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Postmodern Humanism in Contemporary Literature and Culture Dec 16 2020 Davis and Womack investigate the emerging gaps between literary scholarship and the reading experience. The idea of reconciling the void - the locus of our sociocultural disillusionment and despair in an uncertain world - concerns explicit artistic attempts to represent the ways in which human beings seek out meaning, hope and community.

[Honest to God Prayer](#) Aug 12 2020 This unique and encouraging guide to prayer explores how to engage in spirituality that blesses your soul--and the world. Offers innovative ways to pray in four metaphorical movements that parallel both Native American traditions and Ignatian spirituality.

[Our Hearts Are Restless](#) Jun 21 2021 "The personal narrative, be it autobiography or memoir, tells what it is to live and die in the world. Spiritual memoir adds two further dimensions. First, belief or unbelief in God is not incidental to the narrative but crucial. The narrator and other characters must determine how the judgment or grace of God will influence the conduct of their lives. Some memoirs tell how the narrator came to faith; others examine what Augustine calls "the life of faith." Second, spiritual memoir entails the (usually) implied offer: "What happened to me, dear reader, can also happen to you, but in a different way, of course." This is the gospel of memoir. *Our Hearts Are Restless* explores the nature of spiritual memoir via a close reading of twenty-one memoirs or memoir-like works. The author engages in personal reflection with the memoirists and facilitates roundtable discussions among them. The work displays the diversity of spiritual memoir by following seven paths: conversion (e.g.s., Augustine, Merton), mystical vision (Julian of Norwich, Emily Dickinson), excruciating doubt (Bunyan), devastation (Abelard, C.S. Lewis), life-long pilgrimage (Harriet Jacobs, Dorothy Day), daily adventures and challenges (Lamott), and nomadic, sometimes angry expressions of faith (Baldwin, Rodriguez). The names above are meant as samples of the book's diversity. If there is a theological argument in this study, it is this: there is no argument and no authoritative theology apart from the lives of God's people and the circumstances in which they live. "The glory of God," said St. Irenaeus, "is a human being fully alive."--

[Getting Fired for the Glory of God](#) Apr 19 2021 Scripture is full of the voices of prophets who convicted, irritated, edified, exhorted, chastised, instructed, encouraged, and proclaimed the Truth. Many followed these prophets; many hated them; some dismissed them; others laughed at them; still others wanted them silenced. The same could be said of Mike Yaconelli. Like the prophets of old, Mike was a blend of the sacred and the profane, the outspoken and the insecure, the gentle lamb and the roaring lion. This paradox lives on in his writing and in his recorded words. In *Mike Yaconelli* you'll discover a bold, passionate, and ultimately prophetic voice reminding us to stay focused on Jesus, to hold life lightly, to walk together as we love kids, and to devote ourselves to an outrageously gracious God who loves our souls into being. If you're in youth ministry today, it's likely that--someway, somehow--Mike Yaconelli played a part in it. Much of the playfulness, creativity, and humility that exist in youth ministry were first nurtured by the life and work of Mike Yaconelli. Reactions to Mike Yaconelli are rarely neutral. He forces you to react, to feel, to think and to question: He loved youth ministry, but at the same time he wanted to dismantle it; he pastored a church yet proclaimed churches to be dull and stifling. He poked fun at powerful Christian celebrities but was disarmingly open about his own pride and weaknesses. Despite founding one of the largest youth working organizations in the world, Mike advocated for a counter-cultural faith that emphasized small over big, few over many, and silent over loud. His words carry all of these

contradictions, leaving readers both inspired and frustrated...often at the same time. Years after his death, Christians across the globe still turn to the words of Mike Yaconelli to uncover the divine mischief, the shameless truth-telling, the love of kids, and the passion for Jesus that make youth ministry the irresistible calling he claimed it to be. People turn to Mike Yaconelli not just because of what he wrote, they turn to Mike Yaconelli because of what he aspired to live.

Encyclopedia of Women's Autobiography: K-Z Sep 12 2020 Contains nearly two hundred alphabetically arranged entries that provide information on women's autobiography, covering selected authors from throughout history, major works, nationalities or ethnicities, and related issues, themes, and terms.

Prejudice Across America Jul 31 2019 The experiences of a teacher and his white students on a nationwide trek toward racial understanding In 1998 James Waller took twenty-one white college students from Washington state on a month-long journey. *Prejudice Across America* is the record of their interaction with the American Indian, Asian American, African American, Hispanic, and Jewish experiences nationwide. Few books have so directly and humanly captured the moment when whites confront the realities of those living as a minority in America. Waller reports here on this innovative and award-winning trek. In Los Angeles, San Francisco, Chicago, Memphis, New Orleans, Birmingham, Atlanta, and Washington, D.C., his students hear both the official story of prejudice and the street story from people living and dealing with racism on a daily basis. *Prejudice Across America* is as much the journal of these travelers and what they face as it is a sweeping, up-close survey of the nation's racial landscape. The students walk the cheerless halls of a South Side housing project in Chicago, experience the agitated aftermath of the Olympic Games in Atlanta, and attend a briefing with President Clinton's Initiative on Race. All along the way, they hold wide-ranging group discussions and experience the unpredictable adventure of traveling by train, plane, and public transit. Drawing on student journals and on interviews with community leaders and activists throughout the country, Waller paints a compelling and provocative portrait of the nation's prejudice. In addition, *Prejudice Across America* includes analyses of the obstacles to reconciliation in each of the cities on the tour's itinerary. As they travel, students confront the thorny issues of race in America, face down stereotypical thoughts, prejudicial attitudes and discriminatory behaviors, and uncover more tough questions than easy answers. As Waller and another group of students prepare for a similar trek in 2001, *Prejudice Across America* will allow readers to join them in introspection and self-discovery in the urban reality of an America where diversity isn't simply a buzzword, but a way of life.

Out of the Ashes Jun 29 2019 *Out of the Ashes* deals with deep changes in life that are serious, difficult, and often painful. The authors teach a five-process evolution from a state of helplessness to a mature spirituality.

Balm in Gilead Jun 09 2020 This unique Bible study guide is designed to lead readers into a deeper experience of God's life-changing love through a cleansing interlude of repentance. Wherever they are in their spiritual journey, whatever personal circumstances they face, readers can receive God's empowering, healing grace through the gifts of confession, forgiveness, obedience, and gratitude. As the author explains, "The solution to our desire for rest and for renewal is simple, and life-threatening. Repentance—the turning away from ourselves and moving toward God." Through eight fascinating sessions, readers will be guided by exercises in Bible study, prayer, and self-reflection, all designed to help them redirect their attention to what God is doing in their lives. It's a masterful blend of traditional, inductive Bible study and a refreshing focus on authentic spiritual renewal and intimacy with God. This meditative guide is ideal for use individually, or together with a prayer partner or small group. Either way, *Balm in Gilead* will release the fragrant distillation of repentance into believers' lives.

The Spiritual Gifts of Travel May 21 2021 A lively collection of travel writing emphasizes the spiritual benefits of leaving home, with contributions from Phil Cousineau, Jan Morris, David Yeadon, and others. Original.

Spiritual Awakening Nov 02 2019 Ackerman, parish pastor, spiritual director, and consultant on spiritual formation, provides an excellent guide for clergy desiring a congregation-wide approach to developing spirituality rooted in the life of the congregation. A six-week program focuses on developing individuals' spirituality in small groups and includes leader training and course plans. Practical suggestions assist in developing the "corporate spirituality" of congregations.

Teaching with Joy Feb 27 2022 A wide range of contributors offer practical advice for holistic educational practices designed to implement a spiritual and ethical curriculum while avoiding religious dogmatism.

Personalism and Mathematics as Women's Personifestoes May 01 2022 Personalism is the philosophy of the integrity of the person in all dimension. Dignity is part of the identity of the person. Skin color relates to integrity. Economic stability relates to a stable relationship. The integrity of the person also has a descriptive mathematical matrix dimension. The 4 principles of algebra the commutative, The associative and distributive and the inverse laws of mathematics chart the person in mapping and relationship. The pershoohood of Personalism counters the personhood of the corporation, The body and person have a mystical solidarity dimension that is also

incomensurable. Enter the web and bridge of the person with your narrative.

Winter Mar 19 2021 Thirty inspirational writings from a variety of authors delve into the feelings that winter conjures in us, calling up both the barrenness and beauty of the natural world in wintertime, and helping readers express and understand their own personal reaction to the season, showing them the way from the cold of winter to the warmth of the human soul.

The Story of Christian Spirituality Nov 14 2020 The Christian faith has had a phenomenal impact on the development of the western world. This beautifully illustrated introduction to Christian spirituality through the centuries covers all the major traditions--East and West, Catholic, Orthodox, and Protestant, with special articles on key spiritual concepts, practices, and movements that continue to influence the way people all over the world live their lives in response to God. It also includes information on people and movements from outside the Church that have influenced Christian life and thought throughout 2,000 years. Also included are extracts from more than 100 of the greatest Christian spiritual writings--from the Gospels through the early Church Fathers, the saints and mystics, the reformers, and modern spiritual writers such as Scott Peck and C. S. Lewis.

Growing Up with the Town Dec 04 2019 In this unusual blend of chronological and personal history, Dorothy Hubbard Schwieder combines scholarly sources with family memories to create a loving and informed history of Presho, South Dakota, and her family's life there from the time of settlement in 1905 to the mid 1950s. Schwieder tells the story of this small town in the West River country, with its harsh and unpredictable physical environment, through the activities of her father, Walter Hubbard, and his family of ten children. Walter Hubbard's experiences as a business owner and town builder and his attitudes toward work, education, and family both reflected and shaped the lives of Presho's inhabitants and the town itself. While most histories of the Plains focus on farm life, Schwieder writes entirely about small-town society. She uses newspaper accounts, state and county histories, census data, interviews with residents, and the childhood memories of herself and her nine siblings to create an entwined, first-hand social and economic portrait of life on main street from the perspective of its citizens.

The Virgin of Bennington Jan 05 2020 Shy and sheltered as a young woman, Kathleen Norris wasn't prepared for the sex, drugs, and bohemianism of Bennington College in the late 1960s--and when she moved to New York City after graduation, it was a case of out of the frying pan and into the fire. In this chronicle, Norris remembers the education she received, both formal and fortuitous; the influence of her mentor Betty Kray, who shunned the spotlight while serving as a guiding force in the poetry world of the late 20th century; her encounters with such figures as James Merrill, Jim Carroll, Denise Levertov, Stanley Kunitz, Patti Smith, and Erica Jong; and her eventual decision to leave Manhattan for the less-crowded landscape she described so memorably in *Dakota*. This account of the making of a young writer will resonate with anyone who has stumbled bravely into a bigger world and found the poetry that lurks on rooftops and in railroad apartments--and with anyone who has enjoyed the blessings of inspiring teachers and great friends.

Life and Death in a Small Southern Town Aug 31 2019 Gayle Graham Yates's hometown sits on the banks of the Chickasawhay River, boasting the live oak, dogwood, and magnolia trees found throughout southern Mississippi. Like any place, Shubuta (population 650) is inhabited by good people and bad, by virtue and vice. Both a literary memoir and a cultural history, this book chronicles Yates's return to the town in which she first knew goodness and came to recognize immorality. Blending folklore and personal impressions with the words of Shubuta people telling their own stories, Yates offers a rich narrative of the town from its Choctaw prehistory through the tremendous economic, political, racial, and social changes that led to its present. The author's pilgrimage leads us to the Hanging Bridge, where some black Shubutans were lynched; to a bank that did not fail during the Great Depression; and to the office of the doctor who tends broken hearts as well as broken arms. Yates takes us to Shubuta's most beautiful gardens and ugliest vacant lots, to all the stores in town, to the new post office, and to the town hall. In the process, we learn how Shubuta evolved from a racially stratified town to one in which the descendants of slaves are now political leaders, librarians, business owners, and police officials. Yates also tells of her own moral journey from judgmental young activist to middle-aged scholar mellowed by experience, travel, and reading who sees her home with newfound compassion. Ultimately, she shows us Small Town southern America: a strong, frail, fascinating, and complex human community.

The World as Sacrament Feb 15 2021 Not a few figures--writers, poets, activists, teachers--have focused on the presence of the Holy One in the ordinary, on the many possibilities of worldly spirituality. In this book, pastor, teacher, and theologian Michael Plekon introduces us to several persons of faith from both the Western and Eastern Church traditions to illumine God's presence in everyday living: the world as sacrament. In this discovery of liturgy and life entwined, Plekon shows how these lives, and our own lives, are texts about looking for and following God in everyday existence.

Thirsty for God Oct 26 2021 A landmark text on the history of Christian spirituality embarks on the journey afresh.

This accessible and engaging history provides an excellent primer on the two-millennium quest for union with God, a "thirst" at the center of Christian life and practice. Holt traces the practice of Christian devotion, prayer, and contemplation from the biblical and influential early periods through the diverse insights of the Reformation and modern eras. Globally framed, the book highlights the local contributions of people from a wide array of traditions and perspectives as unified yet diverse voices giving witness to the thirst for the experience of the divine that is at the heart of the Christian pilgrimage. This new edition not only updates all the chapters and features but also adds more material on the spirituality of Jesus, medieval women mystics, contemporary spirituality, spiritual faith and practice in the digital age, and spirituality in a globalized world. Excerpts and illustrations from primary sources, a glossary, a timeline, new bibliographies, sets of spiritual exercises and discussion questions, and an online resource guide heighten the book's usefulness for students and lay persons alike.

40-Day Journey with Kathleen Norris Oct 06 2022 * An inspiring glimpse into Kathleen Norris's spiritual geography * Ideal for reflection during Advent for Lent

Pilgrim Souls Nov 26 2021 A journey through religious thought collects the autobiographical writings of sixty authors, and explores the nature of the inner life and spiritual realization

Twofold Identities Mar 07 2020 *Twofold Identities* is a study of Midwestern American literature as well as of Norwegian-American immigrant texts. Many readers have judged the latter to be a mere reflection of immigrant experience, a judgment that is neither fair nor correct. These American writers were forced to confront an essentially modern experience complicated by the contextual duality of bilingualism. For early Midwestern immigrant writers and their readers, the task of homemaking in a new setting was a philosophically challenging and highly problematic endeavor. These Midwestern writers were not lost, divided, nor rootless. They had the unique privileged ability to draw on the resources of two worlds. As writers they enjoyed - and helped to strengthen - twofold identities.

Writing Wild Apr 07 2020 *Writing Wild*, by New York Times-bestselling author Kathryn Aalto, explores the lasting impact of 25 women writers whose pens have left an indelible mark on the world of nature writing.

The Catholic Mass Jul 11 2020 We are going through a period of liturgical exile, explains Bishop Athanasius Schneider in this enlightening book, and the vast proliferation of modern abuses are crying out for liturgical reform. The primary source of most modern abuses, he declares, is man's narcissistic tendency to idolize himself instead of paying homage to God. In what is sure to be seen as one of the most impressive and authoritative books ever written on the Catholic Mass, Bishop Schneider reestablishes what Catholics have known for centuries but have largely forgotten today: that the Mass is the highest form of Christian prayer, which enables us to express with exterior worship our interior belief. He describes how saints such as Padre Pio and John Vianney helped the faithful enter into a profound spiritual experience during Mass, and he explains why the Mass should serve as a means to lift our hearts to God so we can surrender to His will. You'll come to understand why the rubrics are vital to preserving the authenticity of the liturgy, and you'll learn why architecture, music, sacred art, and even incense are vital symbols that direct our attention to Heaven. You'll also learn: How to recollect and listen to God's Word properly The keys to lifting your heart and surrendering to God's will at Mass. Why it's essential to celebrate the Mass ad orientem How following the rituals assists you in contemplating the spiritual Ways you can unite yourself to the sacrifice of Christ on the Cross The most profitable ways of spending time in thanksgiving following Holy Communion Bishop Schneider and coauthor Aurelio Porfiri encourage the revival of public prayers, such as the Liturgy of the Hours and Eucharistic adoration. He explains how genuflecting, kneeling, and prostrating oneself are all outward signs of reverence that demonstrate this inward action. Our duty, he declares, is to render "perpetual thanksgiving" to God at Mass. Indeed, as he solemnly asserts, "The Mass is the greatest and most important work of the Church."

Refiguring the Map of Sorrow Jan 17 2021 Allister (English, St. Olaf College) examines works by six authors which fuse autobiography, literary nonfiction, and environmental literature into a distinct form of "grief narrative." Each of these authors "... begins in depression that shadows grief; each comes to put an end to depression, to move through mourning, by turning observations and stories of the external world into a narrative that heals." The six works featured are Sue Hubbell's *A Country Year*, Terry Tempest Williams' *Refuge*, Bill Barich's *Laughing in the Hills*, William Least Heat-Moons' *Blue Highways*, Peter Matthiessen's *The Snow Leopard*, and Gretel Ehrlich's *The Solace of Open Spaces*. Annotation copyrighted by Book News, Inc., Portland, OR

Dakota Nov 07 2022 The celebrated author of *Amazing Grace* and *Cloister Walk* transports readers to the heart of the Great Plains, examining her heritage, religion, language, and the land itself, revealing the contradictions of small-town life on the Great Plains. Reader's Guide included. Reprint.

A Great Plains Reader Jul 23 2021 The Great Plains are as rich and integral a part of American literature as they are of the North American landscape. In this volume the stories, poems, and essays that have described,

celebrated, and defined the region evoke the world of the American prairie from the first recorded days of Native history to the realities of life on a present-day reservation, from the arrival of European explorers to the experience of early settlers, from the splendor of the vast and rolling grasslands to the devastation of the Dust Bowl. Several essays look to the future and explore changes that would embolden the people of the Plains to continue to call home this place they have learned to value in spite of its persistent challenges. ∅ The infinite variety of the Great Plains landscape and its people unfolds in works by writers as diverse as Willa Cather, Loren Eiseley, Louise Erdrich (Ojibwe), Diane Glancy (Cherokee), Langston Hughes, Wes Jackson, Garrison Keillor, William Least Heat-Moon, Kathleen Norris, Wright Morris, Francis Parkman, O. E. R" Ivaag, Mari Sandoz, William Stafford, Mark Twain, Douglas Unger, James Welch (Blackfeet), and Canadians Sharon Butala and Sinclair Ross. From tribal histories to the impressions of travelers today, from tales of isolation and nature's furious storms to accounts of efforts to build communities, from flights of fancy to nuanced observations of the ecology of the grasslands, this comprehensive volume provides a history of the intricate relationships of land and people in the Great Plains.

Encyclopedia of Christianity in the United States Jun 02 2022 From the Founding Fathers through the present, Christianity has exercised powerful influence in America—from its role in shaping politics and social institutions to its hand in art and culture. The Encyclopedia of Christianity in the United States outlines the myriad roles Christianity has played and continues to play. This masterful multi-volume reference includes biographies of major figures in the Christian church in the United States, documents and Supreme Court decisions, and information on theology and theologians, denominations, faith-based organizations, immigration, art—from decorative arts and film to music and literature—evangelism and crusades, women's issues, racial issues, civil religion, and more.

Twelve Great Spiritual Writers Mar 31 2022 Liz Hoare's list of twelve great spiritual writers includes famous and lesser known women whose writings have touched her heart, illuminated her mind, and sharpened her spiritual vision. Liz believes they can do the same for you - which is why she has written this book. Each of these great writers - novelists, poets, preachers, philosophers and theologians - contributes something special to our understanding of the spiritual life today. With key extracts from each writer's best-loved books, and with suggestions for personal reflection or group discussion, here is an exceptionally rich resource that you will want to return to time and time again, wherever you may be on your journey. Contents 1. Kathleen Norris: Everyday mysteries 2. Alison Morgan: Following Jesus 3. Ann Lewin: Watching for the kingfisher 4. Sarah Clarkson: For the love of books 5. Annie Dillard: The world is charged with the grandeur of God 6. Margaret Guenther: Spiritual midwifery 7. Margaret Magdalen: Avoiding mediocrity 8. Benedicta Ward: With all the saints 9. Marilynne Robinson: The givenness of things 10. Barbara Brown Taylor: Struggling with church 11. Ann Lamott: Life in forgiveness school 12. Mary Oliver: Listening convivially to the world

Dictionary of Christian Spirituality Oct 14 2020 In recent decades Christian spirituality, spiritual formation and spiritual theology have become important concepts in the global evangelical community. Consequently, an accessible and reliable academic resource is needed on these topics—one that will offer a discerning orientation to the wealth of ecumenical resources available while still highlighting the distinct heritage and affirming the core grace-centered values of classic evangelical spirituality. The Dictionary of Christian Spirituality reflects an overarching interpretive framework for evangelical spiritual formation: a holistic and grace-filled spirituality that encompasses relational (connecting), transformational (becoming), and vocational (doing) dynamics. At the same time, contributors respectfully acknowledge the differences between Reformed, Holiness, and Pentecostal paradigms of the spiritual life. And, by bringing together writers from around the world who share a common orthodoxy, this reference work is truly global and international in both its topical scope and contributors. Entries give appropriate attention to concepts, concerns, and formative figures in the evangelical tradition of spirituality that other reference work neglect. They offer a discerning orientation to the wealth of ecumenical resources available, exploring the similarities and differences between Christianity and alternate spiritualities without lapsing into relativism. The Dictionary of Christian Spirituality is a resource that covers a wide range of topics relating to Christian spirituality and is biblically engaged, accessible, and relevant for all contemporary Christians.

Catholic Women Writers Jan 29 2022 Women have been writing in the Catholic tradition since early medieval times, yet no single volume has brought together critical evaluations of their works until now. The first reference of its kind, Catholic Women Writers provides biographical, critical, and bibliographical entries on 64 Catholic women writers from around the world and across the centuries. Each entry is written by an expert contributor and is designed to acquaint the reader with the author, her major works, her Catholic and women's themes, and her critical reception. An introductory essay places the authors in the context and tradition of Catholic writing, and a selected, general bibliography lists works for further reading.

The Quotidian Mysteries Aug 04 2022 "In this insightful and deeply personal work, Kathleen Norris, an award-winning poet and author of both *Dakota: A Spiritual Geography* and *The Cloister Walk*, draws on her life

experiences, her poetry and her love of the Benedictine tradition to discuss the mysterious way that the daily or "quotidian" can open us to the transforming presence of God." "This volume is the text of the 1998 Madeleva Lecture in Spirituality, sponsored by the Center for Spirituality at Saint Mary's College, Notre Dame, Indiana."--BOOK JACKET. Title Summary field provided by Blackwell North America, Inc. All Rights Reserved Walking with Kathleen Norris Sep 05 2022 As in his other books, "Walking with Thomas Merton" and "Walking with Henri Nouwen," Waldron has devoted three seasons to reading the prose and poetry of Kathleen Norris in order to present the first full-length commentary on her work.

From Our Christian Heritage Feb 04 2020 Weaver has retrieved from obscurity the rich treasures of Christian tradition from the 1st through 20th centuries and made them meaningfully accessible for preachers, teachers, worship and study leaders, students, devotional readers, and persons interested in the history of the church. Die innere Freiheit May 09 2020

Acedia & me Jul 03 2022 The extraordinary New York Times bestselling masterpiece from "one of the most eloquent yet earthbound spiritual writers of our time" (San Francisco Chronicle). Kathleen Norris had written several much loved books, yet she couldn't drag herself out of bed in the morning, couldn't summon the energy for her daily tasks. Even as she struggled, Norris recognized her familiar battle with acedia, a word she had discovered in early Church text years earlier. Fascinated by this "noonday demon", so familiar to those in the early and medieval Church, Norris knew she must restore this forgotten but important concept to the modern world's vernacular. An examination of acedia in the light of psychology, spirituality, the healing powers of religious practice, and Norris's own experience, *Acedia & Me* is both intimate and historically sweeping, brimming with exasperation and reverence, sometimes funny, often provocative, and always insightful.

The Gift of Story Oct 02 2019 The Gift of Story brings contemporary literature and film into conversation with the grand Christian narrative. This book examines the specific connections between contemporary cultural meta-narratives (the stories humans typically tell about themselves) and the ideas of hope found in Christianity. Despite postmodernism's skepticism about narrative, the dialogue with contemporary fiction, drama, music and film demonstrates that the Christian story can engender and sustain hope.

Textual Intimacy Sep 24 2021 Given its affinity with questions of identity, autobiography offers a way into the interior space between author and reader, especially when writers define themselves in terms of religion. In his exploration of this "textual intimacy," Wesley Kort begins with a theorization of what it means to say who one is and how one's self-account as a religious person stands in relation to other forms of self-identification. He then provides a critical analysis of autobiographical texts by nine contemporary American writers--including Maya Angelou, Philip Roth, and Anne Lamott--who give religion a positive place in their accounts of who they are. Finally, in disclosing his own religious identity, Kort concludes with a meditation on several meanings of the word assumption.

Rural Development Perspectives Aug 24 2021

Geography and Drug Addiction Dec 28 2021 Making Connections: Geography and Drug Addiction Geography involves making connections - connections in our world among people and places, cultures, human activities, and natural processes. It involves understanding the relationships and 'connections' between seemingly disparate or unrelated ideas and between what is and what might be. Geography also involves connecting with people. When I first encountered an extraordinarily vibrant, intelligent, and socially engaged scientist at a private dinner several years ago, I was immediately captivated by the intensity of her passion to understand how and why people become addicted to drugs, and what could be done to treat or prevent drug addiction. Fortunately, she was willing to think beyond the bounds of her own discipline in her search for answers. Our conversation that evening, which began with her research on fundamental biochemical processes of drug addiction in the human body, evolved inevitably to an exploration of the ways in which research on the geographical context of drug addiction might contribute to the better understanding of etiology of addiction, its diffusion, its interaction with geographically variable environmental, social, and economic factors, and the strategies for its treatment and prevention. This fascinating woman, I soon learned, was Nora Volkow, the Director of the National Institute on Drug Abuse as well as the granddaughter of Leon Trotsky.