

Violence, Health, and the (Health) Humanities

Flash-talk Workshop UCD Humanities Institute

Wednesday 28th January 2026

12:30 – 17:00

In seeking to define the parameters of the health humanities, researchers have often spotlighted the field's interest in examining issues of social justice. As Arno K. Kumagai and Thirusa Naidu write, the health humanities are often viewed as a “salve that may be spread liberally, not only over the injuries from disease but over the dehumanising wounds *caused by* health care” (2020, 83). Yet Kumagai and Naidu also point out the “self-inflicted wounds” administered by the field of health humanities itself, due to an apparent lack of clarity and specificity around its purpose and value. Through pondering whether the field is committing or perpetuating harm, Kumagai and Naidu's language brings violence to the forefront of the health humanities, as well as to the experience of illness and the pursuit of health more broadly. However, the role of violence (whether physical, emotional, structural, environmental) in relation to health and the (health) humanities remains relatively unevenly theorised. The recent *Keywords for Health Humanities* (2023) does not, for example, include an entry on violence, though entries on harm, pain, and trauma are covered.

This workshop seeks to bring together researchers at University College Dublin working on issues of violence and health (both broadly conceived) within the humanities and adjacent areas. The workshop will involve flash-talk presentations, alongside a roundtable discussion on the overlaps between violence, health, and the (health) humanities. Speakers and attendees do not need to have any expertise in or connections to the health humanities, though talks and discussions speaking to or theorising the field are welcome. The workshop will take place on the afternoon of Wednesday 28th January 2026. Lunch, as well as tea, coffee, and biscuits, will be provided.

Short flash-talk papers (max. 10 minutes) on any topic relating to violence, health, and the (health) humanities are welcome, including but not limited to:

- the violence/vehemence of disease
- domestic, sexual, and gender-based violence
- war, extremism, and political violence
- ecological violence
- (post)colonial violence and medicine
- frameworks of public health, global health, etc.
- conceptualisations of “normativity”
- violent metaphors of illness
- disability studies
- self-harm and self-injury
- structural violence, injustices, inequalities
- recovery and healing
- health and wellbeing
- violence and/in the field of health humanities

Please send abstracts of max. 200 words and a short bio note to Dr Sophie Franklin at sophie.franklin@ucd.ie by Wednesday 26th November 2025. Abstracts will be accepted by 3rd December and the final programme will then be circulated by 10th December.

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