

Background Reading on Community-Oriented Public Health Practice

Updated 6/22/2018

COPHP faculty and students have recommended these books and other readings or films as helpful to get in the groove before coming to graduate school.

On threats to health:

- Andreas J. Addicted to War: Why the U.S. Can't Kick Militarism. AK Press, Oakland CA (Note this is a graphic book/comic book)
- Danez Smith writes wonderful poetry about living with HIV/AIDS
- Desmond, Matthew. Evicted: Poverty and Profit in the American City by, Penguin, 2016.
- Fagin D. Toms River: A Story of Science and Salvation. Bantam Books. 2014. (Won the Pulitzer prize!)
- Kaufman F. Diabetes: A doctor and her patients on the front line of the obesity- diabetes epidemic New York: Bantam Books, 2006
- Kawachi I, Berkman LF. Neighborhoods and Health. Oxford; New York: Oxford University Press, 2003.
- Klinenberg E. Heat Wave, a social autopsy of disaster in Chicago. Chicago: University of Chicago Press, 2002
- Kruif P. The Microbe Hunters: The classic book on major discoveries in the microscopic world USA: Paul De Kruif, 1924
- Marmot, Michael. The Health Gap: The Challenge of an Unequal World. Bloomsbury Publishing. 2015
- Morris RD. The Blue Death: Disease, Disaster, and the Water We Drink New York: HarperCollins Publishers, 2007.
- Rowden R. The Deadly Ideas of Neoliberalism: How the IMF has Undermined Public Health and the Fight Against AIDS London: Zed Books Ltd., 2009
- Shilts R. And the Band Played On-Politics, People and the AIDS Epidemic New York: St. Martin's Press, 1987.
- Trumbo D. Johnny got his gun. Lippincott. 1939.
- Wilkinson RG, Pickett K. The Spirit Level: Why more equal societies almost always do better. London: Allen Lane; 2009.
- Wilson D. Fateful Harvest: the true story of a small town, a global industry, and a toxic secret. New York: HarperCollins Publishers, 2001.

On race and culture:

- Adichie, Chimamanda Ngozi. Americanah, Penguin Random House, 2013.
- Alexander M. The New Jim Crow: Mass Incarceration in the Age of Colorblindness, New York: The New Press, 2012.
- Dunbar-Ortiz, Roxanne. An Indigenous People's History of the United States, Beacon Press, 2014.
- bell hooks. Killing Rage, Henry Holt & Co., 1995.
- Hogood, Mary Elizabeth. Dismantling Privilege: An Ethnics of Accountability, Pilgrim Press 2000.
- Fadiman, A. The spirit catches you and you fall down: a Hmong child, her American doctors, and the collision of two cultures. New York: Farrar, Straus, and Giroux, 1997.
- Matias, Cheryl E. Feeling White: Whiteness, Emotionality, and Education, Sense Publishers, 2016.

- Sullivan, Shannon. *Good White People*, SUNY Press Albany, 2014.
- Loewen, James. *Lies My Teacher Told Me*, Touchstone (Simon & Schuster), 1995.
- Oluo, Ijeoma. *So You Want to Talk About Race*, Hachette Book Group, 2018.
- Robin D'Angelo. *White Fragility: Why it's so hard for white people to talk about racism*, Beacon Press, 2018.
- Kendi, Ibram X. *Stamped from the beginning*, Hachette Book Group, 2016.
- Taylor, Keeanga-Yamahtta. *From BlackLivesMatter to Black Liberation*, Haymarket Books, 2016.
- Wise, Tim. *White Like Me: Reflections on race from a privileged son*, Soft Skull Press, 2008.

On community and political organizing:

- Alinsky SD. *Rules for radicals; a practical primer for realistic radicals*. New York, Random House, 1971.
- Sen, Rinku. *Stir It Up: Lessons in Community Organizing and Advocacy*, John Wiley & Sons, 2003. (recommended to read this with Alinsky)
- Bobo KA, Kendall J, Max S. *Organizing for social change: a manual for activists in the '90s*. Santa Ana, CA: Seven Locks Press, 1996.
- Farmer P. *Pathologies of Power, Infections & Inequalities* Berkeley, CA: University of California Press, 2005
- Freire P. *Pedagogy of the oppressed* New York: Continuum, 1970.
- Kraut, AM. *Goldberger's war: the life and work of a public health crusader*. New York: Hill and Wang, 2003.
- McKenzie JF, Pinger RR, Kotecki JE. *An Introduction to Community Health*. Sudbury, Mass.: Jones and Bartlett Publishers, 2005.
- Minkler, M. *Community Organizing and Community Building for Health*. New Brunswick, N.J.: Rutgers University Press, 2012 (3rd edition).

On public health history and culture:

- Barry J. *The Great Influenza: the story of the deadliest pandemic in history* New York: Penguin Books, 2005.
- Hoehling AA, Young JH. *The great epidemic*. Boston, Little, Brown, 1961.
- Horn JS. *Away with all pests; an English surgeon in People's China, 1954- 1969*. New York Monthly Review Press; 1971, 1969.
- Johnson S. *The ghost map: the story of London's most terrifying epidemic-- and how it changed science, cities, and the modern world*. New York: Riverhead Books, 2006.
- Jones JH, Tuskegee Institute. *Bad blood: The Tuskegee syphilis experiment*. New York: Free Press; London: Collier Macmillan Publishers, 1981.
- Skloot R. *the Immortal Life of Henrietta Lacks* New York: Crown Publishing Group, 2010
- Snow J, Frost WH, Richardson BW. *Snow on Cholera*. New York, The Commonwealth Fund; London, Humphrey Milford, Oxford University Press; 1936.
- Verghese A. *My Own Country: A doctor's story* New York: Vintage Books, 1994.

On health care systems:

- Cohn J. *Sick: the Untold Story of American Healthcare Crisis* New York: Harper Collins, 2007.
- Garrett L. *Betrayal of trust: the collapse of global public health*. New York: Hyperion, 2000.
- Gwande A. *Complications- A surgeon's notes on an imperfect science* New York:

- Picador, 2002.
- Herman ES, Chomsky N. Manufacturing consent: the political economy of the mass media. New York: Pantheon Books, 1988.
 - Illich I. Medical nemesis: the expropriation of health. New York: Pantheon Books, 1976.
 - Jonathan G, Schreiber N. Health Care Reform: What It Is, Why It's Necessary, How It Works, 2011. (note, this is a “comic” book!)
 - Navarro V. Medicine under capitalism. New York: Prodist, 1976.
 - Reid TR. The healing of America: a global quest for better, cheaper, and fairer health care. New York: Penguin Press, 2009.
 - Starr P. Remedy and Reaction: The Peculiar American Struggle over Health Care Reform USA: Yale University Press, 2001.
 - Starr P. The social transformation of American medicine. New York: Basic Books, 1982.
 - Turnock BJ. Public Health: What it is and how it works. Sudbury, Mass: Jones and Bartlett; 2004.

Films and other media:

- *13th* is a 2016 American documentary by director [Ava DuVernay](#). The film explores the "intersection of race, justice, and mass incarceration in the United States"
- *Heroin(e)* is a 2018 documentary film by Elaine McMillion Sheldon. She chose Huntington West Virginia as the setting for her short doc about America's opioid crisis. It's been nominated for an Oscar.
- *Excommunicate Me from the Church of Social Justice*, posted by [Frances Lee](#) on July 13, 2017 <<https://www.autostraddle.com/kin-aesthetics-excommunicate-me-from-the-church-of-social-justice-386640/>>
- *I Am Not Your Negro* is a 2016 [documentary film](#) directed by [Raoul Peck](#), based on [James Baldwin](#)'s unfinished manuscript, [Remember This House](#).
- In *Sick Around the World*, [FRONTLINE](#) teams up with veteran *Washington Post* foreign correspondent [T.R. Reid](#) to find out how [five other capitalist democracies](#) -- the United Kingdom, Japan, Germany, Taiwan and Switzerland -- deliver health care, and [what the United States might learn](#) from their successes and their failures.
- take the implicit association test on line, here: <https://implicit.harvard.edu/implicit/australia/takeatest.html>
- The documentary, *How to Survive a Plague*, is the inside story of how citizens and science tamed AIDS by David France.
- *The Healthcare Movie* < www.healthcaremovie.net> by Laurie Simons and Terry Sterrenberg.
- *Whose Streets*, by Sabaah Folayan, about the Ferguson uprising following the police killing of Michael Brown.