MA in Medical Anthropology at NAU

The Department of Anthropology at Northern Arizona University offers an MA in medical anthropology, with theoretical or applied emphases. Medical anthropology faculty bring their active research into the classroom and engage students in real-world research, both globally and in the US Southwest. Areas of expertise include: community based participatory research, social justice, health equity, public policy, NGOs and community health, religion and health, global health, biomedical discourse, embodiment, disability, emotion, mental health, substance abuse, violence, diet, and chronic and infectious disease.

Faculty members collaborate with the Center for Health Equity Research (cher.nau.edu), also home to medical anthropologists working on global and regional health research, the Native American Cultural Center, and local government. Current faculty projects are funded by the National Institutes of Health and the National Science Foundation.

The department has an excellent track record for the placement of its graduates in a wide variety of jobs and PhD programs. The Madden scholarship and graduate assistantships provide support for MA students. For more information about the Madden scholarship, please see: http://nau.edu/uploadedFiles/Academic/SBS/Anthropology/Student_Resources/Madden_Scholars.pdf

We encourage you to contact us with questions about our program and our work.

The application deadline for the MA program and the Madden scholarship is February 15, 2017. For more information please contact Dr. Kerry Thompson, the Graduate Coordinator, kerry.thompson@nau.edu, Dr. Lisa Hardy, lisa.hardy@nau.edu, or Dr. Michelle Parsons, michelle.parsons@nau.edu.

Medical Anthropology Faculty
For more information about faculty research please go to the NAU Anthropology faculty webpage: https://nau.edu/sbs/anthropology/faculty-staff/

Janina Fenigsen (PhD) studies K-6 school instruction on how to communicate about emotions and prevent bullying. Her earlier work on health communication included consulting for a public health project that aimed to reduce stroke morbidity in South Carolina.

Lisa Hardy (PhD, MA) works in community-engaged research and practice on health equity, patient-provider communication, policy, and environmental home health. Current projects include the Center for American Indian Resilience Research (NIH), Hopi Home Health, and The Longevity Project.
Clint Humphrey (PhD) draws on social theories in semiotics, phenomenology, and critical medical anthropology to explore generative processes that configure experiences of illness and social suffering. His current work in Atlantic Nicaragua focuses on embodied action and the dangerous undersea work practices of Miskitu lobster divers.

Corina Kellner (PhD) is a bioarchaeologist and biological anthropologist interested in health equity, diet, and stress in ancient and modern societies. Her methods include the analysis of human hair for dietary isotope values (carbon, nitrogen) and, in collaboration with C. Loren Buck of the Center for Bioengineering Innovation, the stress hormone cortisol.

Fritz Lampe (PhD) works on the intersections of health, religion, and sustainable community development and the effects of different approaches to healing and wellbeing in East Africa, Melanesia, and Alaska. This focus informs his current research on resilience in Sudanese diaspora communities.

Leila Monaghan (PhD) is a linguistic and cultural anthropologist whose work includes the fields of Deaf studies and disability studies. Among her projects are research on the issue of HIV/AIDS in Deaf communities and editing a collection of student narratives on personal experiences with disabilities.

Michelle Parsons (PhD, MA, SM) is interested in the practice of global health and the political economy of social distress driving mortality crises in Russia and the United States. She has worked on medication use, menopause, and HIV/AIDS research at the World Health Organization.

Robert Trotter II (PhD) has research experience in cross-cultural HIV prevention and intervention, disability, addiction, ethnomedicine, and migrant health. He is committed to research design, new ethnographic methods, and international training in rapid ethnographic assessment (RARE). He has worked with the NIH, WHO, and CDC.

Jim Wilce (PhD) is interested in mental health, discourse in and around healthcare, and methods for closely analyzing that discourse. Current projects include an ethnographic study of an anti-bullying curriculum for elementary school children focusing on emotion and its expression.

At the Center for Health Equity Research
Emery Eaves (PhD) focuses her work on behavioral health, addiction, and medication use for chronic pain. She is interested in the ways culture interacts with stigma, chronic illness management and substance use among populations in the US Southwest and Latin America.

Kristan Elwell (PhD) is interested in women’s health, HIV/AIDS, and how gender and economic inequities shape health-seeking and disease outcomes in the US and Southern Africa. Recent projects include a study of caregiver understandings of pediatric intensive care treatment of children with cerebral malaria in Malawi.