## **Wiley Digital Archives**

## **CASE STUDY**

## PHD CANDIDATE TOMMY FLYNN USES WILEY DIGITAL ARCHIVES TO CONNECT THE ATTITUDES OF THE PAST WITH CURRENT RACIAL DISPARITIES IN HEALTHCARE

## Tommy Flynn, MS, RN, CPNP-AC

PhD candidate, Nell Hodgson Woodruff School of Nursing, Emory University Dissertation: Racial Disparities in the Emergency Department: Network Analysis of Clinical Interactions.

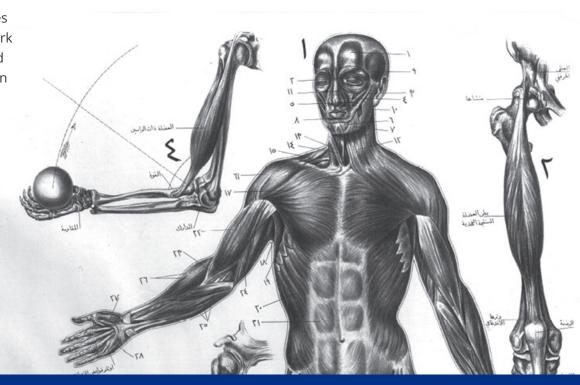
#### RESEARCH TO ELEVATE HEALTHCARE FOR NURSES AND PATIENTS

For Tommy Flynn, a PhD candidate at Emory, his experience as a nurse in pediatric acute care determined his approach to research. "I became a nurse to help kids, and then became a researcher to help nurses," he says.

"In my 11 years as a pediatric acute care nurse, I witnessed first-hand some surprising behaviors within the healthcare setting. I noticed how different people receive and experience healthcare, and how providers treat patients differently based on factors such as race, gender, and disability."

Witnessing racial inequities drove Flynn's desire to work toward changes that could help improve Healthcare in America. "Once I looked further into these issues, I found a wealth of evidence describing and documenting the inequities – both current and historical – that exist in the U.S. healthcare system."

Image from the Royal College of Physicians of London



## HISTORICAL FRAMEWORK AND PRIMARY SOURCES

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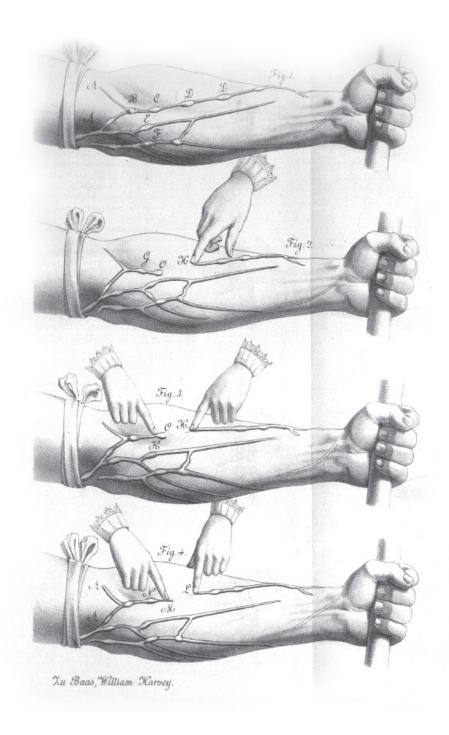
I discovered hard evidence of attitudes and beliefs which helped explain today's enormous disparities in treatment. Understanding the historical context has been vital for my research.

When approaching his work on racial disparities, it became clear to Flynn that he would need to ground his perspective in the historical evolution of attitudes towards race in healthcare and beyond. "As a white male, I can't claim to understand the effect of race on the daily life of others – so it's crucial for me to build a solid understanding or framework for the significant historical trends and events that led to where we are today."

Archival materials and primary sources have been key to help Flynn frame his research. "Framing your perspective is a critical aspect of any research work," he says. "Publications and primary sources I found on Wiley Digital Archives talked about segregation, and the way people treated or perceived different social groups in the healthcare context, in ways that are discriminatory.

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Image from the Royal College of Physicians of London



## ACROSS DISCIPLINES AND ARCHIVES



I found that the language used around race and race relations was surprisingly modern. The documents talked about prejudice and oppression, and the equality of humanity.

Flynn benefited from searches and discoveries across the New York Academy of Sciences (NYAS), the Royal College of Physicians (RCP), the Royal Anthropological Institute of Great Britain and Ireland (RAI), and the Royal Geographical Society (RGS with IBG) archives.

"The relationships I am focusing on in my research work are strained by various social, psychological, and biological processes and factors. My sources have come from a range of disciplines, including Anthropology, Sociology, and Social Psychology. Having access to all the collections across the archives really helped me.

"In one document, I found hand drawings of human skulls placed next to hand drawings of primate skulls. They were drawn with obvious bias towards the author's point on race.

"I also found that the language used around race and race relations was surprisingly modern. The documents talked about prejudice and oppression, and the equality of humanity. I even found documentation from the 1860s mentioning the long-lasting effect that these attitudes to race will have for future generations."

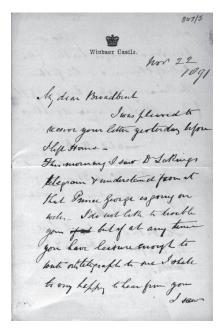


Image from the Royal College of Physicians of London

### **ARCHIVAL FINDINGS**

Some of the key materials that Flynn has used for the historical framework of his research.

- Osler, S. W. (1919). Medicine and Nursing. In B. Mathews (Ed.), Essays on Vocation. Oxford University Press. http://WDAgo.com/s/0f06e0b5
- Isaacs, R. H. (1962). American Race Relations and the U. S. Image in World Affairs. Journal of Human Relations. http://WDAgo.com/s/90cc75e1
- I. Zollschan, How to combat Racial Philosophy. (1943, February 23). "Letter to Manchester Guardian on 'Race Relations' (Newspaper Cutting)." Papers on Race and Race Relations, No Date. Wiley Digital Archives: The Royal Anthropological Institute of Great Britain and Ireland. http://WDAgo.com/s/f31fe1b7 and http://WDAgo.com/s/a9d99497
- Press Releases, 1951. Dr. Philip Levine, Records on Press and Publicity, Box 1, Folder 8, 1951.
- Wiley Digital Archives: The New York Academy of Sciences. http://WDAgo.com/s/50823b5a

# NEW DISCOVERIES WITH AUTOMATIC TEXT RECOGNITION



Recently, my search picked up the handwriting on the back of a photograph. I may never have discovered this before. In terms of framing my research, photographs have been a significant resource.

Since Wiley Digital Archives incorporated Automatic Text Recognition (ATR), researchers can search within handwritten notes and manuscripts as well as printed text. ATR makes manuscripts fully searchable, available for data analysis, and seamlessly easy to quote and refer to in citations. It has dramatically improved the discoverability of data within each collection in the archive and has added an additional 84 million search terms across the archive.

In Flynn's case, he previously relied on searching through a whole collection for relevant information, and reading entire documents to check their relevance. "Recently, my search picked up the handwriting on the back of a photograph. I may never have discovered this before. In terms of framing my research, photographs have been a significant resource.

"Some very disturbing images I have discovered exemplify a real pathology in social behavior, and this has helped to shape how I approach and think about race and can see attitudes change. Those photographs were formative for me and helped me to understand the issues in both historical and modern contexts."

Image from the Royal College of Physicians of London



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