

**Abigail A. Dumes**

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**ACADEMIC APPOINTMENTS**

2024-present Associate Professor, Dept. of Women's and Gender Studies, University of Michigan  
2019-2024 Assistant Professor, Dept. of Women's and Gender Studies, University of Michigan  
2016-2019 Lecturer I, Department of Anthropology, University of Michigan  
2015-2016 Research Affiliate, Department of Anthropology, University of Michigan

**EDUCATION**

2014 Ph.D., Sociocultural Anthropology, Yale University  
2007 M.Phil., Sociocultural Anthropology, Yale University  
2004 B.A., Anthropology and English Literature, Washington University in St. Louis  
*Summa cum laude*

**PUBLICATIONS**

**Books**

2020 *Divided Bodies: Lyme Disease, Contested Illness, and Evidence-Based Medicine*. Critical Global Health: Evidence, Efficacy, Ethnography, edited by Vincanne Adams and João Biehl. Durham, NC: Duke University Press.

**Award:** A 2021 CHOICE Magazine Outstanding Academic Title

**Reviewed in:** *Anthropologie & Santé* (2024), *Choice* (2021), *Culture, Medicine, and Psychiatry* (2022), *Ethnos* (2022), *Family Medicine* (2021), *H-Sci-Med-Tech* (2022), *Medical Anthropology Quarterly* (2022), *Sociology of Health and Illness* (2021)

**Journal Articles**

2025 Chu, Lily, Bishof, Karyn, Dumes, Abigail A. et al. "The 2024 National Academies of Sciences, Engineering, and Medicine Long COVID Definition: What Clinicians Need to Know." *Journal of General Internal Medicine*. <https://doi.org/10.1007/s11606-025-09415-8>

- 2024 Hsu, Vox Jo, Moodie, Megan, Dumes, Abigail A. et al. "Patients as Knowledge Partners in the Context of Complex Chronic Conditions." *Medical Humanities* 0: 1-5  
doi:10.1136/medhum-2024-012957
- 2020 "Putting Ethnographic Flesh on New Materialist Bones: Lyme Disease and the Sex/Gender Binary." *Feminist Anthropology* 1(2): 248-59.
- 2020 "Lyme Disease and the Epistemic Tensions of 'Medically Unexplained Illnesses.'" *Medical Anthropology: Cross-Cultural Studies in Health and Illness* 39 (6): 441-56.
- 2006 "The Rotating Savings and Credit Association as a Coping Strategy and Forum for Resistance for Cameroonian Women in France." *Connections: European Studies Annual Review* 2: 20-25.

### Book Chapters

- 2021 "Making Sense of Sex and Gender Differences in Biomedical Research on COVID-19." In *Being Human During COVID*, edited by Kristin Ann Hass, 266-70. Ann Arbor, Michigan: University of Michigan Press.
- 2016 "Paradise Poisoned: Nature, Environmental Risk, and the Practice of Lyme Disease Prevention in the United States." In *A Companion to the Anthropology of Environmental Health*, edited by Merrill Singer, 173-92. Hoboken, New Jersey: Wiley-Blackwell.
- 2007 "Your Money is Mine: Mutual Trust and Gift Exchange within Cameroonian Women's Rotating Savings and Credit Associations in France." In *Crossing Places: New Research in African Studies*, edited by C. Baker and Z. Norridge, 101-11. Newcastle upon Tyne: Cambridge Scholars Press.

### Peer-Reviewed Reports

- 2024 Committee on Examining the Working Definition for Long COVID, Board on Health Sciences Policy, Board on Global Health, Health and Medicine Division, and National Academies of Science, Engineering, and Medicine. *A Long COVID Definition: A Chronic, Systemic Disease State with Profound Consequences*. Edited by Harvey V. Fineberg, Lisa Brown, Tequam Worku, and Ilana Goldowitz. Washington, D.C.: National Academies Press.

### Essays

- 2022 "Long Covid Holds a Mirror Up to Medicine." *New York Times*, March 17, 2023.  
<https://www.nytimes.com/2022/03/17/opinion/long-covid.html>
- 2021 "What the Lyme Wars Can Teach Us About COVID-19 and How to Find Common Ground in the School Reopening Debate." *The Conversation*, August 19, 2021.  
<https://theconversation.com/what-the-lyme-wars-can-teach-us-about-covid-19-and-how-to-find-common-ground-in-the-school-reopening-debate-165375>

- 2017 “Ticks, Pesticides, and Biome-Subjectivity in the United States.” Anthropology and Environment Society’s blog, *Engagement*, November 15, 2017.  
<https://aesengagement.wordpress.com/2017/11/15/ticks-pesticides-and-biome-subjectivity/>

## RESEARCH EXPERIENCE

- 2021-present Ongoing ethnographic and qualitative research on the race, gender, and class dimensions of Long COVID in the US.
- 2010-2011 Eighteen months of dissertation fieldwork on the US Lyme disease controversy and the relationship between contested illness and evidence-based medicine.
- 2007 Three additional months of pre-dissertation fieldwork on African American gospel music performance among west and central African and Antillean immigrants in Paris, France.
- 2006 Three months of pre-dissertation fieldwork on African American gospel music performance among west and central African and Antillean immigrants in Paris, France.
- 2004-2005 Nine months of ethnographic fieldwork on issues of gender, race, and religion among Cameroonian immigrants in Paris, France while on a Fulbright Fellowship.
- 2004 Three weeks of ethnographic fieldwork on the use of rotating savings and credit associations among Cameroonian women in France for undergraduate honors thesis.
- 2003 One month of ethnographic fieldwork on the use of rotating savings and credit associations among women in Cameroon with the School for International Training.

## FELLOWSHIPS AND GRANTS

- 2025-2027 **Office of the Provost Disability Scholarship Initiative**, University of Michigan  
Co-PI on a project titled, “Long COVID, Disability, and Work: Exploring the Lived Experience of U-M Faculty and Staff on the Ann Arbor Campus.” Awarded \$285,000 to conduct multiphase, multidisciplinary mixed methods research on the experiences of U-M faculty and staff with Long COVID, including those whose preexisting disability has been impacted by Long COVID.
- 2024-present **Mellon Affirming Multivocal Humanities Grant**, University of Michigan  
Awarded \$2,000 to support research assistance for Public Engagement Faculty Fellowship project, “Working Toward Health Equity through Free and Accessible Covid-19 Testing.”
- 2022-present **Michigan COVID-19 Recovery Surveillance Study**, University of Michigan  
Led by PI Nancy Fleischer, the Michigan COVID-19 Recovery Surveillance Study (MI CReSS) explores experiences of individuals with COVID-19 in Michigan; awarded \$60,829 through the Michigan Department of Health and Human Services as a Co-I with Elizabeth King on a qualitative project within MI CReSS to examine the race, gender, and class dimensions of Long COVID.

- 2022-2024 **Public Engagement Faculty Fellowship Project Award**, Office of the Vice President for Research, University of Michigan  
PI on a project titled “Working Toward Health Equity through Free and Accessible Covid-19 Testing”; awarded \$10,000 to distribute free at-home test kits to under-resourced Ann Arbor families and, through surveys and interviews, deepen knowledge about ideas and experiences related to COVID-19.
- 2022-2023 **Humanities Collaboratory Dissemination Grant**, University of Michigan  
Co-I on a dissemination grant for previously funded project titled “Expanding the Reach of the Global Feminisms Oral History Archive”; awarded \$24,800 to support publication, travel, website and social media development, and webinar logistics.
- 2022 **Provost’s Early Tenure-Track Faculty Research Support Initiative**, ADVANCE Program, University of Michigan  
As part of the university’s pandemic relief efforts, awarded \$3,000 to support research, scholarship, and creative practice.
- 2021-2022 **Public Engagement Faculty Fellowship**, Office of the Vice President for Research, University of Michigan  
Awarded \$1,500 stipend for a three-week studio experience focused on public engagement.
- 2019-2021 **Humanities Collaboratory Project Grant**, University of Michigan  
Co-I on a project titled “Expanding the Reach of the Global Feminisms Oral History Archive” and led by PI Abby Stewart; awarded \$500,000 to expand the geographical, thematic, and pedagogical content of the Global Feminisms Project.
- 2013-2014 **Mellon-ACLS Dissertation Completion Fellowship**  
Awarded \$33,000 to complete dissertation.
- 2011-2012 **Yale University Dissertation Fellowship**  
Awarded \$26,500 for dissertation writing.
- 2010-2011 **Wenner-Gren Foundation Dissertation Fieldwork Grant**  
Awarded \$21,250 to conduct dissertation fieldwork.
- 2009-2011 **National Science Foundation Doctoral Dissertation Improvement Grant**  
Awarded \$19,369 to conduct dissertation fieldwork.
- 2008-2009 **The MacMillan Center at Yale University Dissertation Fellowship** (Declined)  
Funding to support nine months of international dissertation research.
- 2008-2009 **Chateaubriand Dissertation Fellowship** (Declined)  
Funding to support nine months of dissertation research in France.
- 2007 **SSRC Dissertation Proposal Development Fellowship**  
Funding to support pre-dissertation research and participation in two proposal development workshops.
- 2007 **The MacMillan Center at Yale University Pre-Dissertation Fellowship**  
Funding to support pre-dissertation summer research.

- 2006           **Yale Graduate School Conference Travel Fund Award**  
Funding to attend an international conference to present research.
- 2005-2007      **Yale University Fellowship**  
Funding to support Ph.D. tuition, research, and living expenses.
- 2005           **National Science Foundation Graduate Research Fellowship, Honorable Mention**
- 2004-2005      **Fulbright Fellowship for France**  
Funding to support nine months of independent research in France.

#### **AWARDS AND HONORS**

- 2020           **Golden Apple Teaching Award Nomination, University of Michigan**  
Campus-wide award for faculty that is organized and voted on by students.
- 2018           **Golden Apple Teaching Award Nomination, University of Michigan**  
Campus-wide award for faculty that is organized and voted on by students.
- 2004           **National Lambda Alpha Scholarship Award**  
Awarded \$5,000; selected by the National Executive Council members of the Lambda Alpha National Anthropology Honor Society and given to one undergraduate senior.
- 2004           **John W. Bennett Prize for the Outstanding Graduating Senior in Anthropology,**  
Washington University in St. Louis
- 2004           **Phi Beta Kappa**

#### **PROFESSIONAL PRESENTATIONS**

- 2024           “Rethinking Quantum Ethnography as Feminist Praxis after COVID-19,” National Women’s Studies Association, Detroit, MI.
- 2024           “Thinking Though Porosity,” WGS Spring Symposium, Ann Arbor, MI.
- 2024           “The Power of Porosity: Symptom Overlap and Contested Illness Coalition Building,” Leakage: Inaugural Conference of stsing, Dresden, Germany.
- 2023           “Lessons Learned from Lyme Disease,” National Academies of Science, Engineering, and Medicine Symposium on Long COVID: Examining the Working Definition, Washington, D.C.
- 2023           “Stories of Long COVID Advocacy in the United States.” Organized and moderated a webinar co-hosted by the Global Feminisms Project and the Institute for Research on Women and Gender, which featured six patient advocates whose recorded interviews are archived on the Global Feminisms Project website.
- 2022           “‘Radical Rest’: Self Care, Mutual Aid, and Health Justice in Long COVID Activism in the United States,” American Anthropological Association, Seattle, WA.

- 2022 “2022 Fall into Books: Abigail Dumes, Divided Bodies: Lyme Disease, Contested Illness, and Evidence-Based Medicine,” Fall into Books Author Talk Series, Yale Science and Engineering Association.
- 2022 “From Lyme Disease to School Reopening During COVID-19: Finding Common Ground in Polarizing Public Debates,” Society for Applied Anthropology, Salt Lake City, UT.
- 2021 “Riding the Long Tail: Stories of COVID-19 Chronicity in the Context of Contested Illness and Evidence-Based Medicine,” American Anthropological Association, Baltimore, MD.
- 2021 “Teaching Global Feminisms: Using Activist Interviews Across Disciplines,” panelist on “Classroom Experiences with the Global Feminisms Project Resources,” Global Feminisms Project, University of Michigan, Ann Arbor, MI.
- 2021 “Divided Bodies: Lyme Disease, Contested Illness and Evidence-Based Medicine,” a book panel with Yi-Li Wu and Rachel Best, Institute for Research on Women and Gender’s Gender: New Works, New Questions Series.
- 2020 “What Can Contested Illness Tell Us About Evidence-Based Medicine?,” Medical Scientist Training Program Lecture Series, University of Michigan School of Medicine, Ann Arbor, MI.
- 2019 “The Water’s Fine: Toxicity, Health, and ‘Environmental Exceptionalism,’” American Anthropological Association, Vancouver, Canada.
- 2019 “‘Depressed Housewives and Sleep-Deprived Moms’: Gender, Sex, and ‘Medically Unexplained Illness’ in the United States,” American Ethnological Association, St. Louis, MO.
- 2018 “‘Depressed Housewives and Sleep-Deprived Moms’: Gender, Sex, and ‘Medically Unexplained Illness’ in the United States,” American Anthropological Association, San Jose, CA (cancelled due to wildfires).
- 2018 “The Wrong Way to Be Sick: ‘Medically Unexplained Illnesses’ and the Rise of Evidence-Based Medicine in the United States,” American Ethnological Association, Philadelphia, PA.
- 2018 “Lyme Disease, Nature, and Environmental Risk in the United States,” Michigan University-Wide Sustainability and Environment Conference, Ann Arbor, MI.
- 2016 “Lyme Disease, Nature, and an Epidemiology of Affect,” American Anthropological Association, Minneapolis, MN.
- 2016 “Biome-Subjectivity: Ticks, Lyme Disease, and Prevention Practices in the United States,” American Ethnological Association, Washington, D.C.
- 2011 “Knowing the Back of the Other’s Hand: Tick-Borne Diseases and Nature’s New Regime of Bodily Practices,” American Anthropological Association, Montreal, Canada.

- 2007 “Race, Religion, and the Politics of Belonging among African and Antillean Gospel Performers in France,” American Anthropological Association, Washington DC.
- 2006 “Your Money is Mine: Mutual Trust and Gift Exchange within Cameroonian Women’s Rotating Savings and Credit Associations in France,” Crossing Places Graduate Conference, Nottingham University, Nottingham, UK.
- 2006 “Your Money is Mine: Mutual Trust and Gift Exchange within Cameroonian Women’s Rotating Savings and Credit Associations in France,” Council for European Studies at Columbia University, Chicago, Illinois.
- 2005 “The Economic and Social Roles of Rotating Savings and Credit Associations for Cameroonian Women in France,” 2nd Annual European Scholars Consortium, Provo, UT.

## **PEDAGOGICAL TRAINING**

- 2007-2015 **Certificate of College Teaching Preparation**, Graduate Teaching Center, Yale University  
A training program in college teaching that includes completion of one “Fundamentals in Teaching” course, participation in eight “Advanced Teaching” workshops, observing others teaching, being observed while teaching, and the creation of a teaching portfolio.

## **COURSES TAUGHT**

### **Undergraduate Seminars**

- Gender and Contested Illness (WGS 432)
- Feminist Theoretical Perspectives in Gender and Health (WGS 331)
- Senior Honors Seminar (WGS 441/442)
- The Anthropology of Infectious Disease (ANTHRCUL 458)

### **Undergraduate Lecture Courses**

- Introduction to Women’s and Gender Studies (WGS 240/AMCULT 240)
- Introduction to Anthropology (ANTHRCUL 101)

### **Graduate Seminars**

- Feminist Science Studies (WGS 698)

## **STUDENT ADVISING**

### **Undergraduate Advising**

- 2020-2021 Honors Thesis Advisor for Cheyanne Killin  
“‘I Don’t Think They Can Help Me’: Exposing [Harm] in Patient-Provider Interactions for Women with Ehlers-Danlos Syndrome and Informing a Framework for Change”  
B.A., Women’s and Gender Studies

2020 Independent Study Advisor for Jack Allen  
B.A., Women's and Gender Studies

### Graduate Advising

- 2024-present Dissertation Committee Member for Jessica Bautista  
Ph.D student, Program in Educational Studies
- 2024-present Women's and Gender Studies Certificate Advisor for Jessica Bautista  
Ph.D student, Program in Educational Studies
- 2024-present Pre-Candidacy Committee Member for Beck Mallwitz  
"Pronouns Through the Lens of Queer Informatics"  
Ph.D student, School of Information
- 2023-present Dissertation Committee Member for Elise Nagy  
"Intersectional Feminist Interventions in Health Education Spaces"  
Ph.D. candidate, Joint Program in English and Women's and Gender Studies
- 2020-2023 Dissertation Committee Member for Meg Garver  
"The Art and Practice of Developing an Anxiety and Depression Literacy"  
Ph.D., Joint Program in English and Education
- 2019 "WGS 891: Joint Ph.D. Advanced Research Course" Defense Reader for Elise Nagy  
"Feminist Interventions in Undergraduate Health Classrooms"  
Ph.D. candidate, Joint Program in English and Women's and Gender Studies

### DEPARTMENT AND UNIVERSITY SERVICE

- 2024-present **Associate Chair for Undergraduate Studies**, Department of Women's and Gender Studies, University of Michigan  
Chair the undergraduate committee, chair the Honors Program, support the department administrative team, and teach WGS 441 and 442.
- 2024-present **Lecturer IV Major Review Committee**, Department of Women's and Gender Studies, University of Michigan  
Observe Lecturer's teaching, review and evaluate teaching materials, and make a recommendation to the Chair and Executive committee.
- 2019-present **Global Feminisms Project**, Department of Women's and Gender Studies, University of Michigan  
Co-Director since 2024; coordinate, conduct, and archive interviews with feminist activists and scholars from around the world; attend weekly meetings.
- 2023-2024 **Undergraduate Committee**, Department of Women's and Gender Studies, University of Michigan  
Assist in the selection of internal award winners.



- 2022-2023 **Foundational Course Initiative**, Department of Women’s and Gender Studies and the Center for Research on Teaching and Learning, University of Michigan  
Attend a four-day summer workshop followed by bi-monthly meetings over three years to redesign “WGS/AMCULT 240: Introduction to Women’s and Gender Studies,” with a focus on equity and student and instructor well-being.
- 2022-2023 **Executive Committee**, Department of Women’s and Gender Studies, University of Michigan  
Attended monthly meetings and participated in deliberations related to department affairs.
- 2021 **Lecturers’ Professional Development Fund Review Committee**, Center for Research on Learning and Teaching, University of Michigan  
Reviewed and evaluated all proposals and attended a selection meeting.
- 2020-2021 **Lecturer II Continuing Renewal Review Committee**, Department of Women’s and Gender Studies, University of Michigan  
Observed Lecturer’s teaching, reviewed and evaluated teaching materials, and made a recommendation to the Chair and Executive committee.
- 2019-2020 **Undergraduate Committee**, Department of Women’s and Gender Studies, University of Michigan  
Assisted in the selection of internal award winners.
- 2019 **Undergraduate Advising**, Department of Women’s and Gender Studies, University of Michigan  
Advised WGS undergraduates with questions about graduate school, careers, and honors theses during designated weekly office hours.

## NATIONAL SERVICE

- 2019-present **Article and book manuscript review for:** *Biosocieties* (2022), *Duke University Press* (2023), *Engaging Science, Technology, and Society* (2023; 2022), *Feminist Anthropology* (2021), *Gender and Women’s Studies* (2019), *Medical Anthropology* (2023; 2021; 2019), *Medical Anthropology Quarterly* (2024; 2021; 2019), *Mental Health* (2023), *Social Science and Medicine* (2023; 2024); *Sociology of Health and Illness* (2024).
- 2023-2024 **Committee on Examining the Working Definition for Long COVID**, National Academies of Science, Engineering, and Medicine  
Participate in meetings and workshops with a multidisciplinary committee to examine the US government’s working definition for Long COVID.

## MEDIA INTERVIEWS

- 2022 “United States Long COVID Podcast.” Global Feminisms Project.  
<https://sites.lsa.umich.edu/globalfeminisms/contextualizing-feminist-voices/>

- 2021 “What the Lyme Wars Can Teach Us About COVID-19 Controversies.” Michigan Minds. [https://open.spotify.com/episode/5ij8XQPfkamYypiMbu1DZ?go=1&sp\\_cid=dce22e7bed1aaa8821fc5d5ace5c34d5&utm\\_source=embed\\_player\\_p&utm\\_medium=desktop&nd=1](https://open.spotify.com/episode/5ij8XQPfkamYypiMbu1DZ?go=1&sp_cid=dce22e7bed1aaa8821fc5d5ace5c34d5&utm_source=embed_player_p&utm_medium=desktop&nd=1)
- 2021 “Episode 61: Lyme Disease and Long Term Symptoms with Abigail Dumes.” Infectious Disease Historians Podcast. <https://infectioushistorians.com/2021/05/16/lyme-disease/>
- 2020 “Divided Bodies: Lyme Disease, Contested Illness, and Evidence-Based Medicine.” New Books Network. <https://newbooksnetwork.com/divided-bodies>
- 2020 “First Friday Focus on the Environment: Keeping Drinking Water in Michigan’s Public Schools Lead Free.” 89.1 WEMU. <https://www.wemu.org/post/1st-friday-focus-environment-keeping-drinking-water-michigans-public-schools-lead-free#stream/0>

### **PROFESSIONAL MEMBERSHIPS**

American Anthropological Association  
Anthropology and Environment Society  
American Ethnological Society  
Association for Feminist Anthropology  
General Anthropology Division  
Society for Cultural Anthropology  
Society for Humanistic Anthropology  
Society for Medical Anthropology  
Society for Social Studies of Science  
Society for the Anthropology of North America  
National Women’s Studies Association

### **LANGUAGES**

English, French