

Helena Hansen, M.D., Ph.D.

Helena Hansen earned an MD and a Ph.D. in cultural anthropology as part of Yale University's NIH funded Medical Scientist Training Program. She is Professor of Psychiatry and Chair of Research Theme in Translational Social Science and Health Equity at UCLA's David Geffen School of Medicine, as well as Associate Director of UCLA's Center for Social Medicine. During graduate school she completed fieldwork in Havana on Cuban AIDS policy, and in Puerto Rico on faith healing in evangelical Christian addiction ministries founded and run by self-identified ex-addicts. Her work has been published in both clinical and social science journals ranging from the *Journal of the American Medical Association* and *New England Journal of Medicine* to *Social Science and Medicine* and *Medical Anthropology*. After graduate school, she completed a clinical residency in psychiatry at NYU Medical Center/Bellevue Hospital, during which she also undertook an ethnographic study of the introduction of new addiction pharmaceuticals. She examined the social and political implications of clinicians' efforts to establish addiction as a biomedical, rather than moral or social condition, as well as the ways that neurochemical treatments may be re-inscribing hierarchies of ethnicity and race. She completed a feature length visual documentary based on this work, *Managing the Fix*, which debuted at the annual meeting of the American Psychiatric Association. Her first book, *Addicted to Christ: Remaking Men in Puerto Rican Pentecostal Drug Ministries*, was published by UC Press in 2018 and received special recognition from the Puerto Rican Studies Association. She is also leading a national movement for training of clinical practitioners to address social determinants of health, which she and Jonathan Metzl call "Structural Competency," and which is the subject of her second book, *Structural Competency in Medicine and Mental Health: A Case-Based Approach to Treating the Social Determinants of Health*, with co-editor Jonathan Metzl, published by Springer Press in 2019. Her third book, *Whiteout: How Racial Capitalism Changed the Color of Heroin in America*, with policy analyst Jules Netherland and historian David Herzberg, is forthcoming from UC Press. She is the recipient of the Robert Wood Johnson Health Policy Investigator Award, Kaiser Permanente Burche Minority Leadership Award, an NIH K01 Award, a Mellon Sawyer Seminar grant, the NYU Golden Dozen Teaching Award, the American Association of Directors of Psychiatry Residency Training Model Curriculum Award, and an honorary doctorate from Mount Sinai School of Medicine in New York. She was elected to the National Academy of Medicine in 2021.