



Critical Health Humanities

What Can A Body Do? How We Meet the Built World

Sara Hendren, MDes.

**Associate Professor of Art, Humanities and Design
Olin College of Engineering**

Tuesday, March 23, 6:30-8:00 pm

Register [here](https://forms.gle/rF1JavNbCJ7h7xuz7) to receive the Zoom link

Sara Hendren is a humanist in tech—an artist, design researcher, writer, and professor. Her book, *What Can A Body Do? How We Meet the Built World*, explores the unexpected places where disability is at the heart of everyday design: household objects, architecture, urban planning, and more. It was named one of the Best Books of 2020 by NPR. Her work has been widely exhibited in museum exhibitions and is held in the permanent collections at MoMA and the Cooper Hewitt. She has been a National Fellow at the New America think tank, a Public Scholar awardee from the National Endowment for the Humanities, and a Logan Nonfiction Fellow at the Carey Institute for Global Good. In this seminar, she will speak about critical design practice, assistive technologies in the legacy of Rehabilitation Engineering, new possibilities for design criticism, and more. As both maker and thinker, she will pose questions about the civic work of material culture—art, design, engineering—in vivid encounters between the body and the built world.

The Critical Health Humanities seminar provides a space for vibrant interdisciplinary conversation about health-related topics from a humanities perspective. We imagine both health and the humanities broadly and host conversations from disciplines that include literature, history, art history, rhetoric, religion, philosophy, sociology, and anthropology. Our seminar focuses on new critical directions for the health humanities, including work that intersects with public health, global health, critical race studies, gender and sexuality studies, environmental humanities, digital humanities, and disability studies.

Co-chairs: Sari Altschuler, Amy Boesky, and David Jones