



Maren Monsen, MD

Sr Research Scholar, Pediatrics - Center for Biomedical Ethics

 NIH Biosketch available Online

Bio

BIO

Maren Monsen, is physician, filmmaker and clinical ethicist. She directs the Program in Bioethics and Film at the Stanford Center for Biomedical Ethics in the medical school where she has produced multiple nationally and internationally broadcast documentary films.

She Co-Directed Emmy-nominated *The Revolutionary Optimists*, about kids in Kolkata India making grassroots change to improve global health in the slums and brickfields where they live. It broadcast on national public television as part of the Independent Lens series, won the Hilton Sustainability award at the Sundance Film festival in 2013 went on to a theatrical release with policy screenings at UNICEF and USAID. The film broadcast internationally in 6 languages. Shorts from the film screened at the Skoll World Forum at Oxford as well as three TEDx events run by Melinda Gates. *The Revolutionary Optimists*, inspired them to work with the kids profiled in the film to develop Map Your World, a mobile-to-online data and storytelling platform to enable youth to make change in the public health of their communities. www.mapyourworld.org

Monsen's previous films include *Rare*, the story of one extraordinary mother's race against time to find a cure for her daughter's rare genetic disease. *Rare* won best feature documentary at the Brooklyn Girls Film festival, screened at the Cannes Film Festival Market and was selected to screen at Science Festivals around the US as well as broadcasting on national public television. Monsen's past directing work includes *Worlds Apart* and *Hold Your Breath*, a large-scale project on cross-cultural conflicts in medicine, which was broadcast on national public television and is currently being used in 63% of US medical schools. As well as the *Vanishing Line*, a chronicle of her journey toward understanding the art and issues of dying, which was broadcast on the national PBS "Point of View" and was awarded Program of the Year from the National Hospice Organization.

Her medical work includes her role as Clinical Ethics Consultant at Stanford University Hospital and Co-Director of the Bioethics and Medical Humanities Scholarly Concentration Program in the Medical School.

She received her Bachelors in Art History at Stanford University, studied film at the London International Film School, received her medical doctorate from the University of Washington and returned to Stanford to do her residency training in Emergency Medicine and a fellowship in Palliative Care.

ACADEMIC APPOINTMENTS

- Sr Research Scholar, Pediatrics - Center for Biomedical Ethics

ADMINISTRATIVE APPOINTMENTS

- Director, Program in Bioethics and Film, (1998- present)

PROFESSIONAL EDUCATION

- MD, University of Washington (1991)
- BA, Stanford University , Art History (1984)

LINKS

- Program in Bioethics and Film: <http://med.stanford.edu/medicineandthemuse/events/medethicsfilms/films.html>

Research & Scholarship

CURRENT RESEARCH AND SCHOLARLY INTERESTS

Maren Monsen, MD has directed multiple documentary films that have been nominated for Emmy Awards, broadcast on PBS, translated into many languages for international broadcast, and used in 75% of medical schools across the country. Her films include *The Revolutionary Optimists*, *Rare*, *Worlds Apart*, *Where the Highway Ends* and *The Vanishing Line*. She is the founder and director the Program in Bioethics and Film at Stanford Center for Biomedical Ethics.

PROJECTS

- *The Revolutionary Optimists*

Teaching

COURSES

2020-21

- Bioethics, Film and Advocacy: PEDS 232 (Spr)

Publications

PUBLICATIONS

- **Hold Your Breath** *Producer and Director*
Monsen, M.
2005: 58 min
- **Worlds Apart** *Producer and Director*
Maren Grainger-Monsen
2003: 4 x 15 mins
- **The impact of film in teaching cultural medicine.** *Family medicine*
Murphy-Shigematsu, S., Grainger-Monsen, M.
2010; 42 (3): 170-172
- **The Mind in the Movies: A Neuroethical Analysis of the Portrayal of the Mind in Popular Media** *Neuroethics: Defining the Issues in Research, Practice and Policy*
Grainger-Monsen, M., Karetzky, K., Illes, J. (Ed.)
2006
- **Dilemmas of a Divisive Concept.** *Science*
Cho, M., Grainger-Monsen, M
2003; 300 (5618): 434
- **The Vanishing Line** *Producer and Director*
Maren R Monsen
1998: 52 min
- **Grave Words** *Producer and Director*
Maren R Monsen

1996: 25 min

- **Wilderness medicine.** *Academic emergency medicine*
ZLOTNICK, B. A., MONSEN, M. R., Auerbach, P. S.
1994; 1 (2): 183-186

- **Where the Highway Ends** *Producer and Director*
Maren R Monsen
1989: 30 min