

Health Humanities Grand Rounds

SPONSORED BY CAROLINA SEMINARS HEALTH HUMANITIES TASK FORCE

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Dr. Emily Winderman is an Assistant Professor at North Carolina State University, specializing in rhetorics of reproductive healthcare, public emotion, and social movements. Her work has been published in outlets such as *Rhetoric & Public Affairs*, *Feminist Media Studies*, *Public Understanding of Science*, and *Communication Quarterly*. She is currently at work on a book manuscript tentatively titled: *The Back Alley: Rhetorics of Clinical Space in Abortion Care*. In the Fall, she will be joining the faculty in the Communication Department at the University of Minnesota, Twin Cities.

What Can Abortion's 'Back Alley' Be?: Investigating the Rhetorical Possibilities of Clinical Space in Abortion Care

Wednesday, February 28, 3:30 - 4:40 PM
HHIVE Lab, Greenlaw Hall Room 524

As Celeste M. Condit argued in *Decoding Abortion Rhetoric: Communicating Social Change*, the phrase “the back alley” “bore strong emotional force” in pre-Roe v. Wade days of abortion rights advocacy, narrating harrowing tales of women’s experiences with obtaining illegal reproductive care. Beginning with the premise that the phrase “the back alley” was a potent pathos appeal and today remains a circulated textual fragment, this talk asks the following questions: 1) What can abortion’s back alley be? 2) Where can we find back alleys and what are their historical precursors? 3) And most importantly, what is the back alley’s collectivizing force? In this talk, Dr. Winderman unpacks “the back alley’s” rhetorical dynamics and effectivity. In as much the project is about institutional and medical spaces, it is just as much a story of the collectivizing force of rhetoric—how the spaces where abortions are procured simultaneously function as a deeply communal space for abortion rights advocates and adversaries alike.

Light Refreshments will be served. Questions? Contact Kym Weed at kweed@unc.edu
Save the Date: [Brian Moynihan](#), March 22 at 12:30pm in HHIVE



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