Radical Healing: What Does It Mean To Be Well?

Event Outline

This event will be an informal conversation; none of the panelists are expected to prepare remarks in advance. Attendees who are interested in understanding the panelists’ individual perspectives on healing in advance should refer to their published work (which is easily found online).

The general questions we’ll cover will include:

• When was the moment you discovered that your own physical and mental health had a social and political dimension? Was this something you assumed all along, or did it take time to arrive at this understanding?

• Is it difficult to publish work that connects health with politics and culture? Have you encountered resistance from editors on making these connections?

• In a society that tends to individualize and stigmatize physical differences, behavioral choices, and illness, how do you resist the tendency to blame yourself? Talk about how you’ve worked with your own mental health, your family, your community on this issue.

• There’s a lot of conversation in the public sphere right now about “healing communities.” What would a healing community actually look like?

• Health is one area in which it’s impossible (or should be impossible) not to think intersectionally—about gender, race, and class, to begin with. Talk about one area of health and healthcare you think about with an intersectional perspective (however you define that term).