

Farewell

PRESIDENT'S LETTER

"If you come to a fork in the road, take it."
—Yogi Berra

Several years ago, I alerted our board of directors of my intention to retire after ten years as SAR's thirteenth president. I am now only weeks away from that milestone. Leading SAR has been a privilege and the pinnacle of my career as an anthropologist and educator. One thing I've learned over this long career, however, is that institutions need new leadership at regular intervals to meet the challenge of a changing world. That's why I choose to step down now.

My love affair with SAR has a history longer than many may realize. As an undergraduate, I was introduced to the field of anthropology by a Tewa scholar from Ohkay Owingeh, Alfonso Ortiz, who had strong links to SAR. When I first visited SAR in 1982 as a participant in an advanced seminar organized by the late Barbara Tedlock, I was charmed by the El Delirio campus and dazzled by the erudition of other scholars in the seminar, most of whom were more experienced and better published than I.



MICHAEL F. BROWN, PRESIDENT OF THE SCHOOL FOR ADVANCED RESEARCH FROM 2014-2024

Six years later I found myself again on campus, this time as a Weatherhead Resident Scholar. The book that I completed that year, *War of Shadows*—co-authored with an Argentine colleague, Eduardo Fernández—was profoundly influenced by the free-thinking legacy of Santa Fe, which fostered experimentation with a more accessible and narrative-driven approach to writing that I embraced for the rest of my career.

After that fellowship year, I made several shorter visits to Santa Fe, either to work on new writing projects or collaborate

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Looking Back at Fifty Years of the SAR Resident Scholar Program



SAR SCHOLAR PORTRAIT WALL LOCATED IN THE BILLIARD HOUSE ON CAMPUS

The convergence of the fiftieth anniversary of SAR's Residential Fellowships and Michael Brown's ten years of leadership offers an opportunity to look back at the successes and challenges of the program. In short, fifty years in, the Resident Scholar program has become an astonishingly successful and sought-out scholarly opportunity. Hundreds of scholars have come and written books and dissertations, resulting in innumerable awards and accolades from National Book Awards to Fulbright, Guggenheim, and MacArthur fellowships. More than just awards, though, books written at SAR such as *The Land of Open Graves* (De León, 2015) and *The Heartbeat of Wounded Knee* (Treuer, 2019), among many others, have fundamentally changed the way we see and think about the world.

As of this writing, our fellowship program brings a half dozen scholars to SAR each September, supported by a mix of internally-funded fellowships (the Weatherhead and Katrin S. Lamon fellows) and restricted fellowships, currently from the Mellon Foundation, the Wenner-Gren Foundation for Anthropological Research, and the Paloheimo Foundation. Sometimes our fellows combine a residence with us



RESIDENT SCHOLARS AND MICHAEL F. BROWN DURING THE SCHOLAR WELCOME PICNIC AT SAR IN 2023

with another, external non-residential fellowship, such as this year's Paloheimo Fellow, Margaux Fitoussi, who is concurrently a Paloheimo and Charlotte W. Newcombe Fellow. In rare cases, such as former Lamon Fellow Dorothy Grant or current Weatherhead Fellow Carl Elliott, we have made semester-long appointments, but we typically have all fellows arrive in September for orientation, and ideally build positive relationships within their group. Even decades later, our alumni often speak of the importance of those cohorts in their own work and intellectual development, as well as the long-term interpersonal bonds they form with each other. Thus, in addition to stellar intellectual projects, we also seek to build strong conversations and community, in which younger scholars can find mentorship and senior fellows are inspired in new directions.

With about twenty applicants for each fellowship, we can and must be extraordinarily selective; in the end, the program is fundamentally constrained by the number of residences available, not the number of outstanding applications received. Indeed, the current pilot "low-residence" Wenner-Gren fellowship option is crafted around that constraint. All the residences but one are on SAR's property; we rent one casita on the east side of Garcia Street. Every year, we do our best to accommodate varying family sizes, numbers of pets, allergies, and particular academic needs to the available housing. Let's just say this is more art than science . . .

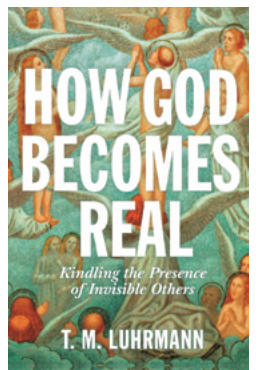
While there are always challenges, such as the increasing rarity of year-long sabbatical support, fifty years in, SAR's Residential Scholar program has a strong foundation, and with continued alumni and donor support, is sure to grow further. ■

J. I. Staley Prize

SAR Awards Top Prize in Scholarship and Writing in Anthropology to Tanya Marie Luhrmann

SAR is pleased to announce the recipient of the 2024 J. I. Staley Prize: Tanya Marie Luhrmann, Albert Ray Lang Professor of Anthropology at Stanford University, for her book *How God Becomes Real: Kindling the Presence of Invisible Others* (Princeton University Press, 2020). Since 1988, the School for Advanced Research has awarded the J. I. Staley Prize to a living author for an English-language book that exemplifies outstanding scholarship and writing in anthropology.

The selection committee states, "With admirable clarity and a directness that belies the sophistication of her argument, T. M. Luhrmann explores the practices that enable people to experience the divine as embodied, tangible, and real. Based on decades of wide-ranging fieldwork with evangelical Christians in the U.S., India, and elsewhere, as well as other denominational communities, she argues that it is action, discipline, and repetition that drive faith, rather than the reverse. Looking at the many ways that devout individuals cultivate a talent for joining private-but-shared imaginative worlds, Luhrmann shows how faith is 'kindled,' or intentionally brought into being."



Luhrmann's previous book, *When God Talks Back*, was named a *New York Times* Notable Book of the Year and a *Kirkus Reviews* Best Book of the Year. She has published over thirty op-eds in the *New York Times*, and her work has been featured in the *New Yorker*, the *New York Review of Books*, the *Times Literary Supplement*, *Science News*, and other publications. She is currently at work on a book titled *Voices*. ■

The SAR Board of Directors Introduces Morris W. Foster, SAR's Next President

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with then-president Doug Schwartz on various program initiatives. Among others, I drafted SAR's first proposal seeking funding to wire the campus for a new-fangled technology called . . . the Internet.

When SAR began to search for a new president in 2013, I was completing my thirty-fourth year on the faculty of Williams College and looking for new challenges. The SAR board's search committee saw fit to consider my application and offer me the job.

It has been an eventful decade, and I leave convinced that 117 years after its founding, SAR is stronger than ever.

Our historic campus buildings have undergone award-winning improvements. Thanks to prudent board management and a first-rate advancement team, our endowment has grown significantly. We have added new scholar fellowships in Latino studies, linking SAR's mission to New Mexico's cultural heritage in ways that complement our enduring commitment to the region's Native American communities. Our increasingly sophisticated online programs now reach all fifty states and more than thirty

nations and territories. Expanded public programming has drawn new audiences. One of the state's greatest cultural treasures, the collections of the Indian Arts Research Center (IARC), is touring its first-ever pottery exhibition at several of the nation's foremost art museums. The IARC is now recognized nationally as a leader in museum ethics and collaboration with descendant communities. Over the past decade, four of our scholar alumni have either won or been short-listed for a National Book Award.

As I reach this fork in the road of life, I wish to thank you, SAR's members, for your loyalty, generosity, and especially for your curiosity about the world. It is your passion for learning that has fueled my work for the past decade and continues to inspire the work of SAR's talented staff. I look forward to following SAR's next achievements in the coming years. ■

Cordially,

Michael F. Brown

“

It has been an eventful decade, and I leave convinced that 117 years after its founding, SAR is stronger than ever.

From top left: 1) Michael F. Brown during his residency at SAR in 1988. 2) Brian Vallo and Michael attending SAR's Gala in 2022. 3) Michael speaking with Gerald Stiebel and Penelope Hunter-Stiebel during SAR's winter party in 2019. 4) Michael with Andrew S. Curran and Henry Louis Gates Jr. in front of the Lensic in 2023. 5) Michael and Douglas Schwartz on a field trip to Arroyo Hondo in 2016. 6) Michael, Elizabeth Glassman, and Paul Ryer during a scholar welcome picnic in 2023.

Announcing the Appointment of Morris W. Foster as Next SAR President

When Michael F. Brown accepted the role as president for the School for Advanced Research in 2014, he committed to leading the institution for ten years. True to his word, last fall Dr. Brown announced his retirement effective July 2024, ending a tenure of exceptional service in leading SAR in a period of substantial programmatic and fundraising growth that has broadened SAR's impact nationally and internationally.

After an extensive search, SAR's board of directors has announced that Dr. Morris W. Foster has accepted the role of SAR's new president effective July 1, 2024. Dr. Foster holds a PhD in anthropology from Yale University and his research focuses on social history and medical anthropology. He has published on a wide range of topics including Native American ethnography and ethnohistory, processes for community engagement, population and public health research design and policy, research ethics, and climate change. His book *Being Comanche: A Social History of an American Indian Community* (University of Arizona Press, 1992) was awarded the American Society for Ethnohistory's Erminie Wheeler-Voegelin Prize for Best Book in Ethnohistory. Dr. Foster is an emeritus faculty member at the



MORRIS W. FOSTER

University of Oklahoma and was vice president for research at Old Dominion University (ODU), where he led the effort for ODU to achieve Carnegie classification as an "R1" or "Very High Research" institution. Dr. Foster has served in a number of other university administrative roles as well as leadership positions for multiple non-profit organizations. Dr. Foster is married to Joan Cuccio, who is a potter. They have three adult children.

Ken Cole, chair of SAR's board of directors, expresses confidence that Morris Foster will build on SAR's recent momentum, which includes its first-ever

traveling exhibition of Pueblo pottery, *Grounded in Clay*, currently at the Metropolitan Museum of Art in New York. "Morris's anthropological training, administrative experience, and familiarity with Native American issues will serve SAR well," says Cole. "We are delighted that he has accepted our offer to take the helm of one of Santa Fe's oldest and most distinguished cultural institutions."

Dr. Foster states, "I am honored to be selected as SAR's next president, especially following Michael F. Brown's decade of outstanding accomplishments. SAR plays a unique role at the intersections of the arts, humanities,

and social sciences. Exploring these intersections is critical to advancing the academic disciplines served by SAR. Of equal importance, SAR also has the ability to help frame those interdisciplinary understandings in accessible terms that demonstrate the value of interweaving academic and Indigenous ways of thinking about the world to address critical challenges. SAR is one of only a handful of independent research institutes shaping this interdisciplinary and inter-community space for both the public and academia. I'm looking forward to continuing SAR's long tradition of scholarly and community engagement." ■



SAR PRESIDENT'S OFFICE

The Year the Stars Fell

Philip Deloria, 2023–2024 Katrin H. Lamon Fellow, is writing a new book that looks at American epistemology through shared experiences of the extraordinary Leonid meteor storm of November 1833—which may have generated as many as thirty meteors per second. “This is a perfect moment in America to imagine a continental history of shared experience among many peoples.”

Phil’s SAR project comes out of the American studies tradition of interdisciplinarity and his long-term interest in Plains Indian winter counts, pictographic chronicles that Native people used to construct relational histories. “When you think about winter counts, you always go to the year 1833 and the Leonid meteor showers because it’s a miniature version of this larger continental history.”

Looking across time brings better understanding to American multicultural dynamics. “The 1830s are a dark time of hardship and trauma and division. We think of the Civil War as the moment where America breaks apart. Well, it all starts before that. The 1830s are a real point of fracture.”

“People can be seen breaking into their separate groups and jostling with one another about just what this meteor storm might mean. How do we understand it? Through science? Through faith? In that sense, writing out of the present, the moment of the politics of now, the economics of now, the darkness of now . . . all of that is to be found in the 1830s as well, and it’s crystalized by the falling stars.”

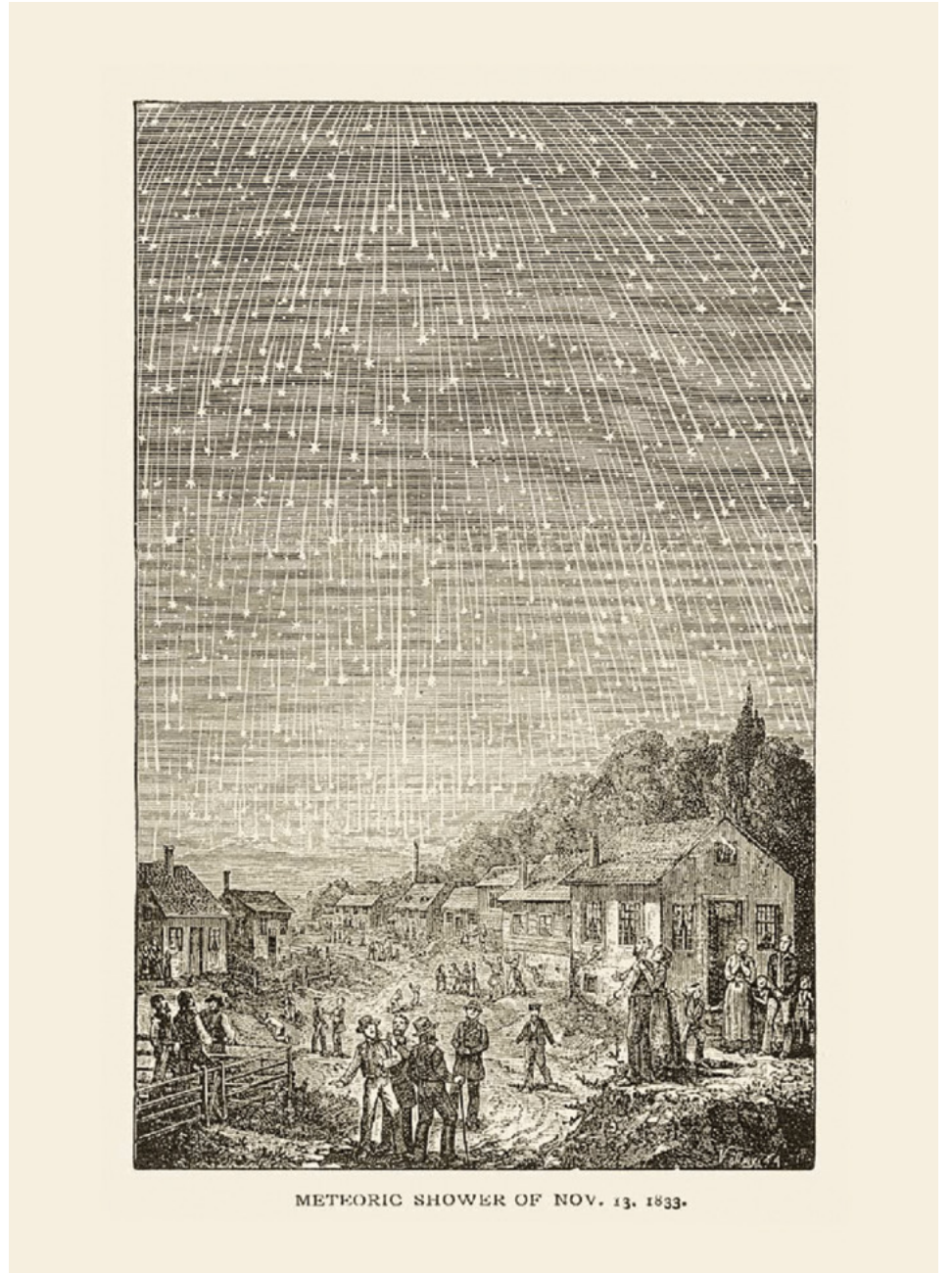


Philip Deloria
Leverett
Saltonstall
Professor
of History
at Harvard
University

The Year the Stars Fell investigates distinct perspectives: astronomers like Denison Olmsted, Native Americans, and enslaved African Americans. It sets up a context, “for the people of religiosity or faith, who I try to take seriously and respectfully, and the people of science, of course. Because then what I want to do with Native people, is to recognize the ways that they understood that faith and science are Western categories, and are actually not very helpful. The ways we think about knowledge and make knowledge partake of both. So, there’s a throughline argument that comes out of those three chapters; Native people are the folks who get to make the argument.”

“History is able to step across into other disciplinary sorts of forms, always maintaining, I think, the canons of historical method, but drawing on other disciplinary forms. That’s the secret sauce, and where the joy can be found.” Philip Deloria is currently the Leverett Saltonstall Professor of History at Harvard University. ■

Right: Adolf Vollmy, after Karl Jauslin from Bible Readings for the Home Circle (Battle Creek, MI: Review and Herald Publishing, 1889). Public Domain.



Donor Profile: The Wenner-Gren Foundation

Since the early 1970s, the School for Advanced Research has supported over 270 pre-doctoral and post-doctoral scholars with its resident scholar programs on our historic campus in Santa Fe, New Mexico. With our Katrin H. Lamon Fellowship for Native American scholars, established in 1985, we have long been a significant source of support for Native scholars and scholarship. More recently, the Mellon Foundation pre-doctoral and post-doctoral research fellowships have allowed SAR the opportunity to expand and deepen our support of Latinx scholarship.

Despite having hosted some significant scholarly work in African and African-diasporic studies, SAR has aspired to a greater role in supporting a comparable level of African-American scholarship in anthropology writ large. Toward that

end, SAR approached the Wenner-Gren Foundation, which is known for its leadership role in helping anthropologists advance knowledge, build sustainable careers, and amplify the impact of anthropology within the wider world. To SAR’s delight, the Foundation made a three-year commitment to support an annual Wenner-Gren fellowship at SAR. Scholars selected for the nine-month Wenner-Gren fellowship at SAR can complete their doctorate degrees or further their post-doctoral work in anthropology. In 2022, SAR welcomed the first Wenner-Gren Fellow in Anthropology and Black Experiences, Paulla Ebron, associate professor of anthropology at Stanford University; following in 2023 was Bertin Louis, associate professor of anthropology at University of Kentucky; and we look forward to welcoming this fall Fiori Berhane, assistant professor of

anthropology at the University of Southern California. With Wenner-Gren Foundation’s support, scholars whose research draws on Black studies, critical race studies, diasporic Africana studies, the vernacular insights of communities of color, and other sources of inspiration growing out of global Black experiences, have an opportunity to advance new lines of scholarship in any of anthropology’s subfields.

The Wenner-Gren Foundation is dedicated to broadening the conversation in anthropology to reflect the full diversity of the field. Dr. Danilyn Rutherford, president of the Wenner-Gren Foundation, reflects:

“The Wenner-Gren Foundation is delighted to continue its collaboration with the School for Advanced Research promoting scholars specializing in anthropology and Black experiences. We’ve been thrilled and honored to support important leaders in anthropology, beginning with Paulla Ebron, and continuing with Bertin Louis and next year’s Fellow, Fiori Berhane. There are so few opportunities open to scholars of all levels, including tenured professors who need time to navigate important transitions in their careers. This has been a great partnership, coming at a time when there’s wonderful work being done in this area.”

SAR is excited to partner with the Wenner-Gren Foundation to amplify perspectives previously under-represented in anthropology and is most grateful for their support and for enhancing SAR’s resident scholar programs. ■



Paulla Ebron
Associate
Professor of
Anthropology
at Stanford
University



Fiori Berhane
Assistant
Professor of
Anthropology
at University
of Southern
California



Bertin Louis
Associate
Professor of
Anthropology
at University of
Kentucky



Danilyn Rutherford
President of the
Wenner-Gren
Foundation

A New Vision for SAR’s Cottonwood Plaza



SAR’S COTTONWOOD PLAZA

Recent visitors to El Delirio will have noticed that the iconic cottonwood tree at the center of the campus is no longer. Two certified arborists confirmed what was evident to many of us: that the colossal tree had reached the end of its long life. After the tree’s removal, the former area has been cleared and leveled in anticipation of a face-lift under the guidance of Sites Southwest, a landscape architecture firm.

We expect that some improvements will be underway by late summer or early fall, including planting of several shade trees whose water needs are more modest than those of the cottonwood they replace. The area is likely to receive a semi-permeable crushed-stone surface punctuated by flagstone paths. Also under consideration is installation of a pergola and a water feature. The goal is to enhance this important element of the SAR campus and realize its full potential as an attractive gathering place for staff and visitors. ■

Interns Rachel and Maie Reflect on their Time at SAR’s Indian Arts Research Center



RACHEL MORRIS AND LORNA MAIE THOMAS TAKING BASKET INVENTORY IN THE IARC

Over the last nine months, Maie and I have not only expanded our museum experience but also made meaningful professional connections both on and off SAR’s campus. This internship, split among collections, registration, and education, has provided a formidable opportunity for learning and growth as emerging museum professionals. Our day-to-day has been guided by

many projects that have stretched the duration of this internship. For collections, that included a basket sectional inventory, in which Maie and I confirmed the location and labeling of around 580 baskets. We also made countless boxes and mounts for items to ensure safe storage, learned how to label items, nurtured an understanding of integrated pest management, and

much more. For registration, we scanned records and slides relating to a large textile conservation project that occurred in 1988. We also worked to reconcile multi-part records to ensure that the database was accurate and expanded upon an artist information database. Through it all, we were also able to gain invaluable experience with the IARC’s database, The Museum System (TMS). For education, we were able to curate a few small displays for exhibition in the IARC’s vaults. We also compiled state education standards for curricula in preparation for the *Grounded in Clay* exhibition’s next journeys, helped with events and outreach, and of course, worked on social media. Follow SAR on Instagram, Facebook, and X! Though not an exhaustive account of all we did, these are a few of the amazing projects we were able to work on!

Resource Division of the New Mexico Department of Cultural Affairs.

This fall I will be attending the University of Colorado Boulder to pursue a master’s degree in their Museum and Field Studies program. Maie will be attending the University of Toronto’s Museum Studies program. We will take all the skills and guidance we gained as Anne Ray Interns into our next adventures and beyond! We are grateful for our time spent at the IARC and SAR and are excited for what is next!

-Rachel & Maie



UNPACKING CONDITION REPORTS

There have also been many professional development opportunities, including our time at the Association of Tribal Archives, Libraries, and Museums conference where we connected with both familiar and new faces. On Tuesdays, we have been able to explore even more sections of the museum field at the Poeh Cultural Center, the Museum of Contemporary Native American Art, and the Museum

Contributors: Lindsay Archuleta, Kat Bernhardt, Michael F. Brown, Miriam Kolar, Alexia Lozano, Jolene Lujan, Mary G. Madigan, Rachel Morris, Marcia Richardson, Melinda Robbins, Paul Ryer, Lorna Maie Thomas. **Photos:** page 1: Garret P. Vreeland, Alexia Lozano, book cover courtesy of Princeton University Press; page 2: courtesy of SAR, Garret P. Vreeland, Kevin Watson, courtesy of Morris W. Foster; page 3: Garret P. Vreeland, courtesy of Fiori Berhane, Danilyn Rutherford, and Philip Deloria; page 4: Paloma Lopez, book cover courtesy of W. W. Norton & Company.


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SPRING 2024

SARNOW

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SCHOOL FOR ADVANCED RESEARCH NEWS



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Philosopher Carl Elliott Questions the Ethics of Medical Experimentation in New Book

In his new book, *The Occasional Human Sacrifice: Medical Experimentation and the Price of Saying No* (W. W. Norton & Company, 2024), SAR’s 2023-2024 Weatherhead Fellow, philosopher Carl Elliott lays bare the troubling stakes of whistleblowing on abusive medical research.

Degradation and its variants—such as shame and indignity—are unseen forces that shape the modern world. Yet degradation is hard to think clearly about. Who determines whether a practice is degrading? To what extent should we be permitted to degrade ourselves?

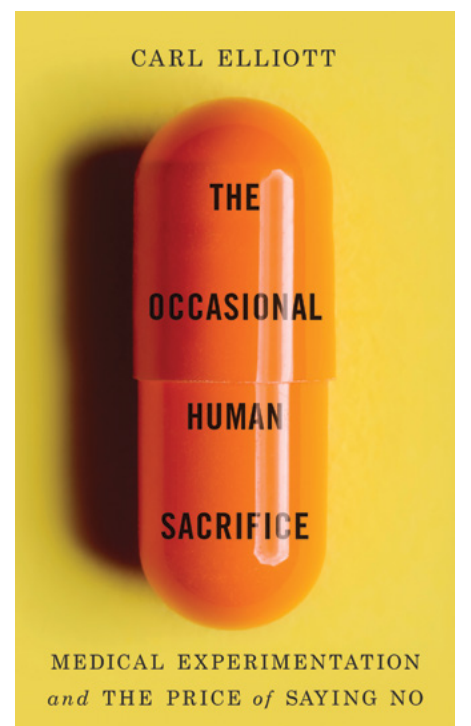
Trained as a physician and ultimately a whistleblower himself, Elliott “came to understand that whistleblower narratives are not so much moral justifications as stories about the self. For whistleblowers, the decision to blow the whistle is a choice about the sort of person they are and the one they want to be.”

Carl Elliott’s next book is sure to provoke us into better understandings of ourselves in our time.

“For whistleblowers, the decision to blow the whistle is a choice about the sort of person they are and the one they want to be.”

The human losses in every study were extreme and enduring, not only to participants, but to the communities around them. Through multi-year conversations with medical research whistleblowers on six high-profile cases, Elliott found they had in common “a difficulty in coming to terms with this new world that had been exposed to them. Their assumptions about the way the world worked up to this point in their life were undermined and destroyed.”

Elliott’s SAR book project, *Degradation*, flips “the traditional philosophical way of deciding what you think about something and then trying to construct as deep and unassailable an argument for it as possible.” Instead, he “started with looking at something and saying, wow, I’m not quite sure how I feel about that. So, I need to explore why.”



MEDICAL EXPERIMENTATION and THE PRICE of SAYING NO