

# **Day One**

## **War and Trauma**

Bozini presented on the experience of injuries in Homer's Iliad in comparison to poetry by George Seferis and Anne Carson. The latter two deploy the analogy of Greek battles and warfare in their work to discuss the inescapability and inherentness of injury in the human experience.

Kumar explored the social aspect of trauma, both physical and emotional, through the notion of gift-giving. Bodily movements within our experiences and expressions of pain, such as hiding our pain from others or the physical guarding of injury, can reveal aspects of these social networks of relationships.

Reinarz's work highlighted British campaigns for children's fire safety in the 1940s by Dr. L. Colebrook and Vera Scovell. In order to combat what they perceived to be a general lack of awareness by families on the hazards of the home, the use of shocking images (both of clinical photos and staged scenarios) and statistics in the subsequent public health campaigns was aimed to shock the apathetic public into change.

EI-Mecky's research covered the topic of injuries in performance art. Injuries are transformed from an ephemeral, embodied experience into a description and image, items of preservation, money, and commodification. In our consumption of trauma in these forms, she questions whether pain, in this more sanitized and palatable form, is truly representative of what violence really is.

### **Takeaway:**

The presentations emphasize the ways in which pain is transformed from the experience of the individual into a medium of expression for the community or society at large. Throughout all of these talks, this transformation that takes place repackages trauma into a means of communication, serving reflection of social and political concerns or becoming a medium in which social and political change takes place.

## **Roundtable: Art and Injury**

In this roundtable discussion, the interdisciplinary nature of *Tendon* magazine's contributors were discussed. Speakers explored their personal experiences with art and injury, through the lens of patients, victims, doctors, and authors.

### **Takeaway:**

The multimodal expressions of injury through different art forms, such as poetry, comedy, and visual art speak to the ways in which there are multiple perspectives from which injury needs to

be understood through. Art becomes not only a means of expression, but also a way in which the artist can get through the trauma of their own experiences with injury.

## **Methods**

Esbeter presented on the Railway Work, Life & Death project, a volunteer-based, transcription-centered project seeking to improve knowledge on British and Irish railway worker accidents from the late-19th to the mid-20th century. This effort to compile data from various primary sources allows a deeper understanding and access to the experience of working on railways, which has opened the project up to collaborations with the Rail, Maritime and Transport (RMT) Workers Union, as well as workshops with the Rail Accident Investigation Branch.

Mant and Alker's research showcased their interdisciplinary approach to understanding the impact of the Industrial Revolution on the human body. Their digital humanities project, which combines various datasets from hospital and criminal records, as well as osteological resources, pushes for the scholars to think of trauma as a narrative, using this bio-historical analysis of injuries as a lens.

Uribe's work centered around a series of excerpted diary entries written by Inocencia Rodriguez to consider violences that happen within the intimate sphere and examine the ways that neglect and injury shape people's lives historically and presently. By situating their analysis of these documents through the lens of black feminist scholarship, Uribe showcases the potential of archival scholarship in destabilizing identity categories and expanding conceptions of injury to include state neglect, as well as understanding what redress and retributions for these violences may look like.

## **Takeaway:**

This session highlighted the ways in which various scholars engage with injury through both qualitative and quantitative research materials and methodologies. While the size of the datasets used in the talks varied, all of the talks touched upon ways in which research should be conducted both ethically and responsibly, with an eye towards public accountability when dealing with records involving real individuals' injuries. Discussions regarding the time- and labor-intensive nature of large data initiatives open up opportunities for collaboration across institutions and with the public, as well as opportunities to use tools such as machine-learning to gain important insights. Overall, these talks emphasized how concepts about injury transformed radically in conjunction with industrialization and urbanization, opening up new ways for individuals to be exposed to injuries not only by their workplace but through the state and other institutions as well.

## **Plenary Session: Defining Injury Studies**

From history: Historically, injuries were rationalized as a category following World War II. Since the middle of the 20th century, scholars have expanded the category of injuries from the physical and biomechanical to include psychological and mental injuries as well. This attention to injury has resulted in four general categories regarding risk studies were discussed: perception, control, representation, and experience.

From arts and humanities: To get a deeper understanding of how the arts and humanities contribute to injuries studies and help us to define the parameters of injury studies in general, examples were drawn from literature, visual art (such as war photography) and film (government educational videos). Story-telling, in these various forms, can convey aspects of injuries that are not available through the more traditional representations of statistics or graphs, allowing avenues for injury education and warning by the government or caregivers.

From public health and policy: From the perspective of public health, injury studies take on a preventative nature to consider how to prevent them from taking a toll on the public. Relying on quantitative data collection methods, preventative efforts involve defining and monitoring a problem, identifying risk and protective factors, developing and testing prevention strategies, and assuring widespread adoption of practices. Public health officials and agencies lean on engineering, education, and enforcement as the pillars for injury prevention.

### **Takeaway:**

These discussions reflect the need for multidisciplinary frameworks to connect the various approaches that scholars and professionals currently understand risk. This session highlighted ways in which frameworks overlap, while importantly showing who and what has been excluded from injury studies thus far (such as disability studies scholars and community advocacy groups).

## **Day Two**

### **Emergency Medicine**

Sawtelle explained how the concept of drowning as an emergency developed in nineteenth century London. During this period, society successfully reconfigured ideas about the meaning of what constituted an “accident” and public responsibility towards the preservation of human life. Ultimately, the response to individual accidental death became the catalyst for first aid and the development of public safety and accident treatment infrastructure to meet the needs of the public.

Schaub presented on the rise of the emergency hospital in early twentieth century America, showing how these institutions were developed to meet the need for prompt access to medical care regardless of the socioeconomic status of patients. These stories of early emergency hospitals highlight how effective emergency care became seen as a human right and a site for American health care policy.

Cresswell's work focused on the organizations of ambulances before and after the launch of the UK's National Health Service (NHS) and the rise of more formal and private ambulance services in the country. These ambulance services, commonly established by churches and run by volunteers, were positioned in areas across the country known to be dangerous and had high rates of injuries.

John Ramos explored the development of emergency medical systems and the role that emergency medicine institutions play in mitigating the results of normalizing poverty and violence in poor neighborhoods of color. Using the Martin Luther King Jr. General hospital as a case study, they show the transformation of the hospital from the direct intervention of poverty to only treating the effects of poverty.

### **Takeaway:**

This session showcases how the development of emergency care facilities and institutions were developed in conjunction with important changes in understanding preventative care and treatment of injuries as a human right and the responsibility of the government. It is important, however, to keep in mind that the formation of these spaces within emergency medical systems require a deeper understanding of how these networks can be and are used to uphold the status quo of inequality and injustice that are reflected in our society.

### **Child and Adolescent Safety**

Bachynski's presentation was on the overlap of the perceived crises of concussions and childhood obesity, using tackle football as the site of study to look at the intersection between them. Despite both of these things having been described as an epidemic, the NFL has actively used public concern about obesity to deflect away from concerns about concussions. She looks at how football has been actively recast as a preventative measure against childhood obesity as a means of downplaying the effect of concussions in national discussions of injury in the sport.

Balsara's project was a global comparative analysis examining the use of child vehicle restraints in nine cities. Research has shown that properly restraining children decreases the risk of injury in accidents significantly but cultural views of car seats and other restraints, as well as other social factors, contribute to overall lower use of such restraints by caregivers in several countries.

In Boeke's talk, she presented her work on a multidisciplinary approach to injury prevention education for children through the use of "Pop-Up Safety Towns". These pop-up kits, which can be easily set up and put away and shipped directly to schools or families, are specifically targeted at preschool-age children in underserved communities.

Kralick examined the claim that ACL injuries are an epidemic in women's sports as a result of physical differences in the sexes. Arguing that this claim wrongly perpetuates a biologically

essentialist approach to understanding women's injury risk and anatomy, she highlights how this line of argument shifts the focus away from the broader structural factors that affect injury risk for female athletes.

### **Takeaway:**

These talks emphasized the role and responsibility that blame plays in our conceptions of child and adolescent harm. As a result of this, attempts to address injury prevention necessarily shift the focus on the role that caregivers and educators play, as well as the government and medical professionals.

### **Rehabilitation/Recovery**

Biernoff's talk explored the art of kintsugi, the Japanese method of mending broken pottery with gold lacquer, and its intersection with practices aimed at the repair of the self. Looking at how and why this technique originally applied to inanimate objects has been transformed into self-care, she looks at the overlapping conviction that damaged objects have their own integrity. Ultimately, she argued that kintsugi provides a new and more positive way of perceiving damage, injury, and physical harm.

Noveceanu's presentation examined the practice of self injury in contemporary Eastern European visual arts. In the work of artists such as Petr Pavlensky, bruises, scars, and cuts become instances of culture making and allow the artists themselves to engage with the political.

Azeez's research looked at ways to use Yoruba artistic traditions to aid employee trauma recovery, health, and well-being. Addressing the mental and emotional strain on employees requires the development of strategies that go beyond conventional therapeutic methods. He argued that the application of traditional artists practices, which are intertwined with spiritual and communal life, allow for the integration of cultural heritage and artistic expression into the fabric of organizational support systems.

### **Takeaway:**

This session presented multiple ways in which people have attempted to address the process of rehabilitation and recovery from injury, both physical and mental. These methods stress the importance and necessity of developing socially and culturally-specific solutions to trauma and injury; rather than the application of one-size-fits-all solutions. Through the incorporation of personal, public, or communal efforts, treatment and care can take on many different shapes and forms.

### **Rehabilitating Injured Faces, Eyes and Bodies**

Roman Garcia and Etheridge presented their clinical anaplastology work at the Johns Hopkins Medicine Facial, Eye, and Body Prosthetics clinic. Through their work, art is applied to medicine to develop integral clinical services to patients through the creation of prostheses for the face and the body. Their work, which combines medical skills and knowledge with artistic acuity and ability, allows them to provide one-of-the-kind, custom works of art for each patient to meet their specific needs.

**Takeway:**

These talks display how clinical anaplastology meets at the intersection of arts and medicine in a concerted effort to provide treatment for injury. Their work brings up important questions on how patients view their relationship with or to their prostheses as parts of their body, an extension of themselves, or something external to them).

**Regulation**

Bowrey's research examined the perspectives of physicians who resisted the Medical Device Amendment (MDA), which was passed by the US Congress in 1976. The resistance of the physicians reflected their desire for a competing framework to understand safety regarding the use (and misuse) of medical devices in opposition to engineers and consumers. Ultimately, the MDA developed a solution that created regulatory advisor panels that were dominated by doctors.

Chen presented on the conceptualization of herbal medicine and risk in Taiwan. Despite medical awareness of toxins within certain herbs that can impact bodily function, there remains general optimism regarding the use and applications of these herbs by the public. This was perpetuated by the idea that herbal medicine was not without risk; this risk framework was ultimately integrated into structures of herbal medicine regulation in Taiwan and internationally.

Gruss, Abrahams, and Collier's work examined the problem of product safety through the application of human-computer interaction solutions. Identifying post-market consumer product safety reviews as an avenue of research data, they used ChatGPT to generate data on risk mitigation and hazard scores, in addition to providing guidance on product design. Ultimately, they found that large language models were well-versed in understanding "know-what" but failed to comprehend the "know-how" regarding safety guidance.

**Takeaway:**

All of these talks presented moments of conflict in which multiple stakeholders had to negotiate the boundaries, definitions, and forms of product safety regulation. While the prevention of harm and injury of users remains at the core of all of these stories, these talks show how approaches to regulation and safety are heavily influenced by not only academics and professionals, but the public opinion and tradition as well.

## **Controlling Injuries**

Galbo's presentation on efforts to control injuries by the US Consumer Product Safety Commission showcased novel efforts to leverage social media in making both entertaining and effective public health communication. From weaving together fun and engaging visuals with narrative as a form of story-telling on their Instagram to producing a public messaging campaign through a music album, the CPSC's safety regulation messaging aims to ensure that regulation and safety standards for products are met and that recalls are made when there is a failure to meet those standards.

### **Takeaway:**

Through the use of memorable campaigns on social media via memes and lo-fi music, the CPSC's strategy highlights the importance of developing safety initiatives that engage with their audience. Adapting to modern technology and forms of communication allow government agencies to more effectively communicate with the public.

## **Day Three**

### **Technological Risks**

Satam's research examines the history of labor injuries and workers compensation in the textile industry in twentieth-century Bombay City. Her work underscores the complex interplay of caste, gender, and social factors at play within the cotton textile industry and the intersectional forms of discrimination when it came to division of labor and risk of injury. Ultimately, the introduction of the Workmen's Compensation Act of 1923 was emblematic of the general attitude towards labor at this time, with an eye towards compensation or injury rather than safety regulation and naming employers responsible for the safety of their workers.

Li presented on the intersection of media technologies and human bodies through the topic of Chinese ocular diseases and their interpretation by Western doctors during the Qing dynasty. Through the contextualization of these ocular injuries by Western doctors and the Chinese people through their specific historical frameworks, she argues that was not the case that Chinese students and society at large were not unaware of the risk in behavior; instead, there were various sociocultural factors that shaped risk perception regarding ocular injuries within these particular groups.

In Oravec's talk, she looked at the characterization of injuries and deaths associated with robots and autonomic entities. Understanding how the perceived "consciousness" (or lack thereof) of robots affects public constructions of injuries, as well as our reactions to them. As a result, she stressed the importance of examining the ways in which the press and news influence our perception of who or what is performing the "injury" in these robot interactions.

**Takeaway:**

This session touches upon risks that arise out of moments of interaction between humans and various forms of technology. The transnational character of several of these papers emphasize the way in which assumptions and beliefs are embedded within technological systems and highlight how people balance the social or financial benefits of engagement with technologies that could be considered harmful. Ultimately, these talks raise important questions about how perceptions of risk change over time and the normalization of risk in pursuit of vocation, hobbies, and life in general.

**Violence: Interpersonal and Structural**

Arha's research centers around the conceptualization of risk within the Indian judicial system and discourse. Considered a crime against the state in India, acts of sexual violence place the burden of proving that consent was not given on the woman. Her call to action is to interrogate what the current system of the judicial process in India perpetuates and how the materiality of the female body undermines legal proof.

Backe presented her fieldwork in Cape Town, where she worked with an NGO and interviewed women on the intimate and everyday terrorism experienced by survivors of intimate partner violence. Within their own communities, these individuals experience social isolation and abandonment. Backe emphasizes the necessity of social repair to repair both physical, emotional, and structural injuries.

Sousa's project examines the care of the elderly population through her time at the Santo Antonio Senior Social Parochial Center in Lisbon. At this center, there was constant renegotiation of what constituted good (or "good enough") care, as well as the normalization of certain standards or ideas of care. Ultimately, the understaffed elder care facility was representative of systematic failures of the elderly care center and the need for more religious and medical care facilities.

**Takeaway:**

The discussion of interpersonal and structural violence in this session highlights how invisible wounds are not addressed nearly as much as the physical forms of injury. Current healthcare systems and legal frameworks often fail to address important ideas of psychological and mental care, highlighting the need to critically re-evaluate how existing models of care perpetuate and normalize violence.

**Closing Session: Planning for the Future**

During this final session, participants were asked to consider what they learned about injuries and injury studies over the last few days. Several themes that overlapped included:



- Power and critically examining distributions of power. This includes consideration of who has the ability to define injuries.
- Agency, responsibility, and the normalization of risk
- Timelines and temporalities of injuries
- Incorporating the perspectives of people who have experienced injuries
- How to connect historical studies and policy making