SESSION C4

Theme: Socially and Culturally Situated Voices in Healthcare

Title: My Brain has a Pair of Scissors: Learning from the Stories of Patients with Disabilities

Speaker(s): Elizabeth A. Wheeler, Ph.D., M.Ed.
Mary Wood, Ph.D., M.A.

Date: Friday, April 12, 2019
Time: 9:30 – 10:40 AM
Location: Wilder

SESSION C4 OBJECTIVES

• To grasp the importance of listening to the ways patients with disabilities describe their own experience.

• To become aware of and self-reflective about clinician assumptions and pre-conceptions about people with disabilities.

• To learn about important texts and blogs by writers with disabilities that are good sources of stories about what it's like to be a patient with disabilities.

SESSION C4 SPEAKER

Elizabeth A. Wheeler, Ph.D., M.Ed.

is an Associate Professor of English and Director of the Disability Studies Minor at the University of Oregon, where she specializes in intersections of environmental and disability studies and post-1945 American literature and popular culture. Her book *HandiLand: The Crippest Place on Earth*, a study of young people with disabilities in contemporary literature for young readers, appears in August 2019 from the University of Michigan Press in the *Corporealities: Discourses of Disability* series. Her scholarship has appeared in *Children’s Literature Quarterly, Disability Studies and the Environmental Humanities*, and *ISLE: Interdisciplinary Studies in Literature and the Environment*. Prof. Wheeler has just returned from Tübingen, Germany, where she held the Ottilie Wildermuth Chair Visiting Professorship at the University of Tübingen. She received the 2018 LILAC Award from the Lane Independent Living Alliance for her advocacy for independent living and community outreach to people with disabilities.

Mary Wood, Ph.D., M.A.

Mary Elene Wood is a Professor of English at University of Oregon with a specialization in Medical Humanities and Disability Studies. She regularly teaches an Introduction to Medical Humanities course for college undergraduate pre-med majors and has taught courses on Literature and Medicine, Madness and Literature, and Bioethics and Literature at every level, from lower-division classes to graduate seminars. She has published numerous articles as well as two books on the subject of mental illness (so-called) and autobiography--The Writing on the Wall (Univ. of Illinois Press, 1994) and Life Writing and Schizophrenia (Rodopi/Brill, 2013). She has also published memoir, personal essay, and fiction based on her family's experiences with schizophrenia and other health challenges (Missouri Review, British Journal of Medical Ethics, Capra Review). She is currently working on a
collaborative research project with a medical anthropologist on the complex history of the Morningside Psychiatric Hospital in Portland, Oregon, where patients were sent from the Alaska Territory during the first half of the twentieth century. The history of Morningside has much to tell us about conceptions of mental health and illness in the American imagination as well as in practice and state and federal practice and policy during the years leading up to deinstitutionalization of the mentally ill. By bringing a Disability Studies lens to this history, Mary Wood and her co-researchers hope to better understand how mental illness is seen today and how current treatment models can move towards greater self-determination for those diagnosed with mental illness.

This presentation does not have PowerPoint slides.