

GLRC – Embodying Care

Access texts follow, in order of presentation.

Opening remarks [11-11:10]

Speaker: Luann Good-Gingrich (Director, Global Labour Research Centre and Associate Professor in the School of Social Work, York University)

[\[brief introduction\]](#)

Drew Danielle Belsky is a PhD Candidate in Science and Technology Studies at York University. Situated at the intersection of feminist STS, disability studies, and visual culture, her dissertation, entitled “Making bodies, making kin: Story-telling and the professionalization of medical illustrators in North America,” explores the gendered dynamics of scientific labour and the epistemic role of image-making in medicine.

Land Acknowledgement and Introduction [11:10-11:20]

Speaker: Drew Danielle Belsky (PhD candidate in Science and Technology Studies, York University)

Text:

ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

Our presenters and audience are joining us from many different places. Welcome, we are glad to be with you. My name is Drew Danielle Belsky and I'll be chairing the discussion today with help from our discussant Dr. Mary Jean Hande.

Today, I would like to use this opportunity for those of us who are settlers to address the ways in which legacies of colonialism and imperialism continue to shape working conditions, access to health care and other forms of care, as well as the very categories of both *disability* and *work*. Many of us are settlers in the lands we inhabit, particularly those of us who have the most access and power in academic institutions. It is therefore our collective

responsibility to pay respect and recognize the traditional inhabitants and caretakers of these places, many of whom have been violently displaced from them.

The land where I live and where York University is situated is a place where many human groups – including the Iroquois, the Huron-Wendat, the Seneca, the Mississauga, the Haudenosaunee, the Anishinaabeg and others – have met and exchanged stories and the materials of life for more than a thousand years. The current treaty holders of this land are the Mississaugas of the Credit First Nation. This territory is also the subject of the Dish with One Spoon Wampum Belt Covenant, an agreement to peaceably share and care for the Great Lakes region, and to the Two Row Wampum Belt Treaty, which calls for mutual respect and peace between settler and Indigenous nations. The current inhabitants of the place where I live include the descendants of many indigenous and First Nations peoples from across the continent, the settlers who displaced many of them, and many people displaced from other geographies. The relations between these different human groups are informed by intersecting histories of colonization, repression, and involuntary migration, but remain subject to the relations of mutual responsibility and care established by those early agreements.

The unequal distribution of care and risk in this pandemic demands that we confront the ways in which legacies of colonialism and imperialism have defined not only which lives matter, but *how*, *when*, and *for whom* they matter. For those of us who are settlers, it is our particular responsibility to do this work and to be unsettled by it. We are here because this land was – and is – occupied. It is therefore our collective responsibility to recognize our colonial histories and their present-day implications as well as to honour, protect, and sustain both the land and each other.

HOW THIS WILL WORK

With this in mind, I want to go over some of the ways we are working to reduce barriers to participation and to make this event more accessible. They are imperfect and we welcome your feedback for the future.

The web page for this event includes documents containing the text I am currently presenting, speaker bios, and additional speaking notes. The speakers' individual speaking notes are posted separately. [I am posting those links in the chat now.](#)

We have captioning available throughout this event. You can enable subtitles or see a real-time transcript by clicking on “more” at the bottom of your screen. A full transcript and video recording will be available after the event. To assist with captioning and transcripts, please identify yourself before speaking (e.g. “This is Drew speaking”) and be mindful of your speed and clarity when speaking. We also ask that everyone other than the speaker keep their mics off and wait to be acknowledged before speaking.

Each of our speakers has prepared a short reflection on the topic of care and embodied labour in COVID-19. Then we will take a short break to address movement and body needs and to allow a moment for everyone to collect their thoughts before the discussion. After the break, our discussant will offer some further reflection on the ensemble and an opening question to get us started.

If you have a question or comment, please [message me directly using the chat function](#). I will collect and facilitate discussion from there. I will do my best to ensure that we are able to address as many different questions as possible and in an equitable fashion. This means that if there are several similar questions, I may summarize rather than call upon an individual. I may also relay questions at the audience member’s request. I will briefly summarize questions in the chat for clarity.

PRESENTER BIOS

Odelia Bay is a doctoral student at Osgoode Hall Law School. Her dissertation project examines self-care and workplace accommodations for people with episodic disabilities—that is, disabilities characterized by unpredictable and fluctuating impairments. Odelia completed her Master of Laws degree at Columbia Law School, where she was also awarded a Graduate Student Fellowship with the Future of Disability Studies Project at Columbia University. She is called to the Ontario Bar and has taught a number of law school courses, including labour law and critical race theory. Currently, Odelia is working to help create and build the Canadian Association of Lawyers with Disabilities - Association canadienne des juristes en situation de handicap.

Nicole Leach currently works as a Researcher with SEIU Healthcare. SEIU Healthcare represents health care workers across Ontario, including those working in hospitals, community care and home care organizations, retirement homes, and nursing homes. In a

previous life, Nicole was a doctoral candidate in Politics at York University where Nicole's dissertation examined the neoliberalization of social reproduction, specifically how these politics were enacted through foreign temporary worker programs.

Dr Fumilayo Showers is an Assistant Professor of Sociology and Africana Studies at the University of Connecticut. Her research centers on U.S immigration, health care work, and immigrant workers. In particular, she studies African immigrants in professional health care settings. She explores the organizational structures of health care institutions as gendered and racialized, with implications for how Black workers navigate everyday situations and seek upward mobility. She also investigates how recent Black immigrants use ethnic networks to seek opportunity in health care, and to build communities and social capital in the face of racial discrimination and blocked opportunities encountered in the U.S. Dr Showers is currently completing her book manuscript, *Migrants Who Care: West Africans at the frontlines of the U.S. health Care Industry* (Rutgers University Press), which chronicles the lived experiences of African immigrants as direct care workers as well as labor brokers in health care provision. She completed her PhD and Master's in Sociology at the Maxwell School of Citizenship and Public Affairs of Syracuse University, and a bachelor's degree from Agnes Scott College in Decatur, GA.

Dr. Laura Mauldin is an Associate Professor of Women's, Gender and Sexuality Studies and Human Development & Family Sciences at the University of Connecticut. A sociologist of health, illness, and disability, much of her work bridges disability studies, medical sociology, and science and technology studies. She is author of the book *Made to Hear: Cochlear Implants and Raising Deaf Children* and is a nationally certified sign language interpreter. You can find out more information on her work at www.lauramauldin.com or follow her on Twitter @mauldin_laura.

[Discussant] **Mary Jean Hande** is currently a post-doctoral fellow at Mount Saint Vincent University. Dr. Hande is critical health scholar who draws on critical disability studies, feminist, anti-racist, and historical materialist approaches to understanding care work and care policy in an aging, globalizing world. Her research and teaching is community- and user-engaged and prioritizes marginalized perspectives and transformative social change. Her current research focuses on transnational political economies of caring for older and disabled people, considering the relations of racialized (im)migrant labour and quality of life for older and disabled people in Canadian long-term residential and home care systems. She

leads a community-engaged SSHRC Insight Development Grant examining the struggles of (im)migrant home care workers in Manitoba during the COVID-19 pandemic and is also working with the Nova Scotia Centre on Aging on two CIHR grants examining how homecare and long-term care policies in multiple Canadian jurisdictions shape formal and informal practices of caring for older people.

Panel Reflections [11:20-11:50]

[See individual documents for full text]

Break! [11:50-12]

Drew: We will take a short break now for about 5 minutes. Have a stretch or a drink of water and maybe just breathe or attend to other body needs. We also encourage everyone to take this time to collect your thoughts and reflect on comments or questions. In keeping with reflections by scholars like Eve Tuck, we encourage the audience to consider carefully the kinds of questions you offer. Is it generative? Is it generous? Is it making space or only taking it? We'll meet you back here at noon, when we'll hear from our discussant Mary Jean Hande and then open up the floor for questions.

Discussant reflection [12-12:10]

Mary Jean: [[comments TBD](#)]

Audience questions & Discussion [12:10-12:25]

[questions will be shared in chat when possible]

Closing remarks [12:25-12:30]

Drew: Thank you all for coming and contributing to the discussion today. Thank you to the presenters who provided such wonderful ground to explore and to the audience whose questions have been so thoughtful and generative. Although my background is not in labour

studies, I am also grateful to the GLRC for providing this opportunity to bring labour rights, disability studies, and caregiving together. GLRC director Dr. Luann Good-Gingrich, GLRC executive committee members Dr. Ethel Tungohan and Dr. Leah Vosko, and the Centre for Feminist Research have all been generous supporters. Lastly, I want to especially thank Hajer Mirwali, whose often invisible administrative and logistical labour as GLRC coordinator is absolutely vital and who is keeping the apparatus running today.