

Nell Lake

author • scholar • educator • editor

Department of American Studies
Brown University, Providence RI 02912

413.320.1415
nell_lake@brown.edu

SUMMARY OF EXPERIENCE

Professional

- 20 years' experience as a writer, journalist, editor, and college instructor.
- Author of nationally recognized book on family caregiving, *The Caregivers: A Support Group's Stories of Slow Loss, Courage, and Love* (Scribner 2014).

Research

- PhD program begun in 2016; research in care labor and moral discourses around care; women's work; history of health, disease, old age, and end of life.

EDUCATION

Brown University, Providence, RI.

PhD program American Studies, started 2016.

Fields: Work and Gender; History of Health and Disease; History of Old Age.

MA terminal degree, American Studies, completed 1997.

Smith College, Northampton, MA.

BA Cultural Anthropology, 1989.

Magna Cum Laude. Phi Beta Kappa.

RESEARCH SUMMARY

My dissertation research examines the moral politics of care—conceptions of moral responsibility for care and dependency in American society—and the politics of “women’s work.” I study the history of women’s care labor and seek to connect two threads in the literature on care and women’s work: 1., political philosophy on the moral value of care, and 2., analyses of the politics of women’s care, work, and reproduction. I have conducted ethnographic research among immigrant homecare workers in the U.S., focusing on their labor struggles amid the devaluing of care work.

TEACHING EXPERIENCE

2019 **Brown University**, Providence, RI.

Sole Instructor. Health as Morality in American Life, American Studies Department.

2018 **Brown University**, Providence, RI.

Teaching Assistant. History of Childhood, American Studies Department.

2017 **Brown University**, Providence, RI.

Teaching Assistant. The Anti-Trafficking Savior Complex, American Studies Department.

- 2015-2016 **Smith College**, Northampton, MA.
Sole Instructor. Writing about Health and Healthcare in the U.S., English Department.
- 2015 **University of Massachusetts**, Amherst, MA.
Sole Instructor. Media Criticism, Journalism Department.
- 2014 **Westfield State University**, Westfield, MA.
Sole Instructor. Composition, English Department.

FELLOWSHIPS and ASSOCIATESHIPS

- 2019-2020 **Five College Women's Studies Research Center**, Five Colleges, Inc., Research Associate.
- 2014 **Columbia University**, Robert N. Butler Columbia Aging Center, Age Boom Academy Fellow.
- 2015 **Gerontological Society of America** and **New America Foundation**, Journalist in Aging Fellow.

PUBLICATIONS

Books

The Caregivers: A Support Group's Stories of Slow Loss, Courage, and Love (New York: Scribner, 2014).

Selected Journalism Articles

- "Compensating the Kindness of Strangers," *Boston Globe*, "Ideas" Section, April 2016.
- "Aid-in-Dying Loophole: Advocates Want You to Know You Can Stop Eating and Drinking," CommonHealth, WBUR, April 18, 2014.
- "Midnight Friends: How Wired Patients Are Transforming Chronic Illness," CommonHealth, WBUR, May 2, 2014.
- "Study Finds Fivefold Increase in Alzheimer's Deaths: Why It Matters," CommonHealth, WBUR, March 7, 2014.
- "Labor, Interrupted: Cesareans, 'Cascading Interventions,' and Finding a Sense of Balance," Harvard Magazine, May/June 2012.

PUBLIC PRESENTATIONS

Invited Talks

- 2018 **Eastern Sociological Society** conference, Baltimore, MD. "For Love and Money: Public-Private Tensions in Homecare Labor."
- 2015 **Bay Path University** writing conference, Longmeadow, MA. "How to Go Deep: Telling Intimate Stories about People We Are Just Coming to Know."
- 2014 **Boston University** Power of Narrative Conference, Boston, MA.
"How to Go Deep: Telling Intimate Stories about People We Are Just Coming to Know."
- 2014 **National bookstores:** Book talks at Elliott Bay bookstore, Seattle, WA; Politics and Prose Books, Washington, D.C.; Harvard Bookstore, Cambridge, MA; The Odyssey Bookstore, South Hadley, MA.

Other Invited Conference Participation

- 2015 **Boston University** Power of Narrative Conference, Boston, MA.
Panelist, session on reporting methods.
- 2014 **Public Forum on End-of-Life Care**, Northampton, MA.
Panelist for “A Matter of Life and Death,” on aid-in-dying.
- 2014 **Bay Path University** writers conference, Longmeadow, MA, panelist, session on journalism ethics.
- 2009 **Harvard University** Narrative Journalism Conference, moderator, panel on writing about difficult subjects.
- 2008 **Harvard University** Narrative Journalism Conference, moderator, panel on journalism ethics.

Media

- 2014-15 **Author interviews:** Live call-in shows: WNYC, New York City and WBUR, Boston.
Recorded interviews: KUOW, Seattle; NEPR, western MA. Others.

EDITORIAL EXPERIENCE

- 2012-present **Independent Editor** for scholars and journalists.
- 2003-2007 **Harvard University**, Cambridge, MA.
Founding Editor, Nieman Narrative Digest, Nieman Foundation.
- 1998-2002 **Walking Magazine**, Boston, MA.
Associate Editor and Contributing Editor.
- 1993-1994 **CIDSE**, Hanoi, Vietnam.
Media and Writing Consultant.
- 1991-1992 **Northwest Public Affairs Network**, Seattle, WA.
Producer and Reporter.

GRANTS AND AWARDS

- 2019 **Mary Lily Research Grant**
Sallie Bingham Center for Women’s History and Culture, Duke University.
- 2005 **Knight Foundation** grant.
On behalf of the Nieman Foundation at Harvard University.

ADDITIONAL TEACHING EXPERIENCE AND TRAINING

- 1997-1999 **Boston University**, College of Communication, Boston, MA.
Sole Instructor. Introduction to Communication Writing.
- 1998 and 1999 **The Putney School**, Putney, VT.
Lead Teacher. Creative Nonfiction, Summer Programs.

COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT

- 2018 **Brown University**, led “first-year read” seminar on *Evicted: Poverty and Profit in the American City*.