

Gentry Hanks

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Dr. Traci Ardren
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Dr. Traci Ardren,

I hope this letter finds you well. Please consider this as part of my application for the position of lecturer in Anthropology advertised on the University of Miami website. I'll forgo most of the cover letter clichés to keep this short. I think I am a great fit for this position— My own research on diabetes examines historical and contemporary constructions of health, impairment, disability and illness as well as how humans adapt to diseases and how diseases adapt to humans. I hold a MA in human geography from the Department of Geography & Anthropology at LSU. I am a PhD candidate in the Department of Geography at Queen's University in Kingston, Ontario Canada. I recently moved to Miami, where I am writing my dissertation on medical, historical, cultural and emotional landscapes of diabetes.

The University of Miami has a wonderful teaching and research reputation. I would love to bring my research experience in health and medicine to the classroom. My insatiable quest for knowledge, its creation, its transmission and how it becomes legitimate is not only foundational to my research, but also my critical and reflexive approach to pedagogy. I am trained in qualitative methods such as ethnography, mental mapping, text mining of public online forum discourse, as well as digital and analogue archival research, which allows me to provide clear examples in the classroom. As part of The Canada Waste Flow Project, I am collaborating on a book for Ashgate titled *Throw Away Societies: People, Place & Waste*. My contribution, chapter 1, *Diabetic Debris: Social Media Discourses on Personal Biomedical Waste Flows in North America* uses social media data to examine the gap between practices of disposing personal biomedical waste in everyday life and waste policy in North America. My diverse teaching experiences and the intersections of medical anthropology with my own work make me an excellent candidate for this position. I have taught undergraduates since 2011 as a teaching assistant and guest lecturer (Please see CV), as well as maintained online infrastructure for classes of 350 students. Prior to teaching at Queen's University, I taught Latin and Spanish in secondary education for 4 years and ESL abroad for 2 years. I excel at using technology to create dynamic teaching and learning experiences in addition to maintaining an organized, efficient learning environment for students.

If I have piqued your interest and you feel I am a qualified and appropriate candidate for this position, I would be quite keen to meet with you. Contact information for my references is included in my CV, but please do let me know if you would like me to request that a letter from each be sent under separate cover. Upon your request, I am more than willing to send additional materials. I look forward to hearing from you.

Sincerely yours,

Gentry Hanks

encl: Curriculum Vitae