

C's 2025 MRSG Business Meeting Minutes

Date: Thurs, April 4, 2025

Time: 6:30-7:30pm

Facilitator: Lilly Campbell, lillian.campbell@marquette.edu

Location: Spokane Convention Center; Baltimore Convention Center; Baltimore, MD

General Updates

- The group functions as an affiliate network around C's, uniting interdisciplinary scholars in medical rhetoric and health humanities.
 - Regular meetings are held on Third Thursdays of most academic months
 - Final meeting of the academic year is scheduled for April 17.
 - Flash Talks (a.k.a. Lightning Talks) and proposal panels are in development.
 - The RHM Society Symposium will be held October 17–18.
 - The symposium's organizing group is formalizing into a society, which will work alongside the existing SIG but remain organizationally distinct.
 - The symposium is biannual.
 - CFP due: April 15
 - Voting for the RHM society is open to all.
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Election and Organizational Updates

- Kristin is overseeing election updates
 - Elections will be launched after the broader society business concludes.
 - Additional updates are noted on the shared paper or planning document.
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Research Sharing and Introductions

11 Participants total attended the meeting and shared their current research interests:

- Reproductive Health and Justice
 - Rhetorics of reproductive justice
 - Anti-abortion discourse
 - Birth trauma and the free-birthing movement
- Chronic Illness and Pain
 - Rhetorical functions of chronic pain
 - Long-term illness as embodied discourse
- Health Communication and Provider Interaction
 - Communication practices between healthcare providers and patients

- Rhetorical strategies in medical education and training (including simulation)
 - Medical Humanities and Rhetoric
 - Visual rhetoric in medical contexts
 - Archival research in medicine
 - Medical patent discourse
 - Biopolitics, Ethics, and Consent
 - Rhetoric of consent and bioethics
 - Human remains trade and posthuman considerations
 - Social Justice and Identity
 - Rural health inequities
 - Black feminist and social justice rhetorics in healthcare
 - Ageism and women's health
 - Pharmaceutical and Institutional Critique
 - Pharmacy advertising and drug management systems
 - Health insurance rhetoric and policy
 - Technology and Health
 - Wearable technologies and surveillance
 - Artificial intelligence and health rhetoric
 - Political Contexts and Rhetoric
 - Teaching and rhetoric during the “MAHA” era
 - Intersections of rhetoric, federal funding, and medical discourse
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Brainstorming and Planning

- Potential local support from Case Western and the Dittrick Medical History Center in Cleveland.
- Some members have affiliations with the Cleveland Clinic.
- Brian Harrell will serve on the local committee and assist with logistics.
- Third Thursday ideas to consider for 2025-2026:
 - Rhetorical definitions and practices of archival research (Kristin LaFollette interested).
 - IRB logistics: navigating permission letters and when IRB is or isn't necessary (Justiss Burry).
 - Climate justice and public health intersections.
 - Teaching during the "Make America Healthy Again" (MAHA) era; collaboration with Amanda Pratt.
 - Poly-disciplinarity in RHM (Segal's work mentioned).
 - Kenny Fountain?
 - Medical education and Step exams as rhetorical sites.
 - Feminism, ageism, and women's health intersections.
 - Wearable technologies and rhetoric.
 - Health insurance discourse and logistical systems.

- Rhetoric and AI intersections in health/medicine.
 - Federal funding structures and their rhetorical dimensions.
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Communication and Information-Sharing

- Primary communication methods:
 - Email
 - Facebook