



University
of Manitoba

College of Community and Global Health

Bold Ideas Colloquium Speaker Series

Friday, December 5, 2025, 12:00 – 1 PM via Zoom:

Join Zoom Meeting

<https://umanitoba.zoom.us/j/67634614388?pwd=RvwSWEudHOiyN8bLM1UvXQLt2gDOMZ.1>

Meeting ID: 676 3461 4388

Passcode:402801

Embodied meaning-making in the narratives of people living with functional neurological disorder



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Abstract: Functional neurological disorder (FND) is a common yet misunderstood and long-ignored condition at the intersection of neurology and psychiatry. A surge of renewed research interest in FND establishes and promotes renewed neuroscientific understandings of FND to improve patient care,

marking a “paradigm shift” in clinical approaches to this condition. Yet, the impact of this paradigm shift on the current realities of people with FND remains to be seen. Drawing on interviews and arts-based workshops with 23 Canadians living with FND, I demonstrate how participants creatively appropriate, extend, and reinvent neuroscientific concepts from the paradigm shift to fit the specific context of their life history and embodiment, assembling a path toward living well with FND amid virtually non-existent treatment pathways.

Talk Learning Objectives: 1: To describe the current context of clinical care and research regarding functional neurological disorder (FND) in Canada; 2: To appreciate the role of critical social theory and qualitative methodologies for elucidating illness experiences; 3: To understand how individual experiences, scientific discourses, and embodied practices shape possible outcomes for FND patients

Biography: Jen Sebring is a PhD candidate and 2022 CIHR Vanier graduate scholar in the College of Community and Global Health at the University of Manitoba. Informed by critical

disability studies, her research reveals the healthcare and illness experiences of people living with complex and contested conditions through qualitative, patient-oriented, and arts-based methods.