

- MELINA SHERMAN, PH.D. -

University of Central Florida
Department of Anthropology
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Orlando, Florida 32816-1361

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RESEARCH INTERESTS

Cultural and medical anthropology, science and technology studies (STS), disaster anthropology, chronic illness, mental illness, drug use, health policy and practice, United States and Brazil

EDUCATION

Ph.D. in Communication

08/2013 – 12/2018

University of Southern California

Dissertation: How It Hurts: Culture, Markets, and Pain in the U.S. Opioid Epidemic

Advisor: Andrew Lakoff, Ph.D.

Master of Arts in Communication

08/2013 – 05/2016

University of Southern California

Advisor: Sarah Banet-Weiser, Ph.D.

Bachelor of Arts in Communication

09/2009 – 06/2013

Northwestern University

Honors Thesis: Dancing Alone, Together: Agency and Remediation inside a 'Music Scene for Bros'

Advisor: Maria Mastronardi, Ph.D.

EMPLOYMENT HISTORY

University of Central Florida, Assistant Professor

08/2025 – Present

Fairfield University , Visiting Assistant Professor	08/2024 – 08/2025
Knology , Lead Health Researcher	05/2022 – 06/2024
New York University , Postdoctoral Researcher	08/2020 – 05/2022
Stanford University , Research Consultant	05/2019 – 05/2020
University of Southern California , Adjunct Instructor	08/2016 – 08/2018

HONORS & AWARDS

AIM High UCF Affordable Instructional Materials Award	2026
Magna Cum Laude, Northwestern University	2013
Lambda Pi Eta, Northwestern University	2013
Honors in Gender & Sexuality Studies, Northwestern University	2013
Dean's List, Northwestern University	2009 – 2013

PUBLICATIONS

**First author made greatest contribution to manuscript*

BOOKS, PEER-REVIEWED

1. **Sherman, Melina.** (2024). *How We Hurt: The Politics of Pain in the Opioid Epidemic*. New York, NY: Oxford University Press.

JOURNAL ARTICLES, PEER-REVIEWED

1. **Sherman, Melina.** (Under Review). Strategic Ignorance, Patient Expertise, and the Lived Non-Crisis of Long COVID. Under review at *Medical Anthropology Quarterly*.
2. **Sherman, Melina**, Cooke, Nicole, & Bowen, Elliott. (2025). How Partnerships Help Libraries Meet Diverse Community Needs: A Thematic Analysis. *Public Library Quarterly*. DOI: <https://doi.org/10.1080/10616846.2025.24965957>.
 - Impact Factor: 1.6; Journal Ranking: Q2 in Information Science & Library Science
3. **Sherman, Melina.** (2024). Diagnosis, Visibility, and 'Illnesses You Have to Fight to Get.' *American Anthropologist*. DOI: 10.1111/aman.28030
 - Impact Factor: 1.7; Journal Ranking: Q1 in Anthropology

4. **Sherman, Melina**, and Klinenberg, Eric. (2024). Beyond Burnout: Moral Suffering Among Healthcare Workers in the First COVID-19 Surge. *Social Science & Medicine*, 1(340), 116471. <https://doi.org/10.1016/j.socscimed.2023.116471>
 - Impact Factor: 5.0; Journal Ranking: #1 in Biomedical Social Sciences
5. **Sherman, Melina**, & Oakley, Samantha. (2024). Libraries Transforming Communities: A Discourse Analysis of Media Coverage. *Library Quarterly*. <https://doi.org/10.1086/730467>
 - Impact Factor: 1.5; Journal Ranking: Q2 in Information Science & Library Science
6. Barchas-Lichtenstein, Jena, **Sherman, Melina**, Voiklis, John, & Clapman, Leah. (2023). Science Through Storytelling or Storytelling about Science? Identifying Cognitive Task Demands and Expert Strategies in Cross-curricular STEM Education. *Frontiers in Education*, 8, <https://doi.org/10.3389/feduc.2023.1279861>
 - Impact Factor: 1.9; Journal Ranking: Q2 in Education & Educational Research
7. Klinenberg, Eric., and **Sherman, Melina**. (2021). Face Mask Face-Offs: Culture and Conflict in the COVID-19 Pandemic. *Public Culture*, 33(3), 441-466. <https://doi.org/10.1215/08992363-9262919>
 - Impact Factor: 1.7; Journal Ranking: Q2 in Cultural Studies
8. **Sherman, Melina**. (2017). How to Train Your Opioid Consumer: Branding Painkillers in the Opioid Epidemic. *Communication, Culture, and Critique*, 10(4), 593-608. <https://academic.oup.com/cc/article-abstract/10/4/593/4662964>
 - Impact Factor: 1.8; Journal Ranking: Q2 in Communication
9. **Sherman, Melina**. (2017). Opiates for the Masses: Constructing a Market for Prescription (Pain)killers. *Journal of Cultural Economy*, 1-13. <https://doi.org/10.1080/17530350.2017.1352010>
 - Impact Factor: 1.9; Journal Ranking: #4 in Cultural Studies
10. **Sherman, Melina**. (2015). The Cultural Production of a Pharmaceutical Market: The Making of ADHD. *International Journal of Communication*, 9, 1-20. <https://ijoc.org/index.php/ijoc/article/view/3212/1421>
 - Impact Factor: 2.2; Journal Ranking: Q2 in Communication

BOOK REVIEWS, EDITOR-REVIEWED

1. **Sherman, Melina.** (2015). Chronic Youth: Disability, Sexuality, and U.S. Media Cultures of Rehabilitation by Julie Passanante Elman. *International Journal of Communication*, 9, 8-10. <https://ijoc.org/index.php/ijoc/article/viewFile/3999/1378>
2. **Sherman, Melina.** (2014). Venture Labor: Work and the Burden of Risk in Innovative Industries, by Gina Neff. *International Journal of Communication*, 8, 8-10. <https://ijoc.org/index.php/ijoc/article/view/2908/1142>
3. **Sherman, Melina.** (2017). Addicted. Pregnant. Poor., by Kelly Knight. *Medicine, Anthropology, Theory*. <http://www.medanthrotheory.org/article/view/4728/6518>

DIGITAL PUBLICATIONS, EDITOR-REVIEWED

1. Glabau, Danya, Fiereck, Kirk, & **Sherman, Melina.** (2017). Biofinance: Speculation, Risk, Debt, and Value from Bios. *Somatosphere*.

RESEARCH GRANT CONSULTING

National Institutes of Health 2022 – 2024

Mentored Experience to Expand Opportunities in Research (METEOR), Version 3

Award Number: NS130654-01A1

Award Amount: \$118,581

Role: Consultant (PIs: Naomi Luban, Jason Triplett)

National Institutes of Health 2023 – 2024

Senderos a la Ciencia / Pathways to Science Hispanic Role Model and Mentoring Project

Award Number: GM150175-01

Award Amount: \$254,261

Role: Consultant (PI: Yashira Marie Valentin Feliciano)

National Institutes of Health 2022 – 2024

Science Journeys

Award Number: GM146282-01

Award Amount: \$270,000

Role: Consultant (PI: Naomi Luban)

CONFERENCES & PRESENTATIONS

SESSIONS ORGANIZED AND CHAIRED - NATIONAL AND INTERNATIONAL PROFESSIONAL CONFERENCES

American Anthropological Association 2025

Canceled Vaccine Requirements and the Social Landscape of a 'Healthy Again' America

New Orleans, LA

INVITED PRESENTATIONS – CONFERENCES & SYMPOSIA

Long COVID & Society International Symposium 2026

Trust and Inclusion in Long COVID Science

Columbia University

New York, NY

Learning Institute for Elders at the University of Central Florida 2026

Strategic Ignorance, Patient Expertise, and the Lived Non-Crisis of Long COVID

University of Central Florida

Orlando, FL

Moral Economies of Medicine 2026

Invisibilization and the Unmaking of Health Crises: The Case of Long COVID

University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill

Chapel Hill, NC

Fairfield Academic Spring Festival 2025

Crisis Communication, Crisis Risk, & the Politics of Public Health

Fairfield University

Fairfield, CT

REFEREED PRESENTATIONS – NATIONAL AND INTERNATIONAL PROFESSIONAL CONFERENCES

Society for the Social Studies of Science Annual Meeting 2025

Experts of Experience: Communicating the Limits of Western Biomedicine

Seattle, WA

ScienceTalk	2023
<i>Coalition-Building for Science Communication</i>	
Portland, OR	
American Library Association	2023
<i>Accessibility and Community Engagement in Small and Rural Libraries</i>	
Chicago, IL	
Society for the Social Studies of Science	2021
<i>Examining Digital Conflict in the COVID-19 Pandemic</i>	
Toronto, Canada	
American Anthropological Association Annual Meeting	2018
<i>Examining the Cultural Politics of Pain in the U.S. Opioid Epidemic</i>	
San Jose, CA	
Society for the Social Studies of Science Annual Meeting	2017
<i>Digital Drug Worlds and the Transformation of the 'Human'</i>	
Sydney, Australia	
American Anthropological Association Annual Meeting	2017
<i>A Genealogical Analysis of Pain Management</i>	
Washington, DC	
Society for the Social Studies of Science Annual Meeting	2016
<i>Discourses of Consumption in the Opioid Epidemic</i>	
Boston, MA	
American Anthropological Association Annual Meeting	2016
<i>Biofinancial Investments and Disinvestments</i>	
Minneapolis, MN	
National Communication Association	2015
<i>Mother's Little Helper: The Gendered Politics of Valium</i>	
Las Vegas, NV	

Society for the Social Studies of Science Annual Meeting 2015

Methylphenidate Moms: Ritalin and the Cultural Construction of Stimulant Markets

Denver, CO

Cultural Studies Association 2014

ADHD and the Cultural Production of a Pharmaceutical Market

Riverside, CA

Popular Culture Association 2014

The Making of ADHD

New Orleans, LA

TEACHING

COURSES TAUGHT

ANT 5462/4462: Medical Anthropology Fall 2026

University of Central Florida

ANT 3302: Sex, Gender, & Culture Fall 2026

University of Central Florida

ANT 2410: Cultural Anthropology Summer 2026

University of Central Florida

ANT 2000: General Anthropology Spring 2026

University of Central Florida

ANT 4408: Culture, Disease, & Healing Spring 2026

University of Central Florida

ANT 2410: Cultural Anthropology Fall 2025

University of Central Florida

COMM 2299: Communication Research Methods Spring 2025

Fairfield University

COMM 3245: Identities, Discourse, & Social Change Spring 2025

Fairfield University

COMM 4999: Capstone: Research Project in Communication Fall 2024

Fairfield University

COMM 3551: The Dark Side of Communication Fall 2024

Fairfield University

COMM 1101: Argument & Advocacy Fall 2024; Spring 2025

Fairfield University

COMM 339: Communication, Technology, and Culture Fall 2017; Spring 2018

University of Southern California

RESEARCH ADVISING

Suhail Islam – Ph.D. in Integrative Anthropological Sciences, University of Central Florida

Committee Chair

Affrin Mehtaj – Ph.D. in Integrative Anthropological Sciences, University of Central Florida

Committee Chair

Kylir Gruwell – M.A. in Anthropology, University of Central Florida

Degree In-Progress

Committee Member

Maddison Clarke – M.A. in Anthropology, University of Central Florida

Non-Thesis Track (Completed Fall 2025)

Committee Member

Ivan Borkowsky Seagall – Honor's Undergraduate Thesis, University of Central Florida

Degree In-Progress

Committee Chair

Rylie Manning – Honor's Undergraduate Thesis, University of Central Florida

Degree In-Progress

Committee Member

CURRICULUM DEVELOPMENT

Global Health Internship

2025 – Present

Contribute to the development of an undergraduate internship course, intern advising, and ongoing review and selection of new interns with International Medical Outreach student organization.

Department of Anthropology, University of Central Florida

ACADEMIC SERVICE

SERVICE TO DEPARTMENT

Graduate Program Committee

2026 – Present

Committee Member

Colloquium Committee

2025 – 2026

Committee Member

Trevor Colbourn Anthropology Endowment Fund Committee

2025 – Present

Committee Member

SERVICE TO COLLEGE

COS RIA Selection Committee

2026 – Present

Committee Member

COS Graduate Awards Committee

2026 – Present

Committee Member

SERVICE TO UNIVERSITY

Faculty Senate

2026 – Present

- **Parking and Transportation Advisory Committee**

2026 – Present

Committee Member

- **Budget Administration Advisory Committee**

2026 – Present

Committee Member

SERVICE TO PROFESSION

<i>Healthcare</i>	2026
Manuscript Reviewer (1 manuscript)	
<i>International Journal of Environmental Research and Public Health</i>	2026
Manuscript Reviewer (1 manuscript)	
<i>Social Problems</i>	2024
Manuscript Reviewer (1 manuscript)	
Opioid Industry Documents Archive at Johns Hopkins University	2023 – Present
Committee Member	
<i>Social Science & Medicine</i>	2023
Manuscript Reviewer (1 manuscript)	
<i>New Media and Society</i>	2022
Manuscript Reviewer (1 manuscript)	
USC Dornsife Center on Science, Technology, & Public Life	2017 – 2018
Program Coordinator	
USC Annenberg Graduate Student Association	2014 – 2015
Vice-President	

PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT

UCF Summer Faculty Development Institute	2026
University of Central Florida, Faculty Center for Teaching and Learning	
IDL 6543	2025
University of Central Florida, Center for Distributed Learning.	
Mentor or Coach? Optimizing Support for Today's Healthcare Leaders	2025
University of Central Florida, Faculty Center for Teaching Excellence	
High-Impact Practices Course Designations in Online Courses Workshop	2025
University of Central Florida, Faculty Center for Teaching Excellence	

PUBLIC ENGAGEMENT

Chemical Sensitivity Podcast

2025

Illnesses You Have to Fight to Get: Melina Sherman, Ph.D.

<https://www.chemicalsensitivitypodcast.org/1970633/episodes/16693627-illnesses-you-have-to-fight-to-get-melina-sherman-ph-d>