

Andrea Patterson, Ph.D.

Andrea Patterson is Associate Professor of Liberal Studies at California State University Fullerton. She received her Ph.D. in History of Science and American History from the University of California Berkeley. Her areas of specialization include history of science and medicine since 1900; American institutions and values since 1900; African American health and healthcare; racial health disparities; scientific racism; and disease and disease control in eras of globalization. Her research interests focus on the scientific and cultural factors that historically have affected the healthcare available to people of color, particularly women of color, and how these continue to impact contemporary practices and policies in public health. She further investigates current racial health disparities in the context of biological determinism that emphasizes genetic predisposition over environmental causation of disease. An important aspect of both her research and teaching is her interdisciplinary and integrative approach that aims to bridge the gap between science and humanist cultures in academia, focusing on the intersections of gender, race, and science to address issues of inequality and injustice in health and healthcare. Relevant publications include, “Epidemics of Inequity: Challenging the Racial Predisposition Hypothesis” and “The Socio-Historic, Artistic, Political, and Ecological Significance of Epidemics,” two book chapters in *The Shapes of Epidemics and Global Disease*, which she co-edited, (Cambridge Scholars Publishing, Fall 2020); “Germs and Jim Crow: The Impact of Microbiology on Public Health Policies in Progressive Era American South,” *Journal of the History of Biology* (2009); “Black Nurses in the Great War: Fighting for and with the Military in the Struggle for Civil Rights,” *Canadian Journal of History/Annales canadiennes d'histoire* (2012); “Public Health Policy” and “Nurses” in *World of Jim Crow*. California: ABC-CLIO/Greenwood Press, 2019; “Racialized Medicine in the American South,” in *The New Encyclopedia of Southern Culture: Volume 22: Science and Medicine*. Edited by Thomas, James G., and Charles Reagan Wilson. University of North Carolina Press (2012); and presentation on topics such as “The Persistence of the Genetic Theory of Race: A Historical Perspective;” “Maternal and Child Racial Health Disparities;” “Science Fiction, Science Fact or Scientific Racism?”