

Background

Dr. Margaret M. Quinlan is an Associate Professor of Communication, a Core Faculty Member of the Health Psychology PhD Program, affiliate faculty, Public Health Sciences Ph.D. Program, affiliate faculty, Women's and Gender Studies and a faculty associate in the Center for Professional and Applied Ethics, at UNC Charlotte. She is currently the Bonnie E. Cone Early-Career Professorship in Teaching and teaches courses in Narratives of Health and Illness, Introduction to Communication Theory, Interpersonal Health Communication, and Gendered Health Communication. She earned a BS at Marist College, an MS from Illinois State University and a PhD at Ohio University.

Research

Dr. Quinlan's research explores how the individual and collective experience of health is shaped by and assumes meaning within and through diverse bodies—individual, collective, political. The main thrust of her research consists of two overarching and interrelated inquiries: how health and illness influence and are influenced by different interactions and how we organize healthcare resources and work opportunities for people with differences like disability, chronic illness, and gender identity. Her scholarship is motivated by questions including: How are bodies disciplined through organizational practices? What are the (in)visible costs of asymmetrical power relations? In what ways do spatial, temporal, corporeal and material elements serve to alter our understanding of health? Under what conditions can counter-narratives reimagine and/or articulate alternative possibilities for health outcomes?

Quinlan's interdisciplinary work is situated at the crossroads of communication (particularly health communication), gender and disability studies and the history of women's health and illness. She primarily engages in qualitative, feminist and narrative inquiry to explore how communication creates, sustains, resists, and transforms knowledge about bodies (gender, disability, illness). She has published in a wide range of journals including: *Health Communication*, *Text & Performance Quarterly*, *Journal of Holistic Nursing*, *Women's Reproductive Health*, *The Journal of Men's Studies*, *Sexuality and Culture*, *Women & Language*, and *Sex Education: Sexuality, Society and Learning*. From her ethnographic research, she produced three PBS documentaries in a regional Emmy award winning series (*Courage of Creativity*), *Creative Abundance* (Co-Producer), *Beautiful Remedy* (Associate Producer) and *Acoustics of Care* (Co-Producer).

Relevance

Dr. Quinlan is a communication scholar guided by post-structural feminist and narrative theories, she explores how diverse bodies assume meaning through societal discourse, relational interactions, and institutional practices. Her goal in all aspects of her academic career is to explore and critique existing power structures and to work towards the empowerment of marginalized groups. Her research, teaching, and service relate primarily to issues of equality and to the structures that constrain and empower all who are involved in giving and receiving care within and outside the U.S. medical establishment. She positions embodied differences as central to understanding the ways in which we organize selves and resources for social change.