roar* DVD (Eagle Rock, 2011); *Talking Heads: Same as it Ever Was* CD (Starbucks, 2009) and *Score! Vol. 9* CD (Merge, 2009)

Freelance Graphic Design // 1998–2016

NYU in France // 1999–2001: Program Associate

Lacoste School of the Arts, Provence, France // 1997: Artist-in Residence, Drawing Instructor

Nan Goldin Photography Studio NYC // 1996–1999: Studio Associate

ART EXHIBITIONS

DANIELLE SPENCER + DAVID BYRNE ARTISTIC COLLABORATIONS

VACANT by NO IDEA, Tokyo, Japan, December 11–26, 2010

Economy of Scale, Hemphill, Washington, DC, November 7 – December 23, 2009

Destination Works at PULSE/Miami, Miami, FLA, December 1 – 4, 2005

Trees, Tombstones and Bullet Points, George Eastman House, Rochester, NY, September 25, 2004 – February 6, 2005

Tactical Action, Gigantic ArtSpace, New York, NY, April 14 – June 10, 2004

The Voting Booth Project, Parsons Gallery, New York, NY, October 8 – December 5, 2004

What is It?, Southeastern Center for Contemporary Art, Winston-Salem, NC, July 19 – September 26, 2003

Illegal Art: Freedom of Expression in the Corporate Age: San Francisco Museum of Modern Art Artists Gallery, San Francisco, CA, 2003; Nexus Gallery, Philadelphia, PA, 2003; Art and Culture Center of Hollywood, Hollywood, FL, 2006; Pacific Northwest College of Art Feldman Gallery + Project Space, Portland, OR, 2006

David Byrne, Pace/MacGill Gallery, New York, NY, March 6 – April 26, 2003