

Kelly Underman
Associate Professor and Director
Health Studies
Haverford College
370 Lancaster Ave.
Haverford, PA 19041

ACADEMIC POSITIONS

2026 – Present	Associate Professor and Director, Health Studies, Haverford College
2023 – 2026	Associate Professor, Department of Sociology, Center for Science Technology and Society, Drexel University
2017 – 2023	Assistant Professor, Department of Sociology, Center for Science Technology and Society, Drexel University
2015 – 2017	Postdoctoral Research Associate, Department of Medical Education, University of Illinois School of Medicine

EDUCATION

2015 PhD in Sociology, University of Illinois at Chicago, Chicago, Illinois
Dissertation: “A Feel for the Clinic: Affect, Embodiment, and Simulation in the Pelvic Exam”
Winner of the 2016 Simmons Outstanding Dissertation Award, Section on Medical Sociology of the American Sociological Association
Committee: Laurie Schaffner (Chair), Claire Laurier Decoteau, Paul-Brian McInerney, Sydney Halpern, Sandra Sufian (Department of Medical Education)

2009 MA in Sociology, University of Illinois at Chicago, Chicago, Illinois

2005 BA in Psychology, *magna cum laude*, Case Western Reserve University, Cleveland, Ohio

AREAS OF EXPERTISE

Health and medicine, science and knowledge, embodiment and the body, gender and women’s studies

PEER-REVIEWED PUBLICATIONS

Peer-Reviewed Book

2020 **Kelly Underman.** *Feeling Medicine: How the Pelvic Exam Shapes Medical Training.* New York University Press: New York, NY.

*Honorable Mention for 2022 Best Publication, Section on Body and Embodiment
of the American Sociological Association*

Peer-Reviewed Articles

- 2025 **Kelly Underman** and Alexandra Vinson. "Updating 'Somatic Culture' for the Sociology of Health Professions Education." *Social Science and Medicine*, 385: 118143
- 2025 **Kelly Underman**. "Sensory Forms of Knowing in Body Pedagogics." *Qualitative Sociology*, 48: 25-49.
- 2024 **Kelly Underman**, Alexandra H. Vinson, Lauren D. Olsen, Tania M. Jenkins, and Laura E. Hirshfield. "Special Issue Introduction: The Sociology of Health Professions Education." *Social Science and Medicine*.
- 2024 **Wiktor Gocal and Kelly Underman**. "Current State of Combined Baccalaureate-MD programs: A Scoping Review." *Journal of Best Practices in Health Professions Diversity*, 17(1): 18-33.
- 2022 **Kelly Underman**, Merlin Kochunilathil, Lauren McLean, and Alexandra H. Vinson. "Online Student Cultures as Sites for Negotiating Assessment in Medical Education." *Social Science & Medicine*, 310: 115270.
- 2022 **Kelly Underman**. "The Social Transmission of Bodily Knowledge." *Body & Society*, 28(3), 30–62.
- 2022 **Kelly Underman** and Paige L. Sweet. "Counter-Clinical Spaces." *Sociological Forum*, 37(1): 155-176.
- 2021 Tania M. Jenkins*, **Kelly Underman***, Alexandra H. Vinson, Lauren D. Olsen, and Laura E. Hirshfield. "The Resurgence of Medical Education in Sociology: A Return to Our Roots and an Agenda for the Future," *Journal of Health and Social Behavior*, 62(3): 255-270. *denotes equal authorship
- 2020 Alexandra H. Vinson and **Kelly Underman**. "Clinical Empathy as Emotional Labor in Medical Work." *Social Science and Medicine*, 251: 112904.
- 2017 **Kelly Underman**, Paige L. Sweet, and Claire Laurier Decoteau. "Custodial Citizenship in the Autism Omnibus Proceeding," *Sociological Forum*, 32(3): 544–565.
- 2017 Laura E. Hirshfield and **Kelly Underman**. "Empathy in Medical Education: A Case for Social Construction." *Patient Education and Counseling*, 100(4): 785-787.
- 2016 Danielle Giffort and **Kelly Underman**. "The Relationship between Medical Education and Trans Health Disparities: A Call to Research." *Sociology Compass*, 10(11): 999–1013.

- 2016 **Kelly Underman** and Laura E. Hirshfield. "Detached Concern?: Emotional Socialization in Twenty-First Century Medical Education." *Social Science & Medicine*, 160: 94–101.
- 2015 Claire Laurier Decoteau and **Kelly Underman**. "Adjudicating Non-Knowledge in the Omnibus Autism Proceedings." *Social Studies of Science*, 45(4): 471-500.
- 2015 **Kelly Underman**. "Playing Doctor: Simulation in Medical School as Affective Practice." *Social Science & Medicine*, 136: 180-188.
- 2011 **Kelly Underman**. "It's the Knowledge That Puts You in Control": The Embodied Labor of Gynecological Educators. *Gender & Society*, 25(4): 431-450.

Peer-Reviewed Book Chapters

- Forthcoming Olsen, Lauren D., Alexandra H. Vinson, **Kelly Underman**, Laura E. Hirshfield, and Tania M. Jenkins. "Building the Sociology of Health Professions Education Collaborative." In *Teaching Sociology to Medical Students*, edited by Jeni Harden, Tracey Collett, and Kathleen Kendall. Cheltenham, UK: Edward Elgar Publishing
- 2026 Kelly Underman, Merlin Kochunilathil, and Laura E. Hirshfield. "Professional Socialization." *100 Theories for Health Professions Education Research*. 2026. Eds: Varpio L. et al. Elsevier Press.
- 2022 **Kelly Underman**. "The Context of Touch." Pp. 187-193 in *Making Sense of Medicine*, edited by Anna Harris and John Nott. Intellect Books: Bristol, UK

Peer-Reviewed Education Scholarship

- 2016 **Kelly Underman**, Danielle Giffort, Abbas Hyderi, and Laura E. Hirshfield. "Transgender Health: A Standardized Patient Case for Advanced Clerkship Students." *Med Ed Portal*, 12.

Reviews

- 2026 **Kelly Underman**, review of *Sexualizing Cancer* by Laura Mamo, *American Journal of Sociology*
- 2023 **Kelly Underman**, review of *Managing Medical Authority* by Daniel Menchik, *Work and Occupations*

SCHOLARSHIP IN PROGRESS

“The Biopolitics of Wellness in the Health Professions.”

“Burnout, Quantification, and Emotional (In)Justice in the Medical Profession.”

GRANTS AND AWARDS

Grants

- 2025 Innovate/Collaborate Grant Program, Coastal Athletic Association Academic Alliance
- 2022 Undergraduate Research Mini-Grant (x2), Mentor
- 2022 Faculty Summer Research Award, Drexel University, Principal Investigator
- 2020 Faculty Scholarly and Creative Activity Award, Drexel University, Principal Investigator
- 2020 Sociology Department Faculty Development Fund, Drexel University, Principal Investigator
- 2019 Stemmler Award, National Board of Medical Examiners, Co-Investigator
- 2019 CoAS Research Fellowship, Drexel University, Principal Investigator
- 2016 Mapping the Landscape, Journeying Together Grant, Arnold P. Gold Foundation Research Institute, Co- Principal Investigator
- 2012 Alice J. Dan Dissertation Research Award, Center for Research on Women and Gender, University of Illinois at Chicago, Investigator

Awards

- 2021 The Allen Rothwarf Award for Teaching Excellence, Drexel University
- 2020 College of Arts and Sciences Teaching Excellence Award, Drexel University
- 2016 Simmons Outstanding Dissertation Award, Section on Medical Sociology of the American Sociological Association

INVITED TALKS

- 2023 “From Anonymous Vagina to Gynecological Teaching Associate.” Health Equity Scholars Program, University of Michigan, Feb. 15

- 2022 “Clinical Feelings?: Emotions, Affects, and Professional Dominance in Medical Education.” Enactments of Power: A Critical Symposium on Health Professions Education, The Wilson Centre, University of Toronto, May 22
- 2022 “Feeling Medicine: How the Pelvic Exam Shapes Medical Education.” Reilly Center for Science, Technology, and Values, University of Notre Dame, Feb. 24

CONFERENCE PRESENTATIONS

- 2025 “The Biopolitics of Wellness in the Health Professions.” American Sociological Association Annual Conference, Chicago, IL, Aug. 12
- 2024 “Burnout, Quantification, and Emotional (In)Justice in the Medical Profession.” Society for the Social Studies of Science, Amsterdam, NL, July 16
- 2024 “Migrants Who Care by Fumilayo Showers.” Critic, Author Meets Critic, Eastern Sociological Society, Washington DC, Mar. 1
- 2023 “Burnout Inventories and the Unsettled Science of Wellness in the Health Professions.” Virtual, Behavioural and Social Sciences Teaching, Aug. 27
- 2023 “What is Good Form?: Skilled Vision in Body Pedagogics.” American Sociological Association, Philadelphia, PA, Aug. 20
- 2023 “Qualifying Practices in Expert Service Work.” Health Professions Education Mini-Conference, Eastern Sociological Society, Feb. 23
- 2022 “Managing Medical Authority by Daniel Menchik.” Critic, Book Forum, Social Sciences History Association, Nov. 11
- 2022 “The Quantification of Burnout.” Health Professions Education Mini-Conference, Eastern Sociological Society, Mar. 11 (with Sarah Dabre)
- 2021 “Embodied Labor.” Invited Panel organized for Body & Embodiment Section, American Sociological Association, Virtual, Aug. 7
- 2021 “Embodying Credibility in Expert Service Work.” American Sociological Association, Virtual, Aug. 9
- 2021 “Author Meets Critic: Feeling Medicine.” Eastern Sociological Society Annual Meeting, Feb. 21. Critics: Rene Almeling (Yale University), David Hutson (Penn State University-Abington), Krystale Littlejohn (University of Oregon)
- 2020 “Feeling Medicine: How the Pelvic Exam Shapes Medical Training.” Invited Talk in the Department of Sociology, University of Pennsylvania, Sept. 11

- 2020 "Affect and Medical Education." Invited Talk in for the Center for Medical Humanities and Social Medicine, Johns Hopkins University, May 11*
*Canceled due to the COVID-19 Pandemic
- 2019 "Medical Education Research and the Limits of Objectivity." Social for the Social Studies of Science, New Orleans, LA, Sept. 4.
- 2019 "Inter-Field Assemblages." American Sociological Association, New York, NY, Aug. 13 (with Paige Sweet)
- 2019 "Making the Subjective, Objective?: Assessing Decision-Making and Evaluation Among Standardized Patients." Eastern Sociological Society, Boston, MA, Mar. 15. (with Laura Hirshfield and Katharine McCabe)
- 2019 "Considering Simulated Patients' Identities: The Case of Trans SPs." Eastern Sociological Society, Boston, MA, Mar. 15. (with Laura Hirshfield and Danielle Giffort)
- 2018 "Not Just Bones, Organs, and Science: Technologies of Affect in Contemporary US Medical Education." Medical Sociology Working Group of the British Sociological Association Annual Conference, Glasgow, UK. Sept. 13. (Convened Special Event)
- 2018 "What Could be More Logical than to Consult with a Specialist?" American Sociological Association Annual Conference, Philadelphia, PA. Aug. 13.
- 2017 "Doing Empathy in the Clinical Encounter." American Sociological Association Annual Conference, Montreal, Quebec, CA. Aug. 13. (with Alexandra Vinson)
- 2016 "Transgender Health: A Standardized Patient Case for Advanced Clerkship Students." Gay and Lesbian Medical Association Annual Conference, St. Louis, MO. Sept. 16.
- 2016 "Not Just Bones, Organs, and Science: Patient-Centered Medicine and the Constitution of Patient Subjectivities." American Sociological Association Annual Meeting, Seattle, WA. Aug. 23.
- 2016 "Detached Concern?: Emotional Socialization in Twenty-First Century Medical Education." American Sociological Association Annual Meeting, Seattle, WA. Aug. 23. (with Laura E. Hirshfield)
- 2016 "Patients-as-Partners: Feminist Empowerment, Clinical Medicine, and the Pelvic Exam." Eastern Sociological Society Annual Meeting, Boston, MA. Mar. 17.
- 2015 "Custodial Citizenship in the Autism Omnibus Proceeding." Society for the Social Studies of Science Annual Meeting, Denver, CO. Nov. 12.
- 2015 "Learning to Perceive the Body: Entanglements of Embodied Perception in Pelvic Exam Simulations." American Sociological Association Annual Meeting, Chicago, IL. Aug. 24.

- 2015 “What Does It Mean to Relax Your Hand?” Open Embodiments Conference, Tucson, AZ. Apr. 17.
- 2014 “Practicing Professionalism, Performing Authenticity.” American Sociological Association Annual Meeting, San Francisco, CA.
- 2014 “Making Objects of Knowledge.” Eastern Sociological Society Annual Meeting, Baltimore, MD. Feb. 21
- 2013 “Authenticity and Artificiality in Simulation.” Society for the Social Studies of Science Annual Meeting, San Diego. Oct. 11
- 2013 “Harm versus Risk in the Adjudication of Autism.” Society for the Social Studies of Science Annual Meeting, San Diego. Oct. 10 (with Claire Decoteau)
- 2013 “Science on Trial: The Omnibus Autism Proceedings and the Co-Production of Uncertainty.” American Sociological Association Annual Meeting, New York. Aug. 12 (with Claire Decoteau)
- 2012 “The Emergence of Gynecological Educator Programs at UIC.” Department of Medical Education Works in Progress Series, Chicago, IL, Dec. 5.
- 2012 “Working (In) the System: How Feminists Were Enrolled in Reforming Medical Education.” Engendering Change, University of Chicago, Chicago, IL, Apr. 28.
- 2011 “Humanizing the Pelvic: How Reforming Medical Education Coopted Feminism,” Society for the Social Studies of Science Conference, Cleveland, Ohio, Nov. 4.
- 2010 “‘It’s Empowering to Share the Body’: Embodied Knowledge and Gynecological Educators,” Annual Meeting of the Midwest Sociological Society, Apr. 1

TEACHING EXPERIENCE

Haverford College

2025 Introduction to Health Studies

Drexel University

2024 What is an Athlete?

2023 Gamifying Health

2022 Women’s Health and Human Rights

2022-2024 Sociology of Health Professions

2017-2025 Sociology of Health and Illness
2019-2023 Classical Sociological Theory
2018-2025 Introduction to Sociology
2019-2023 Contemporary Sociological Theory

University of Illinois at Chicago

2015 Debriefings, Objective Structured Clinical Examinations, Graduate Medical Education
2014 Instructor, Sociology of the Body
2013 Instructor, Sociology of Health and Medicine
2013 Instructor, Senior Research Experience
2011 Teaching Assistant and Laboratory Instructor, Advanced Sociological Statistics
2008-2011 Teaching Assistant and Laboratory Instructor, Introduction to Statistics
2010 Instructor, Introduction to Sociological Research Methods

Northeastern Illinois University

2010-2013 Instructor, Social Inequalities

CURRICULAR DEVELOPMENT

2016 Case Development, Essentials of Clinical Practice and Professional, University of Illinois at Chicago College of Medicine

PROFESSIONAL ACTIVITIES AND SERVICE

Service to Department

2017-Present Medical Sociology Curriculum Committee, Drexel University
2018-2019 The Drexel Experience Instructor
2017-2020 Film Series Committee, Drexel University
2008-2014 President, Sociology Graduate Student Association, University of Illinois at Chicago

Service to College or University

- 2026-Present Director, Health Studies, Haverford College
- 2021-2023 Co-Director, BA/BS+MD Program, Drexel University
- 2019-2020 Social Science Research Council, Drexel University
- 2015-2017 Member, Health Humanities Working Group, University of Illinois College of Medicine
- 2013 Co-Chair, Engendering Change, Graduate Student Conference, University of Illinois at Chicago, Mar. 14-15

Service to Discipline

- 2026-2027 Chair, *Section on Body and Embodiment* of the American Sociological Association
- 2015-Present Founding Member, Sociology of Health Professions Education Interest Group
- 2019-2024 Co-Organizer, Mini-Conference on Health Professions Education, Eastern Sociological Society
- 2016-2019 Council Member, *Section on Body and Embodiment* of the American Sociological Association
- 2015-2017 Communications Committee, *Section on Science, Knowledge, and Technology* of the American Sociological Association
- 2015-2016 Graduate Student Paper Award Committee, *Section on Body and Embodiment* of the American Sociological Association

Research Assistantships

- 2009-2013 Claire Laurier Decoteau, University of Illinois at Chicago
- 2011 Center for Court Innovation, New York
- 2008 Chicago Area Study, University of Illinois at Chicago

Ad-Hoc Reviewer

Gender & Society
Social Science & Medicine
Medical Education
National Science Foundation
Social Problems

PROFESSIONAL AFFILIATIONS

American Sociological Association (Medical Sociology; Science, Knowledge, and Technology; Body and Embodiment)

Society for the Social Studies of Science