

Alicia Puglionesi
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Education:

Institute of the History of Medicine, Johns Hopkins University, Baltimore, MD.
PhD, History of Science, Medicine, and Technology, September 2015.
Concentrations in twentieth-century biomedicine, history of the behavioral sciences, medical anthropology, and U.S. history.

University of Pennsylvania, Philadelphia, PA.
B.A., English and cognitive science, minor in anthropology and fine arts, 2009.

Research Interests:

History of the human sciences; history of the mind sciences; heterodox movements and parascience; knowledge-making, data, and networks of observation; public science; religion and science; science fiction and speculative fiction; medical humanities; narrative and mystery.

Scholarly publications:

Common Phantoms: An American History of Psychic Science (Stanford University Press, 2020).

“Drawing as instrument, drawings as evidence: Capturing mental processes with pencil and paper,” *Medical History* 60:3 (2016) 359-387.

“‘Your whole effort has been to create desire’: Reproducing Knowledge and Evading Censorship in the Nineteenth-Century Subscription Press,” *The Bulletin of the History of Medicine* 89: (2015) 463-490.

Teaching Experience:

Adjunct instructor, Johns Hopkins University, 2016-present, Program in Medicine, Science, and the Humanities.

Adjunct instructor, Johns Hopkins University Summer and Intersession Programs, Medical Humanities, 2012-2018.

Adjunct instructor, Maryland Institute College of Art, 2016-17, Humanistic Studies.

Curation and exhibits:

Curator for the Johns Hopkins School of Medicine’s 125th Anniversary exhibition, Johns Hopkins Hospital (July 2018) and Eisenhower Library (September-December 2018).

Curator, *Crust Theory*, group multimedia installation and performance at St. Charles Gallery, Baltimore, MD, May-June 2017.

Assistant Curator, “Beyond Chicken Soup: Jews and Medicine in America,” an exhibition on medicine and Jewish identity at the Jewish Museum of Maryland curated by Karen Falk, March 2014-January 2016.

Manuscripts and exhibitions assistant to Christine Ruggere, Rare Books and Manuscripts Room, Welch Medical Library, Johns Hopkins University School of Medicine, 2012-2016.

Research assistant to Ingrid Schaffner, Institute of Contemporary Art, Philadelphia, 2008.

Awards:

2019 Maryland State Arts Council Individual Artist Award for Nonfiction, \$3000.

2017 History of Science Society Forum for the History of the Human Sciences Article Prize.

2013 Shryock Medal for unpublished graduate student paper, American Association for the History of Medicine.

Grants and fellowships:

NEH Postdoctoral Fellowship, Consortium for the History of Science, Technology, and Medicine, 2016-2017.

Museums, Libraries, and Cultural Organizations Implementation Grant from the National Endowment for the Humanities, 2015-2016. Co-author of implementation grant for the exhibit “Beyond Chicken Soup: Jews and Medicine In America” at the Jewish Museum of Maryland.

Mellon/ACLS Dissertation Completion Fellowship, 2014-2015.

History of Medicine Collections Travel Grant, David M. Rubenstein Rare Book & Manuscript Library, Duke University, June 2014.

Sheridan Libraries’ Special Collections Research Center Graduate Student Summer Fellowship in 19th, 20th, and 21st- century Studies, Summer 2013.

William H. Welch Fellowship, Institute for the History of Medicine, 2009-2013: award for the pursuit of graduate study at Johns Hopkins.

Selected talks:

“The Astonishment of Experience.” Stanford University Cultures, Minds, and Medicines workshop, November 2017.

“Ask the phantoms: Science speaks for the 'silent' objects of pre-Columbian North America.” History of Science Society Annual Meeting, Atlanta, November 2016.

“A Ghost-catching weather bureau': psychical research and meteorology in nineteenth-century America.” History of Science Society Annual Meeting, Chicago, November 2014.

“Drawings as evidence.” Debating Visual Knowledge Graduate Symposium, University of Pittsburgh, October 2014.

“Drawings from the other side.” Paper presented at the 4th International Illustration Symposium: Science, Imagination & the Illustration of Knowledge, Oxford, UK, November 2013.

“The astonishment of experience: Negotiating the extra-sensory in early-twentieth-century America.” Paper presented at University of Delaware Hagley Fellows Conference: Ways of Knowing the World: History and the Senses, April 2013.

“The cream puff, the surprise visit, the sudden feeling of danger: relational knowledge-making in psychical research.” Paper presented at Conference on Psychical Research and Parapsychology in the History of the Sciences and Medicine, University College London, January 2013.

Selected general-interest and literary publications:

Krall Krall (Baltimore: Cars Are Real Press, 2013). Novella.

Views from the National Forests (Baltimore: Furniture Press, 2014). Poetry chapbook.

“Proving it: The American Provers' Union documents certain ill effects,” in Adam Green, ed., *The Public Domain Review: Selected Essays, 2011-2014* (PDR Press, 2014).

“Perfect Medium,” *The Point*, April 18, 2017.

“Lofty Only in Sound,” *Public Domain Review*, April 5, 2017.

“In 1926, Houdini Spent 4 Days Shaming Congress for Being in Thrall to Fortune-Tellers,” *Atlas Obscura*, October 11, 2016.

“Psychic Archeology, Or How to Dig Up the Dead With Their Own Advice,” *Atlas Obscura*, February 22, 2016.

“The Manmade Marvel of the Baltimore Sewers,” January 6, 2016, *Atlas Obscura*.

“Amateurs, Empiricism, and the Tedium of Psychical Research,” guest post on *Forbidden Histories* (edited by Andreas Sommer), June 27, 2014.

“Drawing and Believing,” *The Sheridan Libraries Blog*, September 20 and October 28, 2013.

“The Seductive Allure of Neuroskepticism.” *Motherboard*, January 8, 2013.

“Smile If It Hurts.” *This Recording*, June 26, 2012. (see <http://thisrecording.com/today/tag/alicia-puglionesi> for all articles).

Multimedia work:

“Baltimore: Fault Lines and Connecting Threads.” Commissioned audio walking tour, produced in collaboration with Jonna McKone.

“In the Basement Kitchen.” Segment for the Undark science podcast from MIT, in collaboration with Jonna McKone.

Professional associations:

American Association for the History of Medicine.

Cheiron: International Society for the History of the Behavioral and Social Sciences.

Community Service:

Contributor to *History of Anthropology Newsletter*.

Peale Center for Baltimore History and Architecture, volunteer grant-writing and curatorial development.

Maryland Humanities Council, Maryland History Day competition volunteer.

Sample courses:

Introduction to the History of Medicine

100-level two-semester survey.

The history of medicine from antiquity to the present, with an emphasis on interpreting primary sources and developing skills in historical thinking and writing. This can also function as a one-semester condensed course.

The Hospital

100-level introductory course or freshman seminar.

This course explores the hospital's emergence as the nerve center of American health care beginning in the nineteenth century and extending to the present moment. Students analyze ways in which science, technology, and culture transformed medical knowledge and the patient experience. Focusing on the physical spaces of care, this course incorporates films, field trips, and guest speakers to connect historical material with current issues in medicine.

Twentieth-century Biomedicine

200- or 300-level seminar.

Explores the cultural, social, political, and ethical dimensions of developments in twentieth-century medicine. Applying the theoretical lenses of biopolitics and bioethics, the course traces the ways in which changing technology has altered our conceptions of what it means to be human.

Technologies of the Self: History of the Human and Behavioral Sciences

200- or 300-level seminar.

Beginning with Auguste Comte's eighteenth-century vision for a "science of man" and extending to present-day debates over the uses of brain imaging, this course examines the historical processes through which science and culture produce different kinds of "self" for empirical study.

Science, Fiction, and the Brain

200- or 300-level seminar.

Contemporary neuroscience claims to be closer than ever to figuring out what makes a person tick, but there's still a long way to go from the mapping of neuronal connections to an empirical account of consciousness, memory, and emotion. This course leaps into the ring where materialism and idealism, the mechanistic and the vitalistic, have wrangled for the past two hundred years. We will look at historical attempts to explain and control human consciousness, using history, philosophy, ethics, and especially science fiction to examine what is at stake in efforts to reduce the mind to a series of electrical impulses in the brain.