NARRATIVE, HEALTH, AND SOCIAL JUSTICE (737) • Founded: 2010

This interdisciplinary and inter-institutional seminar explores the connection between narrative, health, and social justice. If disease, violence, terror, war, poverty, and oppression all manifest themselves in narrative, then resistance, justice, healing, activism, and collectivity can equally be products of a narrative-based approach to ourselves and the world. The seminar draws from fields such as journalism, performance arts, law, public health, trauma studies, anthropology, sociology, literary studies, medicine, writing, and cultural studies, exploring how narrative understanding unpacks complex power relations—from the macro level between the resource-rich and resource-deprived, to the individual level of self and other—with the aim of expanding shared understanding of the intertwined realities of health, narrative, and social justice.

CHAIR/S: **Mario de la Cruz**; **Zahra Khan** • RAPPORTEUR/S: **Khalid Antonio Taylor**

2025–2026 MEETINGS

September 18 — *Mirrors and Doorways: Theater as a Vehicle for Exploring the Past and Present*
Renée Saindon Russas, Poor Mouth Theatre Company

November 20 — *The Grammar of Care: Integrating Narrative Medicine into a Pediatric Health System*
Nicole Robinson, Akron Children's Hospital

March 26 — *The Rewards of Reflective Storytelling*
Donna Bulseco, *Intima: A Journal of Narrative Medicine*

April 16 — *From Burnout to Thriving: Interrogating Systemic Barriers to Recruitment and Field Longevity*
Janice Haskins, American Psychological Association
Panelists: **Lisa Haileselassie**, New York County District Attorney's Office
Bianca Jones Marlin, Columbia University
Ovita Williams, Columbia University

2026-2027 CHAIR/S: **Mario de la Cruz**, md2998@columbia.edu; **Zahra Khan**, zhk2107@columbia.edu