Nicole M. Foti, PhD

Postdoctoral Fellow
Laurie J. Girand Center for Biomedical Ethics | School of Medicine
Stanford University
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EDUCATION

Ph.D., University of California San Francisco, Sociology 2023
Open Pharma: Collective Action to Common Pharmaceutical Knowledge
Committee: Janet Shim (chair), Osagie Obagosie, Howard Pinderhughes

B.S., University of Oregon, Women's and Gender Studies 2015

B.S., Oregon State University, Biology (Chemistry Minor) Cum Laude 2011

ACADEMIC APPOINTMENTS

Postdoctoral Fellow, Stanford University
Girand Center for Biomedical Ethics 2025 – Current
NIH Clinical and Translational Science Award (CTSA)

Hecht-Levi Postdoctoral Fellow, Johns Hopkins University 2023 – 2025
Berman Institute of Bioethics

AREAS OF EXPERTISE

Medical Sociology | Bioethics | Science and Technology Studies | Health Equity | Political Economy of Drug Innovation | Health Social Movements | Qualitative Methods | Community Engagement

PUBLICATIONS

Peer-reviewed Articles

Hsieh, S., Johnson, E.R., Foti, N., Johnson, A.S., Ibrahim-Biangoro, A. Duncan, D.S. (2026). "Creating Structures of Opportunity Through Proactive Pedagogy: Course Development for Institutional Change in Graduate STEMM Education" *Education Sciences*

Foti, N., Shim, J., McMahon C., Lee, S. (2026). "Building fair and trustworthy biomedical AI: A tool for identifying key decision points." Pacific Symposium for Biocomputing Conference Proceedings. DOI: 10.1142/9789819824755_0042

Foti, N. (2025). "The open pharma movement: Social action to 'open' drug research and its implications for health." *Social Studies of Science*

Foti, N. (2025). "Beyond biomedical institutions: An ethnographic study of community science and the rise of alternative therapeutic imaginaries." *Social Science & Medicine*
*Winner of the Star-Nelkin Award for best paper from the American Sociological Association

Shim, J., McMahon, C., Saco, L., Bentz, M., Foti, N., and Lee, S.S. (2025) "A qualitative study of diversity in precision medicine research: The development and stakeholder assessment of a diversity decision map." *Journal of Clinical and Translational Science*

McMahon, C. Foti, N., Jeske, M., Britton, W., Fullerton, SM., Bentz, M., Shim, J., Lee, S. (2023) "Interrogating the value of return of results for diverse populations." *American Journal of Bioethics Empirical Bioethics*

Vasquez E., Foti, N., McMahon, C., Jeske, M., Fullerton, SM., Saperstein, A., Shim, J., Lee, S. (2023). "Rethinking benefit and responsibility in the context of diversity: Perspectives from the frontlines of precision medicine research." *Public Health Genomics*

Shim, J., Foti, N., Vasquez E., Fullerton, SM., Bentz, M., Jeske, M., Lee, S. (2023). "Community engagement in precision medicine research: Organizational practices and their impacts for equity." *American Journal of Bioethics Empirical Bioethics*

Foti, N. (2022). "A 'tyranny of structurelessness'? The benefits and burdens of power sharing and governance models in citizen science." *Citizen Science: Theory and Practice*

Lee, S.S., Fullerton, S.M., McMahon, C., Bentz, M., Saperstein, A., Jeske M., Vasquez, E., Foti, N., Carmel-Saco, L., and Shim, J. (2022). "Targeting representation: Interpreting calls for diversity in precision medicine research." *Yale Journal of Biology and Medicine*

Shim, J., Bentz, M., Vasquez, E., Jeske M., Saperstein, A., Fullerton, S.M., Foti, N., McMahon, C., and Lee, S.S. (2022). "Strategies of inclusion: The tradeoffs of pursuing "baked in" diversity through place-based recruitment." *Social Science & Medicine*

Jeske M., Vasquez, E., Fullerton, S.M., Saperstein, A., Bentz, M., Foti, N., Shim, J., and Lee, S.S. (2022). "Beyond inclusion: Enacting team equity in precision medicine research." *PLoS ONE* 17(2): e0263750.

Policy Publications

Foti, N. (2020). "Community-based insulin: An urgent response to systemic failures in the U.S. pharmaceutical regime." Othering & Belonging Institute, University of California, Berkeley, CA. Retrieved from: https://belonging.berkeley.edu/community-based-insulin

Peer-reviewed Blogs

Foti, N. (2014). "Female sexual dysfunction: 'Pink Viagra,' a dysfunctional approach to treatment." nursingclio.org. Retrieved from: https://nursingclio.org/2014/04/15/female-sexual-dysfunction-pink-viagra-a-dysfunctional-approach-to-treatment/

In Progress

Foti, N. "The Decline of Medicine's Cultural Authority: A Crisis of Expertise or Opportunity to Reimagine the Role of Lay Knowledge in Medicine?

Foti, N., Martschenko, D., Waiess, Q., Cho, M., Halley, M. "Ethics of Engagement."

AWARDS AND HONORS

Star-Nelkin Award for Best Paper, American Sociological Association, SKAT Section — August 2025

Distinguished Dissertation in Sociology Award, UC San Francisco — June 2023

GRANTS AND FELLOWSHIPS

NIH National Center for Advancing Translational Sciences (NCATS) LRP Award — 2026 – 2028

Center for Engaged Scholarship Dissertation Fellowship ($30,000) — 2022 – 2023

Graduate Dean's Dissertation Completion Fellowship, UC San Francisco ($27,500) — 2022 – 2023

Presidential Graduate Opportunities for Leadership Development Fellowship (Declined) — 2022 – 2023

Strauss Endowed Scholarship/Patricia Benner Award, UC San Francisco ($3,000) — 2022 – 2023

Harrington Health Policy Scholarship, UC San Francisco ($3,000) — 2021 – 2022

Patricia Benner Endowed Scholarship, UC San Francisco ($3,000) — 2020 – 2021

Rosenberg-Hill Graduate Research Fellow, UC San Francisco ($40,000) — 2019 – 2020

Diversity Achievement Award, Oregon State University ($4,800) — 2007 – 2011

TEACHING EXPERIENCE

Instructor

Co-Instructor, Johns Hopkins University — 2025
Course: AS.150.479, Ethics of Making Babies

Instructor, California State University East Bay — 2020
Course: HSC 130, Health Humanities

Teaching Assistant

Teaching Assistant, University of Oregon — 2013
Course: WGS 101, Introduction to Women's and Gender Studies

Teaching Assistant, Oregon State University — 2010 – 2011
Course: CH 121, General Chemistry

Guest Lecturer

Guest Lecturer, Johns Hopkins University — 2024
Course: SOM-E, Medical Humanities and Social Medicine in Practice
Topic: Inequality and social change

Guest Lecturer, University of California Davis — 2021
Course: STS 122, Health and Medical Technologies

Topic: DIY biology and social movements

Guest Lecturer, University of California San Francisco 2021
Course: GRAD 210, Justice, Equity, Diversity, and Inclusion Academic Leadership
Topic: Theorizing institutional systems of power and oppression

Guest Lecturer, University of California Berkeley 2019
Course: Sociology N1H, Introduction to Sociology
Topic: Health social movements

PRESENTATIONS AND PANELS

Invited Talks

Foti, N. 2026. "The movement to 'open' drug research and its implications for health." Workshop: Political and Financial Dimensions of Open Science. Humboldt-Universität zu Berlin. May 20.

Conference Talks

Foti, N., Shim, J., McMahon C., Lee, S. 2026. "Building fair and trustworthy biomedical AI: A tool for identifying key decision points." Paper presented at the annual conference of Pacific Symposium for Biocomputing. Hawaii, HI. January 3-7.

Foti, N. 2025. "Health Equity in the Digital Age: Digital Determinants of Health, Bioethics, and AI." Paper presented at the annual conference of the American Society for Bioethics and Humanities. Portland, OR. October 24.

Foti, N. 2024. "Social change in an increasingly individualized, capitalized, and fragmented health system: An ethnographic study of the Open Insulin project." Paper presented at the annual conference of the American Society for Bioethics and Humanities. St. Louis, MO. September 20.

Foti, N. 2024. "Beyond biomedical institutions: An ethnographic study of community science and the rise of alternative therapeutic imaginaries." Paper presented at annual meeting of the American Sociological Association. Montréal. August 12.

Foti, N. 2024. "The open pharma movement: Assessing collective action to address drug pricing, access, and equity through 'open' research." Paper presented at Oxford Global Health and Bioethics International Conference. Oxford. July 9.

Shim, J. and Foti, N. 2024. "Community engagement in precision medicine research: Organizational practices and their impacts for equity." Paper presented to Ethics Working Group, Ancestral Populations Network, National Institute of Mental Health. Virtual. March 25.

Foti, N. 2022. "The open source pharmaceutical movement: Mapping social action for a medicine commons." Paper presented at joint annual meeting of the Society for the Social Studies of Science and Asociación Latinoamericana de Estudios Sociales de la Ciencia y la Tecnología. Cholula, Mexico. December 7-10.

Foti, N., McMahon, C., Shim, J., Carmel-Saco, L., Fullerton, SM., Saperstein, A., Bentz, M., Lee, S. 2022. Panel: "How inclusion matters: The perceived benefits and impacts of diversity in precision medicine research." Paper presented at annual conference of American Society for Bioethics and Humanities. Portland, OR. October 27.

Foti, N. 2022. "The spectre of expertise: The dilemma of expert knowledge in the struggle for community-based insulin." Paper presented at annual meeting of the American Sociological Association. Los Angeles. August 7.

Foti, N., Vasquez E., McMahon, C., Jeske, M., Fullerton, SM., Saperstein, A., Bentz, M., Shim, J., Lee, S. 2022. "Mandating Diversity in the Context of Inequity: Re-examining the Research-Care Divide in Precision Medicine Research." Paper presented at 5th ELSI Congress (ELSIcon). New York City (Virtual). June 1.

Foti, N. 2020. "Politically engaged research within DIY/biohacked medicine efforts: opportunities and challenges from the Open Insulin Project." Paper presented at annual meeting of the Society for the Social Studies of Science. Prague (Virtual). August 18.

Foti, N. 2019. "Community-based labs and innovations in open source pharmaceuticals." Paper presented at annual meeting of the Society for the Social Studies of Science. New Orleans, LA. September 7.

Foti, N. 2019. "Open source insulin: an introduction to the Open Insulin Project" Presentation at the Open Source Pharma 3 conference. Paris. March 21.

Foti, N., Flanagan, M., Kim, R., Juul, M., D'haeseleer, P. (moderator). 2018. "Biohackers, open science and community labs." Invited panelist for Synthetic Biology Week, associated with Global Synthetic Biology Summit (SynBioBeta) conference. Oakland, CA. October 4.

RESEARCH EXPERIENCE

University of California San Francisco
Graduate Student Researcher 2020 – 2022
PI: Janet Shim and Sandra Soo-Jin Lee
Study: Ethics of Inclusion: Diversity in Precision Medicine Research

University of California San Francisco
Rosenberg-Hill Graduate Research Fellow 2019 – 2020
PI: Arianne Teherani and D'Anne Duncan
Study: Identity Dissonance in Biomedical Graduate Education

University of California San Francisco
Research Data Analyst 2 2018 – 2019
PI: Rena Pasick
Study: Second Opinions and the Treatment Gradient Experienced by African American Breast Cancer Patients: An Exploratory Study

PROFESSIONAL AND WORK EXPERIENCE

HIV Alliance (nonprofit), Eugene, USA
Health Social Worker 2014 – 2017

HIV Alliance, Eugene, USA
Student Intern, Women's and Gender Studies Practicum 2013 – 2014

ACADEMIC SERVICE

Star-Nelkin Award Committee Member, American Sociological Association section Science, Knowledge, and Technology (SKAT) 2025 – 2026

Fellow, Center for Medical Humanities & Social Medicine, Johns Hopkins University 2023 – 2025

Affiliate Trainee, Hopkins Business of Health Initiative, Johns Hopkins University 2023 – 2025

Student Council Member of the American Sociological Association section Science, Knowledge, and Technology (SKAT) 2022 – 2023

Sociology Student Representative, Department of Social and Behavioral Sciences, University of California San Francisco 2019 – 2020

President of Oregon State University Rural and Minority Healthcare Advocates 2009 – 2011

PROFESSIONAL MEMBERSHIPS

American Sociological Association (ASA)
- Collective Behavior and Social Movements, Section Member
- Medical Sociology, Section Member
- Science, Knowledge, and Technology (SKAT), Section Member

American Society for Bioethics and Humanities (ASBH)
Society for the Social Studies of Science (4S)