

Nancy D. Campbell

Professor and Department Head, Science and Technology Studies (STS) at Rensselaer Polytechnic Institute

Troy, NY, US

Focuses on the history of science, technology, and medicine as it relates to drug policy and the social significance of drugs

Biography

Professor Nancy Campbell is a Professor and the Department Head of the Department of Science and Technology Studies (STS) in the School of Humanities, Arts and Social Sciences.

Her research focuses on science, technology, and medicine as it relates to drugs, drug policy, and the social significance of legal and illegal drugs, with a recent focus on opioid overdose. She studies those who govern and use drugs, produce scientific knowledge about them, and seek to treat drug problems.

“How have ideas about drugs and drug addiction changed over time? What do we know about drug addiction, and how do we know it? Why do we have the drug policies that we do?” said Campbell. “We consider some drugs to cause social problems, and others to solve them. Often we are talking about the same molecules—the differences lie in who uses them and how they do so. My research centers on scientific communities who make knowledge about drugs, and interactions between scientists, treatment providers, policymakers, and patient advocates.”

Campbell is currently working on the history of overdose prevention, the ethics of LSD research in the US Public Health Service, and the fruitful convergence between neuroscience and addiction research.

Her forthcoming book, *OD: Naloxone and the Politics of Overdose*, will be published by The MIT Press in 2020. She has also co-authored *Gendering Addiction: The Politics of Drug Treatment in a Neurochemical World* with Elizabeth Ettorre. This book took up the theme of gender introduced in Campbell's first book, *Using Women: Gender, Drug Policy, and Social Justice* (Routledge, 2000), which was about how drug-using women figured in drug policy discourse from the 1910s to the 1990s.

Campbell and co-authors JP Olsen and Luke Walden published a visual history of the federal drug treatment hospital in Lexington, Kentucky, titled *The Narcotic Farm: The Rise and Fall of America's First Prison for Drug Addicts* (Harry N. Abrams, Inc., 2008). Campbell also appeared in Olsen and Walden's 2007 documentary, *The Narcotic Farm*, and she often speaks about the relevance of this project to current drug treatment.

Campbell's scholarly history of the formative science conducted by the laboratory at The Narcotic Farm, which was called the Addiction Research Center and is now the intramural research program of the National Institute on Drug Abuse, is titled *Discovering Addiction: The Science and Politics of Substance Abuse Research* (University of Michigan Press, 2007).

Areas of Expertise

Opioid Crisis, Harm Reduction, Opioid Overdose, History of Science & Medicine, Gender & Addiction, Legal and Illegal Drugs, Drug Treatment, Opioid Addiction & Recovery, Substance Abuse Disorder & Addiction

Affiliations

Contemporary Drug Problems : Associate Editor

Education

University of California Santa Cruz
Ph.D. History of Consciousness Program

University of Washington
M.A. English

Bucknell University
B.A. English

Accomplishments

Star-Nelkin Prize, American Sociological Association Section on Science, Knowledge and Technology
2017

BioSocieties Reviewer of the Year Award
2015

Media Award, College on Problems of Drug Dependence
2009

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