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Disciplining Docility



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Disciplining Docility: How Medical Educators Use the Humanities to Maintain the Professional Status Quo

Capacity Building



Erica Golemis, PhD
Professor, Fox Chase Cancer Center

Building a Department of Cancer Biology linked to a Cancer Center; balancing multiple value systems while defining success

MONDAY, FEBRUARY 21

12:15PM TO 1:45PM

This is a hybrid event

In person: **Charles Library 364**

Online: **<https://temple.zoom.us/j/92510796770>**

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Disciplining docility: How medical educators use the humanities to maintain the professional status quo

Dr. Laura Olsen

In this talk, I describe a set of curricular practices that medical educators undertake when they incorporate the humanities into their training, which I call therapeutic curricular practices. Therapeutic curricular practices encompass when the humanities are incorporated as fun, stress-relieving, cathartic electives that are—as electives suggest—up to the student to take. They are more akin to a book club than a literature course, a museum field trip rather than an art history seminar. These electives are pitched at addressing the burnout that students currently face and will continue to face, and the humanities are transformed into affective tools the medical profession can deploy to help students cope with the brutal pace and (dis)contents of medical education. It is precisely the organizational flexibility encompassed in the elective structure that gives these affective tools their power. I argue that the therapeutic curricular practices act as a discipline of docility, rendering students personally responsible for their well-being, as with these curricular practices the structure of medical education and practice remains protected and unchallenged.

Building a department of cancer biology linked to a cancer center: Balancing multiple value systems while defining success

Dr. Erica Golemis

In 2021, a reorganization of departments at the Lewis Katz School of Medicine at Temple led to the creation of a new Department of Cancer and Cellular Biology. This Department forms a matrix with the Fels Institute at LKSOM, and also with the Fox Chase Cancer Center – a large organization tasked by the National Cancer Institute to achieve excellence in basic, clinical, and prevention research, delivering advances in clinical care, and ensuring effective outreach and engagement with the community. As Chair, I have a role in establishing Department priorities and culture, within the context of the larger Temple/Fox Chase ecosystem. The questions I would like to discuss are, first, how is the best way to define success in building this complicated department, given the many various goals of the many stakeholders involved (students; educators; researchers; clinicians; community members). Second, a problem affecting science in the United States overall is the disengagement of much of the public with the research enterprise, resulting in undesirable outcomes such as the rise of the anti-vax movement. Hence, I would like to gain insight into how is it possible for this new Department to reach across Temple, and engage experts in other academic disciplines, to help build bridges from the biomedical community to the community at large.

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