

Nicole M. Foti, PhD

Postdoctoral Fellow

Laurie J. Girand Center for Biomedical Ethics | School of Medicine

Stanford University

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EDUCATION

University of California San Francisco

Ph.D., Sociology

2023

Open Pharma: Collective Action to Common Pharmaceutical Knowledge

Committee: Janet Shim (chair), Osagie Obagosie, Howard Pinderhughes

University of Oregon

B.S., Women's and Gender Studies

2015

Oregon State University

B.S., Biology, Chemistry minor, Cum Laude

2011

RESEARCH INTERESTS

Medical Sociology | Science and Technology Studies | Bioethics | Health Equity | Political Economy
| Health Social Movements | Pharmaceuticals | Qualitative Methods | Community Engaged Research

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 STEM Education" *Education Sciences*

[Foti, N.](#), Shim, J., McMahon C., Lee, S. "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>

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., Martscheno, D. Waieas, Q., Cho, M. “Ethics of Engagement.”

AWARDS AND FELLOWSHIPS

Star-Nelkin Award, American Sociological Association, SKAT Section

August 2025

Distinguished Dissertation in Sociology Award, UC San Francisco

June 2023

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

Co-Instructor, Johns Hopkins University Course: AS.150.479, Ethics of Making Babies	2025
Guest Lecturer, Johns Hopkins University Course: SOM-E, Medical Humanities and Social Medicine in Practice Topic: Inequality and social change	2024
Guest Lecturer, University of California Davis Course: STS 122, Health and Medical Technologies Topic: DIY biology and social movements	2021
Guest Lecturer, University of California San Francisco Course: GRAD 210, Justice, Equity, Diversity, and Inclusion Academic Leadership Topic: Theorizing institutional systems of power and oppression	2021
Instructor, California State University East Bay Course: HSC 130, Health Humanities	2020
Guest Lecturer, University of California Berkeley Course: Sociology N1H, Introduction to Sociology Topic: Health social movements	2019
Teaching Assistant, University of Oregon Course: WGS 101, Introduction to Women's and Gender Studies	2013
Teaching Assistant, Oregon State University Course: CH 121, General Chemistry	2010 – 2011

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

Stanford University

Postdoctoral Fellow

2025 – Current

NIH Clinical and Translational Science Award

Johns Hopkins University

Hecht-Levi Postdoctoral Fellow

2023 – 2025

Berman Institute of Bioethics

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)